

Animals: Creators and builders

God is Patient and Resourceful

Spiritual Awareness: Using our gifts for God

God has demonstrated the attribute of patience in the creation. We see patience, linked with diligence, in the habits of many animals. We can learn from these examples and aim to practice patience and diligence in the things we do. Many occupations require patience and diligence, as do many hobbies and crafts. In order to extend our creative abilities to their full potential we need the attribute of patience.

Our response to 'God is Patient'

Because God is patient, I will...

- try to be patient with others
- try to be patient with myself
- remember that God will answer my prayers in His time
- finish jobs properly and not take short-cuts
- persevere and not give up when things get difficult
- show self-control
- show kindness and gentleness to others
- learn to listen
- learn to wait
- learn to let others go first

Supporting devotional resource

Themes for Christian Studies 4, (Patient): It takes patience to do things properly

Themes for Christian Studies 5, (Patient): The Holy Spirit produces patience and self-control

Themes for Christian Studies 6, (Patient): Patience and perseverance

Biblical references

Bible stories and passages

Matthew 25:14-29 Parable of the talents

Romans 12:4-8 Each one of us has a body, and that body has many parts. These parts all have different uses. In the same way, we are many, but in Christ we are all one body. Each one is a part of that body. And each part belongs to all the other parts. We all have different gifts. Each gift came because of the grace that God gave us. If one has the gift of prophecy, he should use that gift with the faith he has. If one has the gift of serving, he should serve. If one has the gift of teaching, he should teach. If one has the gift of encouraging others, he should encourage. If one has the gift of giving to others, he should give freely. If one has the gift of being a leader, he should try hard when he leads. If one has the gift of showing kindness to others, that person should do so with joy. (*from the International Children's Bible*)

Nehemiah 1-7 Patience and diligence in rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem.

Luke 18:1 Patience and diligence in prayer.

1 Kings 6,8,9; 2 Chronicles 2-7 Solomon builds the Lord's house, (an example of patience and diligence).

Proverbs 31:10-31 The diligent wife

Memory verses

Proverbs 10:4 Being lazy will make you poor, but hard work will make you rich.

Proverbs 21:5 Plan carefully and you will have plenty; if you act too quickly you will never have enough.

Luke 16:10 Whoever is faithful in small matters will be faithful in large ones; whoever is dishonest in small matters will be dishonest in large ones.

Galatians 6:9 Let us not become tired of doing good, for if we do not give up, the time will come when we will reap the harvest.

Key Questions

What is patience?

What is diligence?

How do animals show us an example of patience and diligence?

What can I do for God?

How can patience and diligence help me to do the job better?

What jobs do my parents ask me to do?

How can I do these jobs the best way possible?

How can I develop my talents?

What is the meaning of 'practice makes perfect'?

What is a creator?

What can I create?

What do I need to create something well?

Outcomes

Students will

Knowledge

- Have an understanding of the ways in which particular animals demonstrate skills in building techniques, and learn from their examples.
- Study gifts and talents including motivational gifts
- Outline ways of developing gifts and talents.

Skills

- Observe and describe building techniques of animals
- Classify types of animal homes
- Identify the personal gifts and talents.
- Survey gifts and talents of those in the class and graph results.

Values

- Appreciate occupations in the community, requiring patience and diligence.
- Show patience and perseverance when developing won gifts and talents.
- Understand that everyone has a gift or talent that can be used for God.

- Understand that one gift or talent is not of more or less importance than another.

Activities

- Observe animal homes, and identify those animals that show skill in building e.g. spiders, birds, ants, bees, silk worms, beavers.
- Classify animals according to the types of homes they build.
- Compare materials, methods and standards of neatness adopted by home builders.
- Draw and label animal homes.
- List ways in which animals are diligent in making the home suitable for their young, e.g. safety from enemies, shelter from environment, food storage facilities.
- Make a model of an animal home e.g. a bird's nest, a spider's web from wool and a forked branch.
- Compare skills of animal builders to crafts and building techniques used by humans, e.g. spinning and weaving, basket weaving, dam building.
- Discuss motivational gifts recorded in Romans 12:4-8, and the parable of the talents, Matthew 25:14-19.
- Take a survey of special skills of students within the class.
- Make a personal chart – 'Things I like to do'.
- Take a survey of favourite hobbies.
- Classify hobbies according to arts/crafts, sports, music, dance etc.
- Make a graph to record hobbies and special abilities of class members.
- Present an oral report on a hobby or something you are good at.
- Invite visitors to demonstrate hobbies or skills.
- Rate hobbies according to those requiring most / least patience and diligence.
- Make a chart showing hobbies of students in the class.
- Set up hobby clubs.
- Discuss the importance of practice in becoming better at a skill.

Assessment

What have I learned from the examples of animal builders...

- about God?
- about His creatures?
- about my own special abilities?

Link with Australian Curriculum

Science Year 3: Biological Science - Living and non-living things

Learning Connections

English:

- Read the story of Robert Bruce and the spider, (*Themes for Christian Studies 6, Patient*), and explain the lesson Robert Bruce learned from the spider.

- Read and complete activities for *'On Safari'*, a series of animal stories which teach about motivational gifts. See Primary Literacy.

Art:

- Practice some spinning or weaving.
- Study some works of art that required great patience and diligence, e.g. Sistine Chapel ceiling by Michelangelo.
- Study examples of pointillism by artists such as Georges Seurat, or dot paintings by Australian Aboriginal artists. Try creating your own original dot paintings and note the degree of patience required.

Social Studies:

- Study occupations that require patience and diligence.

Health:

- Discuss diligence in personal habits such as tidiness and personal care.

Related Building Blocks Units:

Mini-beasts

Living/non-living

Life Cycles

Additional Beacon Media student resources

See *Units of Study*, *'student work books'*, for the following:

'Spiders'

'Community Insects'

http://www.beaconmedia.com.au/bm/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=69&Itemid=60