



Christian Education

Year 6 (age 11 -2)

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Year 6

God is Love

5 Weeks



Outcomes:

At the completion of the module students will understand that:

- God is a loving Father
- We can have a loving relationship with God our Father
- We can express our love to God through prayer and praise
- We can show God's love by demonstrating the Fruit of the Spirit: love, joy and peace
- We can share God's love by taking the Gospel to people who do not know Him.

Related classroom topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Pacific Island History & geography: God's love shown to the Pacific Islands through the sending of missionaries

Link between "God is Love" and classroom topics:

The Great Commission: taking God's love to those who do not know Him

Values

compassion; cultural understanding, empathy and tolerance; appreciation of family and community; the Fruit of the Spirit – love, joy, peace

Biographies

James Chalmers, John Paton, Ratu Cakobau, Taufa

God is Love

Week 1

God is a loving Father

Bible references

Matthew 26:6-13 The woman with the alabaster jar of perfume.

John 12:1-8 Mary who poured perfume on Jesus' feet and wiped it with her hair

Psalms 141:2 Our prayer to God is as incense.

1 John 4:19 We love Him because He first loved us.

Psalms 141:2 May my prayer be set before you like incense

Discussion

Which of these points would show a parent's love for a child? (Go through the list and students can answer 'yes' or 'no'.)

- giving the child things to make him/her happy
- providing good food
- providing lots of junk food
- providing clothes, shelter and other needs
- hugging
- saying "I love you"
- punishing
- forgiving
- protecting
- giving-in to everything the child wants
- having fun with the child
- talking to the child

Now think about God as a Father. Which of these points would best show us the kind of father God is?

Because God shows His love to us in so many ways, it pleases Him greatly when we show our love to Him. Just as parents like to know that their children love them, God wants to know that we love Him. He wants us to tell Him that we love Him. We can do this through praying, praising and worshipping.

Bible research

Read about these women who showed their love for Jesus:

1. Mary who poured perfume on the feet of Jesus and wiped it with her hair – John 12:1-8
2. The woman with the alabaster jar of perfume – Matthew 26: 6-13

Discussion

In the first Bible passage, Mary poured perfume on Jesus' feet. This was the Mary, who loved to sit at the feet of Jesus and learn about the things of God. Her sister was Martha and her brother was Lazarus. Her willingness to sit at Jesus' feet was an expression of her love, and so was the act of pouring expensive perfume called nard, on Jesus' feet. Who did not like what she did? Why?

In the second Bible passage, the woman gave something very precious to Jesus. We do not know the name of the woman, but we do know that she had much to be forgiven. How did she express her love and appreciation? We can also give something precious to Jesus. We do this when we tell Jesus that we love Him.

In both accounts perfume was used. Why do you think the most expensive perfume was used? (Jesus deserves the best.)

Our praise and prayers to God can be like precious perfume.
Read Psalm 141:2

God is Love

Week 2

The Fruit of love

Bible references

Psalm 1:1-3; Jeremiah 17:7-8 Bearing fruit when our roots are deeply planted in the good soil, and being fed and watered by the spiritual food that God provides

John 15:5 Jesus is the vine; stay connected to Him and bear good fruit

Galatians 5:22-23 The Fruit of the Spirit

John 13:34-35 A new commandment – love one another as I have loved you

Luke 10:27 He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

1 Cor 13: 4 Love is patient and kind

Introduction

Ask the students to think of a tree. What makes the tree grow well, with beautiful green leaves and strong roots?

Read Psalm 1:1-3

How can people be like trees?

Read John 15:5

What is a vine? What do grapes taste like? (Explain that grapes grow well in the country where Jesus lived. Like any other fruit they need rain and sunshine.)

Who is the Vine?

How can we stay connected to the Vine? (Ans: prayer; learning from the Bible; fellowship with other Christians; obedience to God's commands; serving Jesus)

What are the fruits that will be produced in our lives when we do this?

Bible lesson: The Fruit of love

Read Galatians 5:22. Explain that this week we are going to think about fruit of love.

Definition: Have the students refer to the following in their workbooks, or have it written out on a large sheet of paper.

Love is:

- A special feeling that fills your heart
- A smile and a pleasant way of speaking
- A thoughtful act or a hug
- Being accepted and respected
- Feeling important to somebody
- Contagious. It keeps spreading

Bible Study

- 1 Read and learn John 13:34-35
2. What is the difference between a commandment and a request?
3. Was Jesus requesting the disciples to love each other, or commanding it?
5. How much does Jesus love us?
5. How much should we love each other?
6. What is the best way to show others that we belong to Jesus?

Without Love:

- People feel alone
- People don't feel that they matter to anyone
- People become unhappy, or angry

With Love:

- People feel important
- People become gentler and kinder

Practicing love is:

- Treating people and things with special care because they mean a lot to you
- Treating other people just as you would like them to treat you, with care and respect
- Putting yourself 'in someone else's shoes' and caring about what they feel
- Accepting people just as they are
- Loving people we don't even know by caring what happens to them and sending them loving thoughts and prayers
- Sharing our belongings, our time and ourselves

Activities:

Students can work in groups, pairs or individually.

1. Invite the students to share with the class about something or someone they love. Ask them to explain how they treat this special object or person lovingly.
2. Ask the students to write a sentence describing three ways they can show love for people.

3. Ask the students to write a sentence describing three ways they can show love for animals.

4. Thinking only...

Ask the children to think of a person who they feel does not treat them nicely, (no names mentioned!)

Ask students to think how they would like that person to treat them. Read Luke 10:27. How does Jesus want us to treat others?

5. What does God's love look like?

Read 1 Corinthians 13:4.

Ask the class to make their own suggestions for what God's love is, based on 1 Corinthians 13:4.

Start by having some of the following written up on a sheet of paper.

Ask students to add two more suggestions in their books. Ask them to share their ideas.

Love is...

- taking turns patiently without getting upset
- Not getting jealous of a friend's new clothes
- not show off or act as if others don't matter
- being polite and respectful to parents and teachers
- letting someone else have the biggest piece of cake
- not calling someone names to get back at him/ her
- not staying angry at someone for what he/ she did
- looking for good in someone that others say is bad
- standing up for someone whom others pick on
- believing that God can change difficult people
- encouraging others to do and be their best
- choosing to love others even when they disappoint
- refusing to give up on someone, no matter what

God is Love

Week 3

The Fruit of joy

Bible references

Galatians 5:22-23 The Fruit of the Spirit

Psalms 100:1-2 Make a joyful noise unto the Lord.

John 15:10-11 If you obey God's commands you will remain in God's love, and your joy will be full.

1 Thessalonians 5:16 Be joyful always, pray at all times, be thankful in all circumstances.

Proverbs 23:24-25 The father of a Godly son has cause for joy. What pleasure a wise son is!

Definition:

Joy is:

- Being filled with happiness.
- Trusting in God even when things are not going well for us.
- An inner belief that we can get through hard times even when we are feeling very sad
- Joy is what we receive, (or feel) when we have a right relationship with God.

Discussion

What makes you feel joyful?

Do you have joy when you've just had a big fight with your friend?

Do your parents have joy when you've done something bad? (Prov 23:24-25)

What things can bring joy to your parents?

What things do you do that bring joy to God?

Bible study

Psalms 100:1-2 Joy comes from an appreciation for the gifts each day brings. Enjoy your life; thank God for all the beautiful gifts He gives you. (Name some of them).

John 15:11 For true joy we need to have the joy of Jesus inside us. This can be passed on to others.

1 Thessalonians 5:16 How can we be joyful when things are not going the right way for us?

Without Joy:

- We only feel happy when we are having fun.
- We might feel worried about the future.
- We think that there is no answer for our problem.

With joy:

- In the hard times we stay calm, knowing that God is in control of a Christian's life.
- We have a positive attitude to life and do whatever we have to do with a joyful heart.
- We enjoy good times with others.
- We give the bad times to God and do not let them hold us back.

Activity

Work in pairs to answer the question: "What gives you joy?"

1. Name three activities you enjoy. How can you practice joyfulness when things are not going so well, (i.e. it is a sport and your team is losing?)
2. What cheers you up when you feel down?
3. What can you do to bring joy into a boring task?

Bringing joy to others

We can bring joy to people, or take it away, by the things we say and by the words we use. We should always say good things about people, never bad things. Never put anyone down.

What would your family be like if each one always remembered to do this?

What would your school be like if everyone said only good things about everyone else?

What can we do to make it happen?

Activity

Get the students to work in pairs. Give each student a piece of card. Tell the students that they will be making a card for their partner. They will be writing positive words about their partner's character.

First make a list of ideas.

- Good character qualities: gentle, kind, obedient, fair, brave, truthful, friendly, gentle. (These are qualities that are a result of making positive choices.)
- Qualities that would *not* be mentioned: cute, smart, pretty, cool, clever, nice. (These are nothing to do with a person's character.)

Now ask the students to write their partner's name on one side of the card. Turn it over and write some positive character qualities on the back. They might like to complete the activity at home, decorating the card with colour. When finished, they can give it to their partner.

Next session ask: How did you feel when you received your card?

God is Love

Week 4

The Fruit of peace

Bible references:

Galatians 5:22-23 The fruit of the Spirit

John 14:18 and 27-28 Jesus told His disciples that He would be going away, but He would leave His peace with them.

Matthew 5:9 Happy are those who work for peace. God will call them His children. (GNB)

Isaiah 26:3 You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you! (NLT)

Mark 4:35-41 Jesus said 'peace' to the storm.

Definition

Peace is:

- Being calm and quiet, free from struggles in mind and heart.
- Being fair to others and yourself
- A calm feeling that comes from doing what is right.

Bible Study

1. Read John 14:18 and 27-28
2. Do you think the disciples felt upset when Jesus said He was going away from them? Have you ever felt upset if your mother or father has had to be away from home for a week or more?
3. What three things did Jesus tell us not to do if we want to have His peace? (not to be worried, upset, or afraid).
4. Read Matthew 5:9. This verse tells us that peace may not come automatically. What do we have to do to get it?
5. Read Isaiah 26:3. How can we get peace?
6. Read Mark 4:35-41. What did Jesus say to the storm? What are some of the storms of life that might come our way? We can trust that Jesus will take us through the storm and give us peace.

Without Peace:

- people are in conflict with others (at war with others)
- people are worried and anxious
- people become frightened
- people make fights easily

With Peace:

- arguments are settled by everyone winning

- everyone feels that they have been fairly treated
- people listen to each other
- the world is a happier place to be in

Discussion

Do you feel calmer inside when you are angry or when you are showing love towards others?

Why can't we feel peace inside when we are angry, selfish or upset? (*We are not doing the right action or having the right attitude that brings peace. Peace is a result of doing right.*)

How to practice peace:

- By not reacting in anger when someone does something to you that you are not happy with
- Using peaceful language instead of name-calling, yelling or gossiping
- Talking things out with the person you are angry with, listening to their side of the story and looking together for a peaceful solution
- Making some time each day to be by yourself to pray quietly to God for all the things that worry you, and for problems you or your friends have

Further Discussion

- What gives you a sense of peace?
- When do you find yourself feeling most angry (the opposite of peace)?
- How can you handle your anger peacefully?
- Name three things you can do if you see a fight starting?
- How can you become peaceful when you are worried?

What would you do if:

1. Your brother runs into your room, steps on a piece of craft-work or a drawing you just finished and spoils it?
2. There are students of another race and religion in your class and some of your classmates are making fun of them?
3. You start to worry about a problem and find it is on your mind all the time?
4. You feel really angry because someone has treated you unfairly?
5. Some children start to tease you and ask you to fight?

God is Love

Week 5

Sharing God's love

Bible references

Mark 16:15-18 The Great Commission

Acts 16:6-15 A call from Macedonia

Introduction

Look at a globe or world map.

Find Israel. Trace the spread of the gospel from this point: first to near-by countries such as Greece and Italy; later to more distant places.

The spread of the Gospel to all parts of the world has been dependent upon advances in transport and technology.

How was the Gospel spread in the days of the early Christians?

Has it changed? What types of technology are used now to spread the Gospel?

Bible research

What does Jesus command all Christians to do? (Mark 16:15-18)

Discussion

We don't have to go to a faraway place to tell others about Jesus. How can we show Christian love in the place where we live?

Some people, however, do go to faraway places. It is important for Christians who go to foreign lands, to try and understand the people in that place. Here is a story about the first Christian missionaries to Korea. Find Korea on the map.

True Story: Korea's First Missionaries

In the 1880's the first Christian missionaries came to Korea. The Korean people accepted the missionaries because they showed the love of God. The missionaries did not come with a proud attitude. They did not say to the people, "You know nothing about God." Instead, they found out about the Korean's belief in God. To their surprise, they found that the Koreans actually knew something about the true and living God, even though no Christian missionary had ever been there before! The Koreans knew that there was one true God who had created the universe. They called Him by the name 'Hananim'.

The missionaries explained to the Koreans that Hananim had sent His Son to forgive all those who wanted to be forgiven. Hananim's son was born into the Jewish people, not because they were better than any other peoples, but simply because God needed to choose one group. Hananim then asked messengers to go into all the world to call all people to Jesus, the Son of Hananim.

Koreans by the thousands listened to the missionaries with awe.

"Here are men and women who know so much more about the true God than even our own king," they thought. "Here are people who pray freely to Hananim in the name of His Son, and get answers!"

Soon there were hundreds of Korean churches being run by their own people. Today, Koreans are still becoming Christians at an amazing rate.

from Eternity in their Hearts by Don Richardson. Used by permission.

Questions:

1. How was the gospel spread in the days of the early Christians?
2. Has it changed?
3. If you were a missionary going into a country where the gospel had never been preached, how would you tell the people about Jesus?
4. Why do you think the Korean people listened to the first missionaries?
5. Describe the Christian church in Korea today.
6. What does Jesus command all Christians to do? (Mark 16:15-18)
7. Read about Paul's call to go to Macedonia, from Acts 16:6-15.
8. How obedient was Paul in obeying God's call? (verse 10)
9. How did the Lord help Paul? (verse 14)

God is love

Jesus has told us that we must be willing to give everything we have to follow Him. He has also told us to go into all the world to preach the Gospel. Going to other places to share God's love may mean that we have to give up certain things. Why would we want to do that? Loving God is obeying His call. When He calls us, then we must be willing to go.

Think: How can I share God's love with people who do not know Him?

Bible study: A Call From Macedonia

Read the account from Acts 16:6-15.

Where is Macedonia? (Greece)

How did Paul hear God speak?

How obedient was Paul in obeying God's call? (verse 10)

How did the Lord help Paul? (verse 14)

How did Paul help Lydia and her household?

Class Activity

Make a display of world flags. Make a colourful sign: Jesus said, "Go into all the world."

Year 6

God is a Provider 5 Weeks



Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will understand that:

- God provides and cares for us as a loving Father.
- God is happy when we thank Him for the things He has provided.
- God not only provides food, water and shelter, but also protection and deliverance.
- God instructed the Jews to celebrate God's provision in the form of festivals.
- Celebrations are a way of remembering what God has done for us.

Related classroom topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Plants, crop farming, soil, earthworms

Link between "God is Provider" and classroom topics:

God provides for our needs through His creation.

Values:

faith; care for the environment; peace; generosity, thankfulness

Biography:

Antonina and Jan Zabinski

God is Provider

Week 1

God provides an escape

Bible references

Leviticus 23 List of annual feasts that the Jews were instructed to celebrate

Exodus 12 The reason for the Passover feast and the festival of unleavened bread

Luke 22:14-20 The Lord's Supper

The Israelites were called together to celebrate annual feasts. Seven of these are listed in Leviticus 23. During these events, the people stopped all work and devoted themselves totally to the celebration. They shared a meal together, with some parts of the meal reserved for the priests and the rest given to those who gathered at the temple or the altar for worship. The feasts were joyous times with thanksgiving and worship. The purpose was to help the people remember events when God had delivered the nation, and to encourage them to focus on God's continuing faithfulness to them as a nation and as individuals.

Two celebrations of deliverance:

1. The Passover

Bible references:

Exodus 12

Leviticus 23:5

Passover overview:

Hebrew name: Pesach (Pronounced *Pey-sach*)

What's it about? Passover celebrates God setting the Israelites free from slavery in Egypt. It refers to Exodus 12:23, when God passed over the Israelites. The holiday lasts eight days.

Activities: A big holiday meal called a seder where they retell the story of the Exodus from Egypt.

Foods: Traditionally, Jews eat no bread with yeast but only leavened bread, (flat bread), called Matsah. At the seder meal, lamb is eaten because of the lamb that was killed and the blood that was placed on the door posts. The meal also includes eggs, bitter herbs, sweet herbs, salt water.

Go deeper

On one never-to-be-forgotten night God passed through Egypt, and the oldest child of every household had died – all except those in the houses of the Israelites who had obeyed God's instructions by applying the blood of a lamb to the door. God had said, "When I see the blood I will pass over you and will not harm you when I punish the Egyptians for their cruelty to the Israelites."

Pharaoh now knew that this tragic event was the judgement of the God of the Hebrews, so he decided to release God's people from their slavery. To help Israel remember, God called for an annual celebration: "You must celebrate this day as a religious festival to remind you of what I, the Lord, have done. Celebrate it for all time to come." The annual celebration lasted seven days, from the 14th to the 21st day of their calendar's first month, (March/April on our calendar depending on the cycle of the moon.)

Seder: The special meal.

Best plates and glasses are used. Everything is specially polished and bright.

The table is specially set.

The meal begins at sundown.

On the seder plate there are portions of five foods to remind them of their journey to the Promised land.

- Bitter herbs – grated horseradish, (a bitter herb) which reminds them of their bitter time in Egypt.
- Lamb – symbolizing the lamb that was killed.
- A roasted egg – representing the festival offering at the Temple
- Parsley or a sweet herb for dipping in a bowl of salt water to remind them of the tears from the hardships they had, and for the crossing of the water when they escaped from Egypt.
- Charoset – a mixture of grated apple, honey, cinnamon, nuts and a dash of red wine, so it looks like the mortar used for building bricks they had to make in Egypt.

Three slices of Matzah, unleavened bread, is set out in a special bag on the table. One piece is broken in half during the story telling, wrapped in a clean napkin and hidden away.

The story of the Exodus is read out by the head of the table and discussed. Some songs are sung, and stories told. Towards the end of the story, there is a break for a special meal. It is at this time that the children go and search for the hidden piece of bread.

Passover Bible Study

Ask the students to read (in pairs or in groups), Exodus 12:1-14, and 24-28, and answer together the following questions (one person in a group can report, or students can write answers in their books).

1. What community of people was preparing to escape from Egypt?
2. How were they to dress for the meal?
3. How did the festival get its name?
4. How long were they to remember the event by acting out the ritual?
5. What reasons for the event were to be told to their children

Jesus celebrated the Last Supper at the time of the Passover.

Jesus was an Israelite/ Jew/ Hebrew. (These names all mean the same thing). God gave His law to the Israelites. He chose these people specially and taught them how they

should live with God and with each other. We learn many lessons from the things God taught to the people of Israel.

Read Luke 22:14-19 and John 1:29

Jesus, along with all other Jews, celebrated the Passover every year. The last time He ate the Passover was just before He died. However, much to the disciples' surprise, He gave the ceremony a new meaning and told them God would now have a new 'covenant' or 'agreement' with his people. The wine now represented the blood, not the blood of a Passover lamb, but of Jesus, who was the Lamb of God. (Read John 1:29). The bread (which was flat like roti, not like the bread we buy from the bread shops), represented the body of Jesus.

Jesus told us to eat bread together and drink the wine together when we come to worship him. We are to keep doing this year after year until Jesus returns to earth.

Some churches allow the children to take this special food, called Holy Communion, the Lord's Supper, Mass or the Eucharist. Some churches, such as the Methodist Church, ask children to wait until they are confirmed, so they can be very sure that they are promising to enter into an agreement with God that they will love and obey Jesus all their lives.

2. The Festival of Unleavened Bread

Bible references: Leviticus 23:6-8

Immediately after the Passover came this second memorial feast, so the two were celebrated together. The children of Israel had left Egypt at night in a hurry. There had been no time to wait for leaven (yeast) in the dough so that their bread would rise. Therefore, for their final meal as slaves, the people had eaten 'unleavened' bread, (Exodus 12:34).

Wanting His people to remember this important aspect of deliverance, God had made it a feast, (Exodus 12:17-20)

In this celebration too, we can think of Jesus as He is the 'Bread of Life', (John 6:35). Leaven is often used in the Bible as a picture of sin. But there is no sin in Jesus. As our Bread of Life, Jesus allowed his body to be broken for us on the cross, (Matthew 26; 17, 26; I Corinthians 11:24). And once we receive him, he becomes our 'Living Bread. "The Lord gives us spiritual life and daily strength for our journey through life to heaven, (John 6:48-51), just as the unleavened bread gave the Israelites strength during their journey.

God is Provider

Week 2

Giving thanks for God's provision

1. The Feast of the First fruits

Bible references:

Leviticus 23:9-14 and Deut 26:1-11

Psalm 107:1 Give thanks to the Lord for He is good; His love endures forever.

Psalm 34: 10 Even young lions go hungry, but those who obey the Lord will not lack any good thing.

Malachi 3:10 Bring all your tithes into the storehouse (temple)

Brief Overview

What's it about? Bringing the first of the harvest to God. This was an offering to the priests. The priest would wave a sheaf of barley before the Lord as part of the ceremony. A new born male lamb, without defect, was also offered.

Go Deeper

The Israelites were instructed to give the first portion of their harvest to God.

By giving God the first fruits, the people of Israel were reminding themselves that all good things come from God and that everything belongs to God. Giving the first fruits was also a way of expressing trust in God's provision; just as He provided the first fruits, so He would provide the rest of the crops that were needed. This celebration was held on the Sunday at the end of the Passover week.

What does this feast mean to Christians?

This feast pointed ahead to the resurrection of Christ, which would occur hundreds of years later on the first day of the week. In overcoming death, Jesus became the 'first fruits' of the new everlasting life that would be given to all who believed in Him, (1 Cor. 15:23). The first sheaf was a sure sign that many more sheaves would soon be harvested. In the same way, Christ's resurrection is the guarantee that all those who belong to Him will also rise from the dead.

Harvest Thanksgiving celebrated today: (first Sunday of March for Methodists). Harvest Sunday was an important Christian festival in early times; people thanked God for a good crop and enough food to last through the cold winters in the North and Southern continents when snow covered the ground and nothing grew. Fiji's climate grows food all through the year, but we still celebrate Harvest Sunday and people bring food from their gardens to church. This service reminds us to thank God for what has been grown and harvested.

2. The Feast of Weeks (Shavuot)

Bible references

Leviticus 23:15-22

Deut 16:9-10

Brief Overview

Hebrew name: Shavuot means 'weeks', because the Israelites were told in Deuteronomy 16:9-10 to count seven weeks, (50 days), from Passover and this feast.

What's it about? Shavuot celebrates time when God gave Ten Commandments to Moses.

Pronounce it: Shah-voo-oat

Foods: Dairy foods are traditional on Shavuot. No meat is eaten.

Activities: Reading the Ten Commandments and readings from the book of Ruth.

Go deeper

This festival is also known as the Feast of Pentecost, ('Pentecost' is the Greek word for 'fifty'), or the Feast of Harvest. During this festival each family in Israel was to bring "two loaves of bread and present them to the Lord as a special gift," (Lev 23:17).

What does Pentecost mean to Christians?

Pentecost was fifty days after the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. When the day of Pentecost came, (Acts 2:1) the Holy Spirit came to live in believers. The two loaves can be a symbol of Jews and Gentiles (non-Jews) in the early church.

Readings from the book of Ruth is a symbol of non-Jews becoming one of God's people. Ruth was a non-Jew who married into the Jewish race. Gentiles are non-Jewish believers who choose to become one of God's people.

Activity:

Today we can give God thanks for all that He has provided by:

1. Saying thank you to God before we ____. (eat)

2. S ____ our provision with others. (Share)

Write a prayer of thanks to God for the things He has provided.

God is Provider

Week 3

God provides forgiveness

1. The Feast of Trumpets

Bible references

Leviticus 23:23-24

Brief overview

Hebrew name: Rosh Hashanah, meaning the Jewish New Year

What's It About? It is a solemn holiday beginning the calendar year with repentance from sin and the hope of renewal. The Feast of Trumpets announced the coming of the yearly ceremony when the nation's sin was covered.

Foods: Apples and honey, honey cake, pomegranates, pumpkins and other round foods, sweet foods and foods that are gold-colored, like carrots and pumpkin.

Activities: The sounding of the shofar, or ram's horn. Families gather for a festive meal. Apple slices dipped in honey represent a 'sweet year'. Honey cakes are also served.

Greeting: "May you be inscribed in the Book of Life"

Go Deeper

It is a time for celebrating God's goodness, so there is much festive food.

It is a time of recognizing that God is ruler the whole world, as King of Kings. It is therefore a joyful celebration with the blowing of the shofar (ram's horn) to announce the commencement of the festival.

What does the Feast of Trumpets mean to Christians?

We too will celebrate the sound of a trumpet. Scripture tells us that we will hear that exciting trumpet sound when the Lord Jesus returns for all who belong to Him, (1 Cor.15:52; 1 Thessalonians 14:16)

2. The Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)

Bible reference:

Leviticus 23:26-32

Brief overview

Hebrew name means: Day of Atonement.

What's It About? A fast day of prayer and confession

Pronounce it: Some say yom kee-poor, and some yom kipper.

Foods: None. It's a fast day so there is no food! Children under age 13 and other people whose health might be harmed don't fast.

Activities: Traditional prayers and readings.

Go deeper

The Day of Atonement was the most sacred day of Israel's year. In their Hebrew language, 'atonement' means 'to cover.' Each animal sacrifice covered the sin of the one who offered it and secured God's forgiveness. The Day of Atonement pictured Christ's once-for-all payment of sin (Heb. 10:10-12).

Unlike the other feasts, which were times of joy, this was a day of sorrow. On this day the high priest laid aside his beautiful robes and dressed in simple robes of white linen (Leviticus 16:4; Exodus 28:40, 42). In so doing, he provided a picture of the coming High Priest, the Lord Jesus Christ, who laid aside His glory, taking on human form to make atonement for our sins (Philippians 2:6-8).

First, the high priest offered a bull for his sins and the sins of his family. Only then could he offer a goat for the sins of the people. Our sinless High Priest, Jesus Christ, needed no offering for Himself. He never sinned (Hebrews 7:26-28). As the perfect Son of God, He came to earth ready to make an offering for His people. The Lord Jesus offered Himself to die for our sins on the cross (I Pet. 1:18, 19).

Once the animals had been killed, the high priest took the blood into the Most Holy Place in the tabernacle and sprinkled it on the mercy seat, the lid of the Ark of the Covenant. Beneath this lid were the tablets of stone on which God had written the Ten Commandments. The blood on the mercy seat was a sign that God had forgiven them for breaking His laws.

After Jesus' death, He rose again and ascended to the real Most Holy Place, heaven. There He presented Himself to God the Father as the sacrificial Lamb (Hebrews 9:12, 23, 24). Now when we receive Jesus as Saviour, God no longer sees our sin; instead he sees the blood shed by his beloved Son and accepts us in Him (Ephesians 1: 6, 7).

Throughout the Old Testament times, only the high priest could enter into the Most Holy Place. But when Jesus died, God tore the veil in the temple from top to bottom (Mat. 27:51) to show that through His Son we may now come directly into His presence (Heb. 10:19,20). We no longer need a human priest; we now pray directly to God in Jesus' name (I Tim. 2:25; Heb. 4:16-16).

To finish the ceremony on the Day of Atonement, the high priest laid his hands on the head of a live goat and confessed the sins of the people as if he were placing their sin on the goat. This goat was then taken far away into the wilderness where it was set free and never seen again. The Lord Jesus has taken care of our sins so completely that they are gone forever, we will never have to face them again, (Psalm 103:12; Colossians 2:13, 14).

God is Provider

Week 4

Giving thanks for our land and our homes

The Feast of Tabernacles

Bible reference

Leviticus 23:33-43

Brief overview

Hebrew name: *sukkot* meaning booths, shelters or tabernacles. The singular is *sukkah*. It comes from the name of the place where the Israelites first stopped after leaving Egypt: Sukkoth.

Pronounce it: Some say *sue coat* and some say *sukkiss*.

What's it about? A celebration of the harvest at the end of the agricultural year, and also remembering when the Israelites made temporary shelters at a place called Sukkoth after they left Egypt.

Foods: No specific special food, just big sumptuous meals.

Activities: Before the holiday, communities and some individual families build a *sukkah* or hut in the back yard or on the back porch. The *sukkah* is open to the elements. During the holiday an important activity is eating in the *sukkah*.

Go deeper

The purpose of this feast was to remind the children of Israel of the tabernacles or tents they had lived in for forty years in the wilderness as they waited to enter the Promised Land. For this celebration the people were to gather together and build shelters or “booths” from tree limbs and palm branches. They were to live in these temporary shelters for a week. This festival was a time of joy and rest, a time to remember God’s deliverance and to thank Him for blessing them with their own land and homes.

In this feast we are reminded that our homes on earth are as temporary as were the Israelites’ shelters. We are on our way to a perfect, permanent home (Hebrews 13:14, John 14:1-4).

The Feast of the Tabernacles is also the celebration of God releasing His people from the slavery in Egypt, under the Pharaoh (Lev 23).

The Jews had been sheep farmers in Egypt, and when they left, they had to move swiftly, taking very little of their possessions with them. They had to travel through a large desert area and had to put together a hut whenever they stopped at a place to rest. Life was on a very temporary basis. After they fled from Egypt they finally stopped and built temporary huts. Each family built one from trees and branches they found around them. It was called a *sukkah*.

To remind them of God's goodness and provision of their needs for the 40 years in the wilderness families now build a temporary extra room made out of palm branches. It is built onto the outside of their house. The walls are decorated with pictures of fruit because it is harvest time in Israel. They hang flowers and decorations and streamers on the walls and from the roof. The roof is only thinly covered with branches as you have to be able to see the stars through it at night. For eight days they eat their meals in the sukkah. Some even sleep out in it.

God is Provider

Week 5

God is with us

Hanukah (Festival of Lights)

Scripture references

Daniel 8: 22 – 25; 11: 20 - 45

Psalm 27:1-4 The Lord is my light and my salvation

Overview

This festival is celebrated November to December.

"Hanukah" the word means "Dedication" in Hebrew and is a celebration of God's faithfulness and deliverance. The events it celebrates took place during the time between the end of the Old Testament and the beginning of the New Testament, around 165 BC. It is not recorded in the Bible but is recorded in history books. It tells of the time when God saved His people from destruction, and made it possible for them to worship in their temple once again. God performed a miracle of keeping the oil burning for eight days, when there was only a one-day supply.

Going deeper

The story behind this festival begins when much of the world was over-run by Greece under Alexander the Great (336BC). Upon his death, the Holy Land was ruled by Antiochus Epiphanes the 4th. He wanted all the Jews to become Greeks and wouldn't allow them to worship at the temple and follow the laws that God had given to them. He did awful things in the temple so that the Jews wouldn't be able to continue going there for services and placed a very large statue of Zeus (a Greek idol/god) there so that they would worship him, and not God. The Jews had to completely abandon their religion. Those who refused to obey his commands were killed. Mattathias, a Jewish priest and his five sons refused to bow to Antiochus's commands and with Judah Macabee started a revolt against the Greek tyrant leader. After 3 years of battle, Judah Macabee's army won, and immediately went to cleanse the temple so they could again worship God. It was a mess, but they found a small bottle of oil for lighting the temple lamps called the menorah. It would only last for about one day. They wondered whether to light the menorah or wait until they

could make new clean oil before lighting it. They chose to go ahead and light it. To everyone's amazement the lamp was still alight the next day, and the next and the next. The oil miraculously burned for 8 days. Every one rejoiced and thanked God for what He had done for them, saying: 'A great miracle happened here'.

Today Hanukah is celebrated with a branch of nine candles, called candelabra. Eight of them stand for the eight days the oil miraculously burnt while the ninth (middle one) is the servant used to light the others. Jewish people often exchange gifts during Hanukah as we do at Christmas.

What does Hanukah mean to Christians?

Jesus was in the temple on the Feast of Dedication when he told the people surrounding Him, that those who love and follow Him are His sheep, and He cares for them, protects them from the enemy and keeps them safe because He and God the Father are one and He is 'The Light of the World'. Psalm 27 tells us not to be afraid because God is our light and our salvation.

Hanukah celebrates the deliverance of the Jewish people from those who would try again and again to destroy God's Covenant people. In recent history, we have two horrible examples of this – the anti-Jewish Pogroms of the Russian Empire in the 19th Century, and the Holocaust of the Second World War. Yet the Lord's people are alive today and back in their own land against unbelievable odds. But the enemy has not given up and he is trying and will try to destroy them again. Christians need to continue to pray for God to protect and deliver His people, the Jews, and that they may come to know Jesus.

Discussion

What miracles occurred in the Bible where God provided by multiplication, (making more of only a little?) *e.g. Elijah and the multiplication of oil and flour; Elisha and multiplication of oil; Jesus and the multiplication of loaves and fish*

Celebrations of our church today

The early believers in Jesus celebrated the Jewish Sabbath and festivals for some time after Jesus died. However, the Jewish religious leaders were not happy with the way the Christians continued to believe in and talk about Jesus, and eventually told the Christians they could no longer worship in their temple and synagogues. The Christians then began their own calendar of special days.

Ask the students to remember what these are. (They probably won't know them all.)

- Advent (four Sundays of preparation for Christmas);
- Christmas Day;
- Ash Wednesday
- Lent (about 6 weeks leading up to Holy week - Easter);
- World Day of Prayer (first Friday of March)
- Harvest Thanksgiving

- Palm Sunday
- Good Friday
- Easter Monday
- Ascension
- Pentecost

The Sabbath – a day of worship

(Ex 20:1-2; 8-11; 31;12-13 & 17)

The Jewish Holy Day (Sabbath) is from Friday evening until Saturday evening. Students can answer the following from the Scripture passages above.

1. Who gave the commandment about the Sabbath?
2. To whom was it given?
3. How was the day to be spent?

On the seventh day of Creation God rested. The seven-day creation was a pattern for us. God worked on six days and rested on the seventh. The Sabbath is therefore a day of rest.

Sunday, the Lord's Day

Jesus rose from the dead on the first day of the week and so Christians began to meet on that day for prayer and celebration of Holy Communion. Twenty years later this was their regular worship day and by the time the Apostle John wrote the book of Revelation it was called The Lord's Day, (Rev 1:10).

It is important not to argue about whether Saturday or Sunday is the right day for worshipping God. The important thing is that we do set aside a day to spend worshipping and resting.

Year 6

God is our Saviour 3 Weeks



Outcomes:

At the completion of this module students will understand:

- The reason Jesus died on the cross
- That Jesus came alive again and is still alive today
- The gift of Salvation

Related classroom topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Countries of the world: Israel and the Middle East

Link between “God is our Saviour” and classroom topics:

John 3:16 For God loved the world so much that He sent his only son so that whoever believes in Him should not die but have everlasting life.

God wants the people of every country in the whole world to come to know Him, so that they can live forever with Him in heaven. People of every nation can come to know the true God by asking Jesus to forgive their sins and then to follow Him. Some people have never heard about Jesus so those who know about Him must tell others. How did Fijians come to know about Jesus?

Values:

faith; respect for truth; thankfulness

Biography:

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

God is our Saviour

Easter Week 1

Jesus was crucified

The events leading up to the Crucifixion

Revision questions

What was the meal that Jesus was celebrating with His disciples just before Easter? (Passover).

What did Jesus serve at the meal? (bread and wine)

What did the bread and wine represent? (His body and blood)

How did the disciples feel when they were told that Jesus was going to die?

Who betrayed Jesus on that night? (Judas)

What did he do?

Why did the leaders want to put Jesus to death? (Jesus was becoming too popular with the people – seen by the crowds who cheered for him on His entry into Jerusalem)

What did the leaders say was their excuse for putting Jesus to death? (They said that Jesus claimed to be the King of the Jews.)

The Crucifixion

Jesus walked out of Jerusalem carrying his cross. They had taken off the purple robe and dressed him in his own clothes. The cross was heavy. The Lord Jesus had suffered terribly from the beating and lack of sleep the night before so he walked slowly. A man called Simon was pulled from the crowd to carry the cross for the Lord Jesus while Jesus walked ahead. They moved toward a place called Golgotha, or Calvary. Two other prisoners carried their crosses. They were robbers.

Some soldiers walked in front of the crowd. One carried a sign that Pilate had written. It was to be hung at the top of Jesus' cross. "This is Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews," the sign said. The Jewish leaders did not like those words. They said, "Write, 'He said: I am the King of the Jews'". Pilate had refused to change the sign. "What I have written, I have written," he said.

When the crowd reached the hill where Jesus would be crucified, the soldiers offered him something to drink. It was some kind of wine mixed with a drug that would make it easier for him to bear the pain. The Lord Jesus would not drink it. He would take every bit of the suffering himself. The soldiers put nails through his hands and feet and hung him up on the cross to die.

It was nine o'clock in the morning. The two robbers were on either side of him. The soldiers threw a dice to see who would get his clothes. They were used to crucifixions and hearing screams and curses from those who were dying. But the man on the middle cross, Jesus, did not curse or scream. He called out, "Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing." The Lord Jesus was praying for his enemies! What kind of man is this?" they wondered.

People came and stood watching, shaking their heads. "You!" they yelled. "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross."

The chief priests and the scribes joined in the mocking. "He saved others but he can't save himself. If he is the King of the Jews let him come down from the cross and we will believe him."

It was not the nails that held the Lord Jesus to the cross. He had power to come off that cross. It was his love for us that held him there. His blood was shed so that our sin could be forgiven. We were born with a sinful nature - a nature that chooses wrong - the lies, the selfishness, the hatred, the disobedience, the stealing and all the other sins we have ever done. These can be forgiven only through the blood of Christ.

It is easy to hate the sin of those who crucified and mocked the Lord Jesus. Could even their sins be forgiven? Yes! Their sin too could be forgiven (Acts 6:7).

One of the robbers joined in the mocking. He said, "Jesus, aren't you the Messiah? Then save yourself and us too!"

But the other robber said, "Aren't you afraid of God, even when you are dying? We are getting the punishment we deserve. We are guilty but this man has done nothing wrong. He is not guilty." He spoke to the Lord Jesus, "Remember me when you come into your kingdom."

Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you shall be with me in Paradise." It was now twelve o'clock. Three hours had gone by since the crucifixion began. Strange things were happening. Darkness came over all the land; not just cloudy darkness but night darkness. It lasted for three hours, until three o'clock in the afternoon.

It was about that time that the Lord Jesus cried with a loud voice, "My God! My God! Why have you forsaken me?" God had to abandon him while Jesus took the punishment for our sin. 1 Peter 2:24 says, "He carried our sins in his own body on the cross". If we trust the Lord Jesus as our Savior, we will never have to be separated from God. He will never leave us alone in our life on earth or in our next life after we die when we will be with Him in Heaven.

Then Jesus cried with a loud voice, "It is finished!" All that he had come to do was finished. When something is finished there is nothing left to be done. No one can add anything else to pay for sin. The Lord Jesus did it all.

Jesus spoke one last time. "Father," he said. "Into your hands I give my spirit." The separation from God was over. Jesus' spirit left his body. Jesus was dead.

The leader of the group of soldiers that crucified him looked at Jesus on the cross. "Surely this man was the Son of God," he said. He must have thought, "I am guilty of crucifying one who was not guilty."

In the temple in the city a huge curtain called a veil hung in front of the altar. Once every year the high priest had gone behind the veil with the blood of animals to offer it as a sacrifice for the sins of the people. This was the only time anyone ever went behind that curtain. But, when the Lord Jesus died that veil was torn in half from the top to the bottom! The blood of animals was no longer necessary to come to God. All could come through the blood of the Lord Jesus, the Lamb of God.

One of the rulers of the Jews went to Pilate. His name was Joseph, and the Bible says he did not vote to have Jesus put to death. It took a lot of courage for any Jew to go to Pilate at this time. "Please, may I take his body from the cross and bury it?" Joseph asked.

"Is he dead already?" Pilate questioned. It was not usual that anyone could die so soon from crucifixion! The soldiers checked. They broke the legs of the robbers so that they might die more quickly. But they did not break Jesus' legs because he was already dead. They pierced his side with a spear and they knew he was dead. The soldiers gave Pilate the word. "Yes, Jesus is dead." Pilate gave Joseph permission to take the body.

Up until this time Joseph had not spoken of his love for the Lord Jesus because he was afraid of the Jews. Suddenly he was brave and he didn't care who knew. Nicodemus too had feared to speak of his love for the Lord Jesus. Together Joseph and Nicodemus removed the body from the cross. They wrapped it in linen with sweet-smelling spices, and buried the Saviour in a new tomb in Joseph's garden.

The leaders of the Jews were certain that this was the end. Well, almost certain, that is! They went back to Pilate again.

"We remember that this deceiver said he would rise from the dead in three days," they said. "His disciples might come to steal his body and then say he has risen. We want guards to watch the tomb for three days."

Pilate gave permission. The tomb was sealed and the guards were stationed to make sure the body of Christ would stay in the tomb and not be stolen.

Review questions

1. Why did the Lord Jesus die? *Ans. For the sins of the world.*
2. What kinds of people were at the cross? *Ans. Rulers who hated him, friends who loved him, soldiers and others who didn't care.*
3. What did they say to mock him while he hung on the cross? *Ans. If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross and we will believe. "He said he trusted in God so let God save Him now."*
4. What held the Lord Jesus to the cross? *Ans. His love.*

5. What did Jesus ask God to do for his enemies? *Ans. He prayed, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do."*
6. Name some of the strange things that happened when he died. *Ans. Darkness at midday; the temple curtain was torn in two.*
7. Why did Jesus cry "My God! My God! Why have you forsaken me?" *Ans. He was separated from God because of our sin.*
8. Who took the body of the Lord Jesus off the cross and laid it in a tomb? *Ans. Joseph and Nicodemus.*

Easter workbook activity:

Missing words: worship, forgive, guilty, remember, where, risen.

God is our Saviour

Easter Week 2

Jesus is alive!

The Resurrection

Adapted from Matthew 28:1-15; Mark 16:1-14; Luke 23:56-24:12; 36-48; John 20:1-21.

The body of Jesus had been taken to the cave-tomb in the garden of Joseph of Arimathea. The heavy tomb stone was sealed and guards stood on watch to make sure that the body was not stolen.

It seemed that guarding a dead man's grave would be an easy job for the soldiers. Surely there was no work involved in that. They were just to see that the tomb was not disturbed. But they could not do it, for God himself was in charge of that grave. Those strong soldiers were absolutely powerless to keep the grave undisturbed. Their guarding time was up. An angel took over!

When the soldier saw the angel they were so afraid they became like dead men. When they were able to get away from the tomb they rushed back into the city to the Jewish leaders. The soldiers told what had happened.

"Don't tell that to anyone," the Jewish leaders warned. They brought out a large amount of money.

"We'll give you this," they said, "if you do not tell what you know. Say that you fell asleep and his disciples came and took his body away." The promise of a lot of money made it very easy for them to lie.

When the Lord Jesus was buried, some women who were special friends Jesus wanted to put sweet-smelling spices on his body just as Nicodemus had done, but they came too late. All they could do was watch Joseph, Nicodemus and others roll the big stone to close the opening of the grave then go home.

The next day was the Sabbath, (the day of rest for the Jews), so they could not go to the tomb on that day. But early Sunday morning they were on their way. It was still dark when they left their homes. They were very sad.

“How can we get to the body?” one asked. “Who will roll the stone away from the door?” That was a big problem, but still they went on their way. When they came in sight of the tomb they saw it was open! Mary Magdalene hurried to look inside. She called out, “He’s gone! He’s not there! His body is gone!” She was so upset she didn’t wait to discuss it with the other women. Whatever happened? Would Peter and John know anything about it? She hurried back into the city to find them, calling out, “They have taken the Lord out of the grave and we don’t know where they laid him.” Peter and John immediately started for the grave and Mary Magdalene followed. Had she waited with the other women she would have learned something else. After she had gone they saw an angel. “Don’t be afraid,” the angel said to the women. “I know you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here. He is risen. He said that would happen. Come and see the place where he was lying.”

The women came closer to the tomb and they saw that truly he was not there, although the cloths that had been wrapped around Jesus body were lying in the tomb.

The angel told the women, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.” Then they remembered Jesus words; truly He had told them this would happen. The angel said, “Go tell his disciples and Peter that He is going ahead of you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.” The women ran to spread the good news! It was such wonderful news that they were almost afraid to believe it! Meantime Peter and John were running to the tomb. Mary Magdalene was coming more slowly behind them. John arrived first and stopped at the entrance to look in. Peter pushed by him into the tomb. John followed. There they saw the linen clothes in which Joseph and Nicodemus had wrapped the body of Jesus. They were exactly in the shape of the body but they were empty. The cloth that had been over his face was separate from the others. In some way the body had moved out of the linen wrappings without moving them! They returned to their home, their minds filled with wonder.

Mary Magdalene moved up to the opening and looked inside. She saw two angels! “Woman, why are you crying?” they asked her. “They’ve taken my Lord away, and I don’t know where they have laid him” she answered. As she turned around she saw someone behind her. “Woman, why are you crying? Who are you looking for?” he asked her.

Mary thought it was the gardener. “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you laid him and I will take him away,” she said. The man standing there said, “Mary!” Immediately Mary knew it was Jesus.

“My Master!” she cried.

Mary Magdalene was the first person to see the Lord Jesus after he had risen from the dead.

“Go to my brothers, my followers, and tell them I am going to my Father,” the Lord Jesus told her.

Mary Magdalene went and told the disciples she had seen the risen Lord Jesus and what he said to her. The other women who had heard the message of the angel had also told their stories. The disciples did not believe the women, but they knew they were speaking the truth.

Jesus appears to His disciples

That evening the disciples were in a room behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jews. Suddenly Jesus was there! Locked doors couldn't keep him out! “Peace be to you!” He said.

At first they were terribly frightened. They thought they were seeing a spirit!

“Why are you troubled?” he asked them. “Look at my hands and my feet,” and He showed them the wounds from the nails in his hands and feet. “It is me. Touch me and see. A spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.”

Now the disciples knew what the women said was true. They were glad and filled with joy. They were happier than they had ever been before!

“Do you have anything to eat?” He asked. They gave him a piece of boiled fish and watched while he ate it. “While I was still with you,” He said, “I told you everything written about me in the Old Testament must come true.” He helped them to understand how the Old Testament spoke about Him.

“This is what is written: the promised Saviour will suffer and rise from the dead the third day. Repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached to all nations. You are witnesses of these things. As the Father sent me, so send I you.”

Review Questions

1. What lie did the soldiers tell about what took place at the tomb? *Ans. They said they fell asleep and the disciples came and stole the body of Jesus out of the tomb.*
2. Why did they tell that lie? *Ans. Because the rulers of the Jews promised them a lot of money if they would say that.*
3. What did the women plan to do at Jesus' grave? *Ans. Put spices on his body.*
4. What did they find there? *Ans. The stone rolled away; some saw an angel.*
5. What did the angel tell them? *Ans. “He is not here: for he is risen.” “Go quickly and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead.”*
6. Who was the first person to see the Lord Jesus after he had risen from the dead? *Ans. Mary Magdalene.*
7. What did Peter and John see when they went to the tomb? *Ans. The grave clothes lying in place with the body gone.*
8. Where did the Lord Jesus meet with the disciples? *Ans. He came into a room where the disciples were staying behind locked doors*
9. What did he do to prove that he was real? *Ans. Showed them the wounds in his hands and feet. Told them to touch him. Ate some fish.*

God is our Saviour

Easter Week 3

The gift of Salvation

Introduction

Over the past two weeks we have read about the death and resurrection of Jesus. Jesus died to take the sins of the whole world. But He does not force Himself on anyone, so it is up to each individual to decide whether they want the free gift that Jesus is offering. Jesus is offering us a home in Heaven when we die, and a friendship throughout our lifetime.

Heaven is a Free Gift

The Bible tells us that it is not possible to get to Heaven by being 'good enough'. That's because God is perfect, and no one can ever be perfect like God. Our sin causes us to be separated from God.

Ephesians 2:8 God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. (NLT)

Everyone is a sinner

Romans 3:23 For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. (NLT)

The Cost of Sin

Because God is just He must punish all sin. However, He is also merciful, and does not want to punish us. So He made a way for us. (NLT)

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord. (NLT)

Jesus is the Answer

Jesus is God's answer to our sin. Jesus died on the cross for us, and through His death bought us a place in Heaven. This is called 'Salvation'. Jesus did not deserve punishment because He had no sin. But He took our punishment, to keep us from getting what we do deserve - eternal death and separation from God.

John 14:6 Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. (NLT)

Trust in Christ Alone

Faith is the key to receiving the gift of Salvation. Out of faith we are able to trust in Christ alone, confess His Holy name before others, say sorry for our sins, and finally in obedience to His Word, be baptized.

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (NIV)

1 John 1:12 But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. (NLT)

Baptism

John the Baptist was called by God to prepare the people for the coming of Jesus. He was the cousin of Jesus and born just six months before Jesus was.

John left home and went to live a rough, outdoor life in the hot, bare desert near the River Jordan. He wanted to be alone and find out God's purpose for him. He was a plain, outspoken man, like the prophet Elijah, and he dressed like him too. He wore a rough camel-skin coat, tied round his waist with a leather belt. He ate the desert food of wild honey and locusts, (grasshoppers).

God gave him a message to preach and crowds soon came flocking out to hear John preaching.

'Listen!' John thundered. "God's kingdom is on its way! See that you are ready for it. Put your lives right with God."

"Why should we do that?' the people asked. 'We are God's chosen people. He must be pleased with us."

"Don't rely on that!" John warned them. 'Being born a Jew isn't good enough. You must tell God how sorry you are for doing evil and begin to live lives that please him.'" Many people knew that it was God's voice speaking to them. They were really sorry for breaking God's laws and wanted to please God. 'So John baptized them in the River Jordan by dipping them under the water. It was a sign to show everyone that God had forgiven them and given them a clean, new start.

"Now change your ways, John urged. "Don't be greedy and grasping. If you have more food and clothes than you need, share with others. Do your jobs well and without grumbling. That is what God wants."

John warned the people that God would punish them if they did not repent and change their ways, but he also brought them good news.

"I'm preparing the way for a very important person, who is coming soon," he announced. "He is so much greater than I am that I'm not good enough to be his meanest slave. I'm only baptizing you with water. He will bring you all God's blessing and power. He will be God's awaited King.

One day, Jesus came to see John. "Please baptize me, too," Jesus asked him.

'I couldn't do that!' John exclaimed. He had known Jesus from childhood.

"You have never gone your own way and disobeyed God. You have nothing to be sorry for. You are a better person than I am."

"But this is what God wants," said Jesus.

So John baptized him.

As Jesus came up from the water, a strange thing happened. When John tried to describe it afterwards, he said: "I saw something that looked like a dove come and rest on Jesus."

Then, in a sudden blinding flash, John realized that the relative he had known and admired for so long, was none other than the King he had been preaching about. Immediately he heard God's voice speaking to Jesus: "You are my own dear Son," God said. "I am very pleased with you."

Jesus came to John to be baptised, not because he had done anything wrong, but to show us that this was one of the things He wants us to do. He wants us to come to God.

Baptism today

Being baptized is a sign that we have accepted Jesus as our Lord and Saviour. In many churches Christians are baptized just the way Jesus was, by going under the water.

In some churches such as the Methodist Church, there is a ceremony for babies called baptism. The parents bring the babies to the church for a blessing and water is poured on the baby's head. The baby is too young to ask for forgiveness for sin, so this is not the reason for the ceremony. The reason is that the parents are saying they want that baby to belong to Jesus. Parents bring their babies to be baptized because they want God to receive their children and their children to be part of the church. However, the second step is one the children must take as they grow up and to invite the Lord Jesus to be their Saviour, and live the way Jesus wants them too.

Older children can decide to be *confirmed*. This is a special service for those who have accepted Jesus as Lord and Saviour and have decided that they want to live as Christians for the rest of their lives. They need to know:

- That God loves them
- That Jesus died for them to forgive their sins
- That they have received Jesus as their Saviour and Lord
- That the Bible is God's word to the people of the world, and we should read a portion of it each day
- That prayer is an important part of our lives, showing our dependence on God and our love for God
- That attending or Sunday School and church, and later the youth fellowship are important to help our faith and relationship with God to grow
- That when we earn money we should give some of it to the church as an act of worship and to help God's work
- That they should be able to share their faith with other people by doing kind deeds and by telling others that Jesus died to be their Saviour

Year 6

God is Pure and Holy 4 Weeks



Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will understand:

The Biblical symbolism of light and darkness standing for good and evil
God's instructions to "Walk in the Light"

- That Jesus is the light of the world
- That Christians can also be lights in a dark world
- That walking in the light is demonstrating the Fruit of the Spirit
- That God wants us to have pure relationships with one another
- That repentance and forgiveness are necessary in order for broken relationships to be healed
- The meaning of reconciliation

Related classroom topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Light, shadows, spectrum, the eye

Link between "God is Pure and Holy" and classroom topics:

The Bible uses the symbols of light and darkness to represent good and evil, or purity and sin.

Values:

Integrity, honesty, fairness, respect for truth and justice, goodness, holiness

Biographies:

Ruatoka and Tungane (Pacific Island Stories)

God is Pure and Holy

Week 1

Walk in the light

Christians should be lights to the world
We show that we are Christians by our actions.

Bible references

Ephesians 5:8-11 Live as children of the light

1 John 1:7 If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

Deuteronomy 6:18 Do that which is right and good.

Galatians 5:22 Goodness is a fruit of the Spirit.

Romans 13:12 Put on the armour of light.

Philippians 4:8-9 Fill your minds with things that are true, noble, right and pure.

Matthew 5:14 Christians are a light to the world, a city on a hill that cannot be hidden

Introduction

Light a candle. Try to think of as many uses for a candle as you can.
The Bible says that a Christian can be like a light. What does this mean?

Bible research

Read 1 John 5:7. What does it mean to walk in the light?

Read Romans 13:12. What does the Bible mean when it speaks about darkness and light?

Read through the Fruit of the Spirit from Galatians 5:22.

Read Philippians 4:8-9. What does God want us to do?

Read Ephesians 5: 8-11 How can Christians be lights to the world?

Workbook activity

1. Draw a candle with a flame in the centre of a map of the world.
2. Colour the continents and seas. Name the continents.

God is Pure and Holy

Week 2

Let your light shine

Bible references

Matthew 5:13-16 Christians as salt and light.

John 8:12 Jesus, the light of the world

Matthew 13:14-16 Some people have eyes that cannot 'see'.

Introduction

You will need: unsalted cracker biscuits and salt.

Ask for some volunteers to come and test eating a cracker biscuit.

Give the students a plain cracker biscuit that is not salty.

Now give everyone another cracker and sprinkle some salt on it.

Discuss the difference in taste.

Why do we add salt to our food?

Bible lesson

Read Matthew 5:13-16

When Jesus said that Christians are the salt of the earth, He really meant that Christians should be like a pleasant flavour. Just as people like to taste salty things, people will be interested in becoming Christians when they see God's love and joy in our lives.

What would happen to a candle if you light it and put it under a bowl?

Try this. The students will notice that the flame goes out.

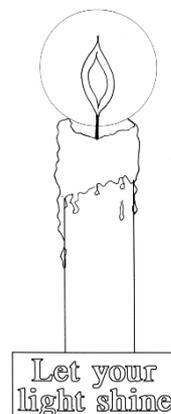
Discuss ways in which Christians can make their light shine.

Ans. We can be a good example; we can bring God's love and joy to other people. Make a list of ways we can let our light shine.

Who must we be connected to if we want our light to shine? Read John 8:12.

Read Matthew 13:14-16

How can people have eyes but not be able to 'see'? What is the meaning of 'see' in this case?



God is Pure and Holy

Week 3

Live a life that is pure

Bible references

Matthew 6:22 Your eye is a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is good, your whole body is filled with light.

John 5:14 You are my friends if you do what I command you.

Galatians 5:19-23 The Fruit of the Spirit versus the works of darkness

Matthew 7:15-20 A tree is known by its fruit.

1 John 1:5-7 Walk in the light as He is in the light.

1 John 2:28-29 Everyone who does what is right is of God.

Introduction

Revise the nine fruits of the Spirit.

Guessing game:

Have the nine fruit of the spirit listed on the board or on a large sheet of paper, with letters missing, e.g. p _ t _ e _ _ _

Bible research

Read 1 John 2:29. If we say we are a Christian, how should we act?

Read 1 John 1:5-7. What does it mean to walk in the light?

Walking in the light can mean that we think before we act. If something goes wrong, do we act in a 'typical' way? Do we do or say the first thing that comes into our head? Or do we stop and think about how Jesus would handle the situation?

Discussion: How should we react?

Here are some examples of things that could happen in everyday life. We could react in a good way or in a bad way. Think about how we can show the fruits of the Spirit in these situations. Try to make up your own situations as well.

Simon has spent hours on building something. Little sister comes and pulls it apart while Simon is out of the room. How should Simon react?

- a) with anger; wanting to pay back; throwing a tantrum
- b) forgiving little sister; exercising self-control; accepting the situation without getting angry

A new girl has come into the class. She is very shy and doesn't look as if she would be much fun to play with. How should the girls in the class react?

- a) ignore her and play with old friends
- b) make friends with her and include her in your games

A shop keeper gives Lydia too much change. How should Lydia react?

- a) "Too bad for the shop keeper. I'm keeping the extra money."
- b) "I'd better take back the extra change."

Read Matthew 6:22. How does the eye provide light for the whole body? When we 'see' in a spiritual sense, our body is full of light. What does this mean? (We *understand* the words of Jesus and obey them, and live pure lives.)

Read and discuss Matthew 7:15-20

Discuss the difference between Galatians 5:19-20 and Galatians 5:22-23. (bad fruit/good fruit)

God is Pure and Holy

Week 4

Purity in relationships

Bible references

James 4:1-3 Where do all the fights and quarrels among you come from? They come from your desires for pleasure, which are constantly fighting within you. You want things, but you cannot have them, so you are ready to kill; you strongly desire things, but you cannot get them, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have what you want because you do not ask God for it. And when you ask, you do not receive it, because your motives are bad; you ask for things to use for your own pleasures. (GNB)

James 4:7 So then, submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil, and he will run away from you. (GNB)

Ephesians 4:26 In your anger do not sin. Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry.

Genesis 25:19 – Genesis 33 Jacob and Esau

Introduction

When two people are having an argument, how might they act?

e.g. angry faces, angry words, not talking to each other, staying away from one another

The word 'conflict' means a serious disagreement or argument, or violence between two people or two groups of people. They may have opposing ideas, feelings, opinions or wishes. They may be resentful and blame the other party for acting wrongly or unjustly towards them.

Bible study

Read James 4:1-2

What can be the root cause of arguments according to this passage?

In this group of people, what were the results of wanting everything for themselves?

What does it mean to have bad motives?

Now read verse 7. Is the devil completely responsible or do people have a part to play in causing arguments? How do we stop arguments from happening? Think about the Fruit of self-control in Galatians 5:22.

What do we do if we are angry with someone?

If we are angry with someone because they did something wrong, we can say so, but in a polite and respectful way. We don't speak rudely, or hit or punch or fight, but we say politely that we think that what the person did was not right.

Read Ephesians 4:26. This verse tells that we should let all our anger go before the sun goes down. In other words, don't keep thinking over and over again how awful that person was. Forgive them and move on.

Restoring relationships

When a relationship is broken, it doesn't have to be forever. If two people talk about the conflict, try to sort it out by forgiving one another, and then a broken relationship can be restored.

Jacob and Esau

This is the true story of twin boys, grandchildren of Abraham. Their parents were Isaac and Rebekah. The boys were named Esau and Jacob. Esau was the first-born. When the boys grew up, Esau became a hunter and Jacob grew crops. Rebekah favoured Jacob because she didn't like the killing of animals. In those days the eldest son inherited a special blessing called the 'birthright'. Rebekah wanted Jacob to have it, even though he was the younger of the two.

Isaac loved the food that Esau hunted. So Isaac told Esau to go and hunt, and prepare a special meal for him; then he would give him the blessing. Rebekah overheard Isaac talking to Esau and rushed to tell her favourite son Jacob. She said to Jacob, "Your father is about to give Esau his blessing and I want you to have it instead. You need to go and get two of our goats and bring them to me, I will prepare them just the way Isaac likes it. Then you can take it to him and he will give you the blessing instead."

Jacob replied, "But Mother, Esau is a hairy man. What if father touches me and realizes that I'm tricking him?"

His mother said to him, "Don't worry! You can wear Esau's clothes and we'll put the goat hair on your hands and neck so he'll never know."

So they did just that and Jacob went to see his father pretending to be Esau.

"Hello Father," Jacob said.

"Hello, and who is this?" His father asked.

"It's me, Esau. I have brought you the food you wanted so that you can give me my blessing." Jacob lied.

"Come closer so I can touch you and know that you are really my oldest son Esau," said his father.

So Jacob went to Isaac and he felt his hands and said, "You sound just like Jacob but your hands are just like Esau. Are you really Esau?"

And Jacob chose to lie again, "I am."

So Isaac ate and when he was finished he asked, "Come and kiss me." When Jacob went to kiss him, Isaac smelled the clothes he was wearing just to make sure it smelled like Esau. Since Jacob was wearing Esau's clothes his father believed that he was with Esau and he gave the blessing to Jacob.

Just as Jacob finished getting the blessing, he thought he heard Esau coming, so he quickly snuck out the back of the tent. Just as he was walking away, Esau entered the tent with the food he had prepared for his father.

His father asked, "Who are you?"

"It's me, your son Esau. I'm here to get my blessing," said Esau confused.

"I just gave you your blessing." And Isaac started to realize he had been tricked just like he thought. Esau started crying and yelling, "Bless me too father!"

"There is no blessing left," said his father sadly.

Esau was angry with his brother Jacob for what he had done, so Jacob had to run away so he would be safe. He thought that Esau might kill him.

After Jacob ran away he went to live with his uncle Laban. He wanted to marry Laban's daughter Rachel, but Laban said that Jacob would have to work seven years before he could marry her. Then Jacob was tricked, just like he tricked his father. He did not know until after the wedding ceremony that Laban had given the older daughter, Leah as a bride. (The wedding veil meant that Jacob could not see her face during the ceremony.) So Jacob had to work another seven years before he could marry Rachel.

All these years had passed and Jacob and Esau had not mended their argument. But the time came when Jacob knew he must seek forgiveness from his brother. He sent gifts and a meeting was arranged. Jacob was afraid. He sent gifts with his servants to give to Esau. Would Esau forgive him? But Esau ran to meet Jacob and threw his arms around him, and kissed him.

"Who are all these people with you?" Esau asked.

"These are the children whom God has been good enough to give me," replied Jacob. So the two brothers were reconciled. They were brought back together.

The meaning of reconciliation

The Fijian word for a reconciliation ritual is *tabua* or *Yaqona*. This is like the giving of gifts that Jacob prepared for Esau. When reconciliation takes place there are

speeches. One family says, "I'm sorry" and another accepts that gift of humility and says, "I forgive you."

Reconciliation is about two parties coming together. It is a step further than just feeling sorry, (which is called remorse). Reconciliation is repentance and forgiveness. It is actually making what has become two different parts to become one again.

Discussion

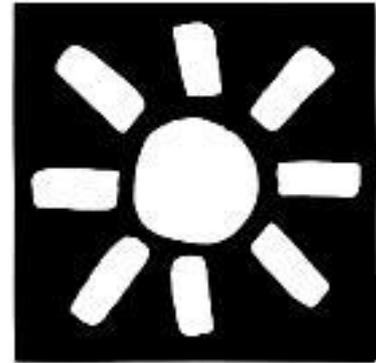
What were the consequences of the disagreement between Jacob and Esau?

(Jacob was cut off from his family for many years; fear on the part of Jacob; anger on the part of Esau)

How did reconciliation change things?

Year 6

God is Creator 5 Weeks



Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will understand that:

- God created the universe in six days.
- The theory of evolution is man's attempt to reject God as Creator.
- God's original creation was very good.
- Sin spoiled God's perfect creation.
- The Great Flood was an act of God's judgment on a sinful world.
- Noah's family was the only righteous family at the time of the Flood.
- The earth's population once again rejected God and worshipped themselves instead, evident at the Tower of Babel.
- God stopped the building of the tower by creating different language groups.
- Civilization spread outward from the Tower of Babel. The true history of the world was forgotten by all except one man.
- Abraham did not forget the truth. He was a righteous man chosen by God to pass on truth to his people group, which became the nation of Israel.

Related classroom topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Animals by design: creators and builders; animal families

Link between "God is Creator" and classroom topics:

We see the hand of a designer in the creation. Such order, beauty and design could not have happened by chance; animals were created after their own kind; we do not see animal species changing into different animal species – cats do not change into dogs. The theory of millions of years is an invention to try and cover up the fact that we don't see animals changing from one kind to another. Evolutionists say that it would take millions of years to see these changes.

Values

respect for truth; faith

Biographies: Jacob Vouza

God is Creator

Week 1

In the beginning

The Beginning of the World - God's Way

Bible reference:

Genesis 1 to Genesis 2:4a The Creation

John 1:1-3 Before the world was created, the Word already existed; he was with God and He was the same as God.

Introduction

Read the Creation account from Genesis 1:1 to Genesis 2:4a

Discussion

1. What was it like before God created? (Ans: there was nothing.)

It was very, very dark. Early on Day 1, God created light. How did He do this? He just said, 'Let there be light!' and there was light. His Word was all that was needed. The Bible says that God separated the light from the darkness and called it day. Every living thing needs light to survive. The light He shone into the world on Day One was His own light and not the sun's light. The sun was created on Day Four. God tells us that He is light and that Jesus is the Light of the world.)

2. What did God use to create? (Ans: God's Word. Note at the beginning of each day we read "Then God commanded." God only has to speak and things happen. God is all powerful. God's Word is enough. Life happens and things happen when God speaks. Read John 1:1-3.)

3. What happened at the end of each day? (Ans: Evening passed and morning came.)

4. How long was each day? (24 hours)

5. How long did God take to create the whole universe? (Ans: six days, and He rested on the seventh.)

6. Who created everything? (Read verse 26. Who is the 'we' referring to? Ans: The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit)

7. What did God say about His creation when He had finished creating? Read verse 31. (Ans: It was very good.)

8. What did God mean by 'very good'? (Ans: no sickness, no death, no suffering, no pain, no sin)

God is Creator

Week 2

Ideas about the beginning of the world

God's Word gives us the only true account of the origin of the universe.

Bible references

Genesis 1 to 2:4a: The Creation

Hebrews 11:3 It is by faith that we understand that the universe was created by God's Word, so that what can be seen was made out of what cannot be seen. (GNB)

Hebrews 11:6 Without faith it is impossible to please God.

John 5:47 If you don't believe the writings of Moses, how can you believe My words?

Genesis 1:24 God made every creature after their own kind.

Genesis 1:31 God looked at all that He had made and it was good.

Introduction

What ideas do people have about the way the world began and the beginning of life?

The Beginning of the World: Man's Idea

Some people believe in the 'big bang' theory. That is, that somewhere out in space, billions of years ago, there was a big explosion of particles coming together. They say that this led to the formation of the universe as we know it. However, there is no explanation of where the particles came from.

For those who believe in it, the big bang was an explosion of energy, marking the beginning of space and time. These people believe that life happened by accident. They do not believe in a Creator. They believe that by accident, a living cell was formed. Eventually, the single cell divided in two, then in two again, and a new living thing was formed. As cells kept dividing and changing over millions and millions of years, more and more new living creatures were made.

To believe that the world began this way, is to believe in the theory of EVOLUTION. A theory is an idea, which has yet to be tested and proved. It is not scientific fact, and yet so many people accept it as fact. Have you ever watched programs on TV, or read books, which claim that rocks or fossils are millions of years old? This information is based on evolution. The theory of evolution is very different from the account of creation as written in God's history book, Genesis.

The person who invented the theory was a man called Charles Darwin who lived in England over a hundred years ago. At that time, people in Britain believed that God created the universe. However, as Darwin studied the similarities between animals he came up with a new idea. Instead of each species being created after its own kind as the Bible says, Darwin imagined that maybe one form of life changed into another very

gradually with each generation. With the passing of many generations, new animals would start to appear.

Because this was such a slow process, animals as we know them took millions and millions of years to form (to evolve), and not in just 6 days as the Bible says. It also meant that instead of God's perfect creation, where death was unknown, the "creation" would have been imperfect due to death over millions of generations of evolution. According to the theory, the weaker animals died out and only the strongest survived. This had to mean disease and suffering were part of the process of evolution.

While Darwin tried hard to make the theory work, he also realised that there were a lot of problems with it. To begin with, it was the opposite to what the Bible says, and besides, there should have been discoveries of skeletons of things like a half-fish-half lizard, or a half-lizard-half-bird or even a half-ape-half-man, and no skeletons like this had ever been found.

However, many scientists decided they liked the theory. To believe in evolution meant that there was no God who created the universe. If there was no God who set rules to obey, then there was no such thing as sin. People could do as they wanted to without having to obey God. Besides this, as man was at the top of the evolutionary chain, man had to be the cleverest animal in the universe! Yes, people liked that idea. Evolution was here to stay.

Illustration

Imagine two builders. Each one is going to build a house. One builder draws a plan for his house, collects the materials and carefully constructs the house. The other builder gets a lot of materials together and puts them altogether in the back of a tip truck. He arrives at the building site in his truck and tips out all the materials in a heap on the ground, expecting the house to make itself.

Discussion

Why could the first builder create a house?

Ans: He used intelligence, design and craftsmanship.

Why couldn't the second builder make anything?

Ans: We could not expect the materials to come together by themselves.

This illustration is similar to creation and evolution. We could not expect such a beautiful world to be formed just by particles being banged together. We must realise that there was an intelligent creator and designer at work. The creator of course is the God of the Bible.

Many people today believe that the universe was formed by a big bang. They believe that out of that big bang came a single living cell. That cell divided and gave way to new forms of life. Because some forms of life were not strong enough or clever enough, they died out. This of course would mean lots of suffering and death as one form of life gave way to another. According to the theory, after millions of years, the ape was formed and this finally developed into a human being.

The Bible, however, says that God's creation was *good*. There was *no* death, disease or suffering before the creation of man. Death, disease and suffering entered the world when man and woman disobeyed God. The Bible also says that God created everything after its own kind...not one form of life developing into another.

Discussion

How does the Bible contradict the theory of evolution?

Read Genesis 1:24a. If God created animals to reproduce after their own kind, then how could an elephant develop from an amoeba?

Also read Gen.1:31.

What did God mean when He said that His creation was 'good'?

What can we discover about God by looking at some of the complex aspects of the creation? Perhaps you can examine some plant or animal specimens.

Could such design and order happen by chance?

Think about the marvellous design of these:

- birds, and their amazing ability to fly
- the human body
- insects
- flowers
- sound

God is Creator

Week 3

The beginning of sin

Bible references

Genesis 2:4b – Genesis 3

Are there two Creation accounts in the Bible?

Some people think that there are two different accounts of creation in Genesis. In Genesis chapter 1 we read about the six days of Creation. In Genesis chapters 2 and 3 we read about the first man and woman in the Garden of Eden. But this is not a different story. It is just expanding the first account and giving more details. It was the practice of the Hebrew writers to give a brief outline first, as we see in Genesis Chapter 1, and then to expand the information as we see in chapters 2 and 3.

Read Genesis 2:4b to 6

In Genesis chapter 1 we are told that God made all kinds of plants on Day 3. In Chapter 2 we are told some extra information about Day 3. On that day God created not just full-grown plants, but also the special seeds that Adam would need for cultivation of

food. It was God's plan for Adam to work in the garden, planting seeds and harvesting food.

Read Genesis 2:7. How did God create the man?

Read Genesis 2:8-14. Describe the Garden of Eden.

Read Genesis 2:15-17. What were the special instructions to the man?

Read Genesis 2:18-20

This gives more detail of what happened on Day 6. How did the animals get their names? (Note that the animals were not created after Adam. The Hebrew verb for 'formed' actually should be translated 'having formed' or 'had formed', which would make the animals created before Adam and consistent with Genesis 1. The NIV translation of verse 19 is therefore correct. King James Version is not.)

Read Genesis 2:21-25

These verses give more information about what happened on Day 6. How did God make the woman?

Read Genesis 3:1-13. What did the snake tell Eve?

Read Genesis 3:17 – 20 and verse 23.

Was Adam to blame as well?

What were the consequences?

God is Creator

Week 4

Creation stories from around the world

Bible references

Genesis 11 The Tower of Babel

Genesis 12 God's call to Abraham

History revision

After God created Adam and Eve, they had children and the world population started to grow.

YEARS		
God created everything.	<i>Genesis 1–2</i>	0
Adam became the father of Seth at 130.	<i>Genesis 5:3</i>	$0 + 130 = 130$
Seth became the father of Enosh at 105.	<i>Genesis 5:6</i>	$130 + 105 = 235$
Enosh became the father of Kenan at 90.	<i>Genesis 5:9</i>	$235 + 90 = 325$
Cainan became the father of Mahalalel at 70.	<i>Genesis 5:12</i>	$325 + 70 = 395$
Mahalalel became the father of Jared at 65.	<i>Genesis 5:15</i>	$395 + 65 = 460$
Jared became the father of Enoch at 162.	<i>Genesis 5:18</i>	$460 + 162 = 622$
Enoch became the father of Methuselah at 65.	<i>Genesis 5:21</i>	$622 + 65 = 687$
Methuselah became the father of Lamech at 187.	<i>Genesis 5:25</i>	$687 + 187 = 874$
Lamech became the father of Noah at 182.	<i>Genesis 5:28</i>	$874 + 182 = 1056$
The Flood started when Noah was 600.	<i>Genesis 7:6</i>	$1056 + 600 = 1656$

The Bible tells us that 1,656 years after the creation, the people of the world had become so wicked that God decided to send a Great Flood. All people and animals were destroyed except for one righteous family, the family of Noah, who saved the animals by bringing male and female of each kind aboard the Ark that he had made under God's instructions.

The Ark landed on Mt. Ararat in Turkey, (in the Middle East), and the world population again started growing. The Bible tells us that just 106 years later the people wanted to build a great tower to make a name for themselves. They had forgotten about God already! The tower was called the Tower of Babel. This tower was built in Babylon, which is now in Iraq, a neighbouring country to Turkey. This area is called the cradle of civilization because it is where civilization began. It was between two rivers called the Tigris and Euphrates which were in the Garden of Eden. We can read about this in Genesis 2:14.

God was saddened that the people had forgotten Him once again. He decided to stop the building of the tower by confusing their language. Until then everyone

spoke the same language, and but now there were many groups of people speaking many different languages. They could no longer communicate and therefore could not finish the tower. They gathered together in their language groups and went in different directions throughout the world. This is why we have different people and language groups throughout the world today.

God still wanted a group of people to love and serve Him. He found one righteous man. His name was Abraham. Abraham had not forgotten God and taught the true history of the world to his children. He taught them how God created the world in the beginning, over six days. He also told them about the Great Flood. God told Abraham that he would have many children, and these children would become a great nation. That nation was Israel, God's chosen people. God chose Abraham because he was righteous and loved and served God.

The rest of the world population did not care about God, so didn't think it was important to pass on the history of the world to their children. As time went by, their children started to wonder, "How did we get here? How was the world made?" The true history of how God had made the world had been lost, so people started making up their own stories. They started worshiping false gods, such as the sun and the moon, which they thought must have been responsible for making the world. However there were a few people who remembered something of the true history, and these stories were told, often with facts that were incorrect or mixed up. Here is one such story. Listen for similarities with the Biblical account.

A Creation story told by an American Indian (www.creation.com)

The history of the world as my Blackfeet Elders told it ...

"My name is Percy Bullchild. I'm sixty-seven years of age. I'm from the Blackfeet Indian tribe in Montana, USA. With what little education I have, I am going to try to write the version of our own true ways in our history and in our legends ...

This story is about a lone spirit that lived in this spiritual place before there was a world with any kind of life. The lone spirit has been alive forever and will continue to live forever. Life is given to all of us humans and to all the creatures of the earth.

We call the Creator of everything "Creator Sun", who made the first living beings.

This is how Creator Sun made the first humans:

From the mud Creator Sun molded a form in his own shape, his own image. This mud figure came to life as Creator Sun blew into his nostrils. He wanted to do for the mudman something to help him overcome that loneliness. Using that strange power, Creator Sun put the mudman into a deep sleep so he wouldn't know what was going on.

Kneeling down beside him, Creator Sun took out the mudman's lowest, smallest left rib. With this rib he made an image after the mudman and himself, to bear fruit, to bear offspring.

This woman was looking for food one day when she was tempted by a “snakeman” who told her a half-truth and caused her to betray her husband. The Creator knew what was going on but, as always, he is so forgiving to all his creations. Nevertheless, all of us are to pay for whatever sins we commit.”

Discussion

Make a list of the similarities between this account and the Biblical account.

Note Genesis 2:7.

The Koreans: a people group who knew of one true God

In the 1880's the first Christian missionaries came to Korea. The Korean people accepted the missionaries because they showed the love of God. The missionaries did not come with a proud attitude. They did not say to the people, "You know nothing about God." Instead, they found out about the Korean's belief in God. To their surprise, they found that the Koreans actually knew something about the true and living God, even though no Christian missionary had ever been there before! The Koreans knew that there was one true God who had created the universe. They called Him by the name 'Hananim'.

The missionaries explained to the Koreans that Hananim had sent His Son to forgive all those who wanted to be forgiven. Hananim's son was born into the Jewish people, not because they were better than any other peoples, but simply because God needed to choose one group. Hananim then asked messengers to go into the whole world to call all people to Jesus, the Son of Hananim.

Koreans by the thousands listened to the missionaries with awe.

"Here are men and women who know so much more about the true God than even our own king," they thought. "Here are people who pray freely to Hananim in the name of His Son, and get answers!"

Soon there were hundreds of Korean churches being run by their own people. Today, Koreans are still becoming Christians at an amazing rate.

Question

Why are there many Creation and Flood stories in cultures all around the world, that have similarities to the Biblical record?

Ans: People spread all over the world from the Tower of Babel, so we can assume that all people groups once knew the true stories of the Creation and Flood.

Activity

Mark the three events: Creation, the Great Flood and the Tower of Babel on your timeline.

God is Creator

Week 5

The value of our life

Bible references

Psalm 139:1-18 Wonderfully made

Jeremiah 1:5 Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you.

Matthew 10:29-30 The hairs on our head are counted; we are of more value than the sparrows.

Psalm 8:3-9 God made man higher than the animals and placed us in charge of them.

Acts 10:34-35 God does not show favouritism.

Psalm 58:8 God collects all my tears in a bottle.

Introduction

Scientists tell us the following about the human body: The average human consists of:

- 38 litres of water, mainly in our blood
- Enough fat to make 7 bars of soap
- Enough carbon to make 9,000 pencils
- Enough phosphate for 2,200 matches
- Enough iron to make one medium sized nail
- Large quantities of calcium in our bones
- Small quantities of many other minerals

How much do you think all this would cost?

Do you think a human being is worth more than this?

Bible study

Psalm 8:3-9

What aspects of creation remind us of the greatness of God?

What job has God given to us?

All creation is of value to God and we should live 'carefully' in the world, never killing animals unnecessarily or wasting the earth's resources such as water, plants and food.

Psalm 139:1-18

How well does God know you? Why?

Our soul and spirit are made in God's image, so He values us. Our life is valuable because God made us.

What are some of the characteristics of God's creation according to Psalm 139:13-14, 17-18?

When God creates something it is not by chance, but planned out perfectly. All of His creation is wonderful. God thinks that His creation is precious.

When God created you, did He create you hastily or did He carefully plan your life?

God knit you together before you were even born. You were not created hastily. Every detail of your life was carefully planned out for you. God loves His creation, you, and planned your life before you were born.

Why does God deserve your praise?

God deserves our praise because we are wonderfully made in His image.

How does God feel about you?

God loves you and will never leave you. He knows that you are wonderfully made because He created you that way.

Matthew 10:29-30

What does God know about you?

How much does God care for the human beings He has made?

Does God love everyone or just Christians? He loves everyone.

What is the difference between the life of a Christian and the life of a non-believer?

(Christians hand their life over to God and He gives them a plan and purpose.)

How does God feel about people who don't believe in Him?

What value does life have for someone who thinks the world and all that's in it came about by accident?

Psalms 56:8

Does God care about you when you are sad?

God loves every one equally

Before the 19th Century, most people in the USA, England and Europe believed in the Biblical account of Creation. But as the 19th century scientists were converted to the theory of evolution, they were also convinced that some races were inferior to others. Because of Darwin's new theory, they were certain that the white race was superior to other races. They believed that the white race had advanced further up the evolutionary ladder, with black people being closest to the ape, with smaller brains, followed by other people with coloured skin, and then white people at the top.

Today such beliefs are no longer acceptable. The Bible tells us that everyone is of equal value because we are all precious to God, made in His image. God loves and accepts all people: old people, young people, men and women, handicapped people and people of different races. As His servants, He wants us to extend His love to all people.

Acts 10:34-35 Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right."

Prayer: Lord, we want to thank you because we are fearfully and wonderfully made. Not only did you plan our lives, but you planned good lives for us. You knew us before our birth and have never left us. Thank you Lord. Amen.

Year 6

God is Wise 4 Weeks



Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will understand that:

- To have wisdom requires knowing God's truth
- To have wisdom means listening to God's voice
- To have wisdom means knowing what the Bible says
- We need wisdom and God's strength to resist temptation

For the teacher: Wisdom is "the ability to judge correctly and to follow the best course of action, based on knowledge and understanding".

A good definition for the children to learn: "Wisdom is to know the right thing to do, and to do it."

Related classroom topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Health and fitness

Link between "God is Wise" and classroom topics:

Wisdom in following practices for good health.

Values:

honesty, fairness, respect for truth and justice, lifelong learning, goodness, discernment

Biography:

Piri and Maki

God is Wise

Week 1

Follow good advice

Bible references

Psalm 19:7 The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple.

Psalm 119:105 Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

Proverbs 19:20 Listen to counsel and accept discipline, that you may be wise the rest of your days.

Proverbs 12:15 The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man is he who listens to counsel.

Proverbs 3:5-8 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes. Fear the Lord and turn away from evil. This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.

James 1:5 Ask God for wisdom.

Introduction

Revise the definition of wisdom: to know the right thing to do, and to do it.

How do we know the right thing to do?

Today there is a common opinion that there is no right or wrong; that everyone can have their own view about what is right. But the Bible says otherwise. We know what is right and wrong by studying the Bible. God's word is truth.

Bible study

1. God's word is truth and gives us wisdom

Psalm 19:7 What does 'perfect' mean? What does God's Word do for us?

Psalm 119:105 What does this verse mean?

2. Good advice comes from wise people

Proverbs 19:20 Who are the people we can trust to be 'wise' according to God's standards?

Proverbs 12:15 What stops people from seeking wise advice? (They are too proud to listen to others.)

3. How to gain wisdom

Proverbs 3:5-7 Make a list of the things to do if we want to gain wisdom. What will God do for us if we look to Him for wisdom instead of thinking we know it all ourselves?

God is Wise

Week 2

Wise words of Jesus

Bible reference: Mathew 5:3-9

Introduction

Jesus only spoke words of wisdom and truth. Jesus is the truth. Many people followed Jesus and wanted to hear Him speak. They had never heard such wise teaching before. One day, when a crowd of people were following Him, Jesus decided to go up onto a hillside where the sound would carry, and many people could hear him speak. In this message Jesus gave us eight principles of wise advice. These were principles for living the Christian life. The eight wise principles are called 'the beatitudes' which means 'how to be happy, or how to be blessed'.

Bible study

1. Blessed, or happy, are the "poor in spirit," or those who know they need God's help to live like He wants them to live. (Matthew 5:3)

"Theirs is the kingdom of heaven." They are part of God's people and His future kingdom.

God wants you to depend on Him. He has a plan for your life, but He never expects you to "make it on your own" apart from Him. You can never please God without the Lord Jesus.

What does the world say?

Do your own thing. Be self-sufficient, self-reliant. Be your own person.

2. Blessed, or happy, are those who mourn, especially in being sorry for their sins (Matthew 5:4).

"They will be comforted." Jesus brings comfort to His people and forgives those who confess their sins and trust Him.

Doing bad things never makes you really happy. When you are truly sorry for sinful actions and ask God's forgiveness, there is a special relief and happiness. Covering your sins or pretending they do not exist, brings ultimate sadness and anger, and calls God a liar. If you are really sorry, you will not want to sin again.

What does the world say?

It's OK, as long as you don't get caught. "Nobody's perfect" is the excuse. Therefore, never admit you're wrong; admitting sin is depressing. Justify your sin by blaming someone else, no problem!

3. Blessed, or happy, are the meek. These are those who are humble, not prideful, and who submit their strength to God's control (Matthew 5:5).

"They will inherit the earth." They will be part of Jesus' kingdom on earth forever and ever.

Christians need to be strong in body and mind, but the most important strength is learning to let God control us. Living God's way may not make you popular, but it is the only way to be inwardly happy. The Lord Jesus is your example. His Spirit will help you. (Philippians 4:13; Romans 8:14)

What does the world say?

Speak up for your rights. Make your voice heard. Exert your authority. Be first in line. God helps those who help themselves. Go for it!

4. Blessed, or happy, are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness (Matthew 5:6).

"They will be filled." Jesus loves to fill His people's lives with joy in being His followers.

When loving and pleasing God is your first priority, He will give you everything you need. Nothing in the whole world gives satisfaction like reading God's Word and living to please Him. Never be embarrassed about trying to do what is right.

What does the world say?

Money brings happiness. Get yours while you can. Try everything once. Be tolerant of bad behaviour. Do not have standards too high or you will have no friends.

5. Happy are the merciful (Matthew 5:7).

"They will be shown mercy."

Jesus wants us to be merciful to other people because we know we also have to have His forgiveness.

Being kind to others brings special happiness and joy. When someone is hurt or sad or lonely, Christians take the time to help and show kindness, even when the person does not deserve it. It is never right to ignore someone who is in need when you can help. (Proverbs 3:27; Ephesians 4:32)

What does the world say?

Only the strong survive. Capitalize on another's misfortune. "He made his bed — now he has to sleep in it." He got what he deserved.

6. Blessed, or happy, are the pure in heart or who love God and want to please Him more than anything else. (Matthew 5:8).

"They will see God." Those who believe in Jesus are given a new life and are changed on the inside, so that they want to please God and will live with Him forever.

Loving God should be the most important thing in a person's life. He is the one we should love the most, and our behaviour should show it. The greatest satisfaction will not be from where we go and how we look, but from loving God with all your heart.

What does the world say?

Having fun and being popular is the most important thing in life. Happiness is being part of the crowd and doing what everyone else does.

7. Blessed, or happy, are the peacemakers, or those who help people to know God and to befriend each other (Matthew 5:9)

"They will be called sons of God." Bringing God's peace to others is bringing Jesus to others.

God wants us to help people get along and to be friends. Take time to tell people about Jesus. He will be their friend and solve their problems. Never talk unkindly about someone. Do not cause a fight. (Ephesians 4:3; John 14:27)

What does the world say?

Do not get involved. Let people solve their own problems. It's more interesting to gossip and talk about the wrong things people do, than to help them solve their problems.

8. Blessed, or happy, are those who are persecuted because of righteousness or mistreated because they obey Jesus at any cost (Matthew 5:10).

"Theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Stand up for what God says is right, even if you are the only one and even if others make fun of you or hurt you. Getting hurt because you act like Jesus will give you special happiness, (joy) in your heart. The majority is not always right; God's Word is always right. Be brave enough to be different.

What does the world say?

Conform. Follow the crowd. Everybody is doing it. You deserve to be happy. A "good god" would not let his people suffer or hurt. What's in it for me?

Reference: <https://www.bsfinternational.org/>

Activity:

1. We do this when we are sorry for our sins. (mourn)
2. We are filled with joy when we follow the words of Jesus. (rejoice)
3. We are patient, we don't get angry and don't think highly of ourselves. (meek)
4. Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be (comforted).
5. We have this because Jesus has forgiven our sin. (righteousness)
6. This is a person who uses God's wisdom to stop fights. (peace maker)
7. This might happen to us when we speak out for Jesus. (persecuted)

God is Wise

Week 3

Seek God's wisdom

Listen to Jesus, the Good Shepherd
God knows what to do in every situation

Bible references:

James 1:5 If anyone lacks wisdom he should ask God.

John 10:1-18 Listening to the Good Shepherd

Proverbs 2:6 For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth comes knowledge and understanding. He stores up sound wisdom for the upright.

1 Cor 1:25 The foolishness of God is wiser than men.

Job 12:13 But true wisdom and power are God's. Counsel and understanding come from Him.

Introduction

If Jesus is truth, how can we know the right thing to do?

(We can read His words.)

What if we want to find out something specific for our life? What if we are facing an important decision and don't know what to do?

Read James 1:5

As well as reading the Bible, we can also hear God speak to us in prayer.

Bible lesson

How do we hear God's voice?

Read John 10:1-18

1. Listening is as important as talking

When we have a relationship with Jesus it means that we talk to Him and He talks to us. Prayer is the two-way communication needed for relationship.

2. How do we hear God's voice?

You probably will not hear God's voice audibly. God's voice in prayer tends to be in how He directs our thoughts during that quiet time. We may wonder whether those thoughts are coming from God or from ourselves. But as we practice prayer often, we get to know God's voice. As we get to know the Shepherd better, we get to know His voice.

God sometimes seems completely silent. That doesn't mean He isn't there or that we should give up listening. We have to rely on God's timing and continue to pray.

God doesn't usually answer our questions with the final answer. For example, asking God, "What should I do with my life?" He may not tell us there and then, but guides us through our life and helps us to make right choices.

3. Listening requires time

It's very difficult to talk to God during the hustle and bustle of life if you don't have a quiet time reserved for prayer. Listening requires time set apart. Quietly waiting for God to speak during our prayer time is simply called 'waiting on God'. Here are some steps to help us when waiting on God.

1. Thank God for all He has done.
2. Say sorry for any wrong things you have done.
3. Ask the Holy Spirit to speak into your mind and heart.
4. Be ready. Listen and receive what God is saying. God might remind you to pray for someone who needs help; He might show you what to do if you are having trouble making a decision; He may bring a verse of Scripture to mind.
5. If you think that God has given you an important message, you may want to share it with others.

Read these verses about gaining wisdom: Proverbs 2:6, 1 Cor 1:25, Job 12:13

God is Wise

Week 4

Act upon God's wisdom

Wisdom is more than knowing the right thing to do. Action is required. We must put into action the things that God shows us.

Bible references

Luke 4:1-13; Matthew 4:1-11 Jesus was tempted.

Psalms 119:11 I have hidden your Word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword (NLT)

Psalms 119:11 I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

Revelation 12:7-11 Satan thrown out of Heaven and is overcome by the blood of the lamb and the power of the testimony of truth, (God's word)

Temptation

What to do when we hear the wrong voice?

What is temptation?

To 'tempt' is to persuade somebody to do or have something they shouldn't. 'Temptation' is the desire to do or have something that you know is wrong.

Examples

- I am walking behind a lady and she drops a \$10 note from her bag. What might I be tempted to do? What should I do?
- I am sitting next to a boy during an exam. This boy always gets top marks in class. It would be easy to take a look at his paper. What might I be tempted to do? What should I do?
- Some students in my class are making fun of another student because his hair is very curly and sticking up. What might I be tempted to do? What should I do?
- My friends and I are at a sports game together. Some of them begin to use swear words. What might I be tempted to do? What should I do?

Discussion

In what other ways might we be tempted?

Some temptations are a combination of wrong desires from the inside and pressures outside.

Knowing the right thing to do is not enough. To do the right thing we have to act upon our knowledge and put into practice the advice that the Bible gives us. This is a demonstration of wise actions.

How did Jesus deal with temptation?

Read Luke 4:1-11

What were the three temptations Jesus faced?

- To take shortcuts to achieving God's will. (It was God's will for Jesus to fast.)
- To use His power as a special performance to make people believe in Him.
- To worship Satan.

Jesus used God's Word to overcome these temptations. If we know God's Word and we want to live by the truth, we can overcome Satan's temptations.

Read Psalm 119:11 and Hebrews 4:12.

Satan has been defeated

Revelation 12:7-11 tells us about the war in heaven that took place when Satan and his fallen angels rebelled against God. He was thrown out of heaven, but still has power on earth in the lives of unbelievers. Verse 11 tells us how the believers overcome Satan: by the blood of the lamb (Jesus) and proclaiming truth (God's word).

People who failed the test of temptation

Ask the students to think of people in the Bible who did not overcome temptation. Make a list. e.g., Adam and Eve (Genesis 3), Cain (Genesis 4:3-10), Judas (John 12:1-8), Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11), Peter (Luke 22:54-62).

Year 6

God is a Servant 4 Weeks



Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will understand:

- That God gives the Holy Spirit to his servants as a helper.
- The Holy Spirit gives us power and boldness to witness for Jesus.
- The disciples received the Holy Spirit as a powerful force which changed their lives.
- We can receive the Holy Spirit when we ask God to fill us.
- The Holy Spirit lives within us when we give our life to Christ, and surrounds us.
- Jesus told us to go into the world to take the gospel.
- Serving Jesus is not always easy.

Related classroom topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Transport, tools and machines

Link between “God is a Servant” and classroom topics:

God has placed within the creation powerful forces that man can utilize to develop technology. Transport and technology serve us in spreading the Gospel. The first missionaries were able to use ships to reach distant nations. Today we can use all modes of transport as well as computers, and audio-visual media. God has given Christians the power to be His servants, as we share the Good News with others relying on the power of the Holy Spirit.

Values

Compassion, flexibility, service; humility; willingness; thoughtfulness; sacrifice

Biography:

William Booth (Heroes of the Faith)

God is a Servant

Week 1

The Holy Spirit gives us power to witness

Bible references

Matthew 5:14-16 You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

John 14:15-17 “If you love me, you will obey my commandments. I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, who will stay with you forever. ¹⁷ He is the Spirit, who reveals the truth about God. The world cannot receive Him, because it cannot see Him or know Him. But you know Him, because He remains with you and is in you. (Good News Bible)

John 14: 25-26 “I have told you this while I am still with you. The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and make you remember all that I have told you. (Good News Bible)

John 16:13-14 When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on His own but will tell you what He has heard. He will tell you about the future. He will bring me glory by telling you whatever He receives from me. (Good News Bible)

Introduction

Show the students a torch (without a battery inside it.) Of course, when you turn the torch on and off no light appears, because it has no power. The battery on its own cannot give light, nor can a torch without the battery. But put them together and we have light.

Christians are like the torch, designed to give light and to be useful to God. God wants us to be His servants. We need God’s life within us, that is, the Holy Spirit or the breath of God. This is like a battery within us giving us power to be God’s servants – to live as God wants us to and to help people around us. Read Matthew 5:14-16.

Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit

Before Jesus was about to die He promised the disciples that the Holy Spirit would come to them. On the night of the Passover Jesus told them about the Holy Spirit who would be their friend once He had gone back to heaven.

Read John 14:15-17, John 14:25-26 and John 16:13-14. Ask the students to answer the following in their activity books:

The Holy Spirit will be our _____ (*helper*)

How long will the Holy Spirit be with us? (*forever*)

The Holy Spirit will _____ us the truths about God. (*teach*)

He will help us _____ the words of Jesus. (*remember*)

The Holy Spirit will be w_____ us and _____ us. (*with us and in us*)

Activity

Ask the students to draw the following:

Draw a picture of yourself. Draw light around yourself. Draw a small battery close to your heart. This is like the Holy Spirit who is with you and in you.

God is a Servant

Week 2

The Holy Spirit gives us courage

Bible references

Matthew 28:18-20 The Great Commission

Acts 1:6-11 Jesus goes back to Heaven

Acts 2:1-18 The day of Pentecost

Bible lesson

Before Jesus died, He gathered the disciples together and said, "I am going away, but the Father will not leave you alone. He will send the Holy Spirit who will live in you." Now the Lord Jesus reminded them of that promise. "In just a few days the Holy Spirit will come," He said.

"When He comes you shall receive power to be witnesses, to teach and preach about me, not just in Jerusalem but in Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth. Go and tell people everywhere and make them my disciples. Baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded. And I will be with you always, even to the end of the age".

The disciples were to tell about Jesus' life, His death and His resurrection. And, the Lord promised that the Holy Spirit would bring things to their mind which they may have forgotten.

While the Lord was telling the disciples these things, they were looking at Him, listening carefully. As He stopped speaking, His feet left the ground and He began to go up into the air! The disciples stared! Then they saw a cloud come from the sky. As the cloud came down and the Lord Jesus went up, He disappeared into the cloud and was gone. The disciples still stared, but they were looking into space! Immediately two men dressed in white appeared. They must have been angels. They said to the disciples, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand here staring into the sky? This same Jesus who was taken away from you into Heaven shall come again in the same way you saw Him go into Heaven." As suddenly as they had come, they were gone. But

their words remain with us today “This same Jesus who was taken away from you into Heaven shall come again in the same way you saw Him go into Heaven”.

The Day of Pentecost

After Jesus died the disciples were gathered together behind locked doors. They were afraid that the leaders who had crucified Jesus would come and capture them as well. But something was going to happen to them to change them from being fearful men into courageous, powerful men who spoke boldly about Jesus without fear. It was the day of Pentecost, a feast the Jews celebrated 50 days after Passover.

Read Acts 1:1-18

1. What could they hear? (mighty rushing wind)
2. What could they see? (tongues of fire)
3. What happened to them? (they received power)
4. What could they do? (speak in other languages)
5. How did they feel? (bold and courageous)

Now the disciples were ready to go out and preach. They had power! They were no longer afraid. Peter preached so boldly that 3,000 people joined the disciples as followers of Jesus on that day. People call this day the birthday of the Christian church.

Questions about the Holy Spirit

Is the Holy Spirit given to us?

Yes, when we receive Christ.

Is the Holy Spirit new?

In Genesis 1:2 we see that the Holy Spirit was there at the beginning of Creation. God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit created the universe. They are three parts of the one true God.

How does the Holy Spirit help us?

The Holy Spirit helped people write God’s word for us, (2 Peter 1:21), and gives certain abilities called ‘gifts’ to help us as servants of God.

Did Jesus have the Holy Spirit?

Yes, we read that the Holy Spirit was with Him at His baptism (Matthew 3:16); when tempted (Matthew 4:1), and when He read from the Scriptures in the temple: "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because He has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free."

Do we need the Holy Spirit?

Yes, in order to:

Become God’s child (John 3:5)

Be led by God (Romans 8:14)

Pray (Romans 8:26)

Produce the Fruit of the Spirit in our lives (Galatians 5:22-23)
To be courageous witness for Christ as the disciples were.

How do we receive the Holy Spirit?

Seek God and ask for the Holy Spirit. (Luke 11:5-13)

God is a Servant

Week 3

Jesus sent out the disciples

Bible references

Mark 1:16-18 Fishing for men

Luke 9:1-6 The disciples were sent out.

Matthew 28:16-20; Luke 16:14-20 Go into all the world.

John 14:12 You will do greater things.

Acts 8:26-40 Philip shares the Good News with an Ethiopian.

Acts 16:6-15 A call from Macedonia

The Disciples Spread the Good News

The disciples followed Jesus for three years. They spent as much time as possible with Him, listening, watching and learning. Jesus had a plan for the disciples, right from the moment He called them. "I will make you fishermen for men", He said. Jesus spent the three years training the disciples to spread the Good News. Only Jesus knew how short their learning time would be. Three short years, and then it would be up to the disciples to carry the light of the Gospel to others. Jesus told them that they would do the works that He did. They would not only tell people the Good News, but also do miracles through the power of God. (John 14:12)

Jesus called His followers together and sent them out. Jesus now called them apostles, because they were His messengers.

Read about this in Luke 9:1-6.

When the time came for Jesus to go back to His Father in Heaven, He called the disciples together and gave them another special command. They would not just be His messengers to the people of Israel but they were to go to other parts of the world too. Read about this in Matthew 28:16-20.

The apostles could not take the gospel to the whole world by themselves. Many countries were unknown to them at that time. Who do you think this command was meant for?
(All Christians)

Once Jesus returned to His Father, the apostles began traveling by land and sea to far away places. More apostles, such as Paul, Philip and Timothy were added to their number.

They found themselves preaching the Gospel not only to Jews, but also to people from different countries and different races. Philip was sent by an angel on a special errand to meet a man from Ethiopia. The man was an officer in the army for the Queen of Ethiopia. He was returning from Jerusalem, sitting in a chariot, reading from the Old Testament. Find out what happened (Acts 8:29-40).

Another time Paul had a vision of a man far away in a place called Macedonia. God was calling Paul to go there and tell the Good News (Acts 16:6-15).

Amazing things were happening. God was now giving the apostles His power to spread the Gospel.

Since those days, many people have experienced that same power as they have carried the Good News to different parts of the world.

Questions:

1. How long did Jesus spend with the disciples?
2. What is the meaning of a disciple? (follower or student)
3. What is the meaning of an apostle? (messenger)
4. Jesus told the apostles to go to peoples everywhere, in every part of the world. The apostles could not take the gospel to the whole world by themselves. Many countries were unknown to them at that time. Who do you think this command was meant for?
5. Where is Ethiopia?
6. What was he riding in? (a chariot is like a cart or carriage pulled by a horse)
7. What happened when the man from Ethiopia met Philip?

Project

Decide on some way in which your group can spread the Good News. Maybe you could visit a hospital. Maybe you could put on a play or a concert.

God is a Servant

Week 4

Brave Servants

Spreading the Good News is not always easy.

Bible references

Acts 19:23-41 Trouble at Ephesus

Acts 7:51-60 Stephen gives his life for Jesus.

Revelation 2:10 Faithfulness to the end

Acts 4:20 We cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard.

Introduction

Make a list of the names of any missionaries you can think of, past or present. Can you remember the countries in which these missionaries worked?

There are many accounts of brave missionaries who encountered difficulties when serving the Lord. Satan does not want people to be won for Jesus. He will try to make things difficult for those who are telling others about Jesus.

How can we be missionaries without going overseas? What difficulties might we face as missionaries?

Trouble in Ephesus (Acts 19:23-41)

Find Ephesus on a map. How would the apostles get to Ephesus from Jerusalem?

In Ephesus lived a man named Demetrius. He earned his living by making little statues or idols. People would buy them, put them in their homes and worship them. As Paul and the other apostles preached the Good News, more and more people were throwing away their idols and worshipping the true God instead. This meant that Demetrius was losing money. Demetrius held a meeting with his workers. All were extremely angry.

Why were they angry? (Read Acts 19:27-28)

What happened to the city? (Verse 29)

Finally the city clerk was able to stop the riot and the people went home.

This story shows us that not all people want to accept the Good News when they first hear about it...especially if it means giving up certain things. The people of Ephesus did not want to give up their idols. Many people are like this. They may not want to give up things in their life in order to follow Jesus.

Stephen Gives His Life for Jesus (Acts 7:51-60)

Stephen was one of the apostles. The Pharisees who were the religious leaders of the temple, made a lot of trouble for the new Christians. Stephen was angry with the Pharisees for opposing Jesus. What did he say to them? (Read Acts 7:51)

The Pharisees then became angry with Stephen. They were so angry that they took him out of the city and threw stones at him until he died. Stephen was the first Christian to give his life for Jesus. He was the first martyr.

The Pharisees opposed Christianity because they needed to give up something before they could follow Jesus. They needed to give up their old religion of obeying laws and offering sacrifices. Jesus said that there was now a new way. That was to accept His forgiveness and become one of His followers. The Pharisees did not want to change. They were proud of their important position in the temple and did not want to give it up to follow Jesus. They did not want to hear that their old religion of 'being good', could not get them to heaven.

Puzzle

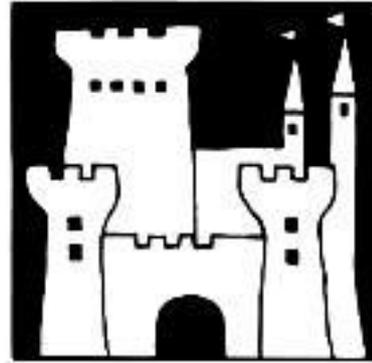
Key: a=* e=x i=■ o=+ u=◆

Decode the following sentence:

W*x c*nnt st+p sp*x*k■ng *b+◆t wh*t w*x h*v*x s*x*xn *nd h*x*rd.
*cts f+◆r v*xrs*x tw*xnty.

Year 6

God is Protector 3 Weeks



Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will understand:

- Biblical examples of where God protected his servants
- That God always works for our good, even when bad things happen
- God gives His children protection against Satan: the armour of God
- That God gives angels to protect us

Related classroom topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Our special planet; equator, temperate zones and the poles

Link between “God is Protector” and classroom topics:

God has provided protection for our special planet through the earth’s atmosphere, its position in space and its distance from the sun. Our planet is the only planet in the universe created for life, and exists through God’s protection alone.

Values:

responsibility; security; peace; faith; care for self; self-control

Biography:

Douglas Mawson

God is Protector

Week 1

God protected Paul

Introduction

Paul was one of the apostles who took the Gospel to other nations, just as Jesus had directed. He was a good sailor and often went to places by ship. Paul was often in situations where he was probably very scared. (Review “Trouble at Ephesus” in the last lesson.) Even when he was afraid, Paul knew that God would take care of him.

Bible reference

Acts chapters 27 & 28

Shipwreck and snakebite

The Jewish people who did not believe in Jesus did not like Paul. Some of them told lies about Paul and said that he should be put in prison. Even though no one could prove that he had done anything wrong, he had to stay in prison a long time. Finally, Paul said he wanted to go to the city of Rome in Italy and tell his story to Caesar, the ruler of the Roman Empire. Paul thought that Caesar would listen to his story and let him go free.

Rome was a long way from the city of Caesarea where Paul had been kept prisoner. Paul had to sail in a ship. A special Roman guard named Julius had to stay with Paul at all times. Julius was very nice to Paul and when the ship would stop at ports, he would let Paul visit friends.

Bad storms made the trip very hard. Paul told the captain and the owner of the ship that it was very dangerous and that they should wait until the winter was over before they continued the voyage. The captain and the owner did not listen to Paul. They probably thought that Paul didn't know anything because he was just a prisoner.

Soon everyone wished they had listened to Paul because the storms grew even worse. The captain tried to dock the ship at an island called Crete but the wind was too hard and blew the ship out to sea again. The sailors on the ship were so afraid that the ship would fall apart that they tied ropes around it to hold it together. The storm kept blowing day after day. It was so bad that Paul and the rest of the people on the ship could not even see the sun during the day or the stars at night. It seemed like the ship was going to sink so they threw everything on the ship into the sea. They even had to throw out most of their food. Of course, everyone on the ship was scared and hungry.

Some time later, Paul stood up and said to everyone on the ship, “You should have listened to me before. Be sure and listen this time because I have good news. An angel came to me last night and gave me a special message from God. The angel said that none of us will die. The ship will crash on an island but none of us will die. I know now

that God will take care of us. Everyone should cheer up because what the angel said is true.” This must have seemed impossible to the people on the ship.

Finally, after two weeks, the ship got close to an island. It was the island of Malta. Paul told everyone not to worry. He told them to eat so that they would all feel better. The captain tried to sail the ship to the beach but the ship crashed on some rocks. Everyone who could swim jumped into the water. Some of the people could not swim so they floated on boards and paddled to shore. The soldiers guarding the prisoners wanted to kill them to stop them escaping. Julius wanted to protect Paul from the soldiers so he gave orders that none of the prisoners should be killed.

Remember how Paul had told the captain that the ship would crash but that no one would die? It happened just the way the angel told Paul it would happen. There were 276 people on the ship and not one of them drowned!

It was raining and very cold but the people of Malta began making a fire for the people from the ship. Paul wanted to help so he began collecting sticks to put on the fire. Once, when he bent down to put one of the sticks on the fire, a poisonous snake jumped out and bit him. Paul just shook the snake off and threw it into the fire. The island people could not believe what they saw! Anyone else who was bitten by a poisonous snake would die. Paul did not die! They thought he must be some kind of god.

Since the ship had wrecked, all of the passengers had to find places to stay until another ship could come. Paul went to the house of Publius who was an important man on the island. Publius’s father was very sick but Paul prayed for him and the man’s sickness went away. The islanders thought Paul was wonderful. All the sick people on the island wanted to visit Paul so he could make them well. Paul and Julius stayed on the island three months until another ship came.

Review Questions:

Why did Paul sail to Rome? *(To go to a trial with Caesar as the judge)*

What happened to the ship Paul was on? *(It crashed on the rocks near an island.)*

How many people died on the ship? *(Not one person!)*

When Paul was gathering firewood on the island, what happened to him? *(A poisonous snake bit him but he did not die.)*

What miracle did God do for Publius?

What effect did this demonstration of God’s power have?

God is Protector

Week 2

The armour of God

Bible reference:

Ephesians 6:11-17

Introduction

What is armour? Armour is a special kind of suit worn for protection. Soldiers, (and policemen in some countries), wear bullet-proof vests. Cricket players wear a helmet and pads on their legs. Motor cyclists wear a safety helmet. Astronauts wear a special suit. All of these types of protective gear are examples of armour.

During the time the New Testament was written, Roman soldiers wore armour to protect themselves in battle. In Ephesians 6 we read about the armour of God. This is special protection for Christians against the enemy, Satan.

Why do we need armour?

The Devil is God's enemy, and ours! Satan has a whole army of demons, and they are always active in fighting against God and God's children. Satan is not as powerful as God, but he is a strong enemy. He is more powerful than you and I. The only way we can defeat him is to fight God's way. We are soldiers in God's army - an army that is fighting against Satan and his army. We can protect ourselves against Satan and his army by doing exactly what our Commander-in-Chief, God, tells us to do. And God provides a 'suit of armour', to wonderfully protect us.

Ephesians 6:13 tells us to "put on God's armour now!" God promises us that if we put on His armour, the special protection provided for us, we will be able to resist the enemy's attacks. When Satan attacks us with temptations, we will not give in and sin. We will be able to stand and not fall before the enemy.

The pieces of the armour:

The strong belt of truth

The Roman soldier wore a strong, wide piece of armour around the middle of his body like a belt. It not only protected his vital organs, but it held all the other pieces of armour together. With his belt on, the soldier could move around with confidence, knowing his other pieces would not slip out of place.

As Christians, we are to put on the 'belt of truth.' How can we do that? There are two ways. First, we put on the belt of truth by learning as much as we can about the Bible - at church, at Sunday School, at school RE lessons, and with your family during personal devotions.

Another way to put on the belt of truth is to be sure that you are always truthful in everything you do. The Lord Jesus called Satan the ‘father of lies’ (John 8:44). Satan is happy when you tell even a small lie. Jesus said, “I am the truth” (John 14:6). Jesus is your protection against Satan’s temptations to lie. Ask Jesus to help you tell the truth (Psalm 19:14). If we start telling lies then the devil can overcome us. Tell the truth, even if it means owning up to something we have done wrong.

The breastplate of righteousness (God’s approval)

In human armour, a breastplate covered the soldier’s body from his neck to his waist in the front and back. It was made of metal plates or chains so that no sword or arrow could go through it. What is the most important part of your body that the breastplate covers?... your heart. As Christians, you and I need protection for our heart, and that protection comes from our righteousness. Our righteousness comes from Jesus, because He has taken the “punishment for everything we have done wrong. Now He asks us to live our lives as ‘rightly’ as we know how by choosing to tell the truth instead of lying; choosing to be kind instead of hateful; choosing to obey instead of disobeying. God gives us power to choose right and do it. That’s righteous living. By choosing right instead of wrong, you will be protecting your heart with the breastplate of righteousness. To keep our heart clean we should only like the things God likes, and only do the things that God wants us to do.

Ready Shoes!

The shoes in the armour of God stand for readiness to announce the Good News of peace. Roman soldiers wore heavy protective footgear. Their sandals had hobnails (sprigs like in soccer or rugby boots) in the soles. Their shoes made them sure-footed and stable in the battle with the enemy. God says our feet should be covered with the gospel of peace. We strap on the shoes of peace when we gain peace with God by accepting God’s gift of salvation (Romans 5:1), and begin to live in a way that is pleasing to God. Then, as we walk through each day, our lives can show the good news of God’s peace. We can have peace with others, being kind to them, forgiving them (Eph. 4:29), and sharing God’s love with those who do not know the Lord Jesus. Always be ready to share your faith with others, and encourage others to love and obey our Lord Jesus Christ.

Shield of Faith

In every battle you will need faith as your shield to stop the fiery arrows aimed at you by Satan. The Roman soldier’s armour included a large shield made of wood. It was about 75 cm wide by 120 cm high (two and a half feet by four feet), so it offered double protection for almost every part of the soldier’s body.

To get to him, the enemy’s arrows had to get past the shield first and then pierce through the armour that was worn on the soldier’s body. The sides of the shield were made to hook together with the shields of other soldiers so that an army could use them to form a wall of protection. Knowing the soldier’s shields were made of wood, the enemy often set their arrows on fire before they shot them.

Roman soldiers covered their wooden shields with cloth and tough leather then soaked them in water so that when a flaming arrow landed on the wet shield, the fire would immediately go out.

Satan, our enemy, shoots burning arrows at us too. Some of these arrows are lies, hateful thoughts about people, or the desire to sin. We don't know when Satan will shoot one of his arrows. He is like a sniper who shoots when we least expect it. We must always have our shield of faith in hand and be ready to use it. Satan wants you and me to doubt God, and God's promises, his faithfulness, his goodness and his power. We need to surround ourselves with Christian friends so that when we are tempted to give up our faith, we can 'hook on' to their shields and let them encourage us. Hold your shield of faith high by trusting the truths you know about God. Even when things seem to be going wrong, believe that God is always present, an all-powerful loving Father, working in your life for good.

Faith is acting on what you believe even when you have doubts. Faith is believing that God is who he says he is, and loves us as he says he loves us, and will do what he says he will do for us.

Salvation as a Helmet

Who would wear a helmet today? (*football players in some countries, skateboarders, bicycle and motorbike riders, soldiers and workmen.*) They all wear helmets for one reason - to protect their heads. If your head gets hit, your brain gets hurt and you lose the battle!

Satan wants to attack the mind of the Christian. We need to let God control our mind so Satan can't lead us astray. That means we have to be careful what enters our mind (Phil 4:18). We have to be careful what we think about, what we read, watch on TV (violence, crime, comedy that encourages us to laugh at others unkindly, programmes that make us think impure thoughts). We also have to be careful about what we listen to in music. The things our eyes see and our ears hear will be the things we think about. You put on the helmet when you believe the Lord's promise of salvation and confidently expect Jesus to help you.

The Sword which the Spirit gives you

...and the word of God as the sword which the Spirit gives you.

With our armour on, we are ready to pick up our swords and go into battle. Our sword isn't made out of sharp steel, because we are not fighting against flesh and blood. We're fighting a spiritual battle, one that can only be won in God's power. Our Sword is the Word of God. That means we should be learning verses from God's Word so the Holy Spirit can bring them back to our memory when we are tempted to do wrong. (Remember this is what Jesus did when He was tempted by Satan? He used the Word of God.) Each verse that you put into practice is a powerful weapon that God can use to attack Satan and put him on the run.

God is Protector

Week 3

Psalm 91

Introduction

Can anyone share about a time that God protected them in a fearful situation? (Share with the children a personal story in which God protected you in a fearful situation.) God doesn't protect just adults; He protects children too.

What are some things students of your age worry about?

When might we need to depend on God's help and protection? (When we are in danger; when we are uncertain about the future; when others say bad things about us or hurt us).

God has promised to protect us. This does not mean that you will never get hurt, but it does mean that God is always able to care for you. Sometimes God allows things to happen to us that we think are bad, but God uses them for our good.

Prayer

Father, You are our Great Protector. Help us to really know that we don't have to worry or fret about things that happen to us in life. Help us to always remember that You are always there for us, even in the scariest times. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand. (Isaiah 41:10)

Psalm 91:1

Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

What is the meaning of living in the "shadow" of God? The Bible tells us that God is spirit. He obviously does not cast a shadow, like a shade tree, which gives shade from the blazing hot sun. This verse is a word picture to describe how we can find spiritual rest by being "in Christ."

You are "in Christ" if you believe that Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead so that your sin can be forgiven. When you do that, God says you are clean and pure in His sight because He sees you as "in Christ."

God no longer see you as guilty before Him. He only sees Jesus' righteousness because you are "in Christ" (2 Corinthians 5:17; Hebrews 13:5-6). He is our place of shelter and safety from the wrath of God against sin.

Psalm 91:2

This I declare about the Lord: He alone is my refuge, my place of safety; he is my God, and I trust him.

In Bible times, people hid from danger in caves. God is our hiding place, our place of shelter. If you are “in Christ” then God will protect you from eternal death. Being “in Christ” is our place of safety.

Psalm 91:3

For he will rescue you from every trap and protect you from deadly disease.

Satan often tries to destroy God’s people. Satan tries to trap us with temptation to sin. Maybe he tempts you to steal something that he says you must have, that you deserve. He might persuade you to do or say a hurtful thing as payback for a hurt done to you. Following Satan (or sinning) really hurts you as well.

1 Peter 5:8

Stay Alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil, He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.

Satan is the great destroyer. But God is able to protect you in every situation no matter what Satan may try to do. You may face some scary situation, perhaps when you are home alone or when you have to be some place in the dark. At those times you should remind yourself that God is always able to protect you.

However, when bad things happen, remember that God still has everything under control. Even though we can’t always understand why hard times come into our lives, God can use it for good.

Psalm 18:2

The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my saviour; my God is my rock, in whom I find protection. He is my shield, the power that saves me, and my place of safety.

This is another word picture to explain that God is our great protector.

Psalm 91:4

He will cover you with his feathers. He will shelter you with his wings.

His faithful promises are your armour and protection. Now obviously God does not have feathers! But if you are “in Christ” you are as safe as a little chick that hides under the wings of its mother. This verse also assures you that you will be just as safe as a soldier wearing armour and standing behind a big strong metal shield because God always keeps His promises.

Psalm 91:5-6

Do not be afraid of the terrors of the night, nor the arrow that flies in the day. Do not dread the disease that stalks in darkness, nor the disaster that strikes at midday.

God is protecting you night and day, even if we have “night terrors” or nightmares. You can have peace in these dreadful situations; remember that God is with you and powerful enough to do anything.

Psalm 91:11-12

For he will order his angels to protect you wherever you go. They will hold you up with their hands so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone.

God sends His angels to protect you wherever you go. Did you know that children have guardian angels?

Matthew 18:10

Beware that you don't look down on any of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels are always in the presence of my heavenly Father.

God assured the children of Israel that He would protect them as they made their journey to the Promised Land.

Exodus 23:20

“See, I am sending an Angel before you to protect you on your journey and lead you safely to the place I have prepared for you.”

Angels are servants of God sent to take care of us.

Daniel 6:22

While Daniel was in the den of lions, God sent His angel to shut the mouths of the lions so they would not hurt him.

“My God sent his angel to shut the mouths of the lions so that they would not hurt me, for I have been found innocent in his sight. And I have not wronged you, Your Majesty.”

God can keep you safe from dangerous things like mean dogs and spiders and snakes, too.

Psalm 91:13

You will trample upon lions and cobras; you will crush fierce lions and serpents under your feet!

This verse promises that God can protect you from a lion or a snake. These animals are word pictures to help you understand that God will protect you from the strongest, meanest, and most frightening of situations. Of course, you need to be wise and not foolishly put yourself into dangerous situations to see if God will protect you.

God adds His promise that He is able to deliver those who love Him.

Psalm 91:14

The Lord says, “I will rescue those who love me. I will protect those who trust in my name.”

God knows that the greatest need we all have is to be saved from the judgment of our sins (Romans 6:23). If you call on God and ask Him to forgive you, He will save you.

Psalm 91:15-16

When they call on me, I will answer; I will be with them in trouble. I will rescue and honour them. I will reward them with a long life and give them my salvation.

God promises to help you when you call on Him in times of trouble. However at times God, in His wisdom, may allow things that seem bad to happen. He promises to use even these situations for your good (Romans 8:28). Whatever happens, God is able to protect you.

When you are afraid, remember that you belong to God and that He is the strongest of all (Romans 8:38-39). No matter what comes into your life, even dangerous or frightening things, you can trust God to do what's best for you.

Psalm 91: Questions for revision and discussion:

1. Think of some times when students of your age might need to depend on God's help and protection? *(when they are in danger; when they are uncertain about the future; when others might tease them for doing something they believe in.)*
2. What is a word picture? *(A way of describing something in an understandable way)*
3. What does it mean to find shelter or rest in the shadow of the Almighty? *(We can find spiritual rest by being "in Christ.")*
4. What does it mean to be "in Christ"? *(When you believe that Jesus died on the cross, God no longer sees us as guilty before Him. He only sees Jesus' righteousness.)*
5. What does verse 2 say our hiding place is? Why? *(God is our hiding place; He will protect us from eternal death.)*
6. What kind of trap does Satan try to catch you in? *(Sin of all sorts: lying, slandering, jealousy, coveting, etc.)*
7. Why can we still have peace in the midst of dreadful situations? *(We know that God is with us and is powerful enough to do anything.)*
8. What does it mean when the Psalm talks about covering us with his wings? *(God will keep you just as safe as a baby chick is under its mother's wings.)*
9. What did God send to protect Daniel when he was in the den of lions? *(An angel)*
10. What are angels? *(Servants of God; spirits sent to care for people.)*
11. What is your greatest need? *(To be saved from the judgment of our sins.)*
12. How can you be saved? *(Trust in what Jesus did for you on the cross.)*
13. Does God always keep you from experiencing bad things? *(No, in His wisdom, He may allow things that seem bad to happen. But, He promises to use even these situations for your good.)*

Acknowledgement: <http://www.calvarymv.com/childrensresources/>

Year 6

God is Truth 3 Weeks



Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will understand that:

- There are many external voices that try to deceive us.
- We can rely on God's Word as the source of truth.
- Jesus is the way, the truth and the life.
- There is only one true God.

Related classroom topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Advertising and the media; shopping and food advertising

Link between "God is Truth" and classroom topics:

Are the messages we receive from the world around us telling the truth?

Values:

honesty, fairness and respect for truth and justice; integrity

Biography: Saint Alban

God is Truth

Week 1

Jesus, the Good Shepherd

Bible references

John 10:1-18 The Good Shepherd. The sheep recognise his voice.

Matthew 7:15-21 Wolves in sheep's clothing.

John 18:37 Everyone that is of the truth hears my voice.

Psalm 19:7-8 The law of the Lord is perfect.

The Truth Game

Prepare a variety of objects that are imitations of the real thing. Choose two players to guess which one is real and which one is imitation. (Let them observe the objects from a distance.)

Examples:

- leather and vinyl
- gold and imitation metal
- orange juice and orange drink
- a drinking glass and a clear plastic cup
- a real plant and an imitation plant
- real fruit and imitation fruit
- real pearls/gemstones and imitations

Discussion

How can we be deceived by advertisements? Are products as good as they appear to be?

Examples: Think about the way in which boxes of washing powder, biscuits or breakfast cereals are packaged. Do they look as if they hold more than they really do?

Think about advertisements on TV. Do they tell the truth?

What about things we hear? Do we believe everything we hear?

All around us there are people telling us things. Many people have false ideas and beliefs that do not match up to the Bible. Some people say that God did not create the world, but it all began with a big explosion somewhere out in space. Some people believe they can get to God through religions that are based on idols and false gods.

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." We must make sure that we only believe the truth. We can measure truth by comparing ideas or beliefs with the Bible. Just as scales can give a true measure or a false measure, the things we see and hear can also give a true or false measure when they are compared to what the Bible says.

Read Ephesians 4:1

Bible study: The Good Shepherd

Read the story from John 10:1-15.

What does the sheep-fold represent?

What kind of people try to get into it? (verse 1)

How can the sheep tell the difference between the true shepherd and a stranger? (verse 3)

How should the sheep guard against strangers? (verse 5)

How can we guard against people who try to lead us in false directions?

What does Jesus mean when He says, "I am the door"? (verses 7-9)

Read John 18:37. How can we hear the voice of Jesus?

Story: A Wolf in Sheep's Clothing

This is a story that teaches us something. This type of story is called a 'fable', similar to a parable. This story is one of a collection written a long time ago by a man called Aesop.

The hungry wolf sat and watched a flock of fat sheep. His mouth watered as he thought about the tasty meal he could get from any one of them. But how could he get in amongst the flock without being noticed by the watchful shepherd?

The wolf sat and thought for a while. He noticed an old sheep skin on the ground, the remains of his last week's meal. That gave him a most brilliant idea. If he were to put the sheep skin over his own back he would look just like a sheep. Then he could creep in amongst the flock without being noticed and make his kill.

The wolf waited until sunset so that he would not be noticed in the dim light. He crept in and stood in the middle of the flock. His trick seemed to be working. It was now time for the sheep to be herded into the pen for the night. The wolf went along with the sheep.

"Once in the pen," thought the wolf, "I will have my big chance. The shepherd will go to bed for the night and I will have the sheep all to myself."

The shepherd opened the gate of the pen. One by one the sheep went through. However, the old wolf's disguise was not quite good enough to fool the shepherd.

"This is not one of my sheep!" said the shepherd to himself as the wolf passed through the gate. The wolf had his head down and did not see the big knife tucked into the shepherd's belt. As quick as lightning the shepherd lunged toward the wolf and slit his throat.

"You old rogue," he said to himself. "You're still a wolf, whatever you're wearing."

Adapted from Aesop's Fables

Questions:

1. What is the important message we can learn from this fable?
2. Find four words used in Psalm 19:7-8 to describe God's Word.
3. Read Matthew 7:15-21. How do we know who is telling the truth?

How can I tell others about the truth?

I can tell them what Jesus has done.

I can tell them that Jesus is the only way to God.

I can tell them that I know Jesus is real.

I can tell them that God has given us His Word, the Bible.

God is Truth

Week 2

Jesus, the way, the truth, the life

Bible references

Matthew 7:13-14 The broad and narrow way

John 14:6-7 I am the way, the truth, the life.

Matthew 16:13-17 Jesus asks "Who am I?"

Acts 4:12 No other name by which we are saved.

Bible lesson

Jesus asks "Who am I?"

Read Matthew 16:13-17.

The people of Israel had been waiting for the one whom God had promised. They knew that a 'Christ' was coming because the writings of the Old Testament had promised it. 'Christ' is another word for 'Messiah', which means, 'someone who would deliver (or rescue), the people'.

God had used Moses many years before to deliver the Israelites from slavery, but the new deliverer, Jesus, would save the people from sin. He would be able to forgive people for their sin. The new deliverer would be God's own Son.

Jesus had not told anyone that He was the Christ, or that He was the Son of God. However, Peter just knew. (Verse 17)

Bible research

John 14:6-7

Think about each of these carefully.

Jesus is the Way.....*to where?*

Jesus is the Truth.....*compared to what?*

Jesus is the Life.....*What kind of life?*

Read Acts 4:12.

Jesus is the only way we can come to know the Father. What must we do to receive eternal life? Can we get to the Father any other way?

Read Matthew 7:13-14.

We could say that the people walking on the narrow road are those who come to know God through Jesus. We could also say that those who are walking on the broad road are trying to get to God by other means. What are some other ways which people use to try to get to God?

Activity

Make a poster about who Jesus is. Fill in the letters JESUS with colourful patterns.

God is Truth

Week 3

The one true God

Bible references

Acts 17:16-34 The unknown god.

Exodus 20:3-4; Isaiah 42:8 & 17 No other gods.

Bible lesson: Paul in Athens

Find Athens on a map.

Athens, the capital of Greece, is an important city. In Bible times Athens was one of the greatest cities in the world. It was a place where people could come to learn about many things, but unfortunately no one had ever heard about God. As well as having many well-educated people, Athens also had many fine artists and craftsmen. There were many statues and paintings in honour of their false gods. There were also many beautiful temples where people could come and worship idols.

Discuss carved idols that the students may have seen.

Why did people make these?

Today they may be used for decoration, but what was their original purpose?

Read Acts 17:23.

What did Paul find as he was going through the city of Athens?

Paul explained to the Athenians that the true God does not live in temples but wants to live in our hearts and lives.

Read what Paul said to the Athenians in verses 24, 25 & 29.

Did the people believe Paul? (verses 32-34)

Not everyone will believe in the true God, but God wants us to tell others anyway.

Find out what these verses say about worshipping false gods:

Exodus 20:3-4 and Isaiah 42:8 & 17

Many people today worship false gods. False gods don't always have to be gods from another religion. A false god can be anything that is more important to a person than the true God.

Discussion

What are some of the things that people may mistake for being the true God? (*idols; money; possessions; the intelligence of the human race*)

How could we help a person understand that Jesus is the truth?

Activity

Complete this cartoon strip. Help this person who is searching for truth.

Year 6

God is Lord and King 3 Weeks



Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will understand that:

- God is in charge of the whole world
- Christmas is a special time when we remember when God sent Jesus into the world as part of his big plan for the world
- Baby Jesus was God's son. This means that although he was a human baby, he was also God.
- The birth of Jesus was prophesied in the Old Testament.

Related classroom topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

World geography: countries and continents

Link between "God is Lord and King" and classroom topic:

Discuss with children that God is in control of the whole universe. That is, our world, the sun and the stars. He tells the sun the time to set. He makes the tides because the moon is under His control, (Ps 104:19). Because God is looking after our world, He looks after the people that He made. He sent His son Jesus into the world so that every person in the whole world could have the opportunity of knowing the true God.

Values:

faith; respect for truth

God is Lord and King

Christmas Week 1

Who is Jesus? Who is God?

Bible references

Psalm 24:10 Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory.

1 Timothy 1:17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Revelation 19:16 On his robe and on his thigh, he has this name written: King of kings and Lord of lords.

Exodus 3:14-15 I am who I am.

The Names of Jesus: John 6:48-51, John 8:12, John 10:7-9, John 10:14-16, John 11:25-26, John 14:6, and John 15:1-2

Bible Lesson:

Part 1: God is a King above all kings

Ask the students what they know about a king. What is his job? How would you describe him?

Read Psalm 24:10. What kind of a king is God? (*He has authority over the whole world; should be respected and honoured; knows what is best for His people*)

Read 1 Timothy 1:17 what else do we find out about God from this verse? The meaning of immortal is "living forever".

Read Revelation 19:16. This verse tells us about when Jesus will come again to rule the earth. He is and always will be King of kings and Lord of lords.

Part 2: A Burning Bush and God's Forever Name

Exodus 3:14-15 God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you. God also said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your fathers – the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob- has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, the name by which I am to be remembered from generation to generation." Exodus 3:14-15

In Exodus 3 we read about how God called Moses. He was keeping watch over sheep, when all of a sudden he was staring at a bush that was on fire. But this bush was different from any burning bush he had ever seen. It did not burn up. Then God called Moses' name!

God asked Moses to not only take off his shoes, but to save His people, the Israelites, who were slaves in Egypt. Moses was afraid and didn't think he was capable of such a big job. Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'the God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?"

Let's find out God's answer to Moses. (Students can look up Exodus 3:14.) "God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you."

What did God mean by this? "I AM" means that He has always existed, even before the creation. He still exists now. And He will always exist and be there, forever and ever and ever. In Hebrews 13:8, it says that Jesus is the same, "yesterday and today and forever." The Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are three parts of the one true God.

Part 3: The Names of Jesus (The I AM sayings of Jesus)

John 6:48-51 I AM the Bread of Life

Your body needs food to live but food won't get you to heaven. Your heart needs Jesus. When we accept Jesus into our heart, we will live forever. Plus, He makes it so that we are satisfied.

John 8:12 I AM the Light of the World

This world is dark with sin, but Jesus gives us light. He takes our sin away and shows us how to walk in the dark and where to go next.

John 10:7-9 I AM the Gate for the Sheep

In the sheep pen, the shepherd was like a gate or a door, letting sheep in and protecting them. Jesus is the gate to God – the only one. We have to go through the gate (or door) to see God and be saved from our sins.

John 10:14-16 I AM the Good Shepherd

Just like a shepherd takes care of sheep, Jesus takes care of us. He will do anything to save His sheep, even die for them. And that's what He had to do so that we might have life.

John 11:25-26 I AM the Resurrection and the Life

When Jesus rose again, He defeated death. Death doesn't have to make us afraid anymore, if we have Jesus in our heart. Not only that, but Jesus is life! Those who follow Him have, "Life to the full!"

John 14:6 I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life

Jesus is the only way to God. He is everything true. He is life for those who follow Him!

John 15:5 I AM the True Vine

Jesus is the vine, His followers are the branches. The branches need to have the vine to grow. If they don't, they're going to fall off and be of no good. We all need to stay connected to Jesus (through His Word, church, prayer) in order to grow.

Acknowledgement: <http://ministry-to-children.com/names-of-jesus-lesson/>

God is Lord and King

Christmas Week 2

The birth of Jesus

Long ago, about 2000 years, when King Herod ruled Judea (now part of Israel), God sent the angel Gabriel to a young woman who lived in the northern town of Nazareth. The girl's name was Mary and she was engaged to marry Joseph.

The angel Gabriel said to Mary: "Peace be with you! God has blessed you and is pleased with you." Mary was very surprised by this and wondered what the angel meant. The angel said to her "Don't be afraid, God has been very kind to you. You will become pregnant by the Holy Spirit and give birth to a baby boy and you will call him Jesus. He will be God's own Son and his kingdom will never end." Mary was very afraid but she trusted God. "Let it happen as God chooses," she replied to the angel. Gabriel also told Mary that her cousin, Elizabeth, who everyone thought was too old to have children, would have a baby boy whom God had chosen to prepare the way for Jesus.

Mary said goodbye to her family and friends and went to visit her cousin Elizabeth and her husband Zechariah. Elizabeth was very happy to see Mary. She knew that Mary had been chosen by God to be the mother of His Son. An angel had already told Zechariah that Elizabeth's baby would prepare people to welcome Jesus. He was to be called John. Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then returned home to Nazareth.

Joseph was worried when he found out that Mary was expecting a baby before their marriage had taken place. He wondered if he should put off the wedding altogether. Then an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and said: "Don't be afraid to have Mary as your wife." The angel explained that Mary had been chosen by God to be the mother of his Son and told Joseph that the baby would be named Jesus which means 'Saviour' because he would save people. When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel had told him to do and took Mary as his wife.

At this time, the land where Mary and Joseph lived was part of the Roman Empire. The Roman Emperor Augustus wanted to have a list of all the people in the empire, to make sure they paid their taxes. He ordered everyone to return to the town where their families originally came from, and enter their names in a register (or census) there. Mary and Joseph traveled a long way (about 70 miles) from Nazareth to Bethlehem, because that is where Joseph's family came from. Most people walked but some lucky people had a donkey to help carry the goods needed for the journey. Joseph and Mary traveled very slowly because Mary's baby was due to be born soon.

When they reached Bethlehem, they had problems finding somewhere to stay. So many people had come to register their names in the census, that every house was full and every bed was taken in all of the inns. The only shelter that Mary and Joseph

could find was a stable where the animals were kept. In this poor place Mary gave birth to Jesus, the Son of God. In those days it was the custom to wrap newborn babies tightly in a long cloth called 'swaddling clothes'. Jesus' bed was the manger that the animals ate their hay from.

In the hills and fields outside Bethlehem, shepherds looked after their sheep through the long night. As the new day began, suddenly an angel appeared before them and the glory of God shone around them. The shepherds were very, very scared, but the angel said, "Don't be afraid. I have good news for you and everyone. Today in Bethlehem a Saviour has been born for you. You will find the baby lying in a manger."

Then many more angels appeared, lighting up the sky. The shepherds heard them praising God singing: "Glory to God in the highest, and peace to everyone on earth." When the angels had gone, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem to see what has happened." So the shepherds went to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph. The baby Jesus was lying in a manger as they had been told. When they saw Him, they told everyone what the angel had said, and everyone who heard the story was astonished. Then the shepherds returned to their sheep, praising God for sending His Son to be their Saviour.

When Jesus was born, a brand new bright star appeared in the sky. Some Wise Men in faraway countries saw the star and guessed what it meant. They were very clever men who studied the stars, and had read in very old writings that a new star would appear when a great king was born. They set out to find the new king and bring Him gifts.

The Wise Men followed the star towards the country of Judea. When they got to the capital called Jerusalem, about 18 months after the birth of Jesus, they began to ask people: "Where is the child who is born to be king of the Jews?" Herod, the king of Judea, heard this and it made him very angry to think that someone might be going to take his place as king. Herod sent for the Wise Men to come to him. He told them to go on following the star until they had found the baby king. He said: "When you have found him, let me know where he is, so that I can go and worship him." But Herod did not tell them that he really had an evil plan in mind, to kill the new king.

The Wise Men followed the star towards Bethlehem (where the writings said that the king would be born). The star seemed to stop and shine directly down upon the place where Jesus was.

The Wise Men entered the house where Joseph and Mary now lived and found Jesus with Mary; they bowed down and worshipped Him. The Wise Men spread the gifts they had brought before Jesus. The gifts were gold, frankincense and myrrh. The Wise Men were warned by God in a dream, not to go back to Herod. So they returned home to their countries in the East by a different way.

When the Wise Men had gone, an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," the angel said, "take Jesus and Mary and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for Jesus to kill Him." So Joseph got up, and with Jesus and Mary, they left that night for Egypt. There they stayed until Herod died.

Herod was furious when he realized that he had been tricked by the Wise Men, and that his plan to find the location of the new king had failed. So he gave orders that all the boys in Bethlehem and the surrounding area, aged two or younger, had to be killed. Herod thought that surely the new King had to be one of them; by killing all the baby boys, he would be killing the new King.

After Herod had died, Joseph had another dream in which an angel appeared to him. The angel said, "Get up, take Jesus and Mary and go back to Israel, for those who were trying to kill Jesus are dead."

So Joseph got up, took Jesus and Mary and they went back to Israel. But when he heard that Herod's son was now king of Judea, he was afraid to go there. So instead they went to Galilee, and lived in their old town of Nazareth.

God is Lord and King

Christmas Week 3

The birth of Jesus foretold

The Israelites were waiting for something very important to happen. Their fathers and grandfathers had told them about a promise God made long ago. God had promised to send a Saviour into the world. After God made the promise, hundreds of years went by, but the Saviour still had not come. Throughout the Old Testament, however, the message is written, "He is coming! He is coming!"

Long ago, God made a wonderful promise to the world. Someday He would send His own Son to the earth. His name would be Jesus Christ. Hundreds of years before Jesus was born, God promised that it would happen!

God used a special way to tell the world about His wonderful promise. How do you think He told the world? There were no advanced methods of communication in those days, like radio, phone, computers or television. God had special helpers called prophets. A prophet is someone who has a special message from God. God would tell the prophet things and the prophet would tell the people. Prophets were God's messengers and preachers. Some prophets also wrote down God's messages and these are part of the Bible. The Old Testament is the part of the Bible where even today we can read the messages God told the world through His prophets.

Hundreds of years before Jesus was born, God told a prophet named Isaiah about Jesus. He told Isaiah that Jesus would be a great ruler. God even told Isaiah about the mother that baby Jesus would be born to. God knew that this would happen hundreds of years ago!

And God told Abraham that he would become a father and then his son would become a father of many children, and then his children would grow up and have children. This would happen many times so that he would have many descendants. One of those descendants would be very special. He would bless the whole world. Who do you think that descendant might be? Yes, Jesus!

Another prophet of God was Micah. God told Micah the name of the town where Jesus would be born. He told Micah that Jesus would be born in the Bethlehem.

Finally, when the time was very close, God sent an angel to tell Mary that she was going to have a baby. The angel also came to Joseph while he was sleeping and told him to marry Mary and be a father to her baby.

All of these promises were recorded in the Bible. The messages have been saved for hundreds of years. Now we can read the messages in our very own bible. We are thankful that we have God's Word, the bible, to tell us about Jesus.

God kept his promises for a very long time. Let's see if we can read some of the promises that he made to Isaiah and Micah.

Old Testament prophecies

Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a child is born, *and* unto us a Son is given: and the government is upon his shoulder, and he shall call his name, Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The prince of peace.

Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

Genesis 22:17-18 The Messiah will come through the line of Abraham.

Micah 5:2 The child will be born in Bethlehem.

Isaiah 53:3-12 Jesus would die for us

The genealogies

Matthew 1:1-17 (Joseph's ancestry through Abraham) and Luke 3:23-38 (Mary's ancestry through Abraham)

Review Questions:

Name two Old Testament Prophets who prophesied about Jesus. (Isaiah and Micah)

What did God promise? (That He would send Jesus.)

What is a promise? (Saying something and really meaning it).

In what town did Micah prophesy that Jesus would be born? (Bethlehem)

Acknowledgement: <https://missionbibleclass.org/>