



Beacon Media

Supporting Christian schooling worldwide

The character of God and character

The *Beacon Media* vision

Through Christian education...

- to share spiritual food with the hungry
- to bring students into a heart knowledge of God

Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen?

...to share food with the hungry, (Isaiah 58:6-7).



Beacon Media beginnings

Margaret McIntyre - an Australian teacher on the staff of Youth With a Mission, 1970s and 1980s



Youth With A Mission seminar, Hawaii 1973

A prophetic word:

- Put away old forms
- Education must be founded on the rock, Jesus Christ
- God's truth should not be "brought into" the curriculum
- God should be the centre of the curriculum –
GOD IS THE CURRICULUM

- Subjects should reveal the Holy Spirit as teacher
- The presence of the Lord should be strong – a shield, a healing and comforting presence
- The curriculum must be living and exciting – not static
- Teachers must be Holy Spirit led, dependent on God's direction in everything they teach.

Waiting on God...

- A group of teachers prayed together and a picture of 27 pegs was given.
- Each peg was to be a centre-piece from which a curriculum would grow.
- Each peg was a name of an attribute of God – His character, His nature.



The attributes of God

God is...



Creator

Designer

Powerful

Ordered

Awesome

Resourceful

God is...



Love

Shepherd

Friend

Father

Faithful

Kind, Gracious

God is...



Wise
Just
Guide
All-knowing
Truth
Right

God is...



Protector
Refuge
Deliverer
Defender
Father

God is...



Powerful
Creator
Healer
Lord and King
Great and mighty

God is...



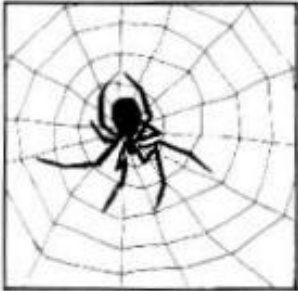
Truth
Faithful
Just
Teacher
The Way

God is...



Pure
Holy
Righteous
Good
Light

God is...



Patient
Loving
Kind
Forgiving
Persevering

God is...



Servant
Faithful
Healer
Humble
Sacrificial

God is...



Life
Sustainer
Joy
Saviour
Redeemer

God is...



Provider
Father
Faithful
Generous
Resourceful

God is...



Peace
Merciful
Forgiving
Protector
Comforter

The character and nature of God



God is Creator

You created the moon to mark the months; the sun knows the time to set Psalm 104:19



God is Love

Jesus the loving shepherd - John 10



God is Wisdom

Learn from the wisdom of the ant - Prov.6:6



God is a Protector

A mighty fortress – The name of the Lord is a strong tower – Prov 18:10



God is Powerful

**God rules...more powerful than the waves of the ocean
– Psalm 93:4**



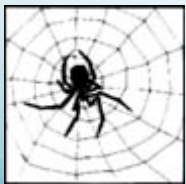
God is Truth

**Weigh His truth against everything – Live a life that
measures up to the standard God set - Eph 4:1**



God is Pure and Holy

**Wash me and I will be whiter than snow – Psalm
51:7**



God is Patient

**Learn from the spider, a patient builder – Be patient
with everyone – 1 Thess 5:14**



God, (through Jesus), is a servant

Let love cause you to serve one another – Gal 5:13 .



God is Life

He gives us new life – No one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again – John 3:3.



God is Provider

I have provided all kinds of grains and all kinds of fruits for you to eat – Gen 1:29



God is Peace

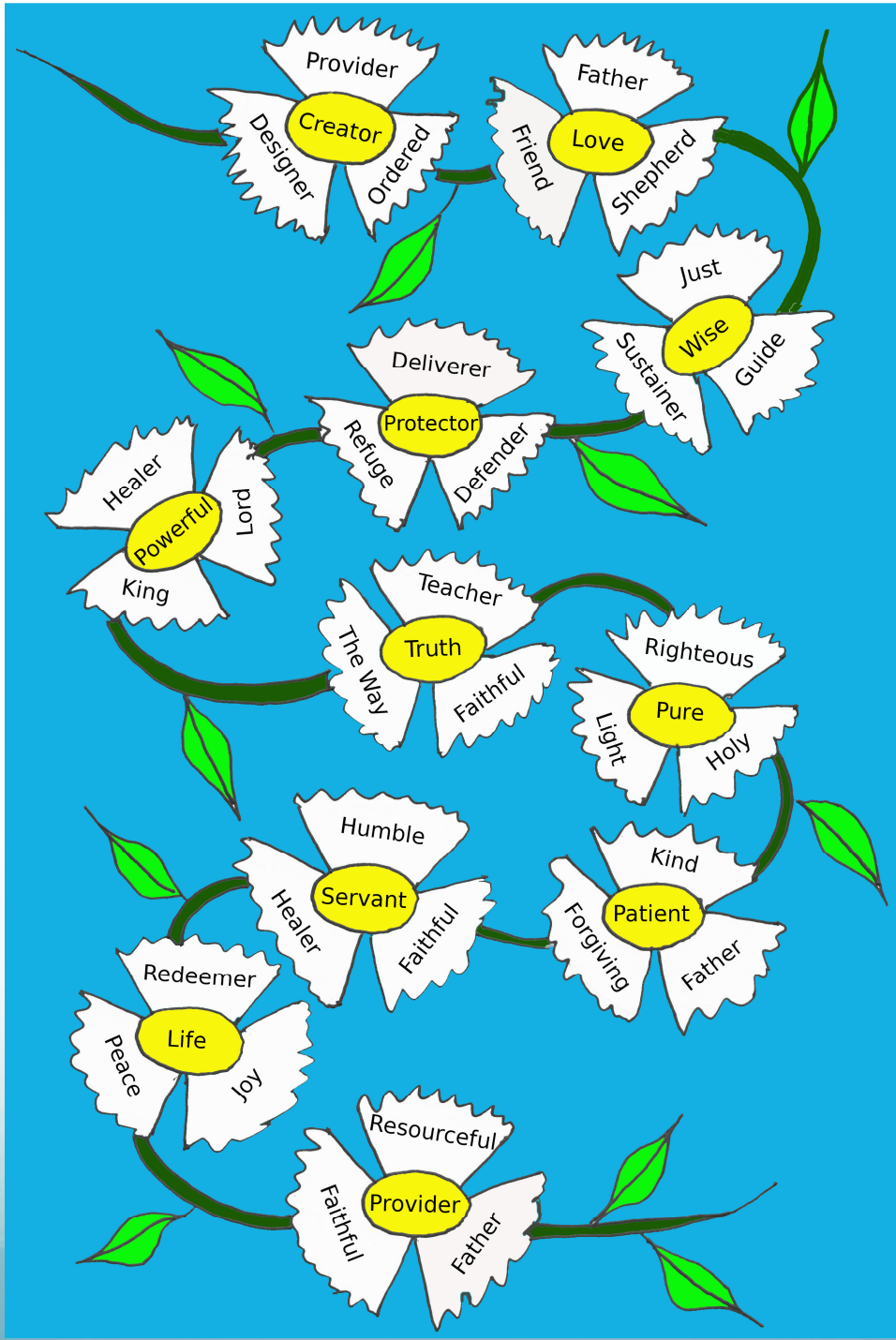
The Holy Spirit came as a dove bringing peace to mankind – We have peace through God through our Lord Jesus Christ – Rom 5:1

The attributes of God overlap

In teaching a unit of work we can combine attributes

e.g.

- Loving Provider
- Powerful Creator
- Humble Servant



Why teach about the character and nature of God, and not just the Bible?

- Heart knowledge and not just head knowledge
- Relationship with God
- Faith in a supernatural God
- Development of character development – an understanding of who God is requires a response from us

God's attributes can be seen through the topics we teach

God is Creator – we teach about the creation

That's easy!

BUT what about the other attributes?

Some ideas –

God is Protector – study of shelter

God is Provider – study of food

God is Love – study of people of the world

What is our response to an understanding God's character?

As we come to understand each attribute of God's character and nature, a response is required of us.

Micah 6:8

He has told you O man what is good;

And what does the Lord require of you?

But to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.

Character development should be taught as an outworking of knowing the character of God.

Our response...



God is Creator

Stand in awe of God's power; believe God's plan for the world, beginning with a literal 6 day creation.



God is Love

Love others as Christ loves us. Forgive, be kind, be gentle.



God is Wisdom

Seek God's opinion, not our own. Do what Jesus would do. Know that wisdom comes from obeying God.



God is Protector

Trust and have confidence in a great and powerful God, a loving father.



God is Powerful

Believe in God's supernatural ability; have faith.



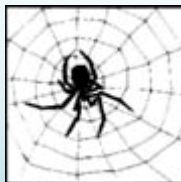
God is Truth

Know that Jesus is the only way; demonstrate discernment; tell the truth and live the truth.



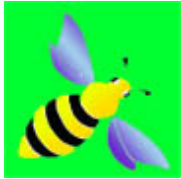
God is Pure and Holy

**Ask for God's forgiveness and salvation.
Be pure in words and deeds. Obey God.**



God is Patient

Be patient with ourselves and others; demonstrate self-control.



God is a Servant

Follow the example of Jesus, the greatest servant; serve one another with humility; put others first and self last.



God is Life

Jesus gives us new life when we accept Him as Saviour. Live the Christian life by demonstrating the fruit of the Spirit.



God is a Provider

Trust and have confidence that He cares for us and will provide for us. Do not worry!



God is Peace

Be at peace, knowing that God is with us; develop good relationships and resolve conflict peacefully.

How do we teach values?

- Focus FIRST on who God is.
e.g. He wants us to be loving, because He is.
- THEN teach the value that comes out of knowing who God is.
- The attribute of God is the primary focus, (not the value).

Serving not striving

- A character development program that is separated from the character of God results in striving.

e.g. “Kindness is the focus for this week. Let’s TRY to be kind.”

- A better way is: “*God’s love* is the focus for this week. We know that God is loving and kind to us. He wants us to show His love to others.”

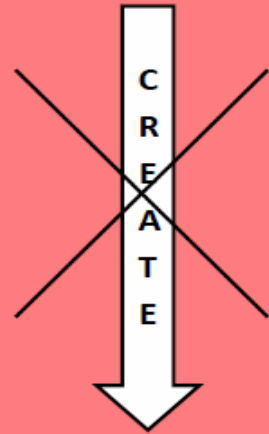
WWJD?



- We love because God loves us.
- We serve because Jesus served.
- We are patient because God is patient with us.
- We do what's right because God is pure and holy.
- We are thankful and generous because God is our provider.



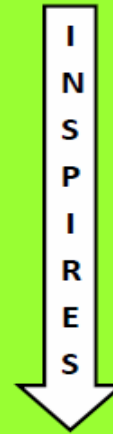
OUR ACTIONS



RIGHTEOUSNESS

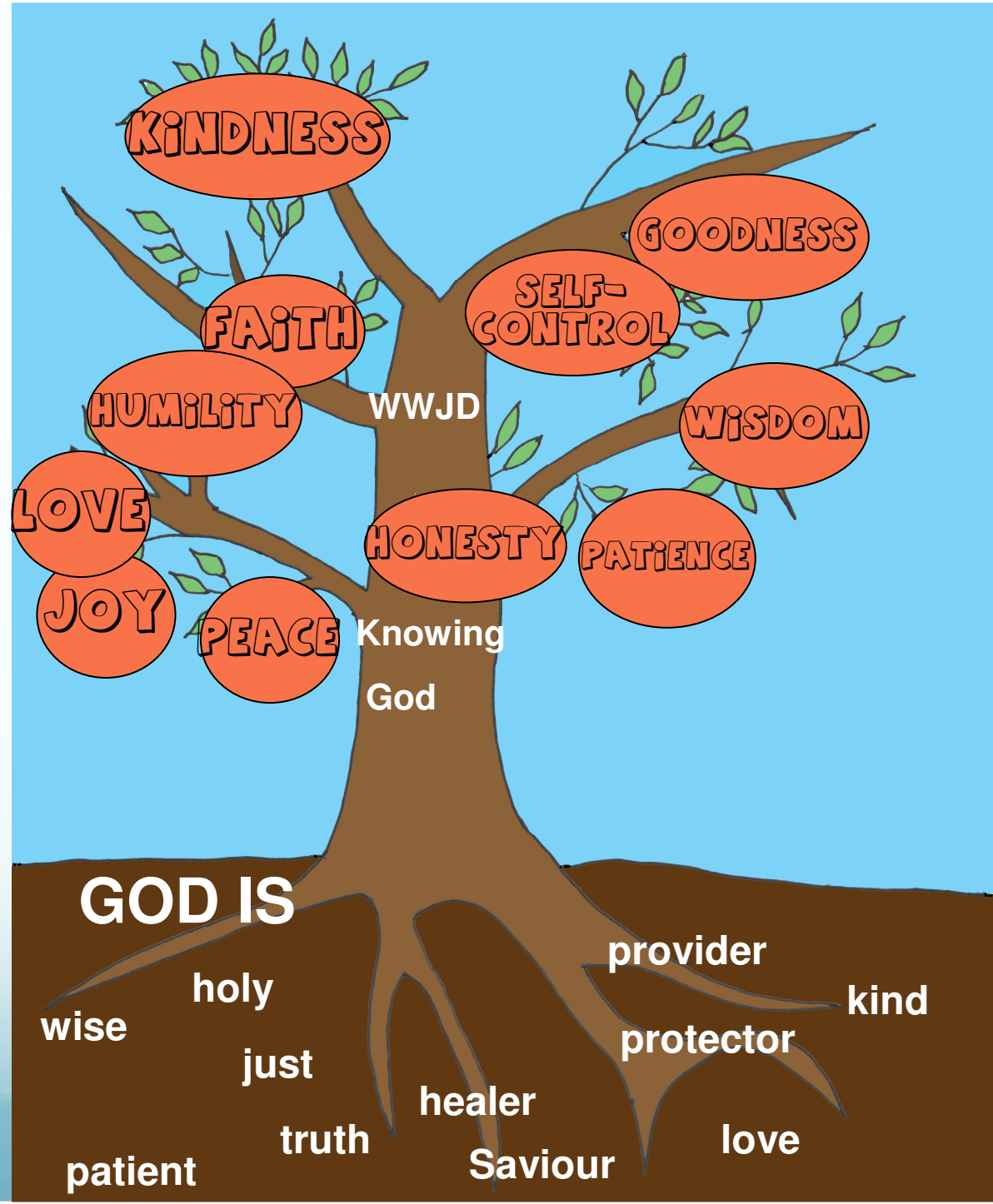


OUR LOVE FOR GOD



**US TO DO WHAT JESUS
WOULD DO**

WWJD?



Teach students to know God...

- Not just to know about Him.
- Not just to be good citizens.



God-centred curriculum makes a link between the *topic* and *God*.



Examples:

Topics based on God's Creation show us that God is Provider, God is Powerful, God is Truth, God is Life.



Studies of human relationships give opportunity to learn of God's love, purity, forgiveness, protection and provision.

Connect with God



Studies of God's creatures teach us lessons in God's wisdom, serving and patience.



A study of the solar system shows the love of God, who wanted to create a special place for us, with conditions unlike any other planet.

Your classroom
a place of big and small miracles!



- The miracles take place when the students come into an understanding of God's character as they see it throughout the curriculum.
- This understanding goes deep into the hearts of the students and reflects in their lives.

It's all about remembering



- You shall remember the Lord your God...but if you ever forget the Lord your God and go after other gods and worship them then you shall surely perish, (Deut 8:18-19).
- Remember your creator in the days of your youth, (Ecc 12:1).



- In Joshua 3: 16-17 we read that God dried up the Jordan River so that the children of Israel could pass through on dry ground. Following this Joshua commanded that 12 large stones be taken up from the bed of the Jordan River and set up as a monument, so that the Israelites would never forget this event.
- “When your children ask their father is time to come, ‘What are these stones?’ you shall tell them that Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.” (Joshua 4:21-22)



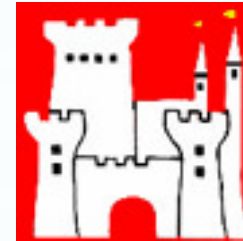
Creator



Love



Wise



Protector



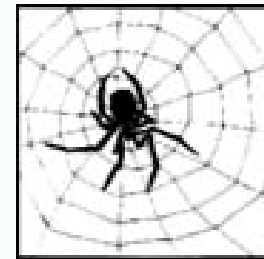
Powerful



Truth



Pure and Holy



Patient



a servant



Life



Provider



Peace

Signs and symbols can help children remember!

Aids to help the students remember

- Study one or two selected attributes of God for the duration of your class theme, e.g. Loving Provider.
- Create a visual display.
- Refer to the visual display.
- Connect values education to the aspect/s of God.

The display includes the attribute of God



This "God is Powerful" sign has been made by the children.

Examples:

God is a Healing Servant Topic: the Medical Profession



Doctors and nurses help us when we are sick



Jesus healed many people

God is Pure and Holy

Topic: Light



God created light. We need light to stay alive.



Light can be split into colours.

God is light. In Him there is no darkness. Walk in the light as He is in the light. 1 John 1:5-7

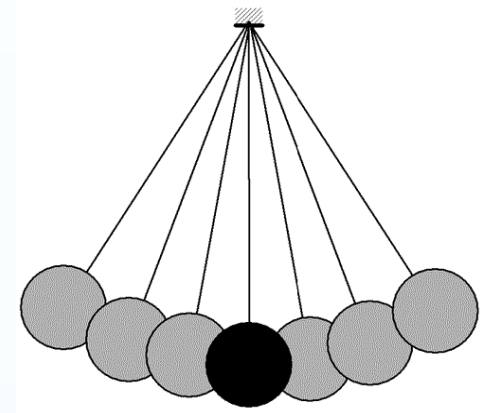
God is Truth

Topic: Gravity and Pendulums

The universe is held together by the laws that God created. Gravity is one of these laws.



A swing is a pendulum.



A swinging pendulum comes to rest at 90 degrees.

Galileo discovered pendulums. He stood up for God's truth.

Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego stood up for God's truth.

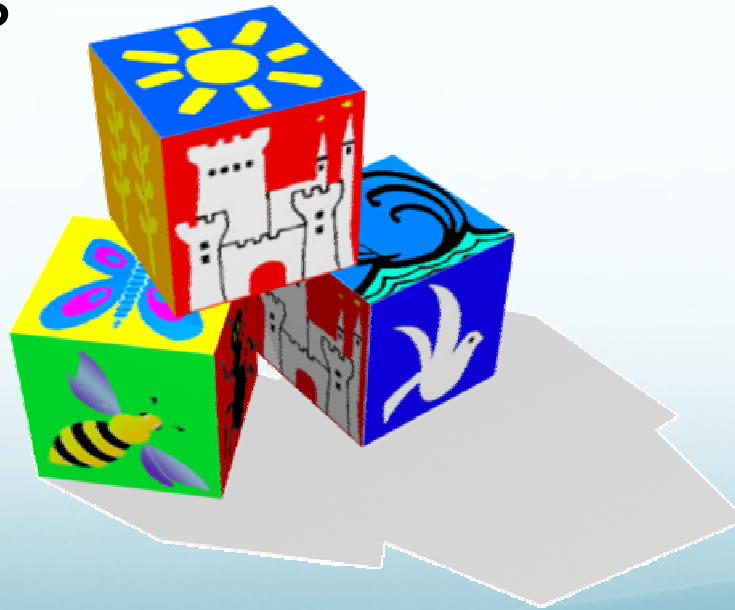
The results of remembering

- God teaches us lessons - students, teachers and parents.
- Children will report testimonies of how God has worked.

***Beacon Media* resources to assist you in planning God-centred curriculum**

Building Blocks

A planning tool to help teachers find God's perspective on science, social studies and health topics



- ***Building Blocks*** topic outlines are based on a Biblical Christian world view
- Over 80 topic outlines
- Topics can be selected by the teacher to create a curriculum document.
- Topic outlines include spiritual overview, Bible references, learning outcomes, activities and assessment.

See www.beaconmedia.com.au
Primary Units of Study

Units of Study

Student work books in Science and Social studies are also free downloads. These link to 'Building Blocks' teachers' notes.

Space

A student work unit for children
ages 7-12

God is Greater, God is Powerful, God is Protector



Cheryl Reid

Spiders

A student work unit for children
ages 7-12

God is Patient, God is Creator, God is Provider



Shelter

A student work unit for children
ages 5-12

God is Protector



Cheryl Reid

A resource for Biblical teaching

Themes for Christian Studies



- Devotional studies for children on the character and nature of God
- These studies link with classroom topics.
- See www.beaconmedia.com.au Primary “Christian Studies”

A resource for character development

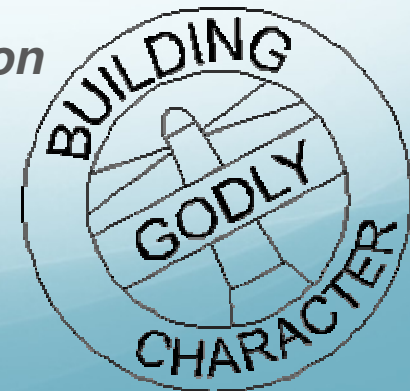
Jesus First – a guide to character development

This is a collection of lessons on the *responses* we make when we understand God's character, e.g.

- God is Love – our response is to be loving and kind.
- God is a servant – our response is to serve others

See www.beaconmedia.com.au Primary *Values education*

J – Jesus first
O – others next
Y – yourself last



Puppet plays for teaching values

- Puppets are funny.
- We can use puppet skits to laugh at ourselves.
- *Beacon Media* puppet plays are designed for character development.

See www.beaconmedia.com.au *Primary Values education*



God-centred literacy resources

Literacy resources in graded levels of difficulty

Primary Reading resources

- Bible stories at various reading levels
- Stories of Faith
- Stories that teach on the fruit of the Spirit and using our gifts for God

Phonics and spelling resources

- Teacher's tool box

See www.beaconmedia.com.au *Primary Literacy*

Stay connected in all you teach



JESUS
*is the vine,
we are the branches*