

# Themes for Christian Studies Level 6 Age 10

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## Related resources

Songs from the following Beacon Media recordings:

*All Creation Sings*

*Sing a Joyful Song*

*Couldn't Be Finer*

Jesus First - a guide to character development (*Beacon Media*)

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# Biblical Overview

## **God is Creator** - *God is a perfect Creator*

The Creation (Gen. 1 & 2)

The Fall (Gen. 3)

God's judgement: the flood (Gen. 6-8)

God's answer: Jesus (Gal. 4:4)

## **God is Love** - *God loved the world so much that He sent His Son*

Obeying the 10 commandments is not enough (Rom.3:19-26)

Christ's coming foretold by the prophets (Is. 9:6; Mic.5:2; Zech. 9:9)

John the Baptist prepares the way (Luke 1:5-25 & 57-8)

Jesus baptised by John (Matt. 3 & Luke 3)

The Son dies for us (John 3:16; John 15:13; John 17-20)

## **God is Wise** - *It is wise to let God be our guide*

Guided by fire and cloud (Ex. 13:21-22)

Taking wise advice (Prov. 13:10 & 20; Prov. 6:20)

The Bible as our guide (Ps. 119:105)

## **God is Protector** - *God protects his people in times of trouble*

God protected Paul during the shipwreck (Acts 27 & 28)

Protection from effects of snake bite on Malta (Acts 27 & 28)

Paul and Silas in jail (Acts 16:16)

## **God is Powerful** - *God has power to raise the dead*

Elijah brings a boy back to life (1 Kings 17:17-24)

Elisha and the Shunamite woman (2 Kings 4:8-37)

Jesus gives life to Jairus's daughter (Mark 5:22-43)

The raising of Lazarus (John 11:1-44)

## **God is Truth** - *Jesus, the way, the truth, the life*

Jesus, the way, the truth, the life (John 14:6-7)

The broad and narrow way (Matt. 7:13-14)

Jesus asks 'Who am I?'(Matt. 16:13-17)

The Good Shepherd (John 10:1-18)

Wolves in sheep's clothing (Matt. 7:15-21)

## **God is Pure** - *God's righteousness, not self righteousness*

The righteous Pharisee (Luke 18:9-14)

The tower of Babel (Gen. 11:1-9)

The woman caught in adultery (John 8:4-11)

Jesus and Nicodemus (John 3:1-6)

## **God is Patient** - *Patience and perseverance*

Ask and keep on asking (Luke 11:5-13)

The widow and the judge (Luke 18:1-8)

The crippled man at the pool (John 5:1-8)

Rebuilding Jerusalem and the temple (Ezra 4-6; Neh. 1-6)

## **God is a Servant** - *Spreading the Good News*

Jesus brought the Good News (Luke 4:18; 7:22)

Jesus, the light of the world (Is. 42:6-7; 60:1-3; John 1:4-5; 8-12)

Feet to spread the Good News (Rom. 10:14; Eph. 6:15)

The disciples were sent out (Luke 9:1-6)

Go into all the world (Matt 28:16-20)

Philip shares the Good News (Acts 8:26-40)

A call from Macedonia (Acts 16:6-15)

Trouble at Ephesus (Acts 19:23)

Stephen gives his life (Acts 7:51-60)  
Faithfulness to the end (Rev. 2:10)

**God is Life - *Jesus, the Living Water***

Jesus, the Living Water (John 7:37-39)  
The woman at the well (John 4:5-30)  
The Holy Spirit (John 14:26 & Acts 1:8)  
The disciples receive the Holy Spirit (Acts 2 & Acts 10:44-48 & Acts 11:15-17)  
Ask for the Holy Spirit (Luke 11:9-13)

**God is Provider - *God is a miraculous provider***

Elijah fed by ravens (1 Kings 17:2-6)  
The great catch (Luke 5:1-11)  
The widow of Zarephath (1 Kings 17:10-16)  
Elisha helps a poor widow (2 Kings 4:1-7)  
Elisha multiplies bread (2 Kings 4:42-44)  
The loaves and fishes (Mark 6:30-44)

**God is Peace - *God is a reconciler***

Reconciled to God through Christ's death (Col. 1:20 & 2 Cor. 5:17-20)  
God has made us His friends (Rom. 5:10)  
We are bought with a price (1 Cor. 7:23)  
Christ broke down the barrier (Eph. 2:13-14)  
Peace with God through Jesus (Rom. 5:1)  
Conversion of Saul (Acts 8:1-3 & Acts 9)

**Other stories**

The Classroom (*Love 6.1*)  
A Mother Hen's Sacrifice (*Love 6.4*)  
Christopher Columbus (*Wise 6.1*)  
Saved from the Sea (*Protector 6.2*)  
God's Justice Wins the Case (*Protector 6.3*)  
The Mountain that Moved (*Powerful 6.1*)  
Miracles in Java (*Powerful 6.2*)  
A Scuba Diving Adventure (*Powerful 6.3*)  
A Wolf in Sheep's Clothing (*Truth 6.2*)  
Robert Bruce and the Spider (*Patient 6.1*)  
William Booth (*Servant 6.1*)  
The Story of Hudson Taylor (*Servant 6.2*)  
Death in the Jungle (*Servant 6.2*)  
The Secret (*Life 6.1*)  
Fish for Everyone (*Provider 6.1*)  
The Precious Vitamin Drops (*Provider 6.2*)  
Peace Child (*Peace 6.1*)

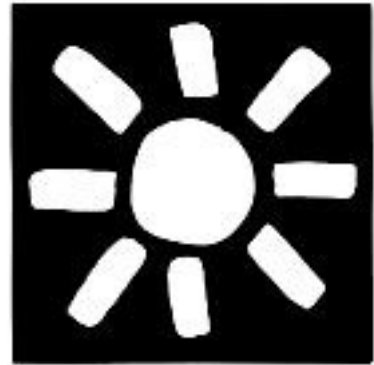
# God is Creator

## Level 6 (age 10)

### Subtheme

God is a perfect Creator.

*You created the moon to mark the months; the sun knows the time to set. Psalm 104:19 (GNB)*



### Integrated topics for Christian Education

Ecosystems; nature's perfect balance; effects of the fall on the creation

#### Other

- light
- plants
- animal life; ecosystems
- human biology; myself
- solar system
- air
- water
- fossil records; the Flood; the six-day creation
- technology; inventions

#### Character development *(see Jesus First)*

- confidence
- creativity
- flexibility
- resourcefulness

#### Christian Life

##### Our response to *God is Creator*

- standing in awe of the Creator
- praising Him for His great works
- believing in a six day creation, (not millions of years)

# God is Creator 6.1

## Subtheme

God is a perfect Creator

## Focus

A perfect God and a perfect creation

## Bible references

Genesis 1; Genesis 2:1-4 The seven days of creation.

Romans 8:19-23

"For creation was condemned to lose its purpose...yet there was the hope that the creation itself would one day be set free from its slavery to decay and would share the glorious freedom of the children of God." v. 20-21 (GNB)

## Song:

Adam and Eve (*Couldn't Be Finer*)

## Story: The Creation

Read the story from Gen. 1 and 2:1-4.

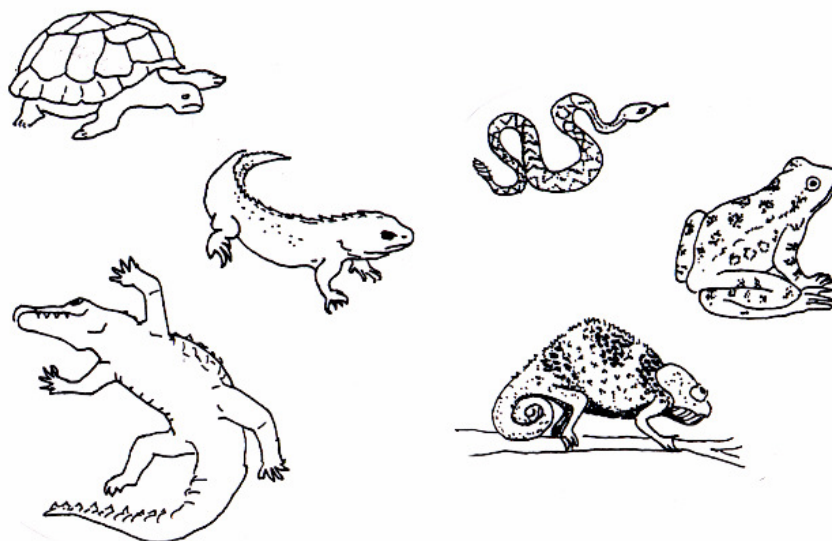
## Discussion

Think about the beauty and harmony in God's original creation. Even the animals we know to be ferocious were once peaceful vegetarians. (Genesis 1:29-30)

Even dinosaurs such as the great tyrannosaurus rex lived peacefully with others. Snakes and spiders were not venomous. Animals such as rats and flies did not spread diseases. Fruits and vegetables did not need to be sprayed with pesticide, neither did they rot. People, animals and plants did not grow old. No one became sick. Everything was perfect, just as God is perfect.

## Art/Craft

Join in making a group mural. Each group can contribute a different aspect of the creation. e.g. reptiles and amphibians. Draw them, cut them out and stick them to the mural.



# God is Creator 6.2

## Subtheme

God is a perfect Creator

## Focus

God's perfect world becomes imperfect.

## Bible references

Genesis 2:4-25; Genesis 3: The fall of man.

## Song:

Adam and Eve (*Couldn't Be Finer*)

## Story: No Longer Perfect

Read the story from Gen. 2:4-25 and 3.

## Discussion

What were the consequences of Adam and Eve's disobedience?

Why was the world now a different place?

What had entered the world?

What effects did sin have upon...

### ANIMALS

- such as lions, some dinosaurs, and wolves? (They became aggressive, with a desire to kill.)
- such as giraffe and deer? (They became fearful and needed to protect themselves.)
- such as snakes, flies and mosquitoes? (They brought about a harmful effect on the creation through poisons and germs.)

### PLANTS

- Such as fruits, vegetables, cereal crops, flower and trees. (They would now rot and decay.)

### PEOPLE

- Were they still close to God?
- How did they react to one another?
- Why was it now more difficult to be caretakers of God's creation?

### GOD

How did He feel about all this?

# God is Creator 6.3

## Subtheme

God is a perfect Creator

## Focus

God's judgement upon a sinful world

## Bible references

Genesis 6-8 The great flood.

Galatians 4:4 God sent Jesus as an answer to the problem.

**Story: The Great Flood** - Read the story from Genesis 6:9-22 and 7 and 8.

## Discussion

If you were God, which decision would you have made?...

a) to allow the world to destroy itself through fighting, killing, greed and foolishness (Noah would have been destroyed as well).

b) to destroy those who lived sinful lives, but to save those who obeyed God, and therefore making a new start.

What did God promise after the flood? (Genesis 8:21-22)

God knew that people found it difficult to obey God's commandments, so He decided on a plan. He decided that when the time was right He would send His Son to bring people back to God.

When people decide to love Jesus and ask for His forgiveness, they are no longer separated from God. (Galatians 4:4)

Those who have Jesus as Lord of their life do not have to be judged for the wrong things they do. They are forgiven.

## Game: Noah's Ark Rhythm Game

1. Players are seated cross-legged, on the floor in a circle.
2. Practise the following rhythm chant which consists of 2 claps, and 2 knee slaps, repeated continuously.
3. Add animal noises to accompany the rhythm chant.
4. Give each player an animal sound card:

baa-baa

moo-moo

quack-quack

ee-aw

woof-woof

oink-oink

neigh-neigh

The sound card is placed on the floor in front of the player.

5. Player 1 says his own card plus that of another player (any player he chooses):

xl xl xl xl

eg. baa-baa moo-moo ... At the same time he must keep the rhythm.

6. The player with the card "moo-moo" continues:

xl xl xl xl

e.g. moo-moo quack-quack

In this case, the player "moo-moo" has chosen the player "quack-quack" to continue.

7. The player "quack-quack" continues, making his choice as well. And so on.

Any player who misses a beat, is out!

### Art/Craft

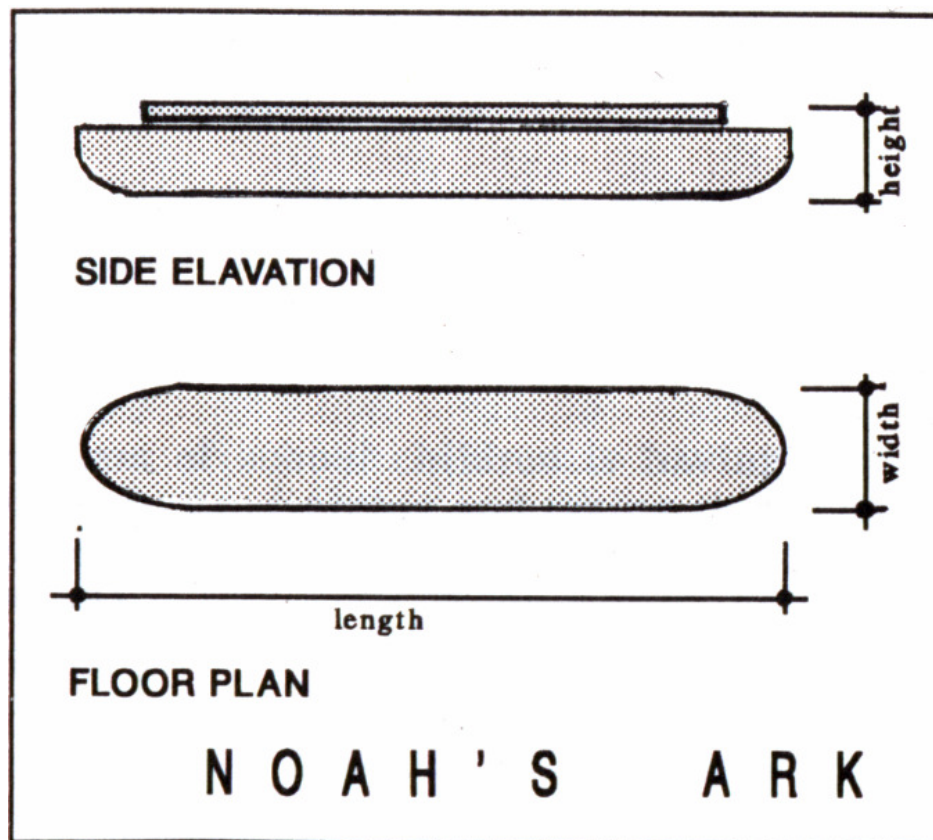
Work in pairs to design an ark.

Read the description of the ark in Genesis 6:14-16.

Write down the measurements given to Noah.

Imagine that you had to design the ark. Show side elevation and floor plan. Don't forget to make provision for all the animals!

Using the measurements recorded in Genesis, work out a scale for your plan. (The easiest way to do this is to use a long piece of paper and use the scale, 1 meter = 1 centimeter.)





# God is Love

## Level 6 (age 10)

### Subtheme

God loved the world so much that He sent His Son.

*The Lord is good. His love is eternal.  
Psalm 100:5 (GNB)*



### Integrated Topics for Christian Education

- the nation of Israel: history and geography; God's love for Jews and gentiles, fulfilled in the coming of the Messiah.

#### Other

- myself: God loves me just the way I am
- my family: God's plan for love and protection
- understanding different cultural groups
- understanding the aged and disabled
- professions which show care e.g. nursing
- God's love for us, expressed in provision of the things we need. e.g. sun; rain; soil; food.
- caring for animals
- the third world: giving and sharing
- friendship, fruits of the spirit
- biographies of those who have shown kindness and compassion
- the balance of nature

### Character Development (See *Jesus First*)

- kindness
- gentleness
- friendliness
- compassion
- forgiveness
- faithfulness

### Christian Life

#### Our response to *God is Love*

- feeling loved and accepted
- loving God as He first loved us
- loving others

# God is Love 6.1

## Subtheme

God loved the world so much that He sent His Son

## Focus

Jesus paid the price for our sin.

## Bible references

Exodus 20 The Ten Commandments

Romans 3:19-26 People could not be made right with God by following the law, (the Ten Commandments), so God made another way.

John 3:16 God loved the world so much that He sent His Son.

## Songs

Clap Your Hands (*All Creation Sings*)

No Man Was Like Him (*Sing A Joyful Song*)

## Introduction

Ask if anyone can list all of the Ten Commandments. (*Have a prize ready for anyone who can*). Most likely no one will receive the prize for knowing all of the commandments. For the people of the Old Testament it was difficult to remember all the laws, and certainly more difficult to obey them.

Revise Exodus 20. People of the Old Testament had to please God by keeping the 'law' or the commandments.

## Discussion

a) The fairness of God

What would we expect a fair person to be like?

Which of these would be examples of fairness?

- Dad says he will pay you \$2 for mowing the lawn, but he only gives you 50c.
- The teacher gives no homework because you have worked during your lunch break.
- Dad says that you will not be given any pocket money if you don't do any work, but at the end of the week you persuade him to give you the full amount, even though you have done no work.

Being *fair*, or *just*, involves making a set of rules, and then sticking to them.

b) The commandments

God had made fair and just rules for His people. Because God is a perfect and just father, He has to punish disobedience, just as any good father disciplines his children. Without consequences there would be no justice. God decided that the punishment rejection of Him would be separation. This decision caused God much sadness.

Because God is just and fair, He could not remove the punishment. However He decided on another way whereby His own Son would receive the punishment for the people's disobedience. Those who accepted the Son would be freed from the punishment.

Read Romans 3:19-26

Could anyone be made right with God by following the law? (verses 19-20)

How can people be made right with God now? (verses 21-26)

## **Drama: The Classroom**

Using the following outline, make up a play to show that Jesus took the punishment for us.

### **Scene 1**

Some students are having a class riot. Students are fighting and taking things from one another.

### **Scene 2**

The teacher walks in and says that there must be a stop to this disgusting behaviour. He asks the class to suggest some rules for good class behaviour. Several students make suggestions such as "no stealing", "no hitting" etc. The teacher writes up these suggestions for all to read. Then the teacher asks how these rules can be enforced. It is agreed that there will be punishment for anyone who breaks the rules.

The student and teacher together decide what the punishment will be.

### **Scene 3**

A fight between two students breaks out. It is established that one is to blame for stealing something that belonged to the other. The student to blame must take the punishment.

### **Scene 4**

Just as the guilty student is about to receive his/her punishment, another student steps forward and says, "I will take the punishment."

The class watch in horror and amazement as the innocent student takes the punishment.

## **Story: The classroom**

*(To be used as an alternative to 'The Classroom' drama)*

There was once a teacher called Mr. Tom who had dreadful trouble controlling his class. He was almost tearing his hair out! While his back was turned one student would take something from another.

"Hey, bring back my calculator!" someone would shout.

"It's not yours, it's mine!" would be the reply. Then a fight would break out. Day after day this sort of thing went on. The class was just out of control. Something had to be done!

One day while Mr. Tom was having his breakfast, he had a brilliant idea. 'Today is going to be different,' he thought to himself. As he drove to school he felt more and more convinced that he had the answer to his problem.

At 9 o'clock the bell rang as usual. Mr. Tom walked into the class, who were having a riot as usual. Mr Tom took a deep breath and stood before the class.

"Class," he shouted, "What we need is a set of rules."

The class stopped the riot immediately. They had never heard of such an idea. Now all ears were listening for what Mr. Tom would say next.

"For the sake of us all, we must introduce some class rules, and I would like you to suggest them."

"No stealing," said one.

Mr. Tom wrote 'No stealing' on a big piece of white paper.

"No hitting," said another.

"No name calling," said another.

The list went on.

Finally Mr. Tom said, "I would like to add just one more rule. "Not one rule is to be broken. If anyone does break a rule, he or she shall be punished. What should the punishment be?" asked Mr. Tom.

"Ten strikes with a stick!" cried one.  
Everyone agreed.

Mr. Tom drove home happily that afternoon. 'I think I have solved my problem' he thought to himself.

When Mr. Tom walked into the classroom at 9 o'clock the next morning, things were very different. There was no shouting, screaming or fighting. Everyone worked peacefully. Then suddenly it happened.

"He's stolen my homework and put his own name on it!"  
So the argument began. Mr. Tom took a look at the homework in question. Sure enough, the handwriting was that of another student.

"Is this really your homework, William?" asked Mr. Tom.  
"No," confessed the guilty student.

To the realisation of everyone, the golden rule had been broken. William must now take the punishment.

"Please come with me, William," said Mr. Tom.  
William stepped forward.

"No, no!" came a voice. It was William's best friend. "I will take the place of William. I will take the punishment for him."

William returned to his place and his friend followed Mr. Tom to receive the punishment.

### **Discussion**

1. What was happening in Mr. Tom's classroom?
2. How did Mr. Tom think he could improve things?
3. Were the students cooperative after the rules had been made?
4. What caused things to go wrong once again?
5. Why do you think William's best friend wanted to take the punishment for William?
6. In the story, rules had to be made for good classroom behaviour. God too, had to make rules for the people He had made. What are some of them?
7. What is the name the Bible gives for breaking God's rules?
8. Who, in real life deserves the punishment?
9. Who, in real life, took the punishment?
10. What must we do if we want to be forgiven for our sin?

**Memory verse:** John 3:16

# God is Love 6.2

## Subtheme

God loved us so much that He sent His Son

## Focus

The world awaited His coming.

## Bible References

Isaiah 9:6; Micah 5:2; Zechariah 9:9 Christ's coming foretold by the prophets.  
Luke 1:5-25; 57-80 The birth of John the Baptist

## Song

Clap Your Hands (*All Creation Sings*)  
No Man was like Him (*Sing A Joyful Song*)

## Introduction

People of Old Testament times knew how difficult it was to keep God's commandments. God knew this too. When people of the Old Testament broke the commandments they had to offer a sacrifice to God to show that they were sorry. That meant they had to give up their best sheep or goat.

God knew that there was a better way. He promised His people that He would one day send someone who would be able to take away people's sins. That person was God's Son, Jesus. God told the prophets that Jesus would come one day. Many were looking forward to the coming of this special person who they called the Messiah.

## Bible Research

Look up some Old Testament verses that speak of the coming of Jesus. (Isaiah 9:6; Micah 5:2; Zechariah 9:9)

When the time for Jesus' coming had arrived, God sent a messenger to tell everyone, so they would not miss Him. The messenger told the people that Jesus really was the Son of God, and that they must get ready for Him. They must turn away from their sin. The name of the special messenger was John the Baptist.

## Drama: The Birth of John the Baptist

Students can work in pairs to make up the puppet play from the following outline. One can be an interviewer in Bible times and the other can be Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist. The interviewer will ask Zechariah about his experiences.

### Scene 1 Zechariah meets an angel

(Read Luke 1:5-8 & 11-20)

Zechariah sees the angel while working in the temple. The angel tells Zechariah the news, that he and his wife Elizabeth will have a baby, even though they are quite old. They are to call the baby John.

Zechariah will not believe the angel, so the Lord seals His lips. He is unable to speak until after the baby is born.

### Scene 2 John the Baptist is born

(Read Luke 1:57-64)

Zechariah explains that everything happened as the angel had said. He cannot speak until he finally writes down the baby's name for everyone to see...

HIS NAME IS JOHN (Have ready a prepared card showing the name JOHN)

### Scene 3 John's special job

(Read Luke 1:76-77)

Zechariah explains his son's work: God has sent John the Baptist to tell people that they must get ready for God's Son. They must believe and repent. (Repenting is turning away from sin).

### Activity

The events in the following story appear in jumbled order. Write numbers down the left hand side to give the correct sequence of events:

- Zechariah did not believe the angel so the Lord sealed his lips.
- Zechariah wrote the baby's name: "His name shall be John".
- The baby was born.
- The angel brought the news to Zechariah that his wife would have a son.

### Memory verse


Revise John 3:16.

### Puzzle

What was the special message that John the Baptist preached?

*Answer: The Messiah is here. Believe and repent.*

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are-a +-agon.

# God is Love 6.3

## Subtheme

God loved the world so much that He sent His Son.

## Focus

Believing and repenting

## Bible references

Matthew 3; Luke 3 The Baptism of Jesus

## Introduction

Revise the story of the birth of John the Baptist. We are now going to move forward in time and look at John the Baptist as a man. He is about thirty years old. He is now doing the work that God called him to do: that is, to tell people to get ready for Jesus by changing their hearts and lives.

Read about John the Baptist from the Matthew 3:1-6.

Now get a sheet of paper and make a drawing of John the Baptist from the description given in the Bible. Start with the outline of a man and gradually add to it.

What were John's clothes made from?

What did he wear around his waist?

What do you think his hair would have looked like?

Do you think he would have had a beard?

Where was he preaching? (Draw the background).

What did he eat for food? (Draw bees and locusts).

Was there a river nearby?

## Discussion

What was John's message?

People were baptised as a sign that they wanted to change, and turn to God. Going under the water was a sign that their sins were washed away and that they had accepted God's forgiveness. Just as water makes things clean, God can make our hearts clean.

What did the people have to do before they were baptised? (Matthew 3:5-6)

Did the people who were baptised believe in Jesus? (Luke 3:15-16)

Why do you think some people believed in Jesus even though they had never seen Him?

Some people came to be baptised without being sorry for their sins, and without believing that Jesus was the Son of God. These people were the Pharisees.

What did John say to them? (Matthew 3:7-8).

Do you think John would have baptised these people?

Read about the baptism of Jesus. (Matthew 3:13-17)

How did John feel when Jesus asked to be baptised?

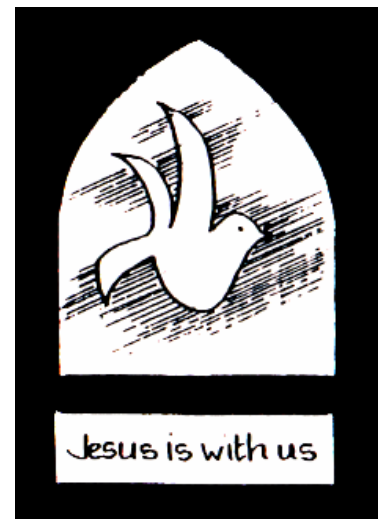
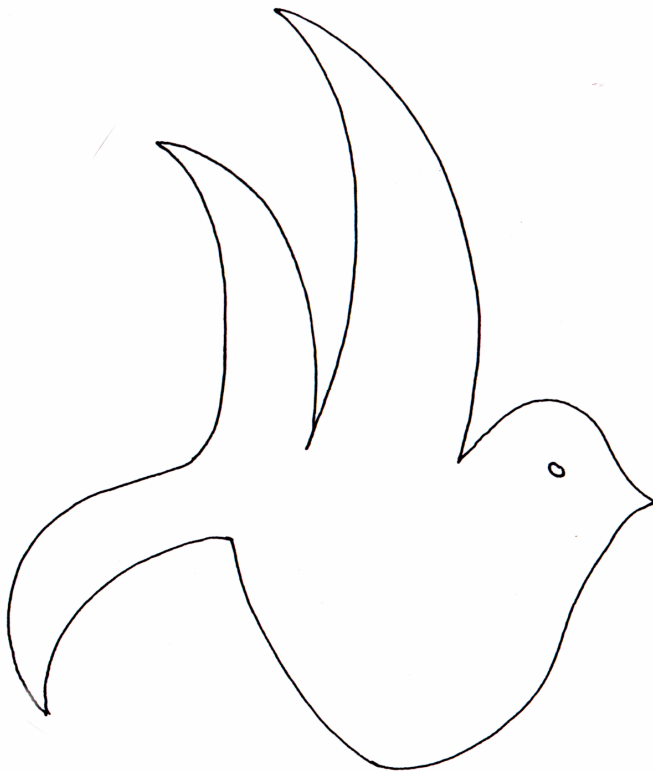
Why did he feel like this?

How could the people be sure that the One they had been waiting for was finally here with them? (Matthew 3: 16-17)

**Art/Craft**

Draw a dove and cut it out. Make a stained glass window (*see sketch below.*) Use thick black paper and blue cellophane. Cut out a white dove using this stencil, and glue it in the centre of the cellophane.

The dove was a sign from God that it was now time for Jesus to do His work on earth. The dove was also a sign of God's Spirit, the Holy Spirit. (Matt. 3:16-17)





# God is Love 6.4

## Subtheme

God loved the world so much that He sent His Son

## Focus

The greatest sacrifice

## Bible references

John 3:16 God loved the world so much that He sent His Son.

John 15:13 The greatest love is laying down one's life for a friend.

John 17-20 The death and resurrection of Jesus.

## Songs

Clap Your Hands (*All Creation Sings*)

No Man Was Like Him (*Sing A Joyful Song*)

## Introduction

What is the greatest thing you could do for someone you love?

Think of some of the things that parents could do for their children?

Would a parent be willing to save their child when in danger, even if it meant taking a risk themselves?

Being willing to put your own life at risk to save another person is 'making a sacrifice'. Read about the greatest sacrifice that anyone can make. (John 15:13)

Who made the greatest sacrifice?

## Story: A Mother Hen's Sacrifice

It was one of those hot windy days in February. A raging bushfire was making its way towards the farm. Small flakes of black ash floated down and the smell of smoke was in the air. The farmer made preparations. He moved the sheep to the house paddock and began pumping water from the dam.

Somehow the hen house was forgotten. Hettie had recently become the proud mother of six baby chicks. Something inside her said "danger". She gathered her chicks together and spread her wings over them. She sat very still.

Suddenly there was a gust of wind. The enraged flames now engulfed the hen house. Hettie did not move...her chicks beneath her wings.

In half an hour the fire had passed. The farmer had managed to save the farm house and his sheep. He walked towards the ashes of the hen house. All was quiet except for a faint cheeping sound. He looked and saw six yellow chicks walking among the ashes.

Hettie had given her own life to save the chicks.

## Discussion

Think about the way in which the story relates to the sacrifice that Jesus made for us. Everyone does the wrong thing sometimes. No one is perfect, but God is. If it was not for Jesus, people would not have been able to live with God forever. On the cross, Jesus took the punishment for our sins. By asking Jesus to forgive us for our sins, we can live with God

forever. In the story, the mother hen gave her life for her chicks. In real life, Jesus gave His life for us.

1. Describe the weather conditions.
2. Why do you think the hen house was forgotten?
3. Could this story have been true?
4. What does *sacrifice* mean?
5. What sacrifices do your parents make for you?
6. What sacrifice did God our Heavenly Father make for us?

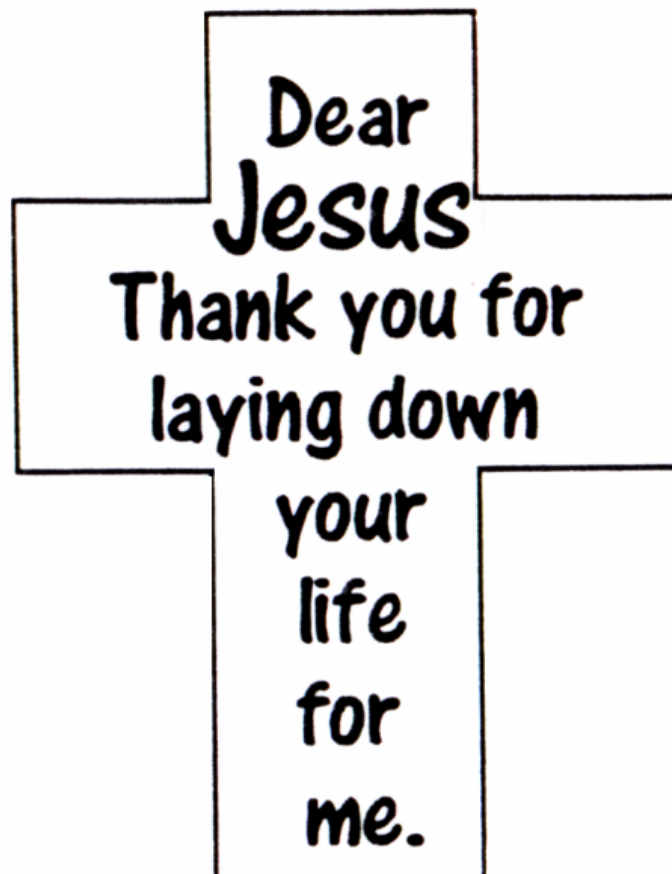
### Puzzle

The gr + 8 + est  this  ↓ 4-f+y  -kn + l 4 a fr +  .

Answer: The greatest love is laying down your life for a friend.

### Prayer

Write a prayer of thanks to Jesus for what He has done for us. You may like to make it into a book-mark.



# God is Wise

## Level 6 (age 10)

### Subtheme

It is wise to let God be our guide.

*Go to the ant...consider her ways and be wise.  
Proverbs 6:6 (KJV)*



### Integrated topics for Christian Education

Explorers who relied on God's wisdom for guidance; maps; orienteering

#### Other

- civil laws
- environmental responsibility; recycling; wise use of environment
- safety
- stranger danger
- wise use of money; banking; consumer education; shopping
- planning for the future; careers
- biographies of those who relied on God for guidance and wisdom
- technology; inventions (God's wisdom given to man)
- preparation for outdoor activities e.g. hiking, orienteering
- preparation for disasters: taking precautions
- preparation for seasonal weather conditions
- wise choices and decisions: choosing friends; drugs and alcohol

### Character Development *(See Jesus First)*

- wisdom
- obedience

### Christian Life

#### Our response to *God is Wise*

- acknowledging that God knows more than we do
- allowing Him to be in charge of our life

# God is Wise 6.1

## Subtheme

It is wise to let God be our guide

## Focus

Taking advice from those older and wiser than we are

## Bible references

Exodus 13:21-22 Guided by fire and by cloud.  
Proverbs 6:20 Our parents guide us to maturity.  
Proverbs 13:10 & 20 It is good to take wise advice.

## Songs

Out of Egypt (*All Creation Sings*)  
The Journey (*Sing a Joyful Song*)  
Jesus Show us the Way (*Sing a Joyful Song*)

## Discussion

Discuss ways in which friends can have a good or bad influence upon us.

Everyone wants to be accepted by friends. This can mean wanting to do the things our friends do. Having the same interest as your friend is good because it is a way of having fun together. However, becoming friends with someone who does harmful and destructive things may mean that you become involved in those harmful or destructive things too.

Think of some destructive things that friends could do together. Now think of some good things. Decide on some good guidelines for choosing friends.

## Bible research

There are many people who try to influence us. Not only friends, but parents, teachers, T.V., music, books and magazines are just some. The Bible tells us very clearly that it is important to be influenced by those who give good advice.

Read about the importance of wise advice in these verses from Proverbs:

Proverbs 6:20; 11:11; 12:26; 13:1, 10 & 20: 14:7

What kind of advice is good advice?

Who can give it?

## Story: The Journey to the Promised Land

God's people, the Israelites, were in slavery to the cruel Egyptian Pharaoh. God chose Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt to a new land that he had promised to them. There they would be free, and would have many special things. God said that it would be a "land flowing with milk and honey". However before they could get there, two big obstacles had to be overcome:

One... to get away from the wicked Egyptian Pharaoh

Two... to find their way across the desert

God used Moses for both of these challenges. Moses warned the Pharaoh that God had spoken, "Let my people go". But the Pharaoh would not listen; so God had to send many plagues and diseases upon the Egyptians. Finally, when he did let them go, he sent his army after them to bring them back again. However God did not allow the army to catch the

Israelites. He opened up the Red Sea and allowed the Israelites to pass through on dry land, and then closed it up again, drowning the army.

The Israelites were now free, but faced with the second obstacle. How could they find their way across the desert? God had an answer for this problem. Find the answer in Exodus 13:21-22.

### **Discussion**

The fire and cloud were a sign to the Israelites that God was with them. To find their way to the Promised Land they had to follow the cloud. Think about could have happened if some had decided to go their own way.

Just as the Israelites needed to allow God to guide them, so do people today. We need to follow God's direction, written down for us in the Bible. Going our own way only leads to trouble.

1. What was the Promised Land going to be like?
2. How did God persuade the Pharaoh to let His people go?
3. What did God do when Pharaoh's army chased the Israelites?
4. How did God guide the Israelites across the desert?
5. What might have happened if they did not follow God's guidance?
6. How can God guide us in our every-day life?
7. What kind of people could He use to help guide us? Make a list.

### **God is wise**

The wisest choice we can make is to allow God be our guide. God guided the Israelites across the desert. God can guide us through life.

### **How can God guide me every day?**

I can listen to His voice when I pray.

I can think about what the Bible has to say.

I can listen to wise advice from Christian people in whom I trust

### **Art/Craft 1**

Divide a piece of paper in half. On one side draw the Israelites travelling by day, being guided by the cloud. On the other side draw the Israelites camped for the night, with the fire to give them light.

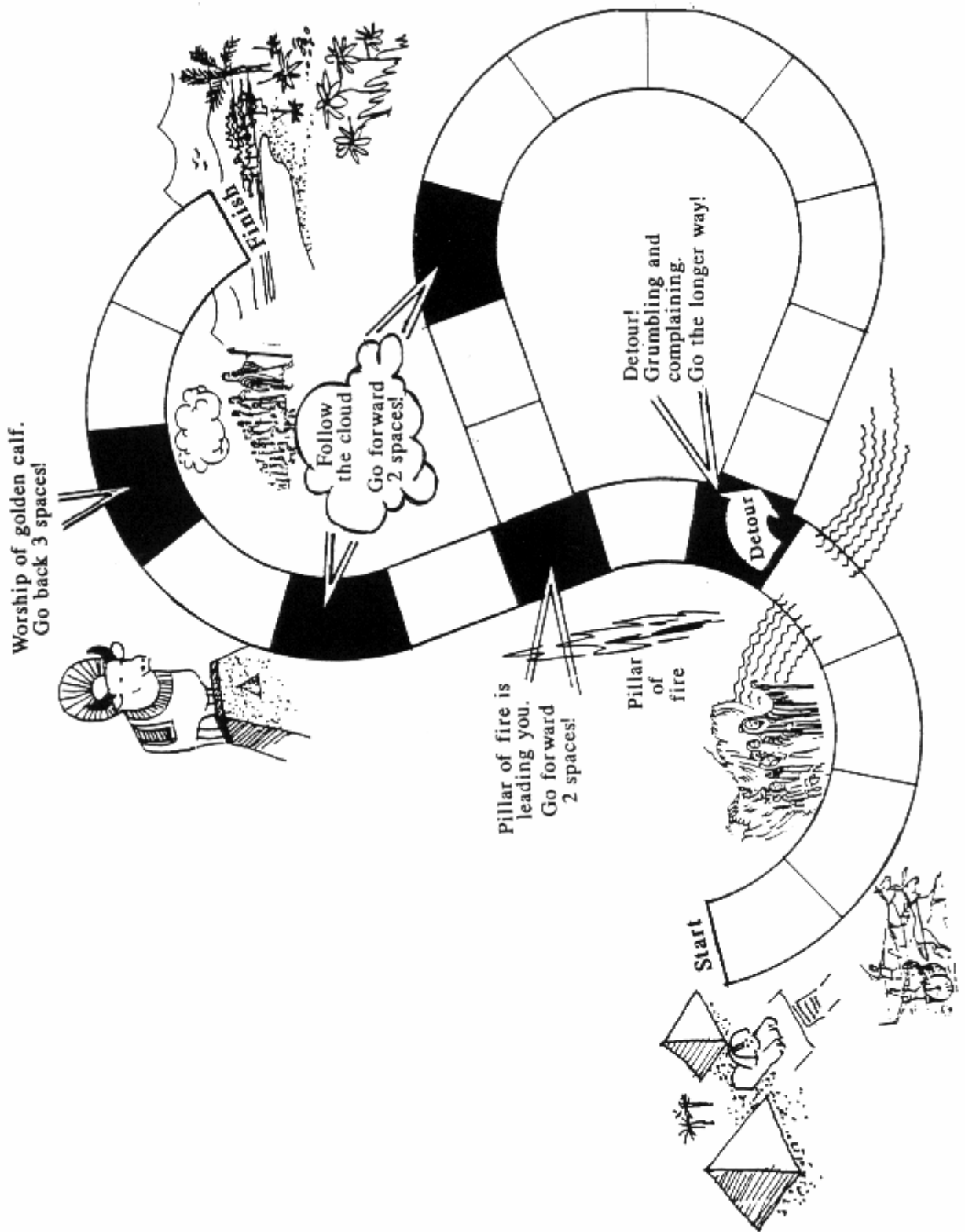
### **Art/Craft 2**

Draw a picture of the three sailing ships. Write the names on the ships.

### **Game**

Find your way to the Promised Land.

A dice game for 2-4 players



# God is Wise 6.2

## Subtheme

It is wise to let God be our guide

## Focus

The Bible is a road map to guide us through life.

## Bible references

Psalm 119:105 God's word is a lamp to our feet  
Matthew 2 The wise men were guided by the Scriptures.

## Song

Jesus Show us the Way (*Sing A Joyful Song*)

## Discussion

a) When we were young

What do you miss about being young?

Think of the funniest thing that happened to you before you were five.

How have you changed?

Make a chart showing things that represent your life from birth to present. Use drawings and photos. Include information about your home, pets, family, favourite toys and holidays at different stages in your life.

b) Growing up

What things will change in your life as you get older?

How can we be sure that we get the best out of life as we grow older?

God gave us life in the first place and He knows what is best for us. God wants to be a guide for everyone. It is up to us to invite Him to be our guide.

Imagine that you are taking a tour through some really interesting caves. If you go alone you do not know where to look for the special features. If you go with a tour guide, he knows exactly the points of interest. He can point them out with his torch and explain things to you. People who go through life without asking God to guide them, really miss out on finding the best for their life.

## Game 1

Where is the treat?

Set up five or six upside-down cups. Place a treat under one of them. Do not allow the group to see which cup has the treat. Choose someone to find the treat. He/she can either try to find the treat alone, or ask for guidance from the person who put the treat there in the first place.

Just as there is only one way of being sure to get the treat, there is only one way of getting the best out of life. That is by asking for guidance from the One who gave us our life in the first place.

## Bible research

[www.beaconmedia.com.au](http://www.beaconmedia.com.au)

Reading and obeying God's word is one way of allowing God to guide us. Read...

Psalms 119:105

Matthew 2:1-6

2 Timothy 3:14-17

Why is the Bible like a road map to guide us through life?

What other ways can God guide us? Read Proverbs 1:8; Proverbs 13:1; Proverbs 19:20.

*(Listening to advice from wise people and listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit as He speaks through our conscience two are examples).*

### **Game 2: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John**

Make a list of the first six books of the New Testament. Play a rhythm game based on the order of the books. Sitting in a circle, take turns to recite books to a given rhythm. Whoever misses a beat is out. Graduate to 8 books if you are doing it well.

### **Story: Christopher Columbus**

Just as God guided the Israelites on their journey, He has guided many people throughout history as they looked to Him. One of these people was Christopher Columbus.

Columbus was sure that the world was round, and not flat, as most other people in his time believed. If this was so, then by sailing straight westward across the Atlantic he could reach those lands on the other side of the world. He was sure that God wanted him to make this expedition, and, after a long time trying to convince the king of Spain that the journey would be worthwhile, the king provided the money that was needed.

Columbus set out from Spain in 1492. He was in charge of a fleet of three ships. Columbus himself commanded the 'Santa Maria', his best friend commanded the 'Pinta' and his brother commanded the 'Nina'. As the long days passed without any sight of land, the crew became more and more afraid. They planned to get rid of Columbus and sail back home. 'Perhaps the world is flat after all,' they thought. 'What if we fall over the edge?'

However, nothing could change Columbus's mind. He continued to trust in God. God protected Columbus and the mutiny did not occur. After seventy days Columbus saw a light that seemed to come from a fire along the coast. The next morning the three tiny ships made for the shore. With the flag of Spain in one hand and a sword in the other, Columbus knelt down and gave thanks to God. The new-found land was an island off the coast of America, part of the West Indies. He named the island San Salvador which means Holy Redeemer. God had not only protected Columbus, but also guided him. God guided him because of his great faith and trust.

### **Discussion**

Columbus had confidence in continuing the journey, even when everyone else wanted to turn back. His confidence was in God. Can you think of anyone in the Bible who trusted God while making a journey?

1. What are the similarities between the two stories, 'The Journey to the Promised Land', and 'Christopher Columbus'?
2. Why were the members of the crew afraid?
3. What is the meaning of mutiny?
4. Why did the mutiny occur?
5. What was the name of the island discovered by Columbus, and where was it?
6. Which Old Testament hero trusted God while making a journey?



# God is Protector

## Level 6 (age 10)

### Subtheme

God protects His people in times of trouble.

*The name of the Lord is a strong tower. The righteous run into it and are safe. Proverbs 18:10*



### Integrated topics for Christian Education

Ships; shipwrecks; history of lighthouses; early sea voyages

#### Other

- family
- shelter: history of buildings;
- protection services e.g. police; firemen
- human biology: immune system; the blood; skeletal system
- castles ;fortresses; armour and weapons; the armour of God.
- environmental protection: saving animals on the verge of extinction
- animal defense mechanisms; camouflage

### Character Development *(See Jesus First)*

- security
- courage

### Christian Life

#### Our response to *God is Protector*

- trusting in God as Father
- feeling safe and secure in His care

# God is Protector 6.1

## Subtheme

God protects His people in times of trouble

## Focus

God is with us.

## Bible references

Acts 27 & 28 God protected Paul during the shipwreck.  
Isaiah 43:1-2 Fear not.

## Songs

Jesus Show us the Way (*Sing A Joyful Song*)  
I Don't Have to Worry (*Sing a Joyful Song*)

## Discussion

- Find pictures of different types of sea vessels.
- What are some of the differences between olden day and modern sea vessels?
- What dangers did early sea travellers face?
- Think about the dangers faced by early explorers like Christopher Columbus and James Cook.

## Paul's Sea Voyages

- Find a map showing Paul's sea voyages. (These may be found in the back of some Bibles).
- How many years prior to Columbus would the apostles have been sailing around these parts?
- Do you think that the ships of New Testament times would have been very safe?

## Art/Craft

Make a sketch of a sailing ship in New Testament times. Use the following information.

## Ships in Roman Times

The largest sailing ships of the day were bulk grain carriers, since wheat was the most important commodity in the Roman Empire. The ships would carry the grain from Egypt to other parts of the empire. The grain carriers could carry 680 tons of grain. They were about 55 meters long and 14 meters wide. There were two steering oars, one on each side of the stern, one main sail and one fore sail. With a favourable wind behind they could travel about 80 sea miles per day.

Sailors in New Testament times had no compass and the only maps available were not very accurate. They followed the coast as much as possible and pulled into port at night. On dangerous coasts there were sometimes lighthouses to warn the sailors of rocks or cliffs. The sailing season was only about four months, from late Spring until the end of the Summer. Sailing at other times was treacherous.

## **Story: The Shipwreck**

*Try to find places on a map as they are mentioned in the story.*

Paul was about to sail to Rome as a prisoner. He boarded the ship along with the other prisoners. They called at Sidon, then Myra. The captain, Julius, was kind to Paul and allowed him to see some of his friends while in port.

At Myra, the captain found another ship which was going to Rome. It was a bulk grain carrier which had come from Egypt. By now it was Autumn. The sailing season had ended. Paul, now good friends with the captain, gave some advice.

Read Acts 27:10-12

The plan was to reach the more sheltered port of Phoenix, and spend the winter there, but a change in the weather meant that they were in serious trouble.

Read Acts 27:13-42 and Acts 28:1

## **Questions**

How do we know that Paul trusted God for protection? (verses 23-26)

How was Paul able to help the others on board the ship?

How did God protect Paul and the other soldiers from being killed? (verses 42-44)

## **Game: Shipwreck**

Mark positions on the floor or ground for 'starboard', 'port', 'bow' and 'stern'. As the leader calls out positions, players must run to the appropriate place. Anyone beginning to run in the wrong direction is out. Other actions can be decided for 'scrub the deck', 'man overboard' and 'captain's coming\*'. The last person to obey these orders is also out.

\*'captain's coming' - everyone stands in a line down the centre of the 'ship' and salutes.

# **God is Protector 6.2**

## **Subtheme**

God protects His people in times of trouble

## **Focus**

Miraculous protection.

## **Bible references**

Acts 27 & 28 Protection from the effects of snake bite at Malta.

Mark 16:18 Protection from snakes and poisons.

Psalm 32:7; Psalm 27:5 Protection in times of trouble

2 Kings 4:38-41 Protection from effects of a poisonous plant.

## **Songs**

I Don't Have to Worry (*Sing A Joyful Song*)

The Lighthouse song (*All Creation Sings*)

Jesus Show us the Way (*Sing A Joyful Song*)

## **Introduction**

Draw or trace a map of the Mediterranean. Trace Paul's journey from Sidon to Malta, using the places listed in last week's story. (Good News Bible map is a good source. See Acts 27)

### **Story 1: Paul on the Island of Malta**

Read the story from Acts 28:1-11

What miracle did God perform at Malta?

Should all God's followers expect miracles like this?

(Read Mark 16:18)

How did God use Paul on the island?

The journey continues...Read Acts 28:11-16

God continued to protect Paul in Rome. He was able to speak about Jesus without being imprisoned. Read Acts 28:30-31

### **Story 2: Saved From the Sea**

This is the true story of a fisherman, Colin Marsland, who lived in Australia.

The schnapper season in the waters around my home in Moonta, South Australia, occur during the months of November and December. Each year my cousin and I spent time camped at Cape Elizabeth, on Yorke Peninsula, to use our fishing boats to take advantage of the plentiful supply of schnapper in these waters at that season.

We began our fishing at day-break, when landmarks became visible. This day the waters were calm and clear when I set out soon after dawn. But by 9 AM the wind began to freshen and by 10 AM I decided I should set out again for shore. My well-boat is to enable the fisherman to keep his catch of fish alive and fresh for market. Nowadays well-boats are not built, as most fishermen use ice-boxes or refrigeration, which is much more convenient.

By this time I was experiencing near gale force winds, so I reefed down my main sail and began running before the wind, heading for the shore. I had only been under way a few minutes when I heard the eerie hissing of a freak wave about to break over me. (I've since seen that great wall of water many times in my dreams!) In a moment the boat was engulfed and filled with water. She slewed against the following seas and immediately went down by the stern. In a matter of seconds only the bowsprit was visible. I was flung from the tiller and had to scramble almost vertically up to the bowsprit. Filled with a dreadful fear, I screamed out to God, above the howling wind. Immediately, I was conscious of a wonderful peace of mind and the feeling of such power that I felt there wasn't anything I couldn't conquer.

For two hours I clung to the boat, which was reasonably air-tight, kept afloat by an airlock in the bow. I had hoped that the wind and swell of the waves would carry the boat towards the shore. But I realized, to my dismay, that an under-current was carrying me further out to the open sea. Finally I decided to remove my clothes and strike out for the shore, since by this time the boat was beginning to slowly sink as the air in the bow gradually escaped. I had never swum any distance and only considered myself a good 50-yard swimmer. I doubted if I could reach the shore under these extremely difficult circumstances. But in my mind's eye I kept seeing my lovely wife and beautiful little daughter, and, thinking of them, I knew I would not give up without a fight. With this unusual feeling of great strength and power in my body I noted a land-mark on the shore and set out to swim towards it. The crest of each wave gave me a glimpse of the coast line gradually drawing nearer, and by the time I was half-way there I knew in my heart that I was going to reach the shore. This unusual feeling of great strength in my body remained with me, although my legs were beginning to weaken, my upper body and arms were as strong as ever.

Suddenly my heart sank. Quite close by I noticed a dorsal fin. Sharks are always very prevalent in these waters at that time of year, because they love schnapper and often take them off a fishing line. I remembered the time a huge, hungry eighteen-footer attacked my

boat. It reared itself out of the water and snapped at the side of my boat, only three feet from where I was standing. I could see straight into its great jaws with its rows of evil-looking teeth. It left its teeth marks on the water line of the boat, and one of its teeth was left embedded in the timber.

So you can imagine my relief when I realized that the dorsal fin belonged to a friendly dolphin. I was greatly comforted for a considerable distance on my lonely swim by the presence of three dolphins that frolicked around me, as close as six feet away. Ever since then I have a tremendous regard for dolphins, as I firmly believe that the comfort of their presence at that time helped to save my life. Knowing that the sharks do not come near to where dolphins are, was especially comforting to me, and I felt a little sad when they finally disappeared.

As I neared the coast I could see the great waves breaking over the reefs in a long, white line. I knew I could be dashed to death on them; but eventually I found myself in calmer water beyond the reefs. Then, to my relief, a wave swept me up on to a patch of golden sand.

However, the same wave that brought me in also swept me out again. I had completely lost the use of my legs, so that each time a wave carried me up on shore, the powerful under-tow drew me back again into the water. I began to panic. Had I been saved from the reef only to be drowned in the shallow water, because I could not use my legs? But in that moment of panic I received a clear thought from God. "Dig your elbows into the sand and this will hold you against the tremendous strength of the under-tow." As I obeyed that instruction, I allowed each wave to carry me further up the beach, until I was able to inch myself quite clear of the water. There I lay for a full hour in the baking sun, my only attire being my wrist-watch. I was safe at last, three hours after leaving my boat.

After regaining some strength in my legs, I set out on a seven-mile trek along the beach to the camp where I staggered into, two and a half hours later. You can imagine the reaction of my cousin and our other fishermen friends when they saw me alive. They had kept a close watch and had searched unsuccessfully for me right along the coast line. They had given up hope of ever seeing me alive again.

They gave me clothing, gave me food and hot drinks and took me home to my wife and daughter. It was wonderful to see them again, realizing what a narrow escape from death I had. After recovering from my ordeal I returned from the place where I had been swept ashore, because I could not understand how I had escaped being dashed to death on the reefs. It was easy to locate the place because I had driven a piece of driftwood into the soft sand above high water level. I discovered that I had been guided through the narrow gap, only twenty feet wide, which was the only break in the reef on that particular part of the coast. I am convinced that God, who gave me the super-natural power in my body to swim three miles to the shore, had also guided me to the one gap in the reef where I could swim through safely.

I soon discovered that God does not do things by halves. A week later, after I had full recovered the use of my legs, the local fishermen asked me if I knew where my boat had sunk. It had not been washed ashore, and there was no sign of any wreckage along the shore, so it was assumed it was still out there where it had sunk, in about 70 feet of water.

At the time of the disaster I had taken note of the landmarks. This is something a fisherman does automatically. A few days later, thirty fishermen in twenty-two boats formed a line abreast, each towing small grappling hooks and schnapper lines in the area I had land-marked when I was clinging to my stricken vessel. The boats moved forward together

dragging the lines in the hope of striking the boat. On the very first run a schnapper line hooked the boat! Excitedly, the men worked together to raise the boat to the surface. Imagine our surprise when we found that the schnapper hook had caught in a ring two inches in diameter on the very tip of the mast! How amazed we were at this further miracle of God.

During the week, the boat had moved along the sea-bed about six hundred yards, yet there was no damage to the hull at all, except that a little paint had scraped off.

It has been some years since this incident happened. Up to that time I was not concerned about God. I knew He was "out there somewhere", but I did not know Him personally. Yet He cared for me, and heard my desperate cry for help, and answered me with so many signs of His special caring. That adventure changed my life. I decided that if God cared enough for me, to not only save my life and my boat, but enough to send His Son, Jesus, to save my life for eternity, then I wanted to love and serve Him for the rest of my days.

*From Margaret McIntyre's collection*

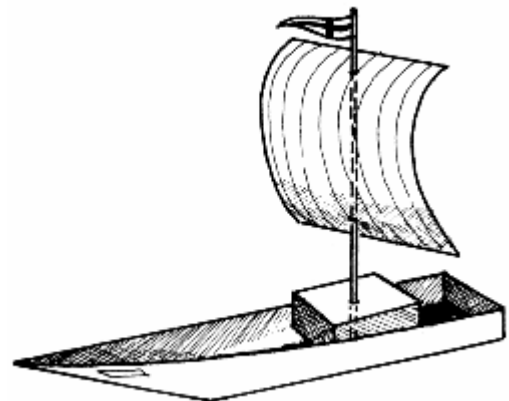
1. When was the schnapper season?
2. Who was fishing with the writer?
3. How would a 'well-boat' keep the fish from spoiling?
4. What is a bowsprit?
5. What did the writer do when his boat went down?
6. How was he kept afloat?
7. Why did he decide to swim for the shore?
8. Why was the presence of dolphins a good sign?
9. Explain several ways in which God showed his care and protection.
10. How did this adventure change the writer's life?

### **Art/Craft**

Make a model of a sailing boat

OR

Draw a ship on the sea close to a rocky shore with lighthouse.



# God is Protector 6.3

## Subtheme

God protects His people in times of trouble

## Focus

God has power to miraculously bring justice to those who trust Him.

## Bible references

Acts 16:16 Paul and Silas in jail

Isaiah 41:10 & 13 Fear not.

Psalm 56:3 When you are afraid, trust in the Lord.

## Song

I Don't Have to Worry (*Sing A Joyful Song*)

## Story 1: Paul and Silas in Jail

Read Acts 16:16.

Did Paul and Silas deserve to be in prison? (verses 18-21)

Do you think that God was concerned about the injustice?

What did God do about it? (verses 25-28)

Find three good things that happened as a result of the earthquake.

1) verses 30-34

2) verses 35-36

3) verses 38-40

## Story 2: God's Justice Win's the Case

*This is a true story that happened in Greece.*

On December 22, 1984, after a trial that lasted for more than 15 hours, three Christian missionaries were sentenced to three and a half years of imprisonment. What was their crime? It was simply speaking about their faith in Jesus and handing out Bibles on the streets.

In 1938, a law had been passed in Greece which prevented any open discussion of religious matters which might be threatening to the country's own religion. It was on the basis of this law that the three men were sentenced. Their names were Don Stephens, (American), Alan Williams, (British), and Costas Macris, (Greek). All were missionaries with an organization called Youth With A Mission.

The missionaries were working as part of the crew of the M/V Anastasis. It is a 12,000 ton, 522 foot passenger cargo vessel. The purpose of the ship was to take people from place to place, spreading the Good News of Jesus wherever it went. It also provided food and medical assistance to those in needy countries.

In 1981, members of the Anastasis crew were giving emergency aid following an earthquake in the devastated city of Megara in Greece. They gave out free clothing, canned food, and as well, told people about Jesus. During this time, a 16 year-old man named Costas became a Christian. He asked for a Bible, and of course he was given one by a crew-member. Costas read his Bible every day. His life changed completely. The young man's mother however was not happy. She didn't like her son's new found faith, so different to her own religion. She went to the police, and soon the three Christians found themselves sentenced to three and a half year's imprisonment. It seemed a high price to pay for giving away a Bible!

When the Christian lawyer, Max Crittenden heard about this he prayed to the Lord. Could he help in any way, being a lawyer?

In August 1983 Max and his family were attending a Christian camp when the Lord spoke to him.

"Leave your work in Hawaii," said the Lord. "I want you to help the three missionaries."

So Max closed his lawyer's office and began full time work to try to set the missionaries free. He went to Greece on a fact-finding mission to try to get evidence in the missionaries' favour. As a lawyer, Max knew that the three had been unjustly convicted. He had to use his skills to prove this. However it was a difficult task, and he knew that it would take a miracle to win the trial. He asked Christians around the world to pray for their release. On the day of the trial, believers in sixty countries around the world were praying. It was a long hard battle. Although the missionaries were sentenced, the judge later set them free pending an appeal.

God had allowed the missionaries to be victimised in order to bring about change to the Greek law. It was discovered that the laws written in 1938 were out of date. While most of the laws had been re-written, this particular one had not. God had worked a miracle... not only the set the innocent free, but to allow the gospel to be freely preached in Greece.

*Story retold from "Trial by Trial" by Don Stephens (used by permission)*

#### **Questions:**

1. Why were the missionaries imprisoned?
2. Describe the Anastasis. What was its purpose?
3. How did the authorities know that the missionaries had given a Bible away?
4. How did Max help the missionaries?
5. What is the meaning of 'victimised'?
6. What changes took place in Greece as a result of the episode?
7. What similarities do you see between this story, and the story of *Paul and Silas in Jail*?
8. Why do you think many governments around the world are against the spread of Christianity?
9. How should we react when we are in trouble for telling others about Jesus. Choose the correct answers:  
a) Fight back angrily b) Pray c) Ask God to bring about justice

#### **God is Protector**

God does not promise Christians that they will be free from trouble. Christians have troubles just like anyone else. However, God promises to help us when we *are* in trouble. Paul was shipwrecked, but God saved him. God protects those who are doing His will. God sometimes performs miracles of protection for those who do not know him. He does this to make people think about Him.

#### **What do I do when I am in trouble?**

I can ask God to help me.

I can put my trust in God.

#### **Activities**

- Dramatize the story, "Paul and Silas in Jail".
- As a news interviewer, arrange an interview with Paul and Silas after they have been released.
- Retell the story in cartoon form.



# God is Powerful

## Level 6 (age 10)

### Subtheme

God has power to raise the dead.

*The Lord rules... greater than the roar of the oceans, more powerful than the waves of the sea. Psalm 93:4 (GNB)*



### Integrated topics for Christian Education

God's power seen in the creation: Force and energy; machines; magnets

#### Other

- .
- electricity magnetism
- steam power; hydroelectric power
- solar system: expresses the greatness of God
- landforms: the power of creation expressed in mountains; volcanoes, glaciers
- change: chemical reactions
- weather: powerful forces seen in storms; hurricanes
- transport; flight: utilizing the power forces in the Creation
- God's power to do miracles

### Character Development *(See Jesus First)*

- faith
- surrender to a powerful God

### Christian Life

- expecting to witness God's supernatural power in our lives
- allowing the Holy Spirit to work supernaturally through us
- relying on God's power and not our own strength

# God is Powerful 6.1

## Subtheme

God has power to raise the dead.

## Focus

Nothing is impossible with God.

## Bible references

Matthew 17:20 If you have faith as big as a mustard seed , you can say to this hill, "Go from here to there!" and it will go. You could do anything! (GNB)

Mark 4:30-32 The parable of the mustard seed.

1 Kings 17:17-24 Elijah brings a boy back to life.

2 Kings 4:8-37 Elisha and the Shunamite woman.

## Song

What a Mighty God (*All Creation Sings*)

## Story 1: Elijah

Elijah was a prophet. That meant that he heard God's voice, and told others what God was saying. Once when Elijah was visiting a place called Zarephath he saw a widow gathering firewood. He asked the woman for a drink and a piece of bread. The woman explained that she had no bread because she had run out of flour and oil for making bread. She had no more money. Elijah wanted to help the woman and her son, so prayed to God. God did a miracle for this woman. The flour and oil jars never became empty. God just kept filling them up miraculously.

Some time later, the widow's son became sick.

How sick was he? (Read 1 Kings 17:17)

Elijah took the boy upstairs and laid him on the bed. Elijah prayed for the boy.

"Lord, let this boy live again," he said.

What happened after Elijah prayed? (Read verses 22-24)

## Story 2: Elisha

When Elijah became very old, he went to be with God. A new prophet was needed to speak God's word to the people. Elisha was chosen.

Through God's power, Elisha was able to help a widow woman in a similar way to what Elijah had done. The woman had no money. Elisha asked God to miraculously fill all the woman's jars with expensive oil. She was able to sell the oil and have enough money to live on for the rest of her days.

Another time, Elisha was going to Shunem. An important woman lived there. She was kind to Elisha because she knew that he was a prophet of God. She asked her husband to build a little room for Elisha so that he could visit whenever he wanted to.

(2 Kings 4:8-10)

Elisha wanted to repay the woman for her kindness. The woman had no children and was now too old to have a baby. Elisha prayed that the Lord would give her a son. (Read 2 Kings 4:15-17 and find out what happened.)

The little boy grew and was soon old enough to go out into the fields with his father. One day something terrible happened. (Find out what happened from 2 Kings 4:19-21).

The mother rode on a donkey to find Elisha. She took a servant named Gehazi with her. Elisha saw her coming. He knew something was wrong. The woman told Elisha what had happened. What did Elisha do? (Read verses 29-36)

### **Discussion**

How did Elijah and Elisha perform these miracles?

These men not only believed that God was powerful, but they also believed that God's power could work through them. They were not afraid to ask God for miracles.

### **Story 2: The Mountain That Moved**

A true story has been discovered from the writings of the Italian explorer, Marco Polo who lived in the 13th century. Marco Polo searched for a route from Italy to China so that their own goods may be traded for things like spices, silks, carpets and precious stones.

On one of his trading expeditions Marco Polo found himself in Baghdad (Iraq). The ruler of Baghdad wanted all who lived in his dominions to be converted to the religion of Islam. He was determined to put to death those who did not follow this religion. There were some Christians living in Baghdad who were hated by the ruler. He devised a plan to get rid of them. He ordered the Christians to appear before him.

Not believing in the Bible himself, the ruler found a verse which he believed would present an impossible challenge to the Christians. He read Matthew 17:20:

"If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place, and it shall remove."

After he finished reading, he said cynically, "If this is true, let me see which of you can prove it. I will give you ten days. If you have not caused a mountain to move through the power of your God, then you will be given a choice: either convert to Islam or die."

The Christians began to pray without ceasing. They prayed all day and all night. They did not eat. On the eighth day, one of the Christians had a dream in which God told him to go and find a particular shoe-maker who would lead them in prayer for the mountain to be removed. The shoe-maker was a very humble man and did not consider himself worthy for the task, but finally agreed.

When the tenth day arrived, the Christians marched in a solemn procession to the mountain. The ruler and his guards stood by and watched with amusement, waiting to take the Christians captive at the failure of their prayer. Then, at the front of the gathering the shoe-maker knelt down, and lifting his hands towards heaven, cried out in a loud voice, "In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, I command thee O mountain to remove thyself." At once the mountain obeyed and Marco Polo recounts that the earth trembled in a wonderful and alarming manner. Many onlookers were converted to Christianity that day, including the ruler himself.

*Story retold from 'The Travels of Marco Polo' (Marsden & Masefield). Also told in 'The Last of the Giants' by George Otis.*

### **Activity / Craft**

Look at some mustard seeds, (available from supermarkets and used in Indian cooking).

Choose an art form to depict the parable of the mustard seed, (Mark 4:30-32) e.g. paper collage

# God is Powerful 6.2

## Subtheme

God has power to raise the dead

## Focus

God is still powerful today.

## Bible references

Luke 18:27 The things which are impossible with men are possible with God. (KJV)

Matthew 19:26 With God all things are possible.

Mark 5:22-43 Jesus gives life to Jairus's daughter.

## Song

What a Mighty God (*All Creation Sings*)

## Story 1: Jesus Gives Life to a Dead Girl

Read the story from Mark 5:22-43.

Did the father believe that Jesus could bring his daughter back to life? (verse 23)

What did Jesus say in verse 36?

Do you think that Jesus could perform these kind of miracles today if people believed?

## Story 2: Miracles in Java

This is a true story from Indonesia, about a man who was raised from the dead during a period of great Christian revival. In January of 1973, a man and his wife were walking home at the end of a long hard day's work. They had been weeding their rice fields outside their village in Java and they were terribly hot, tired and dirty. As they trudged up the road, they passed their neighbour's house. All at once they heard loud crying from inside the house. They were shocked. The wailing was so loud that something terrible must have happened.

They knocked on the door but there was no answer. The sobbing just continued louder than ever. Finally they pushed the door open and walked in. There in the dim half-light of the little room they could make out a form lying motionless on the bed and a woman kneeling on the dirt floor.

"What on earth is the matter?" the couple asked.

"Oh, my husband has died," the lady sobbed.

"How long ago?"

"I don't know. Several hours at least. I've been crying ever since."

The couple walked over to the bed. The corpse had no breath and no pulse. In fact, it had already become so still that they couldn't move its arms or legs. It didn't take too many brains for the farmer and his wife to work out that the lady was right. Her husband was dead.

"Oh, we're so sorry," they said, trying to comfort her. "We must go back home right now to wash and change our clothes. Then we'll tell all our friends what has happened and make arrangements to have him buried. But first we want to pray for you."

Now actually, the farmer and his wife were brand-new Christians. Four months before they had been Muslims. But since their conversion they were trying to learn everything possible about the new faith.

"Our pastor told us last Sunday that Jesus never changes," they went on. "If He could bring dead people back to life two thousand years ago, He certainly can do it again for us today. So let's ask Him to let His perfect will be done."

They bowed their heads and began to talk to the Lord. "O dear Lord Jesus, if You want to, please raise this man from the dead. You know how this lady needs her husband."

Then they said good-bye and walked outside the house. They had only gone about sixty feet when all of a sudden the lady ran to the doorway. "Come back! Come back!" she yelled. "As soon as you left my husband started to move!"

By the time they got back inside the man was sitting in the middle of the bed, smiling from ear to ear.

"What happened to you?" they asked.

"Oh, I died and went to heaven to be with Jesus. It was so wonderful up there. I really didn't want to come back to earth."

This true story is a demonstration of the power of the Holy Spirit who is able to work miraculously today. Jesus is just as powerful today as He was when He was on earth two thousand years ago.

*From 'The Gentle Breeze of Jesus' by Mel Tari, Used by permission*

#### **Questions:**

1. Where is Java?
2. What is meant by 'a period of great Christian revival'?
3. How do we know that the people in this story were poor?
4. What evidence is there in the story that the body was actually dead?
5. Why did the farmer and his wife believe that this man could come back to life again?
6. What does this miracle show us about God?
7. Read the story of a little girl who came back to life, from Mark 5:22-43.
8. Did the father believe that Jesus could bring his daughter back to life? (verse 23)
9. What did Jesus say in verse 36?
10. Do you think that Jesus could perform miracles today if people believed?

#### **God is Powerful**

God is powerful today, just as He was in Bible days. He can do miracles for us if we believe.

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

The things which are impossible with men are possible with God. (Luke 18:27)

#### **Game**

You will need a dice, a plastic cup and six cardboard strips.

*(These should be an appropriate size for covering the words below)*

Each player must also have a copy of the text as shown below.

WITH	GOD	ALL	THINGS	ARE	POSSIBLE
1	2	3	4	5	6

Cover up all the words with blank cards.

Take turns at throwing the dice. You must have a six to start.

Remove a blank card for each number you throw. e.g. If you throw a four, uncover the word 'things'.

The first player to uncover the entire text is the winner.

# God is Powerful 6.3

## Subtheme

God has power to raise the dead

## Focus

Life and death are in God's hands.

## Bible references

John 11:1-44 The raising of Lazarus

Acts 17:28 God gives life to all.

John 14:6 I am the way, the truth and the life.

John 10:9 I am the door.

Romans 5:12 & 18 Death entered the world because of Adam and Eve's sin, but life was made available through Jesus.

## Song

What a Mighty God (*All Creation Sings*)

## Story 1: The Raising of Lazarus

Read the story from John 11:1-44.

If you were one of the witnesses of this miracle, would your understanding of Jesus be different from that time on?

Jesus hoped that those who witnessed the miracle would believe more in His supernatural power. Read verses 15 & 40.

## Discussion

Can people live forever?

It wouldn't be possible for our bodies to live forever in this present world. Why not?

Read Romans 5:12 & 18.

The curse of death has fallen upon this world because people chose to sin. The curse will not be removed until God one day creates a new heaven and earth. However, because of Jesus, we can live forever in a different way. Our spirit can live forever after our body has died. This is eternal life.

How can we receive eternal life? Read John 14:6 and John 10:9

## Story 2: Ian McCormack's Story

Ian McCormack was a young man who loved adventure. In 1980, at the age of 24, he decided to leave New Zealand to see the world. Surfing and fishing in South East Asia, sailing on a schooner, and observing African wildlife were just some of his experiences. While deep-sea diving off the coast of Mauritius, late one night, he was bitten by not one, but five, deadly box jellyfish. Here is his story.

While in Mauritius, Ian had made good friends with the local divers. They helped him to learn about the wonderful deep sea life off the Mauritian coast. One night, his Mauritian friend, Simon, invited Ian to come night diving. Now Ian knew that night diving could be dangerous. 'Tonight's conditions look pretty risky,' he thought to himself, as he watched some electrical storms hovering further out to sea.

"Don't worry," said Simon. "This storm will miss us."

Although Ian felt a little nervous, he could not resist an opportunity for an exciting new experience. Night diving proved to be more wonderful than he had ever imagined. There,

right before them, lay huge crayfish and sleeping parrot fish, all for the taking. Meanwhile, the nocturnal life of the sea had come to life. He was seeing things he had never seen before.

Suddenly Ian saw a huge crayfish. Just as he was about to reach out to grab it, an unusual sort of jelly fish swam past. Ian had never seen one of these before. He touched the weird creature, which was almost invisible. Its transparent form was box-shaped and it had long tentacles. Ian reached out for his crayfish. Suddenly a huge electric current hit his arm. Something had stung him. Ian looked at his arm but could see no sign of a sting. He rubbed his arm and immediately felt pain. Ian did not know it, but he had just been bitten by a box jelly fish, or sea-wasp. He had also just rubbed the venom further into his blood stream. The box jellyfish is described in first-aid books as "a jelly-like creature with long venomous tentacles... and... little can be done if a lethal dose of venom is received."

Ian did not realise the seriousness of the sting. Holding the crayfish, he made his way back to the boat. As he swam, his arm started to feel numb. Swimming became more difficult. The arm soon became paralysed. Ian looked below him and saw thousands of the jelly fish. The electrical storm had caused them to come in closer to the reef. By the time Ian had reached the boat he had been stung another three times on the same arm. The same electric shock went through his body each time.

Reaching the boat, Ian signalled to his friend Simon. As he put his head down into the water to gain his friend's attention, another jellyfish surged towards him. It was in front of his face. Ian held up his arm to protect his face. The tentacles of the fifth jellyfish stung the same arm. Simon surfaced and swam to the boat. Simon looked at the arm, which had now swollen to twice its normal size.

"Invisible?" asked Simon in French. ('Invisible' was the term given to the box jelly fish by the Mauritian divers.)

"Yes." said Ian.

"How many?" asked Simon.

"Five," said Ian.

Simon looked horrified. "One!" he said, "and that's the end of you. You must get to a hospital immediately!"

Only now did Ian realize the seriousness of the situation.

Normally one bite was enough to cause death. The tentacles had stung him directly across his main artery, sending the poison directly into his blood. Death should occur in 15 -20 minutes.

Ian's friends would now have to get the boat back to shore the quickest possible way. That was directly across the reef and into the lagoon. With all aboard the boat, progress would be slow, and the bottom of the boat risked being torn open by its scraping on sharp coral. For the lightest possible load, they decided to send Ian ahead with the youngest member who was about 14 years old. As soon as they reached the shore the young boy decided that he must go back to get the others.

"Come back!" shouted Ian, but it was too late. Ian stood there alone. He struggled along the road, his arm now completely numb, and his legs weakening as the poison gradually moved through his body. Although close to midnight in an isolated part of the island, surprisingly he came across a parked taxi with some people standing near it.

"Please, would you take me to the hospital?" he asked the Indian taxi driver.

"Where is your money?" asked the taxi driver.

"I don't have any money on me," answered Ian, "but I can pay later."

The three men started to walk away. Ian heard a voice inside him saying, 'Would you be willing to beg for your life?' Ian followed the men, begging, "Please, please, I need a hospital!"

One of the Indians turned around and walked towards the taxi. He opened the door for Ian. Ian climbed in and the car drove off. However, not to the hospital. The driver pulled up outside a tourist hotel. He opened the car door and pushed Ian out on to the ground. "The tourists can take care of you," he said, and he drove off.

Ian dragged himself up to the entrance of the hotel. Someone saw him. It was one of his Mauritian friends, Daniel. Daniel carried him inside, sat him in a chair, and then called for an ambulance. All took too long. Ian knew that he was dying. Finally the ambulance arrived. In the ambulance, Ian started to see a picture in his mind. It was a picture of himself as a young boy. Then he saw another picture of himself as a teenager. It was as if he was seeing before him a video of his life. He thought about God for the first time in many years. Would God accept him when he died? How could He? Ian thought of the years he had lived an independent life, giving no thought to God at all. He thought of some words his mother had once said to him: 'When you are in need, cry out to God with all your heart.' (Ian's mother was a Christian.)

That's what Ian did. God heard his cry. Ian asked Jesus to forgive him for his past life, and promised that for the rest of his life, however short it may be, he would love and serve God. There in the taxi, he prayed the Lord's Prayer, which he remembered from his Sunday school days.

Desperately clinging to his life, he arrived at the hospital. The nurse took his blood pressure. Where was it? According to the instrument his heart had almost stopped beating. Surely the instrument was wrong. She tried another. It measured the same. When would someone realize the urgency of the situation? Finally a doctor looked at him. Ian mustered up all the strength he had. He looked the doctor in the eye and said, "I am dying. I need anti-venom...NOW!"

The doctor rushed him to another room. The anti-venom was administered - but all too late. Ian could stay awake no longer. He fell into a deep sleep. He soon realized that this was not sleep. He had died! He was still himself, but he had no body.

For the next 15 minutes, Ian, minus body, was taken on a tour of the places in which one may spend eternity. The first place he visited was a place of darkness. Ian had never believed in hell before, but now he knew there was such a place. God showed him this place so that he would understand that he had been snatched from here by his death-bed prayer. Then suddenly he was swept up in a shaft of light. Now he was in heaven. Ian came face to face with Jesus. His face was so radiant that he couldn't make out the details.

"Do you want to stay in Heaven or do you want to go back to your earthly life?" asked Jesus. Then He added, "If you want to go back, you must see things in a new light." Heaven was the most beautiful place Ian had ever seen. He not only saw beauty, but he felt peace, joy and wonderful, wonderful love. Why would he want to go back? Then he saw a vision of his mother whom he loved dearly. She would be so sad to know that her son had died. She wouldn't even know that Ian had given his life to Jesus.

Then Ian saw a vision of many, many people standing behind his mother. All these people needed to know about the reality of Jesus, and this place called Heaven. Ian decided that he



would go back and tell them. He wanted to tell others that to be with Jesus in Heaven was the most glorious place anyone could be.

"Yes," said Ian. "I want to go back".

Ian woke up in his hospital bed. He had been dead for 15 minutes. The doctors and nurses could not believe their eyes. But there was more to come. Ian was still paralysed from the jelly fish stings.

"I don't want to live the rest of my life as a quadriplegic," he thought. "Lord, heal me!" he cried desperately. As he prayed, the feeling gradually came back into his body. Within a day, he was completely healed.

Ian is now travels around the world telling his story. His whole life is dedicated to telling others about Jesus.

*From the testimony of Ian McCormack, "A Glimpse of Eternity", Used by permission.*

### **Questions:**

1. Where is Mauritius?
2. Why was night diving so exciting?
3. Describe the appearance of a box-jelly fish.
4. How venomous is it?
5. What does it feel like to be stung by a box-jelly fish?
6. Why did they send Ian with a fourteen-year-old boy to get help?
7. How helpful was the boy once they had reached the shore?
8. Why did Ian start to think about God while he was waiting for the ambulance?
9. Describe Ian's picture of heaven.
10. Why do you think God wanted Ian to live?
11. What is eternal life? Read John 17:3

### **God is Powerful**

God has power to do anything He wants to do. However, because He is also wise, He does not act like a magician. He does not do miracles so that people can be entertained. God does miracles when He chooses to. He knows when it is the right time for miracles. He knows when people are ready to receive miracles. A miracle shows us that God is the greatest person in the whole universe. It also shows that He cares about people. He does not do miracles to impress people. He does them to help people.

### **How can God's power help me?**

It can help me to **know** God better.

It can help me to **tell** others about Jesus.

It can help me to **pray** for others.

### **Puzzle**

a=m b=n c=o d=p e=q f=r etc.

**U my ftq paaf. Itaqhqd qzfqde nk yq etmxx nq emgqp.**

# God is Truth

## Level 6 (age 10)

### Subtheme

Jesus, the way the truth, the life

*Live a life that measures up to the standard God set when He called you. Ephesians 4:1 (GNB)*



### Integrated topics for Christian Education

- discerning truth in the media and advertising; consumer education: honesty/dishonesty in advertising and packaging; deception through advertising; junk food; customer surveys; testing performance of products

#### Other

- friendship: faithfulness, truthfulness and honesty
- discovering truth through the scientific method
- scientists who discovered the truth: e.g. Galileo who discovered the truth about the solar system; pendulums
- a solid foundation for truth: a life built on the Rock. Make a study of rocks.
- testing properties of matter to determine whether a substance is real or substitute
- literature studies: fact or fantasy?
- discovering the truth through archaeology
- creation science: scientists who seek the truth and gather evidence to show that the universe is not millions of years old.

### Character Development (See *Jesus First*)

- honesty
- discernment

### Christian Life

- believing God's Word
- obeying God's Word

# God is Truth 6.1

## Subtheme

Jesus, the way, the truth, the life

## Focus

Who is Jesus?

## Bible references

Matthew 7:13-14 The broad and narrow way

John 14:6-7 I am the way, the truth, the life.

Matthew 16:13-17 Jesus asks "Who am I?"

Acts 4:12 No other name by which we are saved.

## Songs

Nicodemus (*Sing A Joyful Song*)

Jesus Show us the Way (*Sing A Joyful Song*)

## Story 1: Jesus asks "Who am I?"

Read Matthew 16:13-17.

The people of Israel had been waiting for the one whom God had promised. They knew that a 'Christ' was coming because the writings of the Old Testament had promised it. 'Christ' is another word for 'Messiah', which means, 'someone who would deliver, or rescue, the people'.

God had used Moses many years before to deliver the Israelites from slavery, but the new deliverer, Jesus, would save the people from sin. He would be able to forgive people for their sin. The new deliverer would be God's own Son.

Jesus had not told anyone that He was the Christ, nor that He was the Son of God. However, Peter just knew. (verse 17)

## Bible research

John 14:6-7

Think about each of these carefully.

Jesus is the Way.....*to where?*

Jesus is the Truth.....*compared to what?*

Jesus is the Life.....*What kind of life?*

Read Acts 4:12.

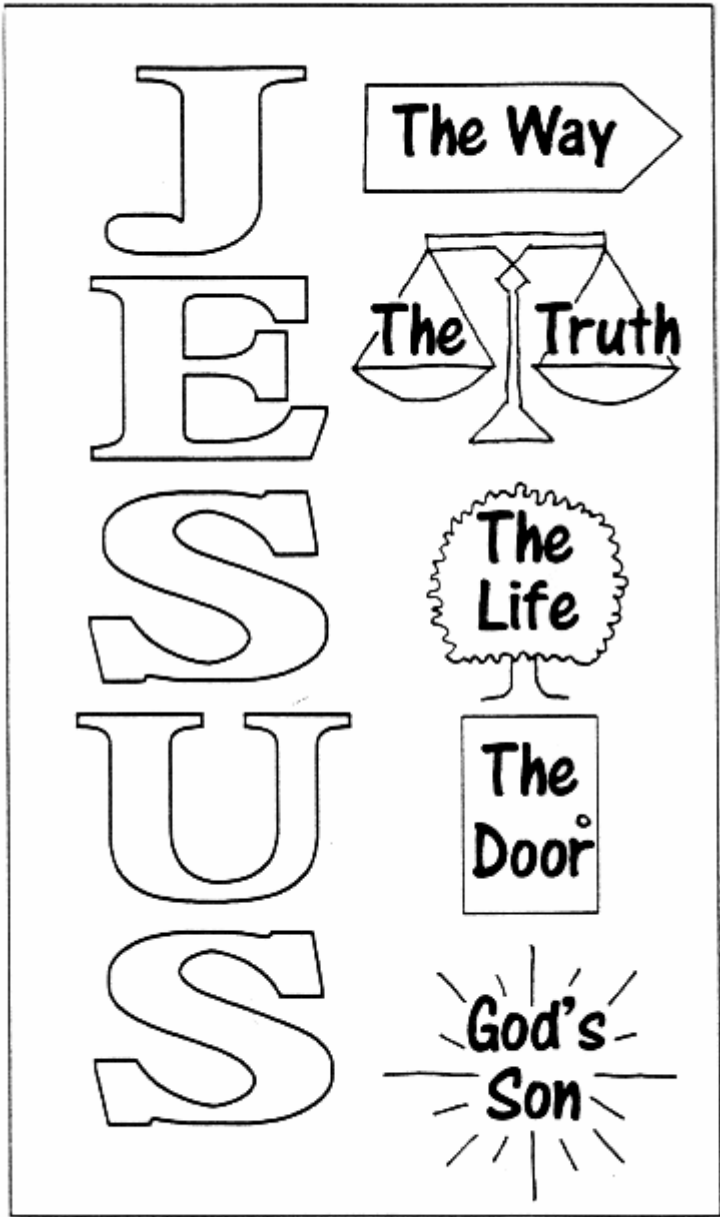
Jesus is the only way we can come to know the Father. What must we do to receive eternal life? Can we get to the Father any other way?

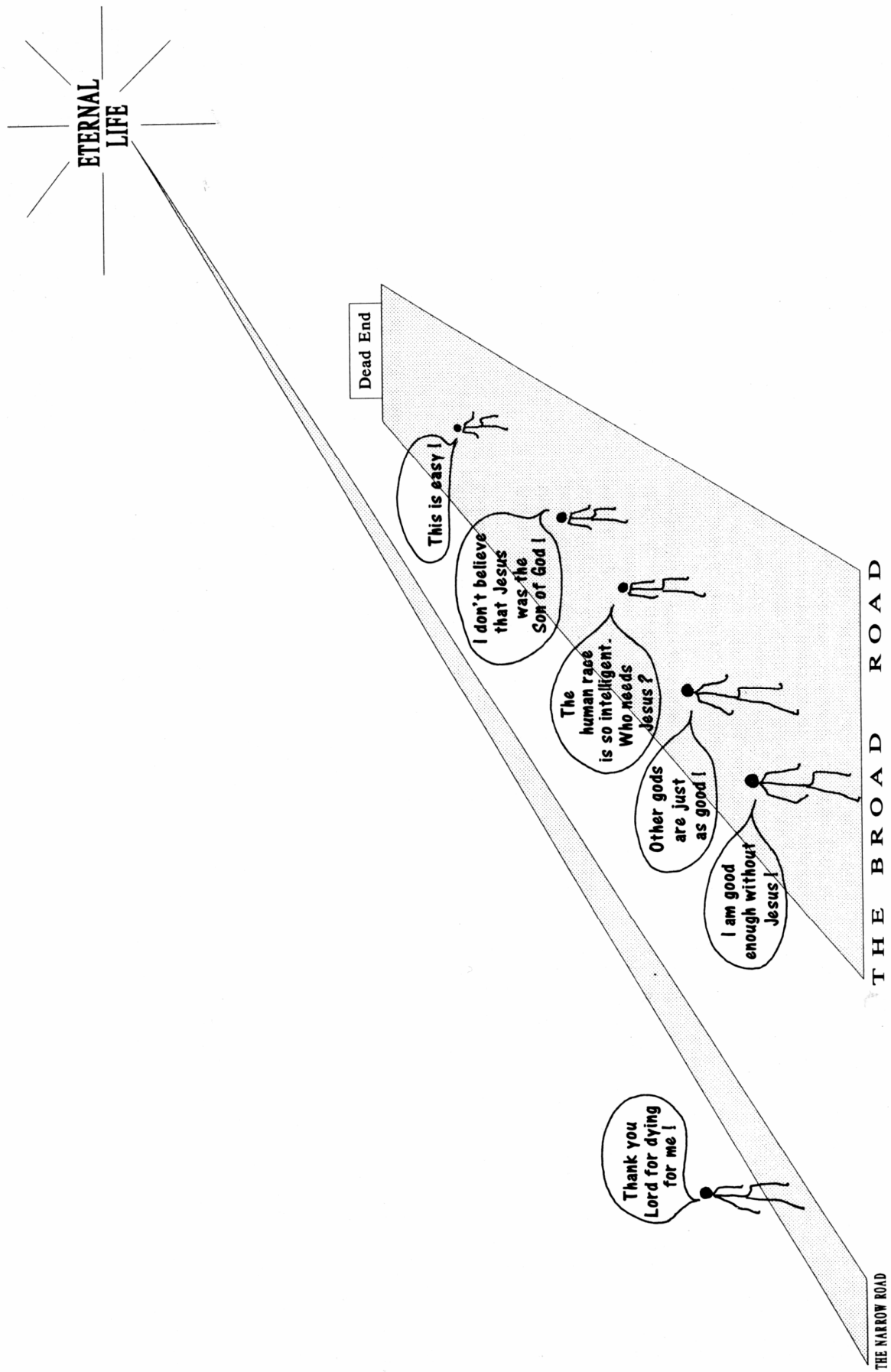
Read Matthew 7:13-14.

We could say that the people walking on the narrow road are those who come to know God through Jesus. We could also say that those who are walking on the broad road are trying to get to God by other means. What are some other ways which people use to try to get to God?

## Art/Craft

Make a poster about who Jesus is. Fill in the letters JESUS with colourful patterns.





# God is Truth 6.2

## Subtheme

Jesus, the Way, the Truth, the Life.

## Focus

Learning to discern between truth and non-truth

## Bible references

John 10:1-18 The Good Shepherd. The sheep recognise his voice.

Matthew 7:15-21 Wolves in sheep's clothing.

John 18:37 Everyone that is of the truth hears my voice.

Psalm 19:7-8 The law of the Lord is perfect.

## Songs

Nicodemus (*Sing A Joyful Song*)

Jesus, Show us the Way (*Sing A Joyful Song*)

## The Truth Game

Prepare a variety of objects that are imitations of the real thing. By observation of two objects, (from a reasonable distance), players must guess which one is real and which one is imitation. Examples:

- leather and vinyl
- silk and nylon (fabric)
- wool and acrylic (clothing or thread)
- Lego and an imitation brand
- gold and imitation metal
- orange juice and orange drink
- a drinking glass and a clear plastic cup
- a real plant and an imitation plant
- real pearls/gemstones and imitations

## Discussion

How can we be deceived by advertisements? Are products as good as they appear to be?

Examples: Think about the way in which boxes of washing powder, biscuits or breakfast cereals are packaged. Do they look as if they hold more than they really do?

Think about advertisements on TV Do they tell the truth?

What about things we hear? Do we believe everything we hear?

All around us there are people telling us things. Many people have false ideas and beliefs that do not match up to the Bible. Some people say that God did not create the world, but all began with a big explosion somewhere out in space. Some people believe they can get to God through religions that are based on idols and false gods.

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, the life." We must make sure that we only believe the truth. We can measure truth by comparing ideas or beliefs with the Bible. Just as scales can give a true measure or a false measure, the things we see and hear can also give a true or false measure when they are compared to what the Bible says.

Read Ephesians 4:1

### **Story 1: The Good Shepherd**

Read the story from John 10:1-15.

What does the sheep-fold represent?

What kind of people try to get into it? (verse 1)

How can the sheep tell the difference between the true shepherd and a stranger? (verse 3)

How should the sheep guard against strangers? (verse 5)

How can we guard against people who try to lead us in false directions?

What does Jesus mean when He says, "I am the door"? (verses 7-9)

Read John 18:37. How can we hear the voice of Jesus?

### **Story 2: A Wolf in Sheep's Clothing**

The hungry wolf sat and watched a flock of fat sheep. His mouth watered as he thought about the tasty meal he could get from any one of them. But how could he get in amongst the flock without being noticed by the watchful shepherd?

The wolf sat and thought for a while. He noticed an old sheep skin on the ground, the remains of his last week's meal. That gave him a most brilliant idea. If he were to put the sheep skin over his own back he would look just like a sheep. Then he could creep in amongst the flock without being noticed and make his kill.

The wolf waited until sunset so that he would not be noticed in the dim light. He crept in and stood in the middle of the flock. His trick seemed to be working. It was now time for the sheep to be herded into the pen for the night. The wolf went along with the sheep.

"Once in the pen," thought the wolf, "I will have my big chance. The shepherd will go to bed for the night and I will have the sheep all to myself."

The shepherd opened the gate of the pen. One by one the sheep went through. However the old wolf's disguise was not quite good enough to fool the shepherd.

"This is not one of my sheep!" said the shepherd to himself as the wolf passed through the gate. The wolf had his head down and did not see the big knife tucked into the shepherd's belt. As quick as lightning the shepherd lunged toward the wolf and slit his throat.

"You old rogue," he said to himself. "You're still a wolf, whatever you're wearing."

*Adapted from Aesop's Fables*

#### **Questions:**

1. What is the important message we can learn from this fable?
2. Read about the Good Shepherd from John 10:1-15.
3. What does the sheep-fold represent?
4. What kinds of people try to get into the sheep-fold? (verse 1)
5. How can the sheep tell the difference between the true shepherd and a stranger? (verse 3)
6. How should the sheep guard against strangers? (verse 5)
7. How can we guard against people who try to lead us in false directions?
8. What does Jesus mean when He says, "I am the door"? (verses 7-9)
9. Find four words used in Psalm 19:7-8 to describe God's word.
10. Read Matthew 7:15-21. How do we know whose telling the truth?

#### **How can I tell others about the truth?**

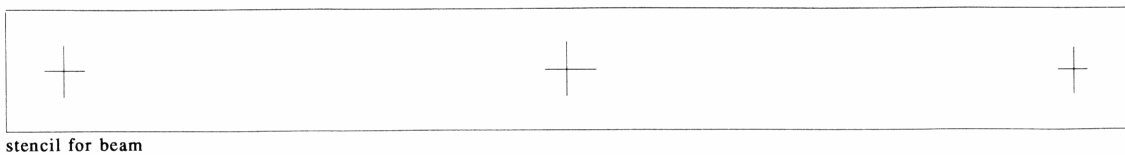
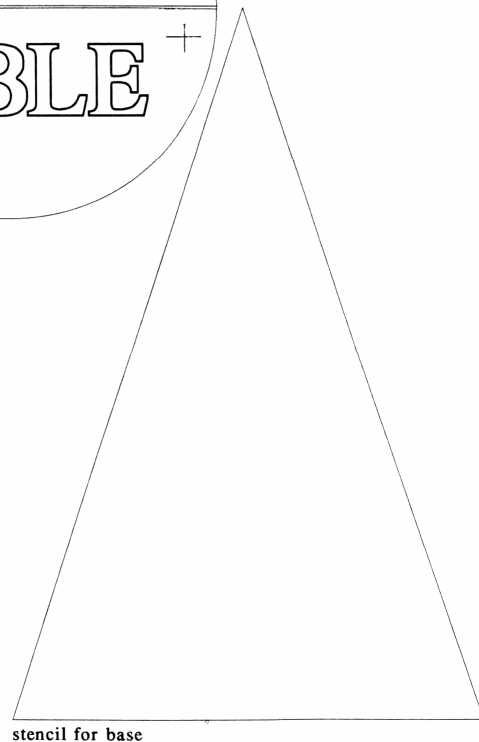
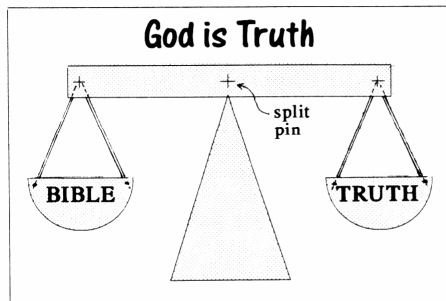
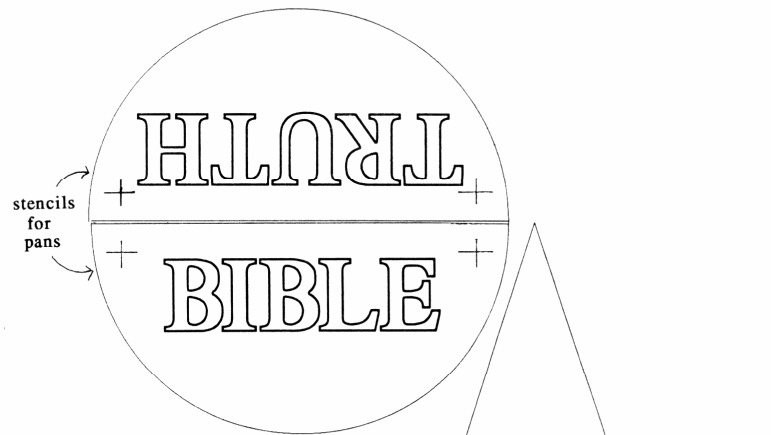
I can tell them what Jesus has done.

I can tell them that Jesus is the only way to God.

I can tell them that I know Jesus is real.

#### **Art/Craft**

1. Cut out the beam, stand and pans from coloured card.
2. Glue stand to white card backing.
3. Punch holes at the ends and middle of beam.
4. Thread a double string through one end of beam, along the back, then out through the other end.
5. Attach pans.
6. Set beam in place of the white card and secure with paper clip.





# God is Truth 6.3

## Subtheme

Jesus, the Way, the Truth, the Life

## Focus

What is a false god?

## Bible references

Acts 17:16-34 The unknown god.

Exodus 20:3-4; Isaiah 42:8 & 17 No other gods.

## Songs

Nicodemus (*Sing A Joyful Song*)

Jesus Show us the Way (*Sing A Joyful Song*)

## Story: Paul in Athens

Find Athens on a map.

Athens, the capital of Greece, is an important city. In Bible times Athens was one of the greatest cities in the world. It was a place where people could come to learn about many things, but unfortunately no one had ever heard about God. As well as having many well-educated people, Athens also had many fine artists and craftsmen. There were many statues and paintings in honour of their false gods. There were also many beautiful temples where people could come and worship idols.

(You may be able to find pictures of the false gods in a book of Greek art.)

Read Acts 17:23.

What did Paul find as he was going through the city of Athens?

Paul explained to the Athenians that the true God does not live in temples but wants to live in our hearts and lives.

Read what Paul said to the Athenians in verses 24, 25 & 29.

Did the people believe Paul? (verses 32-34)

Not everyone will believe in the true God, but God wants us to tell others anyway.

Find out what these verses say about worshipping false gods:

Exodus 20:3-4 and Isaiah 42:8 & 17

Many people today worship false gods. False gods don't always have to be gods from another religion. A false god can be anything that is more important to a person than the true God.

## Activity/Discussion

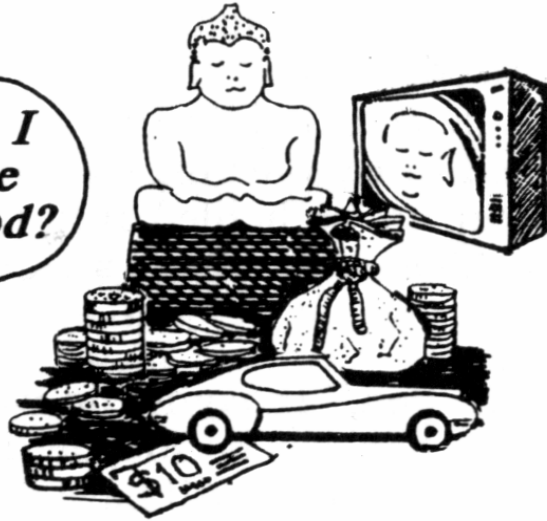
What are some of the things that people may mistake for being the true God? (*Budda; money; possessions; U.F.O.s; the intelligence of the human race*)

How could we help a person understand that Jesus is the truth?

Complete this cartoon strip. Help this person who is searching for truth.

1

How do I find the true God?



2

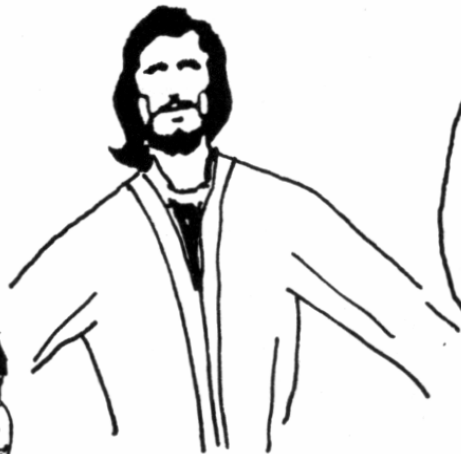


The Bible says that Jesus is the

John 14:6



3



I know that He is real because He is my

Proverbs 18:24



# God is Pure

## Level 6 (age 10)

### Subtheme

God's righteousness, not self-righteousness

Wash me and I will be whiter than snow.  
Psalm 51:7



### Related topics for Christian schools

Consumer education: honesty/dishonesty in advertising; testing the performance of products, e.g. cleaning products; finding out whether products are what they are made out to be

#### Other

- cleaning in the home
- water (symbol of purity)
- light (symbol of purity)
- purity in relationships: loving and forgiving
- the fall of the perfect creation; environmental pollution
- the purity of heaven

### Character Development *(See Jesus First)*

- honesty
- goodness
- respect
- responsibility

### Christian Life

- living as Jesus wants us to live
- putting into practice the words of Jesus
- having a clean heart

# God is Pure 6.1

## Subtheme

God's righteousness, not self-righteousness

## Focus

What is righteousness?

## Bible references

Luke 18:9-14 The righteous Pharisee

Psalms 145:17 The Lord is righteous in all His ways and holy in all His works.

Romans 3:10 There is none righteous, no, not one.

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.

## Song

Whatever is Good (*Couldn't Be Finer*)

## Story: The Righteous Pharisee

Read the story from Luke 18:9-14.

What was the problem with the Pharisees? (verse 9)

What did the righteous Pharisee pray? (verse 11)

What shows us that the tax-collector was humble? (verse 13)

The word 'righteous' came about by putting two smaller words together: right + wise.

To be righteous originally meant to be wise about what is right. That is, to know the right way to think and act.

The Pharisees thought that they were more righteous than anyone else. They thought they knew the right way to think, act and pray. After all, they knew the scriptures. They knew all the rules of the church. But the problem was, they tried to do what was right without the help of God. To think that we can be righteous on our own, without God's help is called self-righteousness. Unfortunately, being self-righteous is not good enough to get us to Heaven.

Even if we try to be as good as we can possibly be, we will always end up doing something wrong. What does God say about ALL people? (Romans 3:10) God knew that people could never be good enough. His answer was Jesus. Jesus is the only person who has never done anything wrong. When we ask Jesus to forgive us for the wrong things we do, and we ask Him to be part of our life, then God doesn't look at our sin any more. He looks at the righteousness of Jesus instead. Read Romans 3:23-25a.

## Art/Craft

Draw a cartoon of the tax-collector and the Pharisee. Write short captions to show what each one is saying, e.g.

- "Thank you Lord that I'm not a sinner like that tax-collector." (Pharisee)
- "Lord, forgive me." (Tax-collector)

## Game – throw the bean bag target game

1. Cut out 13 paper squares (approx. 21x21cm). Find a bean bag or ball.
2. Write the letters of the word 'righteousness' on the squares. (One letter on each square).
3. Tape the paper squares to the floor in various places use them for a target game.
4. **R** scores 13 points, **I** scores 12 points and so on. The player or team with the highest total wins.

# God is Pure 6.2

## Subtheme

God's Righteousness, not self-righteousness

## Focus

The problem of self-righteousness

## Bible references

Genesis 11:1-9 The tower of Babel.

John 8:4-11 The woman caught in adultery.

Psalm 51: 7 & 10 Wash me and I will be whiter than snow; Create in me a clean heart.

## Story 1: The Tower of Babel

Read Genesis 11:1-9

Why did the people want to build this tower? (verse 4)

The main problem with building the tower was the fact that they were not doing it to please God. They were doing it out of selfishness and pride. Their problem was similar to the Pharisees' problem. They wanted to be the best. They were boastful and proud. They were proud of their own efforts. We learn a bit more about the Pharisees in the next story.

## Story 2: The woman caught in adultery

The Pharisees were always trying to catch people doing wrong things, so that they could judge and criticize them. They thought that they were more righteous than anyone else and therefore had the authority to do this.

One day the Pharisees brought a woman to Jesus. She had committed adultery. That meant she was living with a man who was not her husband. The Pharisees knew the ten commandments very well. The 7th commandment was "Do not commit adultery." Because she had broken the commandment, the Pharisees believed that she should be punished.

"What should we do?" asked one of the Pharisees. "Should we stone her to death?" (Their self-righteousness had made them very critical and cruel.)

What was Jesus' answer? (John 8:7)

What was the reaction of the Pharisees? (verse 9)

What did Jesus say to the woman? (verses 10-11)

Jesus did not agree with punishing the woman. Instead, He wanted to forgive her. Through His forgiveness she could be made clean.

The Pharisees believed that they were righteous because they obeyed all the laws, but Jesus said that this wasn't enough. The only way that people could be truly righteous was by accepting His forgiveness. To be made clean through Jesus is God's gift to us. All we have to do is accept it.

## Discussion

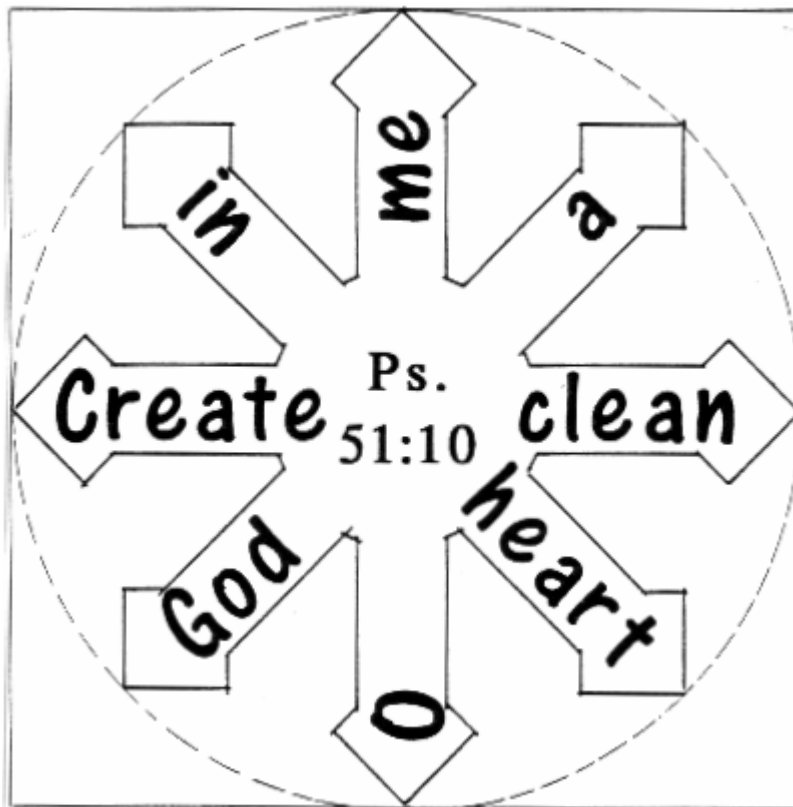
Read Psalm 51: 7 & 10

What is the problem with people who are 'self-righteous'?

What is the only sort of righteousness acceptable to God?

### Art/Craft

Make a snowflake bookmark. Write the words of the prayer from Psalm 51:10a.



## God is Pure 6.3

### Subtheme

God's righteousness, not self-righteousness

### Focus

God's special gift of grace

### Bible references

John 3:1-6 Jesus and Nicodemus.

Ephesians 2:8-9 Saved by grace, not good works.

Hebrews 10:10 We are made holy through Jesus.

### Songs

More like Jesus (*Couldn't Be Finer*)

Nicodemus (*Sing A Joyful Song*)

### **Story 1: Nicodemus**

For the last two weeks we have been looking at the actions of the Pharisees. They were not only proud and self-righteous, but seemed to delight in criticizing others who did the wrong thing. Most of the Pharisees hated Jesus, because He said that just following the Ten Commandments was not good enough. To truly get to know God we must accept His forgiveness. The Pharisees didn't think they needed forgiveness for anything!

However there was one Pharisee who was not self-righteous. He was attracted to Jesus and His teachings. Nicodemus wanted to learn more.

He came to Jesus one night after dark. Jesus was happy to talk with Nicodemus and listen to his questions. Nicodemus said to Jesus: "Teacher, we know You must be from God. No one could do the wonderful miracles you do without God's power."

How did Jesus reply? (John 3:3)

This surprised Nicodemus. He questioned Jesus further (verse 4). Jesus explained that everyone must be born twice. The second time is when we accept Jesus into our life and we have a new start (verse 6).

Our spirit is the part of us that we cannot see. It is the part of us that can communicate with God. When our spirit is born again we have a new life. We ask Jesus to take charge of our new life. We accept His love and forgiveness. When God looks at us He does not measure how good or bad we have been. He just looks for a life that has been forgiven by Jesus, and a life that is committed to following Him.

### **Bible research**

Read Ephesians 2:8-9

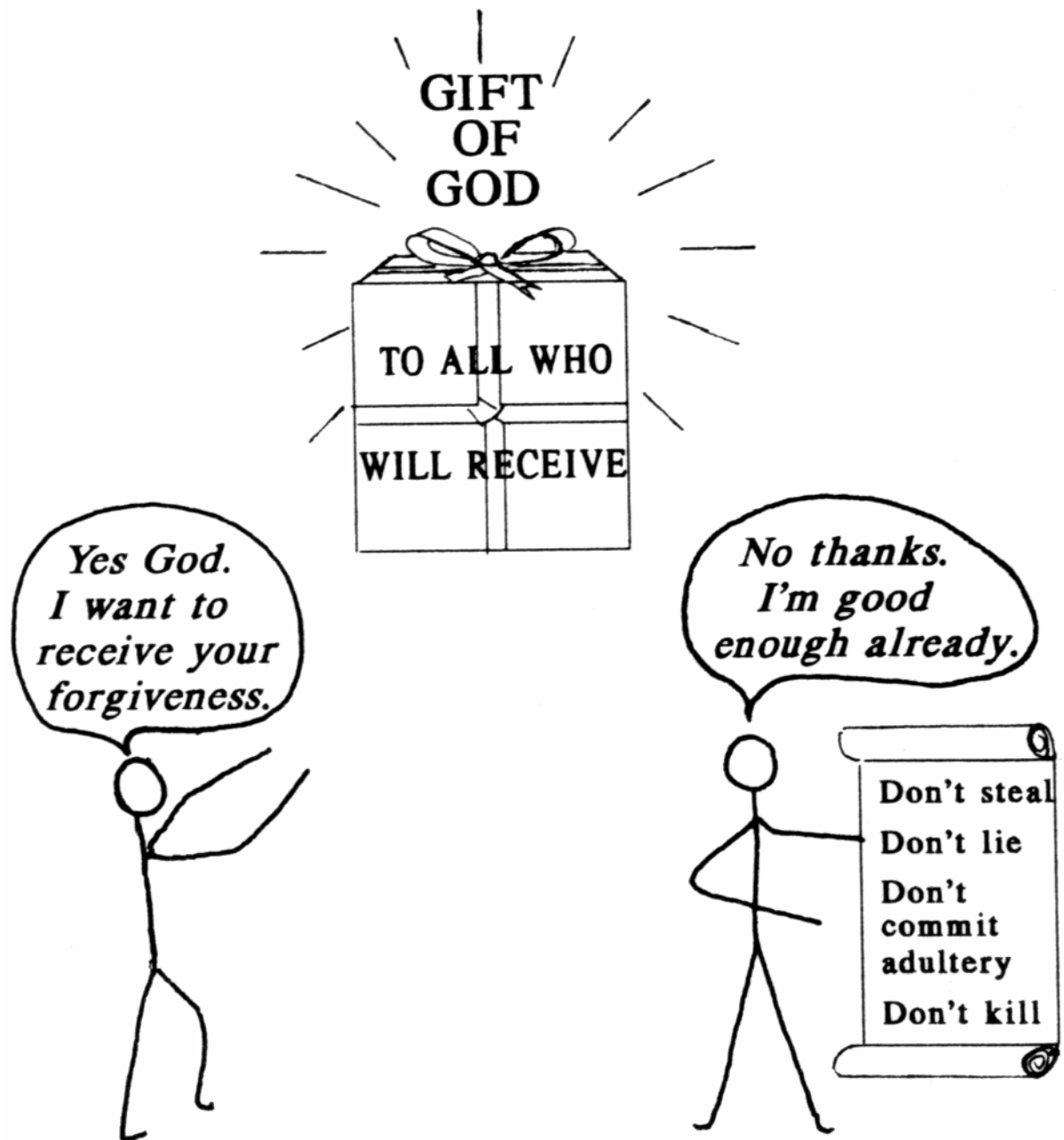
What does it mean to be 'saved' by 'grace'?

When we have accepted God's free gift of love and forgiveness, then we are 'saved' from being judged for our sin. We are made clean in the eyes of Jesus.

God's 'grace' means His 'pardon'. It's a bit like a person who must go to jail because he has robbed a bank. However, the robber has a change of life-style. The judge pardons him and lets him go free. The robber no longer has to pay the price for what he has done wrong.

God is a very fair judge. He sent Jesus so that everyone could have the opportunity of being pardoned for their sin. It is His gift to us.

In the following picture we see two different responses to God's gift to us. For each drawing, decide whether the person has a humble heart or a self-righteous heart. Write your answer beneath the pictures.



### **Drama**

Make up a short play from these sketches. First of all you will need to make a big imitation gift. Then write the words on it as shown. Choose three people. One is the 'evangelist', who offers the gift. One is the person who accepts. The other is the person who rejects.



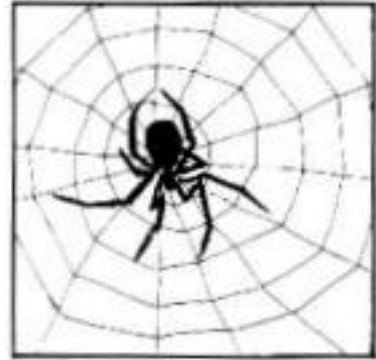
# God is Patient

## Level 6 (age 10)

### Subtheme

Patience and perseverance

*Be patient with everyone. 1 Thessalonians 5:14 (GNB)*



### Integrated Topics for Christian education

Patience and perseverance required by pioneers and early settlers; pioneer technology; comparing lifestyle of early generations with today.

#### Other

- waiting for seeds to grow
- measuring time
- listening to others patiently
- listening, sound and the ear
- patience with people
- patience with the elderly or disabled
- patience displayed by animals in home building. e.g. spiders.
- hobbies requiring patience, e.g. jigsaws; stamp collecting; playing a musical instrument; various crafts
- works of art and architecture e.g. Sistine chapel ceiling by Michelangelo
- tolerance
- patience in hobbies and occupations
- lifestyle 100 years ago or more: patience in doing tasks manually
- development of technology

### Character Development *(See Jesus First)*

- patience
- diligence
- self-control

### Christian Life

- being patient with others
- having self-control
- waiting for God to answer prayer

# God is Patient 6.1

## Subtheme

Patience and perseverance

## Focus

Perseverance in prayer

## Bible references

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

Luke 11:5-13 Ask and keep on asking.

John 5:1-8 The crippled man at the pool.

## Song

Ask, Seek, Knock (*Couldn't Be Finer*)

## Story 1: Robert Bruce and the spider

Robert Bruce was a brave man who lived in Scotland in the 13th century. In those days Scotland was under the rule of the English. Robert made up his mind to set his country free from English rule.

When the Scots saw that Robert Bruce was such a brave man, they decided to make him king. But this made the English people very angry. They set out to kill Bruce and take the crown from him.

Before the Scots were ready for battle, the English army came upon them. The Scots fought bravely, but they were beaten, and Bruce had to flee for his life. For some time after this, Bruce had to hide out in the mountains. Once he hid in a deserted cabin. As he lay there, tired and hungry, he was very sad. He thought that he could never again drive the English out and make Scotland free.

As he was trying to think what to do, he saw a spider at work in the cabin. The spider had spun a long thread and was trying to swing by it from one part of the wall to another. It tried again and again. Bruce counted six times. This was the same number of times that he had failed in battle against the English. Then he thought the spider would give up and not try again.

He said to himself, "If the spider does try again and does reach the other wall, then I will try again to set my country free."

Once more the spider swung itself from the wall, and this time it got to the place it had been trying to reach. When Bruce saw that the spider had kept trying and finally succeeded, he felt much better. He decided that he too would try once more to defeat the English. So he gathered his army together, and soon he was master of the land.

Do you know this proverb?

If at first you don't succeed, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_ again.

## Discussion

Have you ever noticed what a spider does when its web has been destroyed?

Sometimes spiders decide to make webs on the ceiling of your house...particularly in the corners. Mum will then get out the broom or vacuum cleaner and get rid of the cobwebs. The

spider runs away, but before long you will find it in exactly the same place rebuilding its web. It never gives up, no matter how many times the web is destroyed.

The lesson Robert Bruce learned from the spider was to try, try, try again. A word for this is 'perseverance'.

**Questions:**

1. Who was Robert Bruce?
2. In which country did he live?
3. Why did he want to defeat the English?
4. Why was he sitting in the cabin?
5. How many times did he see the spider try to build its web?
6. Why did Robert keep on trying to set his country free?

**Story 2: The widow and the judge**

Jesus told this story to teach us about persevering in prayer. If our prayers are not answered the first time we pray, then we should not give up. We should continue to pray in faith.

Read the story from Luke 18:1-8.

Why did the judge give the widow what she wanted?

Read Luke 11:5-13

How is this passage similar to the story of the widow and the judge?

What are some examples of things we might pray for?

God wants us not only to keep on asking for these things but also, to keep on believing.

**Story 3: The man at the pool** (John 5:1-18)

The Bible tells us of a man who waited for healing for 38 years. He would lie beside a special mineral pool that occasionally bubbled a bit like a spa. It was meant to bring health to those who bathed in it. However the man could never get in because of the crowds of people all rushing to get in each time the water bubbled. The man never gave up hoping for healing. However one day Jesus came by. Jesus was able to offer the man far more than the mineral pool could ever do for him.

"Take up your bed and walk," said Jesus, and the man was healed immediately.

*Maybe you know someone who is sick. Don't give up praying for them!*

**The knot game**

Tie knots in two pieces of rope. Divide into two teams and stand in lines. (If you have five per team you will need 5 knots in each rope.)

The person at the front of the line unties a knot and then passes it on to the next person. Which team can get the knots untied first?

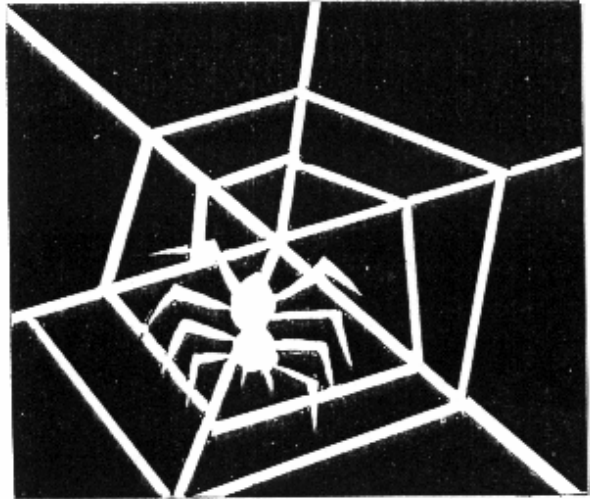
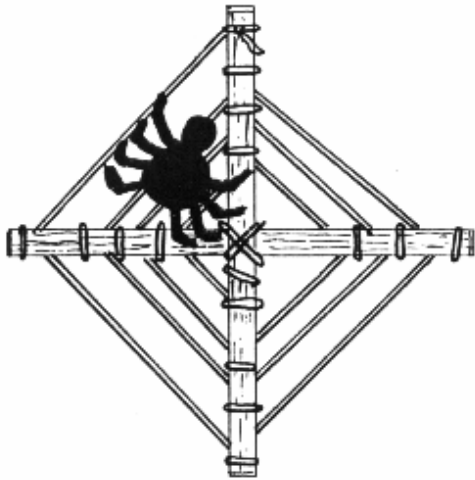
**Art/Craft**

*Activity 1*

Make a spider in a web. Use paper mache and pipe-cleaners for the spider; sticks and wool for the web.

*Activity 2*

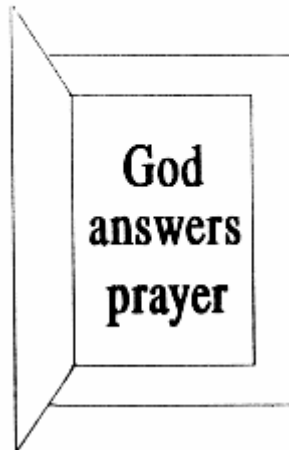
Make a collage of a spider in a web using white paper strips on black paper.



### Activity 3

Make a card with an opening door.

- Make a door from coloured paper.
- Attach door to white card along left-hand edge.
- Open the door and find a message inside.



# God is Patient 6.2

## Subtheme

Patience and perseverance

## Bible references

Ezra 4-6; Nehemiah 1-6 Rebuilding Jerusalem and the temple

1 Corinthians 9:24-25 Run the race to win.

Philippians 3:14 Running towards the goal

## Focus

Perseverance in completing the task

## Songs

Ask, seek knock (*Couldn't Be Finer*)

Hare and Tortoise (*All Creation Sings*)

## Story 1: The Hare and the Tortoise

Ask if anyone can tell the Aesop's fable, "the Hare and the Tortoise".

The hare didn't make the most of his talent. What was his problem? Although the tortoise didn't have much talent, he used what little he had. He tried his hardest and did not give up.

## Bible research

Read 1 Corinthians 9:24-25

The Bible tells us that we should live the Christian life as if we are running a race. We should try hard to live the Christian life just as an athlete has to try his very best to win the race.

We must do our best in all things, even when the task is difficult. For an athlete, much discipline and training is required to reach the necessary standard. An athlete must always be aiming to reach higher goals. Long distance runners must persevere, even when they feel tired.

Which of these require the most perseverance for YOU...?

- a school project
- writing a story
- designing and building a cubby house
- sewing
- running a marathon
- learning a musical instrument
- a maths test

## Story: Rebuilding Jerusalem

Darius was a king of Babylon in Old Testament times. We remember how the Egyptian Pharaoh had held God's people captive in earlier times. God's people were being held captive once again, this time, by King Darius. Darius had been responsible for throwing Daniel into the lion's den. The Israelites were pleased when Darius died and a new king took his place. The new king, Cyrus, was kind to the Israelites.

During the 70 years that Darius had been king, Jerusalem had been destroyed. The houses had been burned, the beautiful temple built by king Solomon had been destroyed, and the city walls had been broken down. King Cyrus decided to let the Israelites have Jerusalem back again. He said that they may rebuild the city, including the temple.

The Israelites set off for Jerusalem. It was a long way back...more than 500 miles. The people walked while the animals carried their possessions. Although the journey was long and difficult, the people were excited. When they arrived, they found nothing but a heap of rubbish. It took them a long time to clear it all away. Finally the day came for them to start building.

However the work was not as easy as they thought. As soon as they finished the city the walls, trouble began. Some of the Babylonians did not like what the Israelites were doing. King Cyrus's reign had been short. He died suddenly and a new king took his place. The trouble-makers persuaded the new king to believe that the Israelites would not pay taxes once they had a city of their own. The new king put a stop to all work on the city. For 16 years the Israelites did no more work. During this time God sent two prophets to encourage the people. "Don't worry," said the prophets. "The temple will be built before long."

Then another new king came to reign. His name was Darius the Great. Darius the Great permitted the building to continue. He gave the Israelites money and materials, animals and food. Soon the temple was finished. It had taken 20 years to build. The people were filled with joy and praised God for sending King Darius the Great.

The re-building of the temple was an important sign to the Israelites, because God had promised them that soon after the rebuilding of the temple, a Saviour would be born in Israel. He would be God's own Son.

Although the Israelites were happy about the temple, there were dangers. The stone wall around the temple was still broken down. As fast as the workers tried to build up the wall, the enemies would come and knock it down again. Nehemiah, a servant in the king's palace, heard about the problem and wanted to help. Nehemiah knew exactly what to do. He gave instruction to the builders:

"Every man," he said, "must build the part of the wall that is closest to his own house. Every man must have a sword as well as a trowel to build with. On the first day, half of the men will stand guard with their swords while the others build. On the next day, the men will change places."

Everyone set to work. But there were still difficulties with the enemies. At one point the builders were ready to give up.

"Don't stop!" said Nehemiah. "Keep working. Don't be afraid. God will help us."

God did help them, and in 52 days the wall was complete. Once again the Israelites praised God for sending another great helper, Nehemiah.

### **Game: Card city**

Use playing cards to make any kind of building. Count each card you use. See who can use the most cards before the building collapses.



**Unjumble this message and write it on the blocks of the wall:  
REACH TO KEEP THE GOAL TO TRYING (Philippians 3:14)**

**Questions:**

1. What had happened while Darius was king?
2. What kind of a king was he?
3. How did King Cyrus help the Israelites?
4. What happened when King Cyrus died?
5. How did the two prophets help the Israelites?
6. Which king helped the Israelites to finish re-building the temple?
7. Why was the re-building of the temple so important?
8. Why was the re-building of the wall important?
9. Who did God send to help the Israelites build the wall?
10. What made the Israelites feel like giving up?
11. What advice did Nehemiah give?
12. How long did it take to re-build the wall?
13. What would have happened if the Israelites were not patient and persevering?

**God is Patient**

God never gives up on us. He is patient with us. We often do the wrong thing. God just keeps forgiving. God wants us to be patient too.... patient with others, and patient in the things we do. We can also be patient in prayer. If we ask God for something we need, and we don't get it the first time we pray, then we shouldn't give up. God will answer our prayers in His time. He knows the right time to us the things we are praying for.

**What should I do when my prayers are not answered?**

I should **keep** on praying.

I should trust that God *will* answer my prayers when He is **ready**.

I must remember that God knows what is **best** for me.

# God is a Servant

## Level 6 (age 10)

### Subtheme

Spreading the Good News

*Let love cause you to serve one another. Galatians 5:13 (GNB)*

### Integrated topics for Christian Education

Communicating the Good News: missionaries; Bible translators

#### Other

- serving in the home
- people who serve in the community
- medical profession
- animals that serve man
- communication technology serving man
- transport technology serving man
- serving with time and talents
- occupations
- pioneers and explorers who sacrificed and endured
- biographies of people who have served
- Serving with our talents

### Character Development *(See Jesus First)*

- helpfulness
- humility
- sacrifice

### Christian Life

- serving God and others with humility
- giving up time and energy to help others





# God is a Servant 6.1

## Subtheme

Spreading the Good News

## Focus

What is the Good News?

## Bible references

Luke 4:18; 7:22 Jesus Himself brought the Good News.

Isaiah 42:6-7; 60:1-3 The prophets foretold that the 'light' would come. That light would be Jesus.

John 1:4-5; 8:12 Jesus, the light of the world

Matthew 5:14 Christians are lights to the world.

Romans 10:14; Ephesians 6:15 Feet to spread the Good News.

## Song

Lord I Want to Shine (*Couldn't Be Finer*)

## Introduction

Make a list of ways in which we can receive news...

e.g. mail service, radio, newspaper, telephone, person to person.

How do you think news would have been spread in Bible times?

News was carried directly from person to person. There was no radio or T.V.

## Bible research

Jesus spent much of His time telling people the Good News. He told people that they could be forgiven and healed if they believed in Him. A new era had begun. No longer did people have to offer sacrifices to make up for the wrong things they had done. God's Son had come to earth and could forgive their sins once and for all. (Read Luke 4:18 and Luke 7:22)

Before Jesus came, people lived in 'darkness'. This did not mean that it was dark all the time. It meant that people were suffering from sadness and guilt. They felt guilty for their sin. They felt distant from God because of the original separation that took place in the Garden of Eden.

However the prophets promised that a 'light' was coming. The light was a symbol of hope. The light was to be Jesus. Just as a light lights up the darkness, Jesus would bring hope to a world of sorrow. There would now be a chance for people to be free from guilt. Jesus could forgive them.

Read about Jesus as the promised light to the world in Isaiah 42:6-7 and Isaiah 60:1.

When Jesus grew up and started His work, He announced to everyone that He was the light promised from long ago.

Read John 1:4-5 and John 8:12.

Jesus told all those who followed Him that they too could be lights. A Christian can be a light by bringing the Good News to others. Those who do this are called missionaries.

Read Matthew 5:13-14

### **Story: William Booth**

In England in the 19th century lived a man who felt God calling him to bring light to people in darkness. His name was William Booth. In 1855, after marrying his wife Catherine, he decided to become a church minister. However, he soon felt dissatisfied with preaching to the well-dressed people in churches. His heart went out to the poor people on the streets of London. These were the people who really needed to hear God's word. Perhaps they felt too ashamed to enter the beautiful church buildings.

William decided to erect a tent and hold a meeting for them. Many came to see what it was all about. Some were drunk and the meetings were often noisy. William also preached on the streets outside the pubs. Many would leave the pubs to listen to him. In days when there was no T.V. or radio, many people would come out to hear street preaching. However, some did not like the preaching. They did not want to receive God's forgiveness. They laughed and threw things at William.

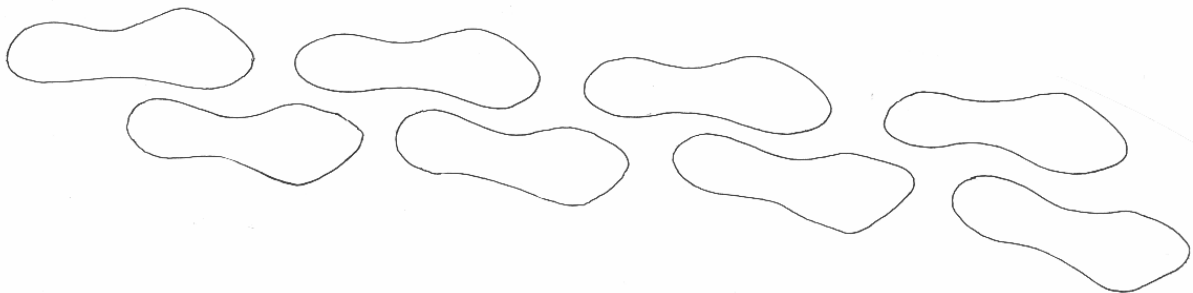
William cared particularly for the poor. He knew that he must do more than just tell them the Good News. He must show them God's care by helping them in a practical way. In those days there were many poor people in England. Most people received a very low wage and often one family had to sleep in one room. Many could not afford beds, nor adequate food or clothing. Many were so depressed about their poverty that they turned to drink. Drinking was a huge problem, even for children.

William decided to set up a 'soup kitchen'. He collected unwanted vegetables from the market, and unwanted bones from the butcher. With these ingredients he and his wife made soup and served it to the hungry. Soon William had many helpers. Together they decided that they were like an army. They were soldiers for God, fighting against a world of poverty and suffering. They became known as the 'Salvation Army' because they preached the Good News...that Jesus came to save people from sadness and guilt. They told people how they could receive God's forgiveness and begin a new life as a follower of Jesus.

#### **Activities:**

1. Make a list of ways in which we can receive news today.
2. How do you think news would have been spread in Bible times?
3. How did William proclaim the Good News of Jesus?
4. How did he show the love of Jesus in actions?
5. What is the Good News?
6. Who is the 'Light to the world' promised in the Old Testament? (Isaiah 42:6-7; Isaiah 60:1)
7. How can Christians be lights to the world? (Matthew 5:13-14)
8. Find out what the Bible says about 'feet' which carry the Good News from Romans 10:14 and Ephesians 6:15. Write a Bible message inside the foot-prints, (one word in each footprint).

#### **How can they hear unless someone tells them?**



# God is a Servant 6.2

## Subtheme

Spreading the Good News

## Focus

Jesus sent out the disciples.

## Bible references

Mark 1:16-18 Fishing for men

Luke 9:1-6 The disciples were sent out.

Matthew 28:16-20; Luke 16:14-20 Go into all the world.

John 14:12 You will do greater things.

Acts 8:26-40 Philip shares the Good News with an Ethiopian.

Acts 16:6-15 A call from Macedonia

## Song

Lord I Want to Shine (*Couldn't Be Finer*)

## Story 1: The Disciples Spread the Good News

The disciples followed Jesus for three years. They spent as much time as possible with Him, listening, watching and learning. Jesus had a plan for the disciples right from the moment He called them. "I will make you fishermen for men", He said. Jesus spent the three years training the disciples to spread the Good News. Only Jesus knew how short their learning time would be. Three short years, and then it would be up to the disciples to carry the light of the Gospel to others. Jesus told them that they would do the works that He did. They would not only tell people the Good News, but also do miracles through the power of God. (John 14:12)

Jesus called His followers together and sent them out. Jesus now called them apostles, because they were His messengers.

Read about this in Luke 9:1-6.

When the time came for Jesus to go back to His Father in Heaven, He called the disciples together and gave them another special command. They would not just be His messengers to the people of Israel but they were to go to other parts of the world too. Read about this in Matthew 28:16-20.

The apostles could not take the gospel to ALL the world by themselves. Many countries were unknown to them at that time. Who do you think this command was meant for?

Once Jesus returned to His Father, the apostles began traveling by land and sea to far away places. More apostles, such as Paul, Philip and Timothy were added to their number.

They found themselves preaching the Gospel not only to Jews, but also to people from different countries and different races.

Philip was sent by an angel on a special errand to meet a man from Ethiopia. The man was an officer in the army for the Queen of Ethiopia. He was returning from Jerusalem, sitting in a chariot, reading from the Old Testament. Find out what happened (Acts 8:29-40).

Another time Paul had a vision of a man far away in a place called Macedonia. God was calling Paul to go there and tell the Good News (Acts 16:6-15).

Amazing things were happening. God was now giving the apostles His power to spread the Gospel.

Since those days, many people have experienced that same power as they have carried the Good News to different parts of the world.

**Questions:**

1. How long did Jesus spend with the disciples?
2. What is the meaning of a disciple?
3. What is the meaning of an apostle?
4. Jesus told the apostles to go to peoples everywhere, in every part of the world. The apostles could not take the gospel to ALL the world by themselves. Many countries were unknown to them at that time. Who do you think this command was meant for?
5. Where is Ethiopia?
6. What happened when the man from Ethiopia met Philip?
7. Where is Macedonia?
8. What did Paul do after he had a vision of the man from Macedonia?

**Story 2: The Story of Hudson Taylor**

Hudson Taylor was born in England in 1832. His parents knew and loved God, and at the age of 12 Hudson decided that he would one day become a missionary in China. However in his teenage years he turned away from the Christian life. One day he picked up a Christian story. He decided to read it, and was suddenly overcome by the need to ask Jesus for forgiveness, and once again became His follower.

When he was 17 years old, Hudson heard a clear voice from God, saying, "Go to China." He went to see a minister about it. The minister told him that going to China would be a very foolish thing to do.

"There are so few missionary societies working there, and the climate is unbearable!" he said.

However Hudson did not give up. He read all the books he could find about China, and even tried to teach himself the Chinese language. After writing to several missionary societies, he finally received an answer from one...the Chinese Evangelization Society. They arranged to pay for his training as a doctor at a London hospital.

At the age of 21, he boarded a sailing ship bound for China. It was a dangerous journey, around the Cape and through the East Indies. At one point they were almost shipwrecked. After 23 weeks the ship finally arrived in Shanghai. In those days Hudson was the only missionary in Shanghai and he was often homesick. He missed his family and friends in England. He also missed the food that he was so used to. The Lord sent to him a Chinese Christian to help him in his medical work. His helper had a long pigtail, almost reaching the ground.

Hudson traveled as much as he could, not only to give medical help, but also to preach the Gospel. Hudson had no trouble in attracting a crowd. People were very curious. In fact the listeners did not take their eyes off him. Then one day he was asked, "What can be the meaning of those buttons in the middle of the honourable back?"

Hudson realized how amusing his 19th century English costume was to the Chinese. In fact they probably paid more attention to his clothes than the words he preached! Hudson realized that before the Chinese could really understand the Good News, he must become like them. He must show them that he was not someone so unusual, but an ordinary person like themselves. Hudson threw away his English clothes and chose Chinese dress. He even grew a pigtail.

In 1858, Hudson married Maria. Together they worked to bring the Good News to the Chinese people. Life was difficult as they battled against hardship and disease. The summers were extremely hot and their health suffered. Two of their children died from disease, and then one

day, Maria died also. Hudson did not stop trusting in God. He continued to serve God through difficult circumstances knowing one thing...that God had called him to preach the Good News to those who had never heard. Through his work, Hudson opened the way for other missionaries to come to China. Hudson Taylor started one of the most successful missions to China. It was known as the China Inland Mission.

### Activities:

1. Put these in the right order:
  - a) Hudson turned away from God
  - b) Hudson came back to God after reading a book
  - c) At the age of 12 Hudson decided to become a missionary.
2. Why did the minister think that going to China was foolish?
3. How did Hudson train and prepare for being a missionary?
4. Use an atlas and trace with your finger, the route that Hudson took to China.
5. What were some of the things Hudson missed about home?
6. Who did the Lord send to help Hudson?
7. Why did Hudson change his way of dressing?
8. What sad events did Hudson experience?
9. How do you think Hudson kept on going, even when sad things happened?
10. Hudson's work was only the beginning of a much larger work. What was it?
11. Find out about a missionary who has gone to another part of the world to preach the Gospel.
12. Use a world map or globe to trace Hudson's voyage from England, around the Cape of Good Hope, to China.

### Game

Each player writes these words on separate slips of paper.

**GO INTO ALL THE WORLD**

On the reverse side of each slip are the numbers 1-5. Set out the slips of paper in order 1-5.

Reverse side:

1 2 3 4 5

Take turns to throw a dice. You must get 6 to start. Then continue taking turns to throw. As you throw a number, turn that slip of paper over to reveal the word on the other side. The first player to turn all the slips over and show the entire message is the winner.

### Project

Decide on some way in which your group can spread the Good News. Maybe you could visit a hospital or old people's home. Maybe you could put on a play or concert.

# God is a Servant 6.3

## Subtheme

Spreading the Good News

## Focus

Spreading the Good News is not always easy.

## Bible references

Acts 19:23 Trouble at Ephesus.

Acts 7:51-60 Stephen gives his life for Jesus.

Revelation 2:10 Faithfulness to the end

## Song

Lord I want to shine (*Couldn't Be Finer*)

## Introduction

Make a list of the names of any missionaries you can think of, past or present. Can you remember the countries in which these missionaries worked?

William Booth

Hudson Taylor

The stories of these missionaries showed us that spreading the Good News is not always easy. Satan does not want people to be won to Jesus. He will try to make things difficult for those who are telling others about Jesus.

How can we be missionaries without going overseas? What difficulties might we face as missionaries?

## Story 1: Trouble in Ephesus

*A story from the Bible*

Find Ephesus on a map. How would the apostles get to Ephesus from Jerusalem?

In Ephesus lived a man named Demetrius. He earned his living by making little statues or idols. People would buy them, put them in their homes and worship them. As Paul and the other apostles preached the Good News, more and more people were throwing away their idols and worshipping the true God instead. This meant that Demetrius was losing money. Demetrius held a meeting with his workers. All were extremely angry.

Why were they angry? (Read Acts 19:27-28)

What happened to the city? (verse 29)

Finally the city clerk was able to stop the riot and the people went home.

This story shows us that not all people want to accept the Good News when they first hear about it...especially if it means giving up certain things. The people of Ephesus did not want to give up their idols. Many people are like this. They may not want to give up things in their life in order to follow Jesus.

## Story 2: Stephen Gives His Life for Jesus

Stephen was one of the apostles. He was angry with the Pharisees for opposing Jesus. What did he say to them? (Read Acts 7:51)

The Pharisees then became angry at Stephen. They were so angry that they took him out of the city and threw stones at him until he died.

The Pharisees needed to give up something before they could follow Jesus. They needed to give up their old religion of obeying laws and offering sacrifices. Jesus said that there was now a new way. That was to accept His forgiveness and become one of His followers. The Pharisees did not want to change. They were proud of their important position in the temple and did not want to give it up to follow Jesus. They did not want to hear that their old religion of 'being good' could not get them to heaven.

### **Story 3: Death in the Jungle**

*A true story from South America*

The Auca Indians who lived in the jungles of Ecuador were a fierce tribe, feared by all other tribes. In the 1950s they were still living in their traditional tribal way. The only contact with white people they had ever had was that of the rubber traders some years before. The rubber traders had come with guns, which had terrified the Aucas. When the five young American missionaries, Nat, Jim, Peter, Ed and Roger decided to make contact with the Aucas, they were really exposing themselves to great danger.

Ed, Jim and Peter had already spent three years working with another tribe of Indians in Ecuador. These were the more friendly Quichas. The Quichas territory bordered that of the Aucas. There they had got to know Nat. He was a pilot with Missionary Aviation Fellowship. His work involved flying a single-engine plane over the jungles and landing on tiny air strips which were merely small clearings in the jungle. He helped other missionaries with transport and supplies. He enjoyed his work, even though it was dangerous.

The four missionaries began praying about going into Auca territory. God would have to open the way for them, as the government had made things so difficult. One day they came across an Auca girl called Dayuma who had run away from the tribe. They were able to make friends with her and learn some of her language. Once a week they would fly over the Auca village and drop gifts using a canvas bucket on a long rope. Their first gift was a shiny aluminium kettle filled with coloured buttons. Other gifts included salt, axe-heads, plastic combs, clothing and little parcels of food wrapped in banana leaves.

Each time they flew over there were more and more Aucas waiting to receive their gifts. They started flying lower with the hope of broadcasting a message to the Aucas through a loud speaker. With the help of Dayuma, they were able to translate the message into the Auca language. "We like you. We have come to pay you a visit," was the message.

The Aucas seemed to be responding. They started sending gifts back to the missionaries using the bucket and rope. They sent a black bird in a cage and some cotton thread.

By now, a fifth missionary, Roger, had joined the four. It was time to make a landing in Auca territory. Nat, the pilot landed the plane safely on a sandy beach four miles from the Auca settlement. They set up base here and prepared to stay for two weeks. They kept up their routine of flying over the settlement delivering gifts. It was not long before the Aucas realized that the plane was landing on the beach and their curiosity overcame their fear. Three Aucas came to investigate. The missionaries made friends with the three Aucas and one of them even agreed to have a ride in the plane.

A couple of days later the men radioed their wives as usual, saying that they had seen ten Aucas heading towards the base. That was the last message they sent. A search party some days later found their bodies in a shallow river. The five missionaries had been killed by the Aucas.

Although the death of the men was tragic, they had pioneered the way for others to spread the gospel. Many other brave Christians continued their work. Two of these were Jim's wife and Nat's older sister. Other missionaries from the U.S.A. also joined them. Even some Indians from the surrounding tribes who had previously received the Good News, came to share with the Aucas. Many Aucas eventually gave their lives to Jesus, and they will always remember the five men who gave their lives to bring them the Good News.

*Story retold from "Through Gates of Splendor" by Elisabeth Elliot (Used by permission).*

### **Activities:**

1. Where is Ecuador?
2. Why were the four American missionaries exposing themselves to great danger?
3. How were the Quicha Indians different to the Aucas?
4. Describe the work of Nat.
5. How did the Auca girl, Dayuma, help the missionaries prepare for reaching the Auca tribe?
6. How did the missionaries try to make friends with the Aucas, before they actually visited them?
7. What kind of gifts did they deliver?
8. What gifts did the Aucas send back?
9. What made the missionaries think that the Aucas were accepting them?
10. How did the work of these men continue after their death?
11. Read about someone else who gave his life for Jesus (Acts 7:51-60)

### **Jesus is a servant**

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world." He is the light that had been spoken about in the Old Testament. People who knew the Scriptures knew that someone would come who would be a light in their world of darkness. Many did not recognise Jesus. They did not realise that He was the light that had come into the world. They were not listening. For people who did listen, they knew that Jesus had come to bring Good News. Jesus told people that they could be forgiven and healed if they believed in Him. People didn't have to offer sacrifices any more. Jesus had come to forgive their sins once and for all.

### **How can I help to spread the Good news?**

I can tell God that I want to be his servant.

I can use my gifts and talents for Him.

I can ask God to help me meet people who need to know about Jesus.

I can ask God to give me the right words to say.

### **Discussion**

Continue to think of ways in which we can share the Good News with those around us.



# God is Life

## Level 6 (age 10)

### Subtheme

God is the joy of life

*No one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.  
John 3:3 (GNB)*



### Integrated Topics for Christian Education

Water, water cycle, rivers, river systems, lakes, river settlements

#### Other

- plant life; ecosystems
- requirements for life-support: air; food; water
- animal life
- the cycle of life from birth to old age
- requirements for life: air, water
- desert survival
- celebrations and cultural festivals

### Character Development *(See Jesus First)*

- joy
- enthusiasm

### Christian Life

- receiving God's gift of eternal life
- accepting Jesus as Lord and Saviour
- knowing the joy that Jesus gives

# God is Life 6.1

## Subtheme

Jesus, the Living Water

## Focus

Just as our bodies need water for life, our spirit needs Jesus, the Living Water.

## Bible references

John 7:37-39 Jesus, the Living Water

John 4:5-30 The woman at the well

## Song

He is Alive (*All Creation Sings*)

## Story 1: The Woman at the Well

In Bible days, people did not have taps in their homes. There was a well at the centre of the village and everyone would go there with their water pots, fill them up, then take them back to their houses.

Jesus was at the well one day and needed a drink. He did not have a water-pot so asked a lady at the well to give Him a drink. Read the story from John 4:5-15

What sort of water was Jesus talking about?

Did the woman understand at first?

Do you think she understood after Jesus explained?

How do we know that the woman accepted the living water from Jesus?

How can we accept the living water that Jesus has to give?

## Story 2: The Secret

*A story from Australia*

Yami was an Australian Aboriginal boy who lived with his family at Wallatinna, about 1000 miles north of Adelaide. In Yami's culture nothing was written down. Everything to do with the land and the history of his people was told to the children by the older Aboriginal people. Through the wealth of stories told by the older people, Yami started learning about the land at an early age. The older people knew where the rock holes and water holes were, and they knew all about finding food. This information remained a secret within the tribe.

Sometimes Yami would travel with his family over the land. It was on these journeys that the secret information was most important. At first they would follow the creek up to the hills. There was always plenty of water in the creek. Then they left the creek and travelled across the bush. They followed a special track well known to the people of Yami's tribe. Along this track there were little rock-holes in which water could be found. Yami's father knew exactly where to find these holes. Yami knew that he too must learn where to find them because one day he would be responsible for finding the holes by himself.

They stopped at a small rock-hole and Yami's father lifted the flat stone lid, which had been placed there to stop the water from evaporating. The rock-hole had filled with water during a rainy period. Even though there had not been rain for some time, the water remained in the rock-hole because of its secure lid. Yami's father carefully placed the lid after each person had drunk some water.

Sometimes Yami's family would travel with other families into the drier parts, but before attempting such a journey they would wait for the rain to fill the rock-holes and clay pans. Knowing where to find water was a special secret passed on from person to person in Yami's tribe. Through this secret information life was sustained in the dry times.

Every living thing needs water. We could say that water is the next most important thing to air in sustaining life. Without water we would have no life.

Jesus said that there is something else that is absolutely important to life. Jesus was talking about our spiritual life. Our spirit is the part of us that lives forever. We need water for our body to have life, but for our spirit to have life we need Jesus.

**Art/Craft**

Make a miniature clay water pot and well from modelling clay.

**Puzzle**

Crack the code and write a message inside the clay jar.

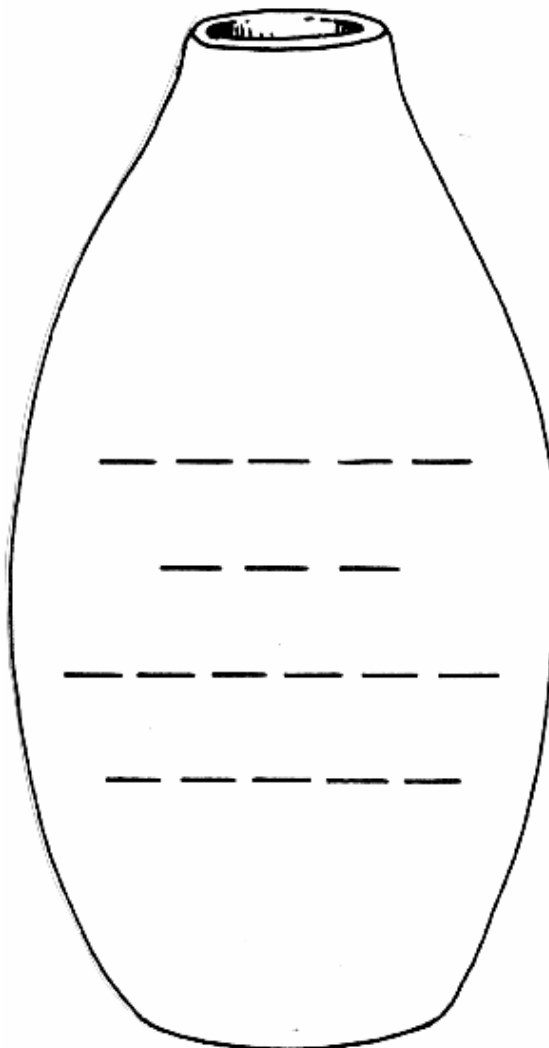
CODE: a=3 b=6 c=9 etc.

30. 15. 57. 63. 57

60. 24. 15

36. 27. 66. 27. 42. 21

69. 3. 60. 15. 54



# God is Life 6.2

## Subtheme

Jesus, the Living Water

## Focus

Jot through the Holy Spirit

## Bible references

John 7:37-39 Jesus, the Living Water and the promise of the Holy Spirit.

John 14:26 The Holy Spirit helps us.

Acts 1:8 The Holy Spirit gives us power.

Acts 2 The disciples received the Holy Spirit as promised.

Acts 10:44-48 and Acts 11:15-17 The promise was not just for the disciples.

Luke 11:9-13 We need to ask for the Holy Spirit.

John 16:24 The joy of the Lord

## Song

He is Alive (*All Creation Sings*)

## Introduction: The Promise

When Jesus spoke to people He often helped them to make pictures in their minds by using every-day examples. These examples would represent certain things He was trying to explain about God's Kingdom. We all know how much He liked to talk about shepherds and sheep, to show people the love and care God has for us. He also spoke about seeds, vines, trees, bread and light. Perhaps you can think of some others.

Last week we read how Jesus used the example of water to teach us about the special life that only He could give. The living water that never runs dry is like the life that Jesus gives. It never ends.

Jesus also used the example of water to teach people about the Holy Spirit. Read about this in John 7:37-39. In these verses, Jesus asks us to think about rivers... not trickles of water, but strong flowing rivers. A river is a powerful force. It moves along with energy. It is a source of life for living things for miles around.

Think about the River Nile and the life it gives as it flows through the desert. Rivers not only represent life, but also power. This is like the Holy Spirit, which gives both life and power... new life in Jesus, and power to be His disciple.

Jesus knew that the disciples needed help to spread the Good News. This is why He promised them the Holy Spirit. It would be a powerful and life-giving force to help them after Jesus had returned to heaven. Read about the purpose of the Holy Spirit in John 14:26 and Acts 1:8.

Find out what the disciples had to do in order to receive this promise, in Luke 24:49.

## The promise is given

Read about the coming of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2:1-4.

Was the promise just for the disciples? (Acts 2:38-39)

What were the disciples able to do as a result of receiving the Holy spirit? (Mark 16:20)

**Ask for the Holy Spirit**

Jesus wants us all to ask for the Holy Spirit. Read about this in Luke 11:5-13.

Jesus tells this story to show how serious we must be when we ask. We must want the Holy Spirit with our whole heart.

**Puzzle**

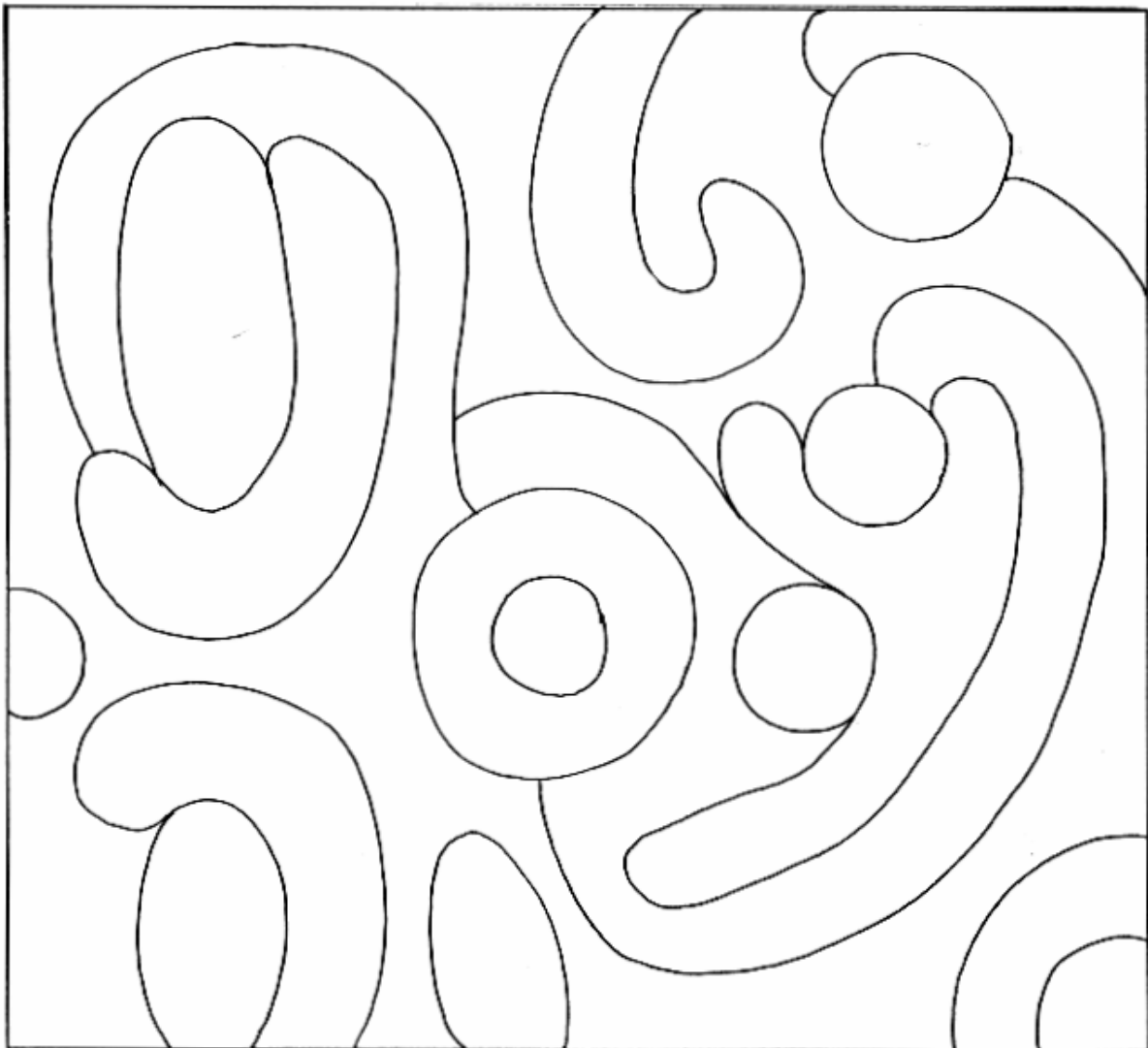
Find the hidden word in this puzzle. It is something that the Holy Spirit gives us. Colour in the word, then read about it in John 16:24.

**Activity 1**

Plant some joy seeds. Place some fine soil or cottonwool in a tray such as a supermarket packaging tray. Mark out the letters J O Y. Carefully fill in the letters with seeds. Water gently with a sprayer.

**Activity 2**

Colour in the word 'joy' on this puzzle, or make a similar puzzle for someone else.



# God is Provider

## Level 6 (age 10)

### Subtheme

God is a miraculous provider

*I have provided all kinds of grains and all kinds of fruits for you to eat. Genesis 1:29 (GNB)*



### Integrated Topics for Christian Education

The sea: resources; sea life; fishing industry.

#### Other

- Food: buying food; preparing food; kitchen chemistry; heat
- plants
- forestry
- animal husbandry
- world food shortage
- technology
- rainforests; ecosystems
- fibres and fabrics
- natural materials

### Character Development *(See Jesus First)*

- trust
- faith
- thankfulness
- generosity

### Christian Life

- trusting God as Father
- thanking God for His provision

# God is Provider 6.1

## Subtheme

God is a miraculous provider

## Focus

God sometimes provides miraculously in order to show us how much He loves and cares for us.

## Bible references

1 Kings 17:2-6 Elijah fed by ravens.

Luke 5:1-11 The great catch.

## Songs

The Journey (*Sing A Joyful Song*)

Ask, Seek Knock (*Couldn't Be Finer*)

## Introduction

Try to think of some of the most amazing miracles recorded in the Bible. Make a list of them. When God does something that is miraculous, it means that we cannot explain it. We don't know how it happened. We just have to accept that God did it.

## Story 1: Elijah Fed by Ravens

Through God's power, Elijah had brought a boy back to life. Elijah saw many miracles even though he lived long before Jesus came to earth. He had great faith that nothing was impossible with God. He knew God as his closest friend and heard God speak to him. Often God gave Elijah messages to tell other people. Because of this he was called a prophet.

The first of Elijah's miracles happened when the whole land of Israel was going through a great drought. God had caused the drought to come upon the land as a warning to the king who no longer worshipped the true God. He had begun to worship Baal. God sent Elijah to warn the king and to explain why God had sent the drought.

Instead of accepting God's message, and turning away from his idol worship, the king became angry with Elijah. God protected Elijah. He told him to go and live at a place near Cherith Brook, where there was plenty of water.

"And don't worry about food, Elijah. "I have already commanded the ravens that live in the area to bring you food every day."

Read about this in 1 Kings 17:2-6. What kind of food did the ravens bring?

"This is remarkable," thought Elijah. "The ravens are meat eaters, yet they bring this food to me every day instead of eating it themselves. What's more, they bring bread as well, and ravens do not eat bread. So why would they pick it up, unless God had chosen to use them especially to feed me? Thankyou God for your loving care."

## Questions

1. What amazing miracles had Elijah performed through God's power?
2. Why did Elijah have to go and live near the brook?
3. What kind of food did the ravens bring? (1 Kings 17:6)
4. Why was Elijah amazed that the ravens brought him food?

## Story 2: The Great Catch

Read the story from Luke 5:1-11.

Jesus performed this miracle for His friends to show how much He cared for them. Jesus knew, without being told, that they had caught nothing during the night. The night was the best time for fishing.

"If we caught nothing during the night, then certainly we will not catch anything during the day," they were probably thinking. But the disciples obeyed anyway.

The disciples were amazed at the miracle. They knew that Jesus must be God's Son. But they were also amazed that Jesus would do this miracle just for them.

## Story 3: Fish for Everyone

This is a true story of a miracle that occurred in 1981 on a ship in Greece. It happened to a group of people who travelled by ship to spread the Good News, and help the poor. The name of the group was *Youth With A Mission*, and the name of their ship was the *Anastasis*. The crew of the *Anastasis* was made up of 175 people from many different nations. All saw the miracle that occurred while the ship was anchored at a port in Greece.

One of the ship's crew named Moustafa was walking down the beach. As he was walking along the water's edge, he saw twelve fish leave the water and swim ashore. Moustafa thought that this was strange, as fish don't normally do this. Then he actually watched them flop out of the sea and into the shallow rock-pools close to the shore. He quickly picked them up and ran back to show his friends. Moustafa was from North Africa and had learnt to cook fish in a special way over an open fire. He cooked the fish and shared them with his friends.

The next day a family was sitting in the ship's dining room having their evening meal. The family looked in amazement as 15-20 feet away from their table at the shoreline, a large fish jumped ashore. They ran to the beach and grabbed the fish. Then a few days later, another one of the ship's crew noticed many fish coming ashore. The fish were jumping out of the sea on to dry land. The fish were gathered up. There were 210. That was enough for everyone to have fresh fish.

Two days later it began to happen again. "The fish are jumping out of the sea again!" called someone. Fish by the tens, fifties and hundreds were jumping ashore. The crew gathered fish for a long time. Two wheel-barrows were used to cart the fish back to the galley. When all had been collected there were nearly two tons of fish. Two thousand, three hundred and one fish were counted and put into large plastic barrels. There was enough fish in the ship's freezer to last for a long, long time. Every time the crew ate the fish they were reminded of God's care for them.

### Questions:

1. Describe the purpose of the people on board the ship.
2. Where was the ship anchored at the time of this story?
3. What kind of people made up the crew?
4. How is this story similar to the Bible story of the great catch, in Luke 5:1-11?
5. Why did Jesus perform the miracle of the great catch for the disciples?
6. Why do you think God performed the modern-day miracle?

### Art/Craft

Make a display of colourful paper fish. If you have a net you can attach them to the net with paper clips. Make a sign, 'GOD PROVIDES AND CARES FOR US'.



# God is Provider 6.2

## Subtheme

God is a miraculous provider

## Focus

God can miraculously provide through multiplication.

## Bible references

1 Kings 17:10-16 The widow of Zarephath and the jars of oil.

2 Kings 4:1-7 God uses Elisha to miraculously fill jars of oil for a widow.

Mark 6:30-44 The loaves and fishes.

2 Kings 4:42-44 Elisha multiplies bread.

## Song

What a Mighty God (*All Creation Sings*)

## Introduction

Draw a dot on a large sheet of paper. Under the dot, draw two dots. Under the two dots draw four dots and so on.

What basic principle is at work here? The answer of course is multiplication.

God has used the principle of multiplication many times to miraculously provide for people. It means that He starts with very little, and He just causes it to become more and more and more.

## Bible research

Try to think of any multiplication miracles from the Bible.

(*Elijah and Elisha, 1 Kings 17:10-16 and 2 Kings 4:42-44.*)

Revise the story of the loaves and fishes. (Mark 6: 30-44).

How much did Jesus start with? (Mark 6:38)

How much did Jesus provide from this? (Mark 6:42-44)

Read about a similar miracle that God did through Elisha from 2 Kings 4:42-44.

Jesus said that we must have faith for God to provide. We must trust in God and believe that He can do it. Sometimes we may not feel that we have a lot of faith, but all we need is a little. In fact if we have as little as a tiny mustard seed, God can multiply that faith and help us to believe for great miracles. (Matthew 17:20)

Revise the story in 1 Kings 17:10-16

## Story: The Precious Vitamin Drops

This is a true story about someone who used their faith to trust God when things were very difficult. It took place in Europe during the Second World War where the Jews who lived there were being captured and taken to prison camps.

The story was written by Corrie ten Boom. She was not Jewish, but Dutch. She and her family decided risk their own lives in order to help the Jews at that time. They took Jews into their own home for protection and hid them in a secret room. However, finally the day came when they were discovered.

Corrie ten Boom and her sister Betsie were placed into a prison camp along with the Jews they had tried to hide.

Women were crammed into dirty, cold, damp barracks. Food was little more than watery turnip soup. During the day they were forced to do extremely hard labour. Despite their dreadful circumstances Corrie and Betsie did not stop trusting God.

Betsie found it particularly difficult because she was not well. She was suffering from a vitamin deficiency for which she needed vitamin drops. Corrie and Betsie had managed to bring some of their things with them to the first prison camp, including the vitamin drops and a Bible. However, when they were moved to a second camp they were not allowed to take anything in with them. Each woman was searched thoroughly as she passed in line through the gates. All Corrie and Betsie could do was to pray desperately to their Heavenly Father. Corrie stood in the queue, trying to hide behind her back, a jumper with vitamin drops and Bible wrapped inside. When it was Corrie's turn to pass the guard, instead of searching her, he just pushed her through the gate with the words, "Move along! You're holding up the queue."

And so Corrie and Betsie arrived inside the barracks bringing not only the Bible and vitamins, but the knowledge of God's power to work a miracle. Soon Corrie discovered that there were twenty-five other women with the same vitamin deficiency. They too need the precious vitamin drops.

"What should I do, Lord?" asked Corrie. "If I give the drops to all these women there will only be enough to last a day! Even if I save the drops for Betsie there will be only enough to last a month."

Corrie knew what she must do. She lined up all the women who were ill and gave them the drops. Strangely enough, she lined the women up again the next day and there were still enough drops for everyone. She tried it again the next day, and the next. Still there were enough. Every time she tilted the bottle a drop appeared at the tip of the glass stopper.

"It just couldn't be!" said Corrie. She held it up to the light, trying to see how much was left, but the dark brown glass was too thick to see through.

"There was a woman in the Bible," said Betsie, "whose oil jar was never empty." She turned to the story in the book of 1st Kings. They read about the poor widow of Zarephath who had cared for Elijah. She continued to have oil in her jar and flour in her flour bin no matter how much she used.

It was one thing to believe that such things happened thousands of years ago, but another thing to believe that it could happen today. And yet it happened.

"Don't try to explain it," said Corrie to Betsie. "Just accept it as a surprise from a Father who loves you."

Then one day a young Dutch woman, also in the prison camp, came to Corrie.

"Look what I've got for you!" she said. "Vitamins!"

Somehow she had stolen them from the staff-room. There were several huge containers of vitamins and yeast compound.

"We'll finish the drops first," thought Corrie.

But that night, no matter how long she held the bottle upside-down, or how hard she shook it, not another drop appeared.

*Story retold from "The Hiding Place" by Corrie ten Boom (Used by permission).*

# God is Peace

## Level 6 (age 10)

### Subtheme

God is a reconciler

*We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.  
Romans 5:1*



### Integrated Topics for Christian Education

Bringing God's peace to the nations: New Guinea  
Case study: 'Peace Child' by Don Richardson.

#### Other

- security through homes and families
- peaceful play
- trust, (inner peace)
- dealing with fears, (obstacles to inner peace)
- peace and harmony through art and music
- national and international peace
- biographies of peacemakers and those who have struggled for peace
- Obstacles or barriers to peace: hatred, jealousy and racial prejudice.

### Character Development

- contentment
- being a peace-maker

### Christian Life

- experiencing inner peace
- feeling safe and secure in God's care

# God is Peace 6.1

## Subtheme

God is a reconciler

## Focus

When we make peace with God we become a new person inside.

## Bible references

Colossians 1:20; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20 Jesus reconciled us to God through His death.

1 Corinthians 7:23 We are bought with a price.

Ephesians 2:13-14 Christ broke down the barrier.

Romans 5:10 We were God's enemies, but He made us His friends through the cross.

## Songs

An Instrument of Peace (*Sing A Joyful Song*)

Shalom (*All Creation Sings*)

## Story: Peace Child

This is a true story of a whole group of people who changed their life-style from one of killing and cheating to a life of peace and happiness as they came to know the true peace-maker, Jesus Christ.

In 1962, Don and Carol Richardson went to live among the Sawi people of West Paua (New Guinea). West Papua is the western part of New Guinea. The Sawis had only occasionally seen white people. These were the men sent by the Dutch government to observe the area. The Sawis lived in deep tropical jungle on the edge of the crocodile infested Kronkel River. The Sawis stood in awe of white people, with their planes and helicopters, their jet-propelled rafts and their precious gifts of steel axes and razor blades.

It was a great privilege to have Don and Carol as their very own white residents in their small village. However, for Don and Carol, life was unpredictable, completely foreign to their own way of life, and very dangerous. Only their faith in God gave them the courage they needed to live among the Sawis. They had an inner certainty that Jesus had sent them on a special mission... to bring the Good News to people who lived a life of violence and fear.

At the foundation of all Sawi life was treachery and mistrust. Children were brought up to hold in high esteem the killing of another human being. The Sawis, along with their surrounding tribes, were head-hunters. At least this was the case until the mid-sixties, when Don and Carol penetrated the world of the Sawi.

The Sawis used a tactic of 'fattening with friendship'. To befriend a member of the enemy tribe, gain his confidence, and then kill him when he was not suspecting it, was a deed highly honoured among the Sawis. It was not surprising then, that as Don started to share the Gospel story, Judas was the hero, not Jesus. Judas had done the very thing that the Sawis honoured. That is, to become a friend of Jesus, and then later, turn Him over to the enemy to be killed.

"How can the Gospel be shared with these people?" thought Don. The whole foundation of their society would have to change before the Sawis could even begin to understand why Jesus had to die for them. It was a task too difficult for Don and Carol. They knew that only the Lord could open the minds of the Sawi people by some enormous miracle.

Don and Carol concentrated their work on three Sawi tribes. These were the Haenam, Kamur and Yawi tribes. To these tribes they gave medicine, supplied implements and worked at learning their language so that they could share the Gospel with them. They also taught some of the Sawis to read, in their own language, for the first time.

Working with the three tribes, however, brought about some problems. Don and Carol's work brought the three tribes into closer contact. This meant that fighting among them was becoming more common, and contagious diseases were spreading more rapidly. Don concluded that their past habit of living in small isolated groups had been the key to their survival. Before Don and Carol arrived, potential enemies were out of sight and there were fewer occasions to shed blood. Don and Carol decided that for the good of the people they should leave them. Otherwise the three tribes could die out altogether.

The leaders from two of the warring groups confronted Don.

"Tuan," as they called him, "don't leave us!" they pleaded.

"But I don't want you to kill each other," replied Don.

"Tuan," one of them said, "We're not going to kill each other." "Tomorrow we are going to make peace!"

Don and Carol hardly slept that night, wondering what daybreak would bring. Few of the Sawis slept either. All through the night voices could be heard. Then as daylight broke all was deathly quiet, just as it had been before previous battles.

Then one of the tribe members, Mahaen, and his wife climbed down from their houses. Mahaen was carrying a child, one of his own sons on his back. His wife Syado was sobbing violently. The people of the tribe also started descending from their houses. All eyes were on Mahaen, Syado and the child. Suddenly Syado wrenched the boy from her husband's shoulders and ran off with him. She was not going to give him up. Now all the other women of the Haenem tribes clutched their babies close to their breasts. Someone had to give up their baby.

Finally a man named Kaiyo decided that he would be the one.

"It is necessary," Kaiyo reminded himself. "There's no other way to stop the fighting. And if the fighting does not stop, the Tuan will leave."

Kaiyo reached down and picked up his only child, six-month-old Biakadon. He held the soft, warm gurgling body of his son close to his chest one last time. Kaiyo's wife, Wumi, did not yet know of the decision. Then her eyes flashed towards her husband, who, with Biakadon in his arms, was running towards the other tribe. Wumi screamed and ran after Kaiyo, but Kaiyo did not look back. Wumi felt her feet sinking into the bog. She had missed the trail. There was no hope now. He was too far ahead.

As Kaiyo reached the Haenam tribe his heart was breaking. The men of the village were grouped together waiting to receive the child. The peace ceremony began.

"I give you my son, and with him my name," Kaiyo said as he held forth little Biakadon. Mahor, of the Haeman tribe received him gently into his arms.

"It is enough!" said Mahor. "I will surely plead for peace between us."

Then a father from the Haenam tribe held up one of his sons.

"Will you plead peace among your people?" Kaiyo was asked.

"Yes!" replied Kaiyo.

"Then I give you my son and I give you my name," said the father.

Kaiyo took his newly adopted son, Mani, into his arms and ran quickly back to his own tribe. In each village young and old, male and female, filed past the babies and laid their hands

upon them, sealing their acceptance of peace with the other tribe. The adopted babies were then decorated, ready for a peace celebration.

Don tried to comprehend what had just taken place. He questioned one of the men.

"Why is this necessary?" he asked.

"Tuan," was the reply. "Don't you know that it is impossible to have peace without a peace child?"

"What will happen to Biakadon and Mani?" asked Don. "Will they be harmed?"

"They will not be harmed, Tuan," was the reply. "In fact both our villages will guard the lives of these children even more carefully than they protect their own children."

The exchange of the two babies did actually cause the two warring groups to cease fighting. But for Don and Carol, the peace child illustration meant so much more. Now, finally a way of explaining the sacrifice of God's son had been demonstrated before their very eyes. Don was now able to explain the Gospel in a way in which the Sawis would understand.

"Like Kaiyo," said Don, "God had only one son to give, and like Kaiyo, He gave Him away. The son you gave was a son you loved. The Son that God gave was a son He loved even more. God has sent me to tell you that God has sent a peace child. His name is Jesus. From now on, let Sawi mothers keep their own babies. God has given His Son for YOU! Ask His Spirit to live in your hearts and He will keep you in the way of peace."

For three months Don kept telling the Sawis about the Peace Child of God, but still no one had committed their life to Christ.

"What else will it take to draw these men and their families to Jesus? he thought. And then it happened.

One afternoon Don and Carol and their two baby boys took a boat trip upstream with their Sawi house-boy. Suddenly the boat hit a submerged log and the boat capsized. All four were thrown into the strong currents of the crocodile infested Kronkel River. Both parents holding the babies, they managed to grab hold of the up-turned boat. Then, by a miracle, a man in a canoe came by and rescued them before they were swept away. The Sawi people could see from this experience that God really did give peace and protection. As a result, one whole family gave their lives to the Lord.

"When I saw that God could give you peace, even when your two sons almost drowned, I knew that everything you said about the Peace Child was true," said one of the Sawi leaders. "I decided that He could take care of us too."

As Don and Carol continued to live among the Sawi people, they saw more miracles as people gave their lives to Christ. Gradually old customs and evil practices gave way to a new life of peace and happiness. Because of the Peace Child story, the Sawis had a new hope. Instead of hate and mistrust between villages, they developed a bond, which kept them from war. That bond was peace through Jesus Christ.

*Story retold from 'Peace Child' by Don Richardson, (Used by permission).*

## **Discussion**

How was the Sawis experience of giving up the peace child similar to God's sacrifice for us?

The parents of the peace child made a great sacrifice to bring about peace. As each gave their son, and the peace-child was received by the other tribe, the people were able to experience peace. We could also say that receiving the peace child was a kind of promise that they would stop fighting and instead, be friends with the other tribe.

God our Heavenly Father made a great sacrifice in giving His only Son, Jesus. As people receive God's Son, they experience peace in their hearts and lives. Receiving God's Son, Jesus, is making a promise that we will, from this point on, try to stop going against God, and instead, become His friend. Being a friend of God means doing what HE wants us to do, and not always what WE want to do.

## **Activities**

1. Find West Papua on a map. Name a country that borders it.
2. Why did the Sawi tribe stand in awe of white people?
3. Why do you think the Sawis wanted Don and Carol to live with them?
4. How did the Sawis "fatten with friendship"?
5. Why do you think the Sawis saw Judas as the hero in the gospel story, and not Jesus?
6. Why did Don and Carol almost decide to leave?
7. What stopped them?
8. What had to happen for peace to be made between two tribes?
9. How was the practice of giving up a baby similar to God's great sacrifice?
10. Unjumble this message. It is based on 2 Corinthians 5:17:

**YNOEAN HWO GEBLSON OT SCHIRT SI DAME WEN.**

# God is Peace 6.2

## Subtheme

God is a reconciler

## Focus

When we make peace with God we become a new person.

## Bible references

Acts 8:1-3 & Acts 9 The conversion of Saul of Tarsus

Romans 5:1 We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus christ.

## Songs

An Instrument of Peace (*Sing A Joyful Song*)

Shalom (*All Creation Sings*)

## Story: A Changed Man

Stephen had given his life for Jesus. He had died under the cruel persecution of the religious leaders. There was one person in particular who was very much in favour of killing Stephen. His name was Saul. Read about Saul in Acts 8:1-3.

One day something rather amazing happened to Saul. God gave him a special chance to change his life-style. Read Acts 9:1-22.

Once Saul had experienced the power of God, he could never again persecute Christians. In fact he wanted to tell the Good News to everyone, even if it meant being persecuted himself. His life changed so dramatically that God changed his name from Saul to Paul.

## Discussion

Life for the early Christians was not very peaceful. Why was this? Describe the dangers.

Who was one of the chief persecutors of Christians?

What did God do to change this?

How did Saul change after he made peace with God?

As with the Sawi tribe in the 'Peace Child' story, Saul exchanged his hateful, violent ways for a life of love and peace through Jesus Christ.

What do you think is the answer to the problem of hatred and violence in today's world?

How did the lives of the Sawis change when they received Jesus? (*Make a list if things that would have changed.*)

What happens when a person receives Jesus into their life? (2 Corinthians 5:17-18)

What must we do to receive the peace that God can give? (1 John 1:9)



**Art/craft:** Make a "Fruit of the Spirit" wall hanging.

