

# **Government**

## **God is Pure and Holy**

## **God is a Humble Servant**

### **Spiritual Awareness**

God's law is perfect

God's law is perfect, and His laws are upright. Those governments that are founded on God's laws and principles will be blessed. The Bible gives examples of the correct use of political power. God is Lord and King, and He is ultimately in control of every nation.

### **A servant leader**

The Bible also gives instruction on the most essential requirement for leadership: service and humility. Jesus said, "Whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant" (Matthew 20:26).

### **Our response to 'God is Pure and Holy'**

Because God is Pure and Holy I will...

- Obey Him.
- Try to do the things He wants me to do.
- Ask God to forgive me when I sin.
- Ask Him to make me clean inside.
- Admit when I make mistakes.
- Remember the fruits of the Spirit and try to show them in my life.
- Have respect for other people.
- Put God first in my life.

### **Supporting devotional resource**

*Themes for Christian Studies 6, (Pure): God's righteousness, not self-righteousness*

*Themes for Christian Studies 4, (Servant): Jesus is humble servant*

*Themes for Christian Studies 2, (Powerful): Jesus is Lord and King*

### **Biblical references**

#### **Bible stories and passages**

Genesis 11:1-9 - The tower of Babel is a story of people wanting to build their own kingdom, excluding God.

Exodus 20 - The Ten Commandments

Esther - A story of God's hand in ruling a nation

Kings and Chronicles – Kings of the Old Testament – Saul, David, Solomon, Absalom, Jereboam, Rehoboam

Matthew 1 & 2 – The genealogy of Jesus shows royal descent. Jesus was born as King

Isaiah 9:6-7 – A child is born to us. He will govern and reign. His power will be right and just.

John 12:12-19 - The triumphal entry.

John 18:28-38 - Jesus on trial for being King.

Acts 1:6-10 - Jesus will return as King.

Revelation 19:12, 13 & 16 – Jesus, King of kings and Lord of lords.  
Exodus - God's rule won over Pharaoh's rule.  
Romans 13:1-7 - Pray for those in authority.  
Psalm 85 – a prayer for the nation's welfare  
Mark 10:35-45 – Servant of all.

### **Memory verses**

Psalm 19:8 - The laws of the Lord are right and those who obey them are happy. The commands of the Lord are just, and give understanding to the mind.

Psalm 66:7 – He rules forever by His might and keeps His eyes on the nations.

Psalm 47:8-9 - God sits on His sacred throne. More powerful than all armies is He. He rules supreme.

Isaiah 9:6 – A child is born to us! A son is given! And He will be our ruler. He will be called “Wonderful”, Counselor”, Mighty God”, Eternal Father”, Prince of Peace”.

Matthew 20:26 - Jesus said, “Whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant”.

Mark 10: 43 – “Whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant; and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave to all.”

### **Key Questions**

What is God's law?

Why does the Bible say that God's law is perfect?

How does God want a leader or ruler to act?

Why could we say that God is the perfect King or ruler?

How does Jesus qualify to be a king?

Which rulers in the Bible honoured God's laws?

Which laws of our land are based on the Ten Commandments?

Are there any laws of our land that go against God's laws?

### **Outcomes**

Students will

#### *Knowledge*

- study various authority structures
- understand the need for local and state governments
- identify key figures and events that led to our country's Federation, including overseas influences on our system of law and government
- see the need for obedience to government
- briefly outline the structure of local and state governments
- list Biblical guidelines for government and those governed

#### *Skills*

- show organizational skills by running a mock election
- role play parliamentary procedures
- use persuasive speech in presenting an argument
- collate and report information

### *Values*

- appreciate the need for obedience to authority
- appreciate that God's order creates peace
- see the importance of praying for those in authority
- uphold the values of a society based on Judeo-Christian ethics

### **Activities**

- Research key figures and events that led to our country's Federation, including overseas influences on our system of law and government.
- Draw a time-line showing the history of government in our country including the succession of Prime Ministers.
- Define a democracy and identify other alternatives.
- Compare governments around the world: those based on Judeo-Christian ethics and those that are not.
- Compare laws of our country with the Ten Commandments. Discuss the passing of acts which are opposed to God's law, e.g. abortion, laws against freedom of speech.
- Visit local and state government centres to observe the government at work.
- Simulate government parliamentary sessions.
- Create political parties within the class. Choose representatives and policies. Conduct a vote.
- Hold class parliamentary sessions with students acting out the debate for the passing of a bill.
- Research the Bible for guidelines for those who govern, and responses of those who are governed.
- Invite council members to speak.
- Collect newspaper articles on current issues and explain government response.
- Study the various authority structures e.g. democracy; dictatorship.
- Make a list of the presidents or prime ministers of different nations.
- Study examples of monarchs in the past, including Biblical figures, (David, Solomon, Nebuchadnezzar, Esther, Pharaoh).
- Discuss the rule of the Roman Empire at the time of Jesus on earth.
- Study examples of monarchs today, around the world.
- Explain how someone becomes a king or queen e.g. descent.
- Describe the role and functions of monarchy, past and present.
- Describe their lifestyle, wealth and power.
- Discuss the servant-leader role model.

### **Assessment**

1. Present a speech with a partner on a controversial issue in our society. Say why it is controversial and give God's opinion. Give your idea on what the government should do about it. Examples: abortion, allowing Christian teaching in schools, teaching of Creation in schools, freedom of speech versus anti-discrimination, punishment of children
2. What have I learned from the study of government and leadership...

- 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:**

1. Make a list of ideal qualities of a good leader.
2. Write letters to the mock parliament set up in the classroom, presenting opinions and ideas on laws that should be changed, or issues which are pointing to a departure from our Judeo-Christian foundation.

**Social Studies:** importance of government to a society; comparison of different types of government

**Health:** Government laws that affect health, e.g. Should there be stricter laws against harmful chemicals in food products and against junk food advertising?

**Art:** Create a visual advertising poster for an election candidate. Visually represent the important areas the candidate would like to address if elected.

**Mathematics:** Collate and graph statistics for the mock election.

## **Additional Beacon Media resource**

Visual Language Unit: *Leaders and leadership*

**Related Building Blocks Unit:** The Romans