

# God is Provider Teacher's Topic Guide Year 6

**Topic: Plants, soil and earthworms**

**Duration: 5 weeks**

## **Spiritual Awareness**

God has provided plants for food, clothing and shelter. In the original creation Adam and Eve and all animals ate only plants. God told Adam to cultivate the soil. Only after the Great Flood was man given permissions to eat meat.

## **Values: Our response to 'God is a Provider'**

- **Thankfulness** to God for the world He has created and for the provision of plants
- **Generosity:** Sharing with others the things that God has provided
- Responsibility in choosing to eat the healthy plant foods that He has provided.

## **Outcomes: Students will**

- Explain the differences in the properties of plants and animals
- List the different classes of plants
- Label the parts of a plant
- Describe the functions of the parts of a plant
- Explain how plants produce their own food by photosynthesis
- Describe the uses of plants
- show interest in gardening
- learn some of the traditional native plant remedies for illnesses
- making inferences about the relationship between soil type and plant growth
- conduct experiments testing plant growth in different soil types
- appreciate resources that God has provided
- understand different soil types
- understand the difference between topsoil and subsoil
- suggest ways of improving the soil
- understand problems deriving from poor soil management (note Exodus 23:10-11)
- understand the responsibility mankind faces in soil conservation
- observe soil types using sight, smell and touch.
- Research the role of earthworms in keeping soil fertile

## **Bible stories and passages**

Genesis 1: 29 Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. <sup>30</sup>And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food." And it was so.

Genesis 1:30; 2:5; 3:23 - Man was instructed by God to cultivate the soil.

## **Bible verses**

Job 36:28 and 31 – He lets the rain pour from the clouds in showers for all mankind. This is how He feeds the people and provides an abundance of food. (GNB)

Psalm 104:14 - God provides grass for the cattle and vegetables for man.

Psalm 119:86a - God's words can be trusted.

## Key Questions

How does God provide my food?

How can I thank God for my food?

What did God mean when He asked man to cultivate the soil?

What did the first human beings eat according to the Bible?

When did mankind start eating animals?

What problems can there be in trying to grow good crops?

Where did weeds and pests come from?

Were they in God's original perfect creation?

## Activities

### Plants

- Discuss the differences between the characteristics of plants and animals
- Make a table of the various classes of plants: algae, fungi, mosses, ferns, conifers, flowering plants
- Examine the properties of plants: leaves, roots, stems, flowers, seeds
- Study how plants produce food by photosynthesis
- Conduct an experiment to determine the requirements for plant growth: soil, water, light, air
- Grow seeds. Observe and report on the growth rates of plants
- Classify plants according to their uses: food, shelter, shade, clothing.
- Discuss which animals eat plants. Make a list of herbivores, carnivores and omnivores.
- Draw some food chains showing the role of plants in food chains.
- Measure plant growth and graph results.
- Grow a vegetable garden. Add compost to one section and note difference in performance.
- Examine organic and inorganic fertilizers.
- Go on an excursion to identify native plants with healing properties and make a chart to show how these plants can be used to treat illnesses

### Soil

- Collect samples of soil from a variety of sources and place in jars. Include sand, clay, loam, broken down compost.
- Study soil samples using sight, smell and touch. Use a magnifying glass.
- Classify / list soil types and explain how they were formed.
- Explain the difference between topsoil and subsoil.
- Conduct experiment to show the different types of soil particles. Place soil and water in a jar and shake. Allow soil to settle, and watch heavier particles settling first and lighter particle settling last.
- Conduct experiment to show that soil contains air. Place soil in glass jar and slowly pour water over it. Observe rising air bubbles.
- Make soil from rocks by scraping soft sandstone, shale or limestone.
- Compare performance of plant growth in different soil types e.g. fertile garden compost, clay, sand.
- Discuss the practice of allowing land to be fallow.
- List some of the reasons for soil erosion and list ways of preventing it, e.g. planting trees.

# Value education Year 6

## God is Provider

### Stewardship; Civic pride

#### Stewardship is...

- looking after the things we are given
- looking after the things we own
- looking after God's creation
- looking after our own bodies

#### Looking after your things

What things do you own that are of value?

How did you get them?

Why should we look after them?

#### Looking after our school and community

You might think that 'pride' is a bad thing. Pride is bad when you are proud of yourself and think you are better than everyone else; when you look down on others and think of your own importance. However, having pride in our school and community is different. This is a good thing because it is another way of saying we want to look after our school and community. We do not want to see it littered or damaged. We want to help to make it a better place.

#### Looking after our world

Discuss some of these questions:

How is our world different today to the original Creation?

Why is the world as it shouldn't be?

Why should we care about the environment?

What can we do to safeguard creation?

Divide a piece of paper into two halves. On one side draw 'the world as it should be'; on the other side draw 'the world as it shouldn't be but is'.

#### What does the Bible say?

Psalm 24:1 The earth is the Lord's

Psalm 8; Genesis 1:1 What does looking after the environment have to do with God?

# Art Year 6

## God is Provider

### Plants

**Biblical wall art:** "Give thanks to the Lord for He is good." Psalm 107:1

Students add drawings of the things God has provided for us, including plant foods such as fruits, vegetables and grains.

### Drawing

Students can draw the food served at the Passover meal.

### Painting

Encourage students to look at the fine detail of flowers and leaves, and use these shapes as a basis for their art work. They should create the background first and then the plant detail on the background.

### Collage

Tissue paper collage to create plants

### Printing

Leaf prints as part of a design, on a painted background.

