

***Beacon Media***  
**Professional development for  
teachers**

**Session 5**  
**Planning a whole  
school topic-based  
curriculum**

The Power Point presentation can be found at:  
[www.beaconmedia.com.au](http://www.beaconmedia.com.au) – Professional  
development for teachers

## **Planning for the whole Primary School**

Thematic topics that are linked to God's character/nature can be implemented across the Primary school in the following ways:

1. Each grade level can study different topics but the SAME attribute of God's character at the SAME time.
2. Each grade level can study different topics and different attributes of God's character.

### **Refer to Posters:**

*Same attribute, different topics*

*Different attributes, different topics*

- The first approach brings the greatest blessing because God can speak to the whole school community in unison on a particular point.
- This brings about unity and a deeper work of God.
- However where schools are using government curriculum it may not be possible to select topics of their own choice, so these schools would take on the second approach.

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

### **1. Decide how many topics per year.**

Eight 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.

### **2. Make a list of the attributes of God.**

Choose eight spiritual themes such as:

- Loving Provider
- Powerful Creator
- Life and Truth / Wisdom and Truth
- Pure and Holy
- Humble servant / Healing servant
- Patient and kind / patient communicator
- Powerful Protector
- Wise teacher

### **3. 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"
- You can use the *Beacon Media* "**Building Blocks**" Topic Index to help you with your planning.

#### **4. 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.

In these examples, note how the whole school studies the *same* attribute of God at the same time.

##### **Term 1 God is a Powerful 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 Healing 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 distribution: sharing resources with the needy

Grade 6 Stewardship of God's provision - money

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

Grade 1 Obeying rules

Grade 2 Safety

Grade 3 Shelter

Grade 3 Hygiene

Grade 4 Preparation for natural disasters

Grade 5 Our special planet

Grade 6 Right choices and decisions

##### **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 a Patient Communicator (weeks 1-4)**

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

## **4. Write topic outlines**

- Check to see that you have a good balance of topics AND a good balance of attributes of God.
- Use the *Building Blocks* Topic Outlines to assist you in writing curriculum documents for the topics.
- You will need to write a spiritual overview, Bible passages, outcomes, activities and evaluation for each topic.
  
- 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.