

Australian History

God is Patient; God is Love

Spiritual Overview: God is patient; God is Love

This unit focuses on the history of Australia, although the same principles can be applied to the study of history in other countries. The pioneers found that patience was a prerequisite to success. Like many of the characters recorded in the Bible, patience and perseverance were an important dimension in their biographies. Patience is a fruit of the Spirit, and necessary for the bearing of fruit.

Col Stringer, in *Discovering Australia's Christian Heritage*, outlines the amazing perseverance of early explorers, most of whom had a strong faith in God. It was only by God's grace, provision and protection that these explorers completed their expeditions across an unknown, drought-stricken land. He writes:

"Many people feel that Australia is a land with a curse over its head. Numbers of Australians believe the foundation of our nation is based upon convicts - the dregs of British society...and that we are still yoked to a spiritual rejection, bondage and poverty. But there is another side to the coin that remained largely untold.... Many of our founding fathers, explorers and pioneers were godly men and women of strong Christian faith. In fact, the 'Providential' hand of God rested on almost all of our explorers and founding fathers!"

We owe the very name of our country to a Christian explorer, Pedro Fernandez de Quiros, who named our country 'the Great Southland of the Holy Spirit'.

Our response to 'God is Patient / God is Love'

Because God is patient /God is love, 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 to others
- learn to listen
- learn to wait
- learn to let others go first
- help people when they are hurting
- be friendly
- be forgiving
- be faithful

Supporting devotional resource

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

Themes for Christian Studies 5, (Love): God wants us to love others

Key Questions

about patience and perseverance

What is the meaning of perseverance?

What is the meaning of patience?

Why do patience and perseverance go together?

When would we need to have perseverance?

Who do you know who shows, (or showed) perseverance?

How can we show patience and perseverance in the things we do?

What were some of the difficulties the early pioneers faced?

How did the early pioneers show perseverance?

about the development of Australia as a nation

Why and how did Australia become a nation?

How did Australian society change throughout the twentieth century?

Who were the people who came to Australia? Why did they come?

What contribution have significant individuals and groups made to the development of Australian society?

Biblical references

Stories and passages

John 5:1-8 - The crippled man at the pool. He didn't give up.

Luke 11:5-13 - Ask and keep on asking. Be patient and don't give up.

Luke 18:1-8 - The parable of the widow and the judge.

Ezra 4-6; Nehemiah 1-6 - Perseverance in rebuilding Jerusalem and the temple.

Matthew 25:14-30 - Perseverance in using one's talents.

Exodus 2-6 - The Israelites patience and persistence in prayer for release from Egypt.

Memory verses

1 Corinthians 9:24 - Run in such a way as to win the prize.

Philippians 3:14 – I run straight toward the goal in order to win the prize., which is God's call through Christ Jesus to the life above.

Acts 10:34 – God treats everyone on the same basis.

1 John 4:7-8 – Beloved let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

Outcomes

Students will

Knowledge

- explore the factors that led to Federation and experiences of democracy...
- study the biographies of key figures and events that led to Australia's Federation, including British and American influences on Australia's system of law and government.
- research the history of the status and rights of Aboriginal people and/or Torres Strait Islanders, migrants, women, and children. (See 'Australian Aboriginal Culture' unit)

- study the biographies of people who migrated to Australia (including from one Asian country) and the reasons they migrated, such as World War II and Australian migration programs since the war.
- study the contribution of individuals and groups, including Aboriginal people and/or Torres Strait Islanders and migrants, to the development of Australian society, for example in areas such as the economy, education, science, the arts, sport.
- give some historical background of white Australia, and to see how the nation has developed from a wide spectrum of peoples, cultures and happenings.
- uncover the strong Christian faith of Australia's founders.
- realize that God has a plan for nations and that He can use people and nations despite their shortcomings.

Skills

- Sequence historical people and events.
- Use historical terms and concepts
- Identify questions to inform an historical inquiry
- Identify and locate a range of relevant sources
- Locate information related to inquiry questions in a range of sources.
- Compare information from a range of sources.
- Identify points of view in the past and present
- Develop texts, particularly narratives and descriptions, which incorporate source materials
- Use a range of communication forms (oral, graphic, written) and digital technologies

Values

- provide a model of patience and perseverance at work through the lives of early Australians.
- recognize that conflict in a nation's history can only be overcome with God's love
- thank God for His love that has been shared by His servants in the founding of our country

Activities

- Research the impact of Christian women: Caroline Chisholm and Mary McConnel. (See *Australia's Christian Heritage* or *Themes for Christian Studies 5, God is Love*).
- Research lives of other famous Christian pioneers: *John Flynn, Sir Douglas Nicholls*. (See *Discovering Australia's Christian Heritage*)
- Make a model of the outback including the Flying Doctor service.
- Investigate the history of the Flying Doctor Service and its responsibilities today.
- List the difficulties and dangers faced by pioneers living in the outback in the early 20th century.
- Devise ways of sending Morse Code messages.
- List the jobs of early Australians in the country and in the towns.
- Compare problems of those in the country compared with those in towns.

- List the various nations and peoples which contributed to early Australian society.
- Compare this with the various nations and peoples which contribute to Australian society today.
- Discuss hardships and problems of early Australians.
- Compare way of life to today, including homes, food and occupations.
- Research the history of the Australian flag.
- Suggest ways in which God could use Australia to achieve His purposes, e.g. evangelism, provision of food and resources to the needy.
- Discuss ways in which people can misuse the knowledge God has given to nations.

Assessment

1. Research one famous Christian who made a significant contribution to our nation from 1900 onwards. Present a report using a range of technologies.
2. What have I learned from the study of Australian History...
 - about God?
 - about doing what God wants me to do?
 - about the Bible?

Link with Australian Curriculum

History Year 6: Australia as a nation

Learning Connections

English: Read Christian biographies, e.g. the story of John Flynn, *Themes for Christian Studies 5, (Servant)*.

Science: methods of communication

Art: City and country scenes from the 1900s; architectural styles from Colonial to modern day.

Additional Beacon Media Resource

The Flying Doctor – Primary Units of Study. Student Workbooks

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

Supporting resource for early Australians:

Discovering Australia's Christian Heritage, by Col Stringer.

<http://www.swcs.com.au/aust2.htm>

<http://www.colstringer.com/store/books/discovering-australia.html?expandable=0>