

God is Our Saviour Teacher's Topic Guide Year 5

Topic: America

Duration: 3 weeks

Spiritual Awareness: God loves everyone equally

- God's love embraces all cultures. As Christians we are commanded to love our neighbour. This extends beyond the person living next door. As in the story of the Good Samaritan, kindness to our neighbour may mean showing compassion to someone culturally different.
- The true meaning of 'loving our neighbour' is to show personal interest and appreciation, and to extend God's love to them.

Values: Our response to 'God is our Saviour'

- **Cultural understanding** (John 3:16)
- **kindness, patience and gentleness** towards others
- **compassion** towards those who are hurting or in need
- **friendliness, forgiveness and faithfulness**

Outcomes: Students will:

- become familiar with some of the historical, cultural and geographical features of North and South America
- compare life in different parts of America with our own country
- realize that God loves everyone equally and wants everyone to come to know Him through His Son
- develop mapping skills

Bible stories and passages

- Luke 10:25-38 The Good Samaritan
- Mark 10:13-16 Jesus loves all the children of the world
- Luke 10:27; Matthew 22:39 Love the Lord with all your heart...and your neighbour as yourself.
- Romans 3:19-26 People could not be made right with God by following the law, so God made another way, so that all nations would have opportunity to come to Him.
- James 2:1-9 Warning against prejudice.
- Acts 10:34-36 The gospel for all nations
- Acts 16:6-10 Taking the gospel to the nations

Bible Verses

- John 3:16 For God so loved the world ...
- 1 Corinthians 13:14 Love is patient and kind.
- Acts 10:34 God treats everyone on the same basis.
- John 3:16 For God so loved the world...
- John 13:34 A new commandment...love one another.
- John 15:13 The greatest love
- 1 John 4:16 God is love.

Activities

- Become familiar with the world map. Identify the countries within the continent of America
- Devise a list of questions that the students would like to find out about America.
- Draw a map of the USA. Mark in the major landmarks, like capital city, rivers, mountains and seas. Locate the States of Hawaii and Alaska.
- Study the biography of Jim Eliot and his team who brought the Gospel to Ecuador, South America. Find out about Ecuador past and present.
- Study the biography of John Newton who brought about reform of the slave trade, USA
- Design a travel brochure for a country in North or South America.
- Are there any special celebrations that are unique to the countries you are studying? Describe what is special or different.
- Make a shopping list for a meal you have been asked to prepare that is typical of a country in North or South America.
- What technology is used in the countries you are studying? Do they have TV, mobile phones, computers? Compare their technology with that of your country.

Assessment

1. Present information on one country and its culture.
2. What have I learned from the study of different cultures...
 - about God?
 - about doing what God wants me to do?
 - about the Bible?

Biographies: Jim Eliot; John Newton, Lord of the volcano (Hawaii)

Facts about America

United States of America

Geography

Area: 9,529,063 sq km

The world's third largest nation in area and population.

Population: 317,641,087

Capital: Washington DC

Number of states: 52

People living in cities: 82%

Official language: English. The growing Spanish-speaking Hispanic population is 11.2% of the population and numbers 34 million

Religion

Christians: 77%

Prayer points:

Across the USA there is a rapid falling away from Christian values. The USA was once a strong Christian nation, but now there is a rise in the belief that we are all free to live as we please, and that the Bible has no authority.

The 38-million-strong African-American community suffered immensely due to its origins in slavery and to subsequent racial discrimination. The civil rights movement and the election of the first black president have achieved great change in attitudes and awareness, but for many the cycle of unemployment, poverty, family instability and crime is unbroken.

Pray for:

a) Young people at risk. Over half of inner-city black males fail to complete secondary school. Many are in prison or in gangs. Poverty, drugs and violence are rampant. Murder is the major cause of death for inner-city, African-American males ages 15 to 34. Pray for an expression of Christian faith that enables these men to leave their shackles and find meaning, belonging and fulfilment in Christ.

b) African-American Muslims, whose numbers have rapidly grown up to two million – most of these from a Christian background. Sunnis account for the largest proportion; some small but vocal minorities belong to Black nationalist groups and to the Nation of Islam organization. Most were drawn to Islam as a result of failings in the Church. Pray for effective and loving outreach to them.

c) Black churches. More than any other race in the USA, African-Americans are likely to be Christian. Many of the largest and most vigorous evangelical churches are Black, but they are often isolated from mainstream evangelical Christianity and from meaningful involvement in missions. Pray for a unity of believers that transcends ethnicity. Pray for a new move of the Spirit of God in these churches.

d) Community impact. African-American churches have always had a strong redemptive influence in their communities. This is increasing as congregations now join to effect deliberate and strategic transformation in the neediest areas.

Countries of South America:

Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay, Venezuela

Countries of Central America:

Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Belize

Brazil is the largest country in South America, encompassing around half of the continent's land area and population.

The people of South and Central America are made up of indigenous people, and descendants of early Europeans: Spanish, Portuguese and French. There are also a number of African-Americans who are descendants were brought to South America as slaves. The major religion throughout South and Central America is Catholic.

South America home to many interesting and unique species of animals including the llama, anaconda, piranha, jaguar, vicuña, and tapir. The Amazon is South America's largest river. The Amazon rainforests contain a major proportion of the Earth's species.

The Andes or Andean Mountains are the longest continental mountain range in the world. They form a continuous highland along the western edge of South America. This range is about 7,000 km (4,300 mi) long, about 200 to 700 km (120 to 430 mi) wide, and of an average height of about 4,000 m (13,000 ft). The Andes extend from north to south through seven South American countries: Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Argentina and Chile.

Values education God is our Saviour

Love for people of different nations

God created people differently. He loves all people, regardless of race, religion or ethnicity.

Our response to God is our Saviour

- understand that Jesus died for the whole world, every person of every nation
- recognize that God loves all people equally
- show kindness and consideration to all
- accept and love others

Activities and discussion

1. Compare cultural traditions of two different ethnic groups in the areas of: food, music, art.
2. The word “tolerance” means accepting other people’s differences. Most differences in culture, like foods, art and music are good differences, and we can all learn from each other about new foods and art forms. But some differences are not so good and should not be taken on if they hurt other people or go against what the Bible says.

Example: In India, a strong cultural practice over the centuries has been the Caste system. This is when some people in society are regarded as inferior to others, and do not get the benefits of people in the “higher” ranks. Would this be a good aspect of culture to accept, appreciate and take on? Why not?

What does the Bible say about accepting people of different cultures?

- Luke 10:25-38 The Good Samaritan
- John 3:16 God so loved the WHOLE world that He gave His son
- Revelation 7:9 After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from **every nation**, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.
- Matthew 22:37-39 Love the Lord your God. Love your neighbour as yourself. (Neighbour refers to people of other nationalities)
- John 4:1-26 Jesus and the Samaritan woman.

Thinking Skills

Year 5 Saviour

<p>America 1</p> <p>List the differences between Alaska and Hawaii.</p>	<p>America 2</p> <p>List the similarities between Canada and China.</p>
<p>America 3</p> <p>What are the similarities between the flags of the United States and Australia?</p>	<p>America 4</p> <p>Design a new theme park for Disneyland. Give your theme park a name. List and draw the attractions.</p>
<p>America 5</p> <p>List as many animals as possible, that live in America, starting with the letter 'b'.</p>	<p>America 6</p> <p>Invent a new game that combines American baseball with English cricket.</p>