

Natural Disasters

God is Wisdom

Spiritual Awareness: Wisdom in being prepared

Natural disasters were not a part of God's original perfect creation. The first natural world-wide natural disaster occurred at the time of the Great Flood, and was a result of God's judgment upon man's sin.

However, God has provided the gift of wisdom, which helps us cope with the natural disasters in our fallen world. Through wise management of the creation some disasters can be avoided, and through wise planning and foresight, man can prepare for disasters and lessen their impact. Christians can also pray for personal protection against natural disasters.

Many natural disasters today, such as drought and pollution, have been caused by man's failure to ask God for wisdom. Greed, selfishness and human self-sufficiency have had disastrous effects upon the creation.

Our response to 'God is Wisdom'

Because God is Wisdom I will...

- Ask God what is the right thing to do, and do it.
- Listen to people who are wiser than me.
- Listen to my parents and teachers.
- Obey God's word.
- Do what Jesus would do.
- Ask Jesus to be the guide throughout my life.
- Treat God's Creation with wisdom.

Supporting devotional resource

Themes for Christian Studies 4, (Wise): God's wisdom is better than being rich

Themes for Christian Studies 5, (Wise): It is wise to be prepared

Biblical references

Bible stories and passages

Matthew 25:1-13 - The ten girls and their lamps - a story of being prepared.

Matthew 7:24-28 - The wise and foolish builders.

Romans 8:20-22 - The creation was subjected to frustration; the creation groans, waiting to be brought into freedom.

Genesis 6-8 - The Great Flood - the greatest natural disaster so far in history

Job 28:13 – 28 – What is wisdom?

Memory verses

James 1:5 – If anyone lacks wisdom, pray to God and He will give it to you.

Proverbs 8:33 – Listen to what you are taught. Be wise; do not neglect it.

Job 28:28 – To be wise you must worship the Lord.

Psalm 17:8 – Hide me in the shadow of your wings

Psalm 32:7 – You are my hiding place. You will save me from trouble.

Key Questions

What are natural disasters?

Why do natural disasters occur?

Were natural disaster a part of God's original creation?

When did the first natural disaster occur and why?

How has man caused some of the natural disasters that occur today?

What is wisdom?

Which natural disasters could be avoided if man used wisdom?

How do we get wisdom?

How can we show wisdom in preparing for natural disasters?

Outcomes

Students will

Knowledge

- Identify the natural disasters that have been directly caused by man's impact on nature.
- Identify the changes a natural disaster can bring to the Earth's surface.
- Research the impact of the Great Flood.
- Understand ways in which man can prepare for the impact of natural disasters.
- Explain the correct procedures for safety in the event of a local disaster.

Skills

- Identify questions that can be investigated or researched.
- Predict answers.
- Suggest ways to plan and conduct investigations to find answers to questions.
- Use a range of methods including tables and simple column graphs to represent data and to identify patterns and trends.
- Compare results with predictions, suggesting possible reasons for findings.
- Represent and communicate ideas and findings in a variety of ways such as diagrams, physical representations and simple reports.

Values

- Show environmental responsibility.
- Show wisdom in preparing for extreme weather conditions or potential natural disasters that may occur in the local area.

Activities

- Research and discuss detection and protection strategies e.g. bushfires, floods.
- Research the impact of the Great Flood.
- Examine archaeological expeditions that research cities destroyed by disaster, e.g. Pompeii, Sodom.
- Research the effects of natural disasters upon these.
- Use an atlas to locate sites of infamous disasters.

- Discuss the reasons for drought, brought about by the clearing of forests, e.g. expansion of the Sahara Desert.
- Describe the impact of drought and flood upon human life.
- Identify wastelands brought about by over-irrigation and the raising of salt levels.
- Research the earth's core and the reasons for volcanic eruptions.
- Invite visitors to speak about disaster relief. Raise money for those affected by flood, fire, drought, earthquake, famine or any other natural disaster.
- Speculate as to why economically developed countries might be better prepared than less developed nations to handle hazards.
- Identify technologies that can make a difference in a nation's ability to predict and prepare for natural hazards and to handle their aftermath - communications, construction, transportation, medical technologies,

Assessment

1. Work in pairs and research natural disasters in one country. Focus on trying to understand how people adapt to and prepare for natural hazards. Investigate whether technological development and availability seem to help a nation prepare for and respond to often unpredictable natural hazards.

- Country name
- Natural hazard event, date, consequences
- Other natural hazard risks faced by this country
- Total population
- Population density
- Main export products
- Typical building materials
- Literacy rate
- Televisions, computers and technology owned by the average family
- Doctors per person
- Hospital beds per person

Present information to the class. Point out affected location on a world map.

2. What have I learned from the study of natural disasters...

- about God?
- about doing what God wants me to do?
- about the Bible?

Link to Australian Curriculum

Science Year 4: Earth and Space Sciences – The Earth's surface changes over time as a result of natural process and human activity