



# Beacon Media

Supporting Christian schooling worldwide

**Planning a whole school topic-based  
curriculum**

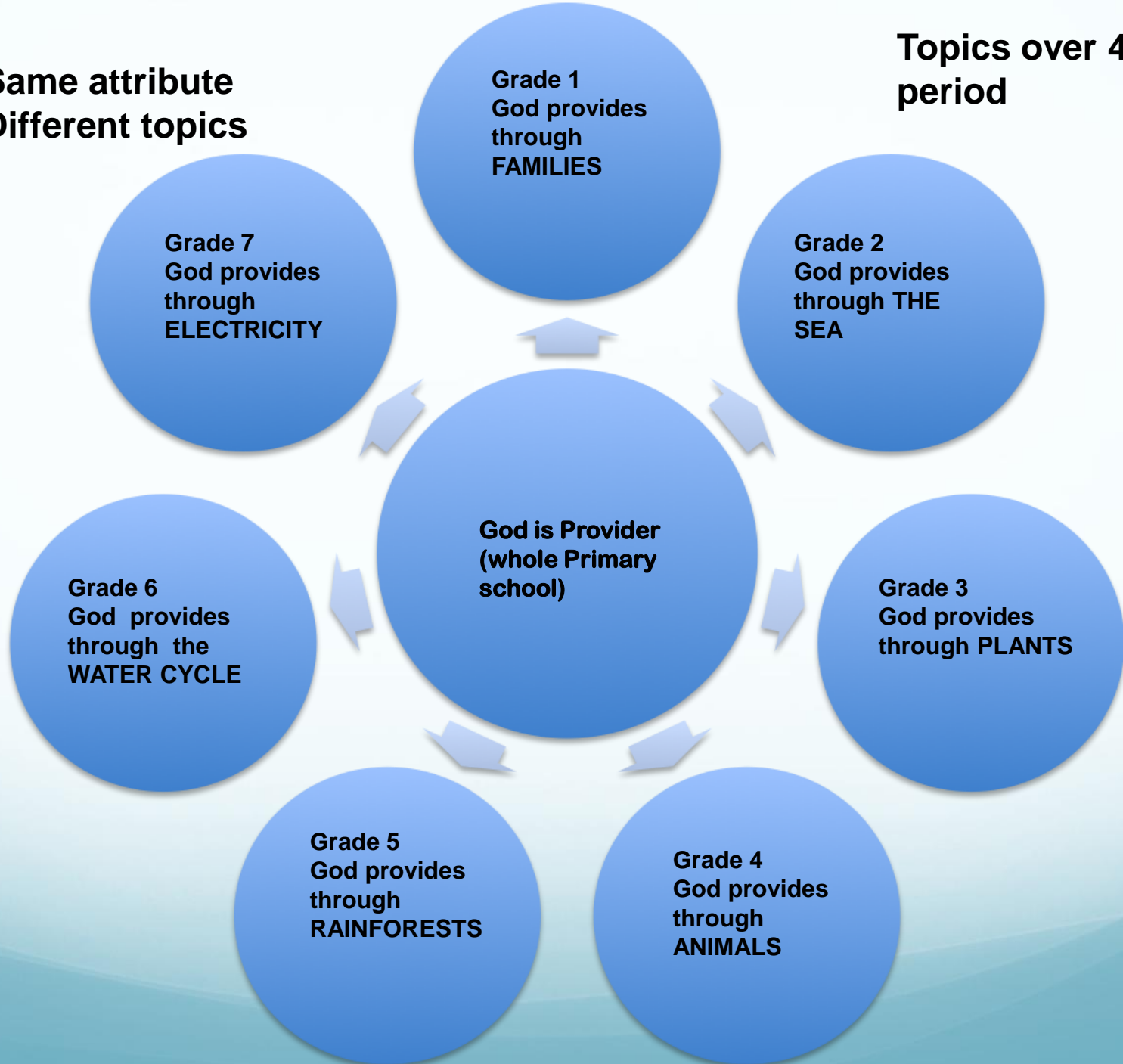
# Planning for the whole Primary School

Thematic topics that are linked to God's character/nature, can be implemented across the Primary school.

Each grade/year level can study DIFFERENT topics but the SAME attribute of God's character. (See the next diagram)

**Same attribute  
Different topics**

**Topics over 4-6 week  
period**



- This approach to learning brings great blessing because God can speak to the whole school community together on a particular aspect, e.g. God's provision for us.
- This brings about unity and a deeper work of God.

# **How to plan a topic-based curriculum for the whole Primary school**

# Decide how many topics per year.

8 to 10 topics per year is a good number.

Remember that you are covering Science, Social studies and health so you need a large variety of topics.

There will not be separate time-slots in the timetable for Social Studies, Science & Health. Instead, these subjects will be blended into ONE subject called “thematic studies” (or “Topic” if you want to use simple language)

# Thematic Studies

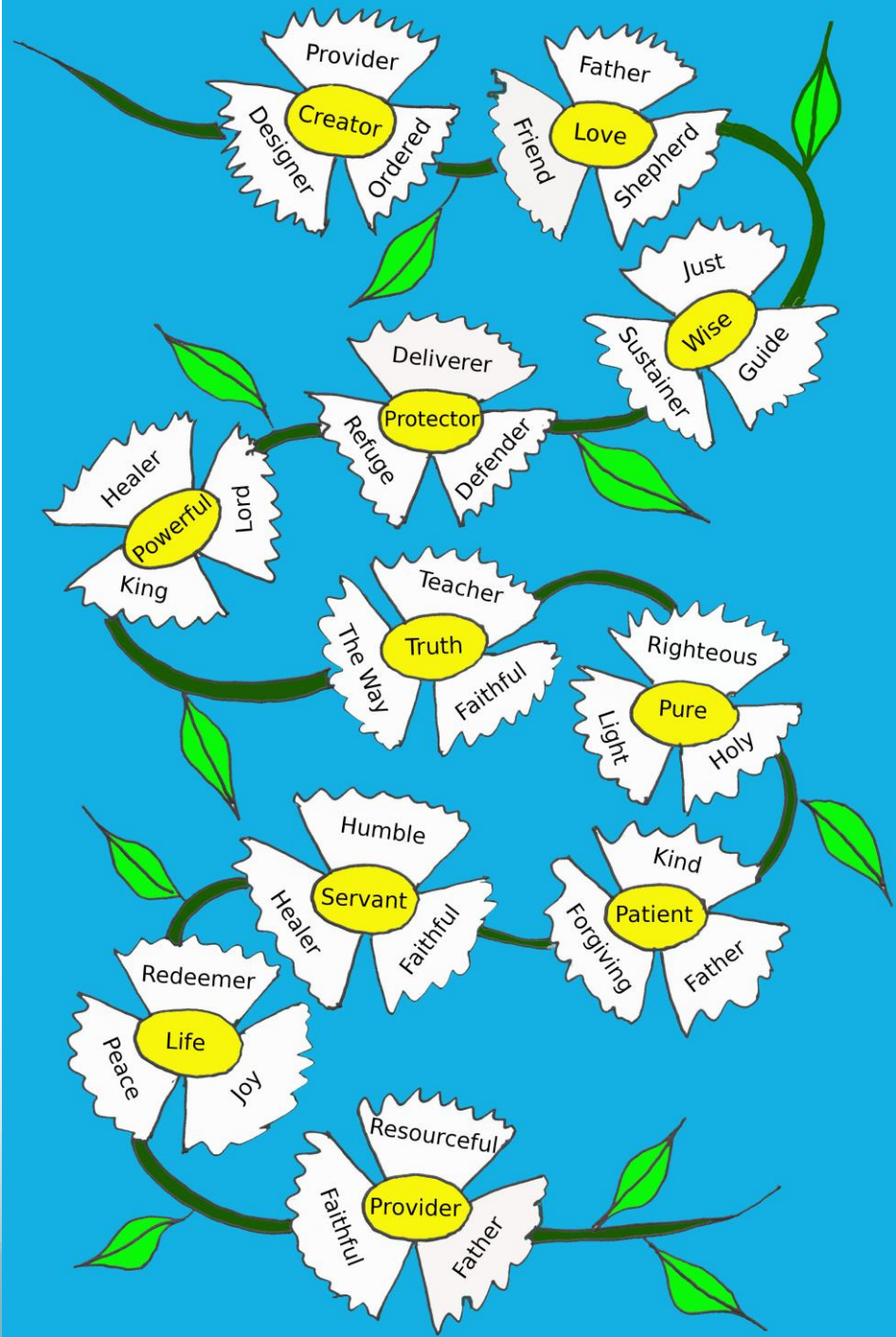
- You may have a slot for “Thematic Studies” 3 times a week.
- Sometimes the topic will be a Science focused topic; sometimes it will be a Social Studies focused topic; sometimes it will be a Health focused topic.
- e.g. If the topic is “Water” you can look at the Water Cycle (Science); you can think about water conservation (Social Studies) and you can talk about the importance of drinking water (Health)

# Make a list of the attributes of God

If you decide on 10 topics per year, then you will need to choose 10 spiritual themes, e.g. God is ...

- Love, Provider, Powerful, Creator, Truth, Wise, Pure and Holy, Humble Servant, Patient, Protector, Lord & King
- Each attribute you choose will be a broad category that covers a family of attributes, e.g. Love can cover Shepherd, Faithful, Father, Forgiving

(See next diagram)



# Now Link topics with attributes

- e.g. *God is Love* is demonstrated in topics like “The family”, “Agriculture”, “Helping the poor”
- *God is Protector* is demonstrated in topics like “Shelter”, “The Human Body”, “Our Special Planet”
- Use the *Beacon Media* “**Building Blocks**” Topic Index to help you with your planning. (See Primary – Science & Social Studies Thematic Topic Guides)

# Develop the attributes

- Ask God to show you how you will teach each attribute of God.
- Which Bible passages will you use to illustrate each attribute?
- e.g. God is Provider – the feeding of the 5000
- e.g. God is Love – the Good Samaritan
- e.g. God is Protector – Daniel in the lion's den

# Now make a whole-school table of topics

- The following examples give some ideas.
- However you can tailor-make your topic collection to suit your school.
- Note how the whole school is studying the *same* attribute of God at the same time.

# **Term 1 God is Creator (weeks 1- 4)**

Grade 1 Living and non-living

Grade 2 Animals

Grade 3 Plants

Grade 4 The sea

Grade 5 Ecosystems

Grade 6 Air

## **Term 1 God is a Servant (weeks 5- 8)**

Grade 1 Helping at home

Grade 2 Community servants – police, firefighters

Grade 3 Community servants – the medical profession

Grade 4 Community servants – food providers

Grade 5 Missionaries and helping the poor

Grade 6 The human body

## **Term 2 God is a Loving Provider (weeks 1-4)**

Grade 1 Shopping

Grade 2 Plant foods

Grade 3 animal foods

Grade 4 Food of different cultures

Grade 5 World food crisis; sharing resources with the needy

Grade 6 Stewardship of God's provision - money

## **Term 2 God is a Protector (weeks 5-8)**

Grade 1 Obeying rules to keep us safe

Grade 2 The family

Grade 3 How animals protect themselves

Grade 3 Hygiene

Grade 4 Shelter

Grade 5 Preparation for natural disasters or extreme weather

Grade 6 Our special planet – protective atmosphere etc.

## **Term 3 God is Truth (weeks 1-4)**

Grade 1 Keeping our word / promises

Grade 2 Consistency of scientific laws – force and motion

Grade 3 Consistency of scientific laws - magnets

Grade 4 Consistency of scientific laws - electricity

Grade 5 Consistency of scientific laws / pendulums

Grade 6 Creation/ evolution

## **Term 3 God is Pure and Holy (weeks 5-8)**

Grade 1 Hygiene – clean inside and outside

Grade 2 Living God's way – friendships and relationships

Grade 3 The fruit of the Spirit

Grade 4 What happened to our perfect planet?  
Pollution / the Fall

Grade 5 The Great Flood and geography

Grade 6 The Great Flood and geology

## **Term 4 God is Love (Weeks 1 – 4)**

### **He is a patient communicator**

Grade 1 Listening – how and why

Grade 2 Listening – who do we listen to?

Grade 3 Patience and diligence in work / occupations

Grade 4 History of communication

Grade 5 Sound and the ear

Grade 6 The tower of Babel and the dispersal of language groups

## **Term 4 God is Lord and King (weeks 5-8)**

Grade 1 God is in charge of me – myself / my body

Grade 2 God is Lord over creation – living things

Grade 3 God is in charge of my country

Grade 4 God is Lord over the universe – solar system

Grade 5 God is Lord of the universe - weather

Grade 6 God is Lord over local and world governments

# Write topic outlines

- Check to see that you have a good balance of topics AND a good balance of attributes of God.
- For each theme you will need to write a spiritual overview, list Bible passages, outcomes, activities and evaluation.
- There are many lists and example to help you on the Beacon Media website. See “Building Blocks” under *Primary Science & Social Studies thematic planning*.
- **Does this sound like a lot of work?**

# Take advantage of the work of pioneers

- Since the 1980s Christian teachers have been developing God-centred curriculum.
- Many schools want to have their own expression, and write their own version.
- However it would be wise to look at what has already been done and use the existing examples as a starting point.
- See “God-centred curriculum for Fiji schools” as a complete example. (Go to “Overseas Assistance” on the Beacon Media website.)

# Building Blocks resource

- The *Beacon Media* **Building Blocks** resource is an excellent resource to help you choose topics that link naturally with the character and nature of God.

