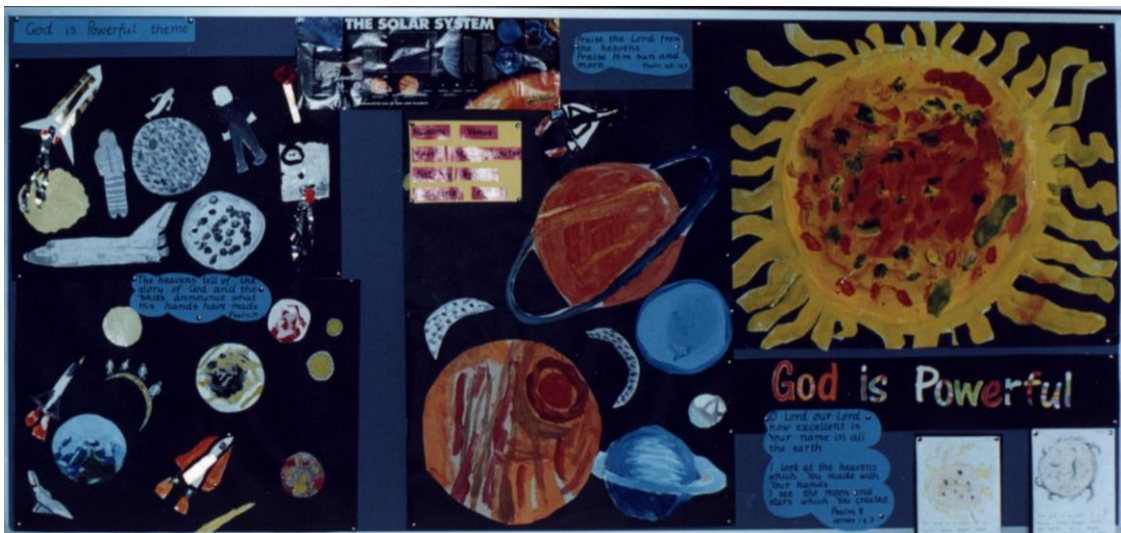


God-centred education for the Christian classroom

To know God...
...is to know His character.



God First in every part of life...

God first in our home
God first in our family
God first in our friendships
God first in the things we say
God first in the things we do
God first in our education

How can God be a part of everything we learn?

- Ask God about everything.
- Listen to His voice in prayer
- See what God has to say in the Bible

We must teach our children how to:

- Know God
- Know the Bible
- Have healthy relationships – loving others as God loves us
- Have a healthy body
- Have a healthy mind – thinking the way Jesus would want us to think

We must teach our children that:

- God loves them
- Every person is very special
- God has given every person gifts that they can use for Him
- We can all do great things for God

We must tell children how important it is to:

- Learn about God and the Bible; to know who God is and what He is like, and to know God's Son, Jesus.
- Learn about the things that God has made; to know that God created the world.
- Learn about other people and other places. There are many people in the world who need God's help.

God must come first when we:

- Learn about the world – plants, animals, rocks, water, air, sky

God must come first when we:

- Learn about the people of the world

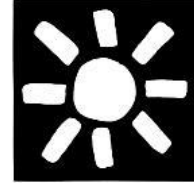
Who is God?

(His character and His nature)

God is a Creator

He made the world and everything in it, by His great power. God created the world in 6 days and it was good. Bad things came into the world when people disobeyed God.

God created the moon; The sun knows the time to set (Psalm 104:19)



What else does the Bible say about God the Creator?

- He is **light**. Everything good comes from Him (John 1:5)
- We are wonderfully made. People are special (Psalm 139)
- God gave us the power to make choices – good or bad choices (Genesis 2&3)

God is Love

God loves every person very much, even though we do wrong things. God sent Jesus to forgive us for the wrong things we do. God wants us to love others.

The Lord is good. His love is forever (Psalm 100:5)



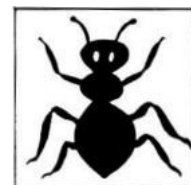
What else does the Bible say about God's Love?

- Jesus is the **Good Shepherd** and He looks after us (John 10:14)
- God is **kind** to all people. He healed the sick and helped the poor.
- Jesus is a **friend** to all. He loves children. (Mark 10:13-16)
- He is a loving **Father** and we are His children.

God is Wise

God knows more than any person. He knows best. If we want to know the right thing to do, then we must ask God.

Look at the ant and be wise. The ant knows what to do. It gathers food in the harvest. (Proverbs 6:6-8)



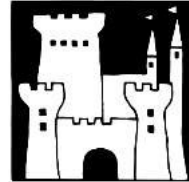
What else does the Bible say about God's Wisdom?

- It is wise to obey God.
- God is the One who can **guide** us through life.

God is Protector –

We must ask God to keep us safe. We must also ask God to keep us safe from bad thoughts.

The name of the Lord is a strong tower. God's people can run into it and be safe. (Proverbs 18:10)



What else does the Bible say about God our Protector?

- God is a **Father** who protects His children.
- God fights for us in the battle against Satan. (Ephesians 6:10-18)
- God protects His people in times of trouble.

God is Powerful

God is more powerful than anyone and can do great things. God, the Holy Spirit gives power to people. We can do great things too by asking the Holy Spirit to work in us.

The Lord rules. He is greater than the roar of the ocean and more powerful than the waves of the sea. (Psalm 93:4)



What else does the Bible say about God's power?

- God is **strong and mighty**. (Mark 4:35-41)
- God is the **powerful king** of the universe. (John 12: 12-19)
- God is a powerful **healer** and miracle worker. (Mark 5, Mark 2, Luke 7)

God is Truth

What is true? What is false? The Bible tells us what is true. It is our measure of truth. The Bible is like a set of scales, for measuring things.

Live a life that measures up to the standard set by God. (Ephesians 4:1)



What else does the Bible say about God's truth?

- God wants us to obey the truth, written in the Bible.

- God's truth never changes. God is **faithful** and keeps all His promises.
- There is only one true God – the God of the Bible. (John 14:6)

God is Pure

God is without sin. He has never done anything wrong. God wants us to live without sin, but if we *do* sin, He will forgive us. Our hearts must be clean, like pure snow.

Wash me and I will be whiter than snow. Please God, make me have a clean heart. (Psalm 51:7&9)



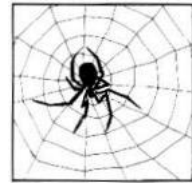
What else does the Bible say about God's purity?

- God is **Holy**. He wants us to obey Him.
- God is **righteous**. He wants us to do the right thing.

God is Patient

God patiently waits for every person to give his or her life to Him. He does not forget about us if we do wrong. God wants us to be patient with others. We must not forget about them if they do the wrong thing. We see patience in God's creation. Spiders show patience. They never get tired of building new webs.

Be patient with everyone (1 Thessalonians 5:14)



What else does the Bible say about patience?

- We must learn to wait.
- We must listen to God patiently and quietly. (1 Kings 19)
- Patience with others is showing kindness and care.

God is a Servant

God wants to help us all. The greatest servant is Jesus. He wants us to help others too. The creation shows us how to serve. Bees help each other in the hive.

Serve one another. (Galatians 5:13)



What else does the Bible say about God the servant?

- Jesus, the greatest servant, gave His life for us.

- Jesus was willing to do more than he was asked to do. (Matthew 5:41-42)
- Jesus served with love.

God is Life

We can have a new life through Jesus who will forgive us for the things we do wrong. The butterfly reminds us of new life, because the caterpillar changes into a beautiful butterfly.

No one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born again (John 3:3)



What else does the Bible say about the life God gives?

- God is the only one who can give life.
- God can save us from our sins. He is our **Saviour**.
- Jesus is the **living water**.
- The life Jesus gives brings **joy**. (Philippians 4:4)

God is Provider

God gives us the things we need. He wants us to ask Him, and thank Him.

God said, "I have provided all kinds of grains and all kinds of fruits for you to eat." Genesis 1:29



What else does the Bible say about God the Provider?

- God is **generous** – He gives us good things! (Philippians 4:19)
- God is **faithful**. (He keeps His word)

God is Peace

God gives us happiness when we obey Him, and when we take Jesus into our life. The Holy Spirit is God – He lets us become God's child. The Holy Spirit came down as a dove to show us that Jesus was the Son of God.

We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 5:1)



What else does the Bible say about God's Peace?

- God brought peace to the world when He sent His Son, Jesus.
- Our sin separated us from God, but Jesus brought us back to God.
- We have God’s peace when we **trust** in God. (Matthew 14:22-32)
- God wants us to have peace with others.

What should we teach?

We should teach about God, and God’s world.

We can teach about God when we...

- Teach about the world – *plants, animals, rocks, water, air, sky*, and when we teach about the people of the world.

How?

Teach a Bible lesson, and then teach about something from God’s world.

Examples:

God is Creator

- Teach the creation story from Genesis 1-3: God created the world in 6 days;
- Then choose one thing that God made – *it could be stars and planets, rocks, water, plants, animals or us.*

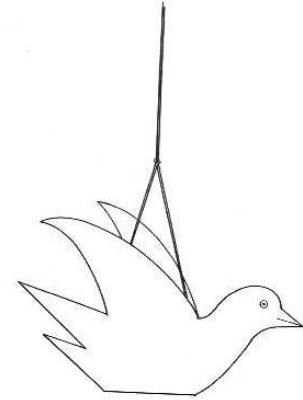
Something to make:



God created the world in six days

God is Love

- Teach about God's love for every person (Matthew 10:29-30). God loves the birds, but loves us much more.
- Then teach about a group of people in one nation of the world. Think about how much they need God.



Something to make:

God is Wise

- Teach about the way in which God shows us what to do. Teach about people from the Bible like Joseph or Solomon. God showed these people what to do.
- Then teach about times when we must ask God for wisdom – in obeying laws; in using money; in using our gifts and talents for God.

Something to do:

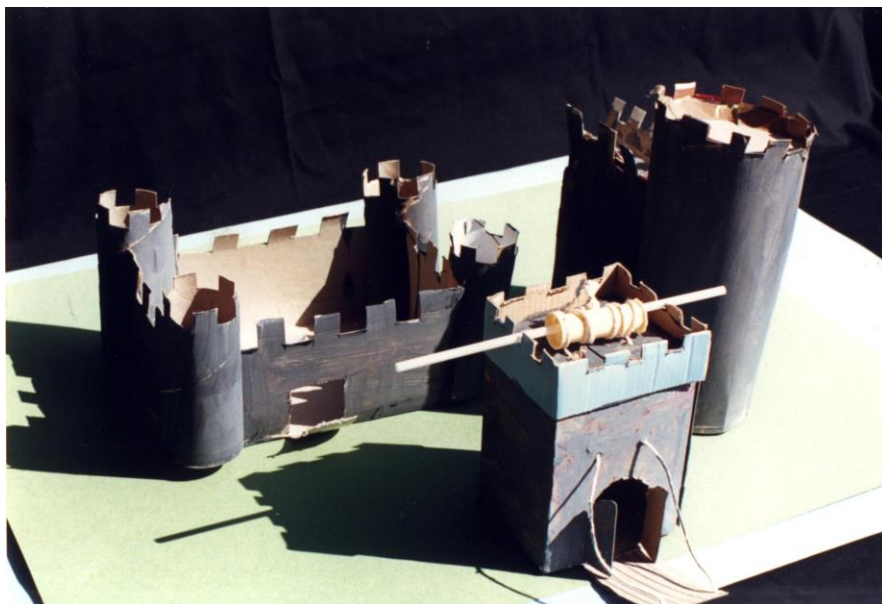
Set up a shop and buy and sell things wisely.

God is Protector

- Teach about the way in which God protected the Israelites coming out of Egypt. (Exodus)
- Then teach about the way shelters (buildings), protect us from heat and storms.

Something to make:

We can be safe in a strong building.



God is Powerful

- Teach about the powerful miracles of Jesus, and the power of the Holy Spirit
- Then teach about the power in the creation. We see power in wind, water and weather.

Something to make:

Jesus calmed the storm with His power.



God is Truth

- Teach about the house on the rock – building your life on the Truth, or about hearing the voice of the Good Shepherd, (the true God)
- Then teach about nations that do not follow the true God. How can we tell when someone is following the true God? How could we help someone to know the true God?

Something to make:

Make the house on the rock and the house on the sand.



God is Pure

- Teach about having a pure heart, and being forgiven by Jesus.
- Then teach about families. Family members must love and forgive one another.

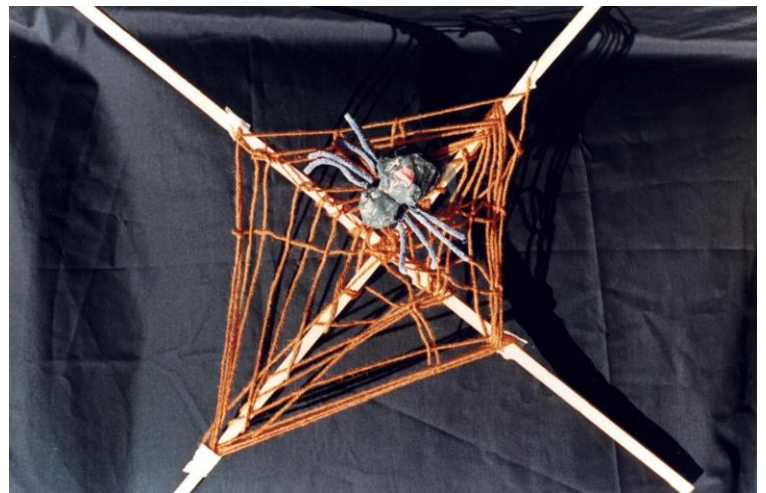
Something to make:



Heaven – the Holy City, from the book of Revelation

God is Patient

- Teach about God’s kindness to us, in forgiving us. Teach about the patience we should show towards others.
- Then teach about jobs that need lots of patience to get finished. Look at the spider, which never gives up working on its beautiful web. **Something to make:**



God is a Servant

- Teach about the way in which Jesus served others. He healed and helped many people.
- Then teach about missionaries, and the way they serve God.

Something to make:

Jesus healed many people



God is Provider

- Teach about the loaves of bread and the fish that Jesus made into many. Teach about God who provided oil and flour in 1 Kings 17.
- Then teach about food – how it is grown, sold, prepared, and the way in which it makes our bodies strong.

Something to do:

Plant seeds



God is Peace

Teach about the peace God gives to us. Teach about the fruits of the Spirit. (Galatians 5:22) Teach about making peace, and forgiving others.

Then teach about peace in the home and peace with others. How can we become peacemakers?

Something to make: Draw 9 fruits and write the names of the fruits of the Spirit inside the fruits: love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, kindness and self-control.

Get the point across – God at the start of the lesson – know God, not just about Him

When we teach about God and the Bible, it is important to teach about seeing God at work in the world around us. We must see God at work in every day life.

Bible stories didn't just happen far away, thousands of years ago. Similar things can happen here today.

Teaching Bible stories on their own, without relating them to life, means that the Bible doesn't get into the heart. It just stays in the head.

At the start of every lesson we should say –

Today we are learning about God is (e.g. Love)

Then teach the lesson.

Put God at the start.

Make a big sign to show the students what the point of the lesson is - e.g. GOD IS PURE

Start with who God is, and what He is like. Then use a Bible story to show what you mean. Then teach about the world around you.

Understanding who God is and what He is like, will help students to know Jesus as a friend.

Students must know God as a person – not just know about Him.

