

Eyes to see

This unit of study has been designed for use in conjunction with the Beacon Media resource:

Themes for Christian Studies Levels 4 & 5: God is Pure

E-mail: mail@beaconmedia.com.au

www.beaconmedia.com.au

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Eyes to see

Part 1: God is Creator/God is Light

Bible verses to read: Genesis 1:1-5

Now fill in the missing words:

Before God created light there was only

d_____.

God said that the light was g_____. He called the light

d_____ and the darkness n_____.

Think:

Why did God call the light good?

Now read from the Bible: 1 John 1:9

Fill in the missing words:

God is l_____ and in Him there is no

d_____.

Think and write:

What is the meaning of *light* in this Bible verse?

What is the meaning of *darkness* in this Bible verse?

Draw:

(1) A person living in light

The Bible tells us that living in the light means obeying God. Draw something that this person might be doing, like sharing or caring.

(2) A person living in darkness

The Bible tells us that living in darkness is *not* following God. This person might be stealing or fighting.

Read:
John 1:7

Fill in the missing words:

W _____ in the _____ as He is in
the _____.

Part 2: Eyes are important

When God created light He also created eyes, so that people and animals could see His creation.

Imagine trying to live without eyes. What things would be difficult to do?

What favourite things couldn't you see?

What dangers would there be if you didn't have help from others?

How eyes help us

Think and write:

How do eyes help us to stay alive?
e.g. Eyes help us eat the right food.

How eyes help animals

Think and write:

How do eyes help animals to stay alive? Think about the difference between meat-eaters and plant-eaters.

e.g. A lion needs eyes to spot other animals the it wants to hunt.

Think and write:

Why did God give us two eyes and not one eye?

Eyes are important to Jesus

Jesus touched many eyes and healed many blind people.
Read: Matthew 9:27-29

Fill in the missing word:

Jesus healed the blind men because the
b_____.

Draw a picture of Jesus healing the blind men.

Part 3: Eyes are an amazing part of God's creation

Did you know that inventors have copied ideas from God's creation? The first cameras worked like the eye. They were made of a strong black box. It let light in at only one spot called the *lens*. In the box there was a special black

strip called a film. The light coming through the lens made pictures on the film.

Something to do:

With an adult, have a look at some cameras. You may be able to find some older ones that use film. Find out where the lens is on the camera.

Draw:

A picture of your eye. Draw the *pupil* (the black dot in the middle) and write its name on the drawing. Draw the *iris* (the round coloured part around the pupil) and write its name on the drawing. You can also draw and name the eye lids and eye lashes.

Find out:

What happens to the pupil when you change from darkness to light.

Draw:

A picture of the eye that shows the inside of the eye. Mark on your drawing *the iris, the pupil, the lens, the retina*.

Our eyes are more perfect than a camera. At the back of the eye is the *retina*. That is like the film. Light gets into the eye through the *lens*. The coloured part of the eye is the *iris*.

What colour are your eyes? _____

The iris opens and closes to let the right amount of light in.

The *pupil* is the black dot in the middle of your eye. In bright light the pupil is small. This stops too much light getting in. On dim light or darkness the pupil is large because it wants to get as much light for seeing.

Look in a mirror and to see the iris and pupil of your eyes.

Draw:

- (1) an eye in bright light
- (2) an eye in dim light

Find out

What are the colours of the eyes of your family?

What colours of the eyes of people in your class?

Do a survey and make a chart or graph to show this information.

How many blue? brown? green? hazel?

Part 4: Caring for your eyes

We know how important our eyes are. We should take good care of them. Think about ways in which your eyes could become damaged.

Make:

a safety poster about the care of eyes.

Make a chart divided down the middle. On one side write and draw the ways eyes can become damaged.

e.g. too much bright light or sunlight; watching an eclipse; sharp pointy objects; reading in dim light; spray cans containing chemicals that can harm your eyes; throwing sand or stones.

On the other side of the chart write and draw how you could protect your eyes from damage.

Why do you think God created our eyes with eye lids and eye lashes?

Part 5: Our eyes are lights

Read from the Bible:
Matthew 6:22-23

These verses tell us that the thoughts and feelings inside us, like love, happiness and hate, show through our eyes. Our eyes help to make an expression on our face. What other parts of our face do we use to show our feelings?

Answer these questions:
How do our eyes look when we are happy?

How do our eyes look when we are sad?

How do our eyes look when we are angry?

Hint:

You may like to ask someone to make these expressions for you. You may like to draw pictures as part of your answers.

Fill in the missing word:

When we are sad, _____ come from our eyes.

Think about this and write your answer:

When people have done something wrong, like telling a lie, they don't want to look into the eyes of another person. Try to guess why this is so.

Part 6: Seeing Jesus, but not through eyes

Have you ever heard someone say, "I see"? But the person is not talking about seeing with their eyes.

What the person really means is "I understand".

When Jesus tells us about "seeing" in the Bible, He usually means "understanding". It is possible to know a lot about Jesus and the Bible, but not really understand His love for us. Many people may know Bible stories, but they don't understand that they can come to know Jesus as a person if they ask Him to forgive them for their sin and invite Him to become a friend.

We may see a picture of Jesus, but to really “see” Jesus we must get to *know* Him as a person and a friend. Jesus helps us to understand more about Him from the Bible.

The Parables

Jesus often told stories called parables. These were stories with hidden meanings. Many people listened to the stories but did not understand the hidden meaning. They did not “see” the meaning. They did not understand.

A project

Find a parable from the Bible. Tell the story. Then explain the hidden meaning.

Find an optical illusion from a book or on the internet.

This is a picture that doesn’t look like what it’s meant to be. The longer you keep looking at it, you will finally see what it is meant to be.

After you have tried the optical illusion, answer this question:

How is the optical illusion like people who at first don’t “see” what Jesus is telling us?

To “see” Jesus, we must get to **know** Him. Jesus helps us to understand his word.

Try to find the face of Jesus in this photograph. It is a photograph of melting snow. A photographer who doubted the existence of God saw the face of Jesus in the photograph he had taken. He no longer doubted who Jesus really was!

To find the face, look at the larger black parts.



