

# God is Truth Teacher's Topic Guide Year 8

## Topic: Government

Duration: 3 weeks

### Spiritual Awareness

God's law is true and perfect. His laws are upright. Governments that are founded on God's laws and principles will be blessed. The Bible gives examples of the correct use of political power. God is Lord and King, and He is ultimately in control of every nation.

A servant leader

The Bible also gives instruction on the most essential requirement for leadership: service and humility. Jesus said, "Whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant" (Matthew 20:26).

### Values: Our response to 'God is Truth'

- **Honesty:** Speak the truth; Never cheat, steal, lie or exaggerate
- **Trustworthiness**
- **Integrity:** Be true to our word and keep promises.
- **Life-long learning:** always seeking the truth
- **Faith** in the word of God being the truth, and that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life
- **Trust** in the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us into all truth.

### Outcomes: Students will

- study various authority structures
- understand the need for local and state governments
- identify key figures and events that led to our country's Federation, including overseas influences on our system of law and government
- see the need for obedience to government
- briefly outline the structure of local and state governments
- list Biblical guidelines for government and those governed

### Bible stories and passages

Genesis 11:1-9 - The tower of Babel is a story of people wanting to build their own kingdom, excluding God.

Exodus 20 - The Ten Commandments

Esther - A story of God's hand in ruling a nation

Kings and Chronicles – Kings of the Old Testament – Saul, David, Solomon, Absalom, Jeroboam, Rehoboam

Matthew 1 & 2 – The genealogy of Jesus shows royal descent. Jesus was born as King

Isaiah 9:6-7 – A child is born to us. He will govern and reign. His power will be right and just.

Revelation 19:12, 13 & 16 – Jesus, King of kings and Lord of lords.

Exodus - God's rule won over Pharaoh's rule.

Romans 13:1-7; 1 Tim 2:2 Pray for those in authority.

Psalm 85 – a prayer for the nation's welfare

Mark 10:35-45 – Servant of all.

### Bible Verses

Psalm 19:8 - The laws of the Lord are right and those who obey them are happy. The commands of the Lord are just, and give understanding to the mind.

Psalm 66:7 – He rules forever by His might and keeps His eyes on the nations.

Psalm 47:8-9 - God sits on His sacred throne. More powerful than all armies is He. He rules supreme.  
Matthew 20:26 - Jesus said, "Whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant".

### **Key Questions**

What is God's law?

Why does the Bible say that God's law is perfect?

How does God want a leader or ruler to act?

Why could we say that God is the perfect King or ruler?

How does Jesus qualify to be a king?

Which rulers in the Bible honoured God's laws?

Which laws of our land are based on the Ten Commandments?

Are there any laws of our land that go against God's laws?

### **Activities**

- Research key figures and events in the history of your country's government.
- Draw a time-line showing the history of government in your country including the succession of Prime Ministers.
- Define a democracy and identify other alternatives.
- Compare governments around the world: those based on Judeo-Christian ethics and those that are not.
- Compare laws of our country with the Ten Commandments. Discuss the passing of acts which are opposed to God's law, e.g. abortion, laws against freedom of speech.
- Research the Bible for guidelines for those who govern, and responses of those who are governed.
- Study the various authority structures e.g. democracy; dictatorship.
- Make a list of the presidents or prime ministers of different nations.
- Study examples of monarchs in the past, including Biblical figures, (David, Solomon, Nebuchadnezzar, Esther, Pharaoh).
- Discuss the rule of the Roman Empire at the time of Jesus on earth.
- Study examples of monarchs today, around the world.
- Explain how someone becomes a king or queen e.g. descent.
- Describe the role and functions of monarchy, past and present.
- Describe their lifestyle, wealth and power.
- Discuss the servant-leader role model.
- Give students opportunities to lead activities such as group work and discussions.

### **Assessment**

1. Present a speech with a partner on a controversial issue in our society. Say why it is controversial and gives God's opinion.
2. What have I learned from the study of government and leadership...
  - about God?
  - about doing what God wants me to do?
  - about the Bible?

## **Learning Connections**

### **English:**

1. Make a list of ideal qualities of a good leader.
2. Write letters to a mock Member of Parliament and present opinions and ideas on laws that should be changed, or issues which are pointing to a departure from our Judeo-Christian foundation.

**Health:** Government laws that affect health, e.g. should there be stricter laws against harmful chemicals in food products and against junk food advertising?

**Thinking skills:** Leadership

**Beacon Media research cards:** Leadership

**Biographies:** Martin Luther, John Wesley

# Values education Year 8

## God is Truth

### Respect for truth

To have respect for truth we need to...

- find out what is true and what is false
- look to the Bible as the only measure for truth
- be alert, and watching out for things that are not right
- act according to what we know to be true and right

#### Truth in the world around us

Can we rely on the media to show us what is true?

The media can be biased, giving favour to the most popular opinion.

The most popular opinion is not necessarily the right one.

In fact, many people in the world would rather do what pleases them, even if it means hurting someone else.

What consequences might these things have for others, if they were implemented?

- Freedom to smoke in any building
- No limits on alcohol for under 18 years
- Making recreational drugs legal
- Condoning abortion

#### Bible passages about truth:

- Matthew 7:15-21 Wolves in sheep's clothing
- Matthew 7:7 Seek and you shall find.
- Matthew 7:13-14 The broad and narrow way
- James 1:22 Be doers of the word and not hearers only.
- Proverbs 8:7 My mouth shall speak truth.
- Proverbs 12:17 When you tell the truth, justice is done.
- Proverbs 11:1 The Lord hates dishonest scales. But He is pleased with correct weights.

# Art Year 8

## God is Truth

### Government and leadership

**Biblical wall art and text:** The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Matthew 20:28

#### **Jesus, the servant leader**

Depict the triumphal entry scene: What kind of a leader was Jesus? What kind of a leader were the people expecting Him to be?

Use drawing or painting to illustrate Bible scenes involving leaders other than Jesus. Put them into two categories, e.g.

**Good leaders:** Moses, Joshua, Esther, Paul

**Bad leaders:** Herod, Pharaoh, Jezebel

Thinking Skills Truth Yr 8

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Leadership 1</b></p> <p>Design an interview with a leader of your choice. Ask 10 questions.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Leadership 2</b></p> <p>Make a time line of the life of any leader you choose, past or present.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Leadership 3</b></p> <p>Write a list of 5 qualities of a good leader.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Leadership 4</b></p> <p>Write a list of 5 things a good leader would not do or say.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Leadership 5</b></p> <p>Make a list of 10 changes you would make if you could be prime minister for a day.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Leadership 6</b></p> <p>The answer is “truthful”. Give five questions.</p>