

# Themes for Christian Studies Level 7 Age 11

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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

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

The Creation and fall (Gen. 1,2 & 3)  
The flood (Gen. 6-8)  
Accepting God's word with faith (Heb. 11:6)

**God is Love - *Our love for God***

The woman with the alabaster jar of perfume (Luke 7:36-50)  
The precious jar of ointment (John 12:1-8)  
Mary's love for Jesus (Luke 10:38-42)  
Love the Lord with all your heart (Mark 12:29-30)  
Sharing God's love (Mark 16:15-18)  
A call from Macedonia (Acts 16:6-15)

**God is Wise - *The wisest choice***

Ask God for wisdom (James 1:5)  
Only the Lord gives true wisdom (Prov. 2:6-10)  
Noah relied on God's wisdom (Gen. 6-8)  
People of Babel relied on their own wisdom (Gen. 11)  
The rich young ruler's choice (Matt. 19:16-29)  
A choice between the true God and false gods (Jos. 24:14-16)

**God is Protector - *God is our shelter***

God is a shelter for us (Ps. 17:8; 27:5; 32:7)  
God's protection of the Israelites entering the promised land (Jos. 2-6)  
Protection of the Jews through Esther (Esther 1-10)

**God is Powerful - *God is a source of power***

God gave power to Samson (Judges 13-15)  
The miracles of Jesus (an overview)  
A man with demons ((Mark 5:1-19)  
The Vine (John 15:1-5)  
The disciples receive power (Acts 1:8; Acts 2)  
Demonstration of power by Peter and John (Acts 3) and Paul and Barnabas (Acts 13:4-12)

**God is Truth - *Those who seek the truth will find it***

Ask, seek, knock (Luke 11:9-10)  
Seek first God's kingdom (Matt. 6:33)  
The pearl of great price and the hidden treasure (Matt. 13:44-45)  
The road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35)  
Thomas (John 20:24-29)  
People are without excuse because of the evidence of God in the creation (Rom. 1:20 & Acts 14:17)  
The truth shall set you free (John 8:32)

**God is Pure - *What happened to God's perfect creation?***

The creation and fall (Gen. 1-3)  
Sin came into the world through Adam ((Rom. 5:12)  
The flood was an act of judgement (Gen. 6-8)  
Jesus did not tolerate sin (Matt. 21:12-13)  
God is a righteous, and just judge (Rev. 20:4; Ps. 7:11; Ps. 96:13; Acts 17:31)  
Jeremiah at the potter's house (Jer. 18)  
God's forgiveness (1 John 1:9)  
Walk in the light (1 John 1:5-10)  
Salt and light (Matt. 5:13-15)

**God is Patient - *God is patient with us***

The lost sheep, the lost coin, the lost son (Luke 15:1-32)  
Jesus stands at the door and knocks (Rev. 3:20)  
God is slow to anger (Ps. 103:8-18)  
God forgives us (Luke 23:34; 1 John 1:9)

**God is a Servant - *Jesus, the sacrificial servant***

Jesus sacrificed His life (Matt. 27; Heb. 10)

Jesus served at the last supper (Matt. 18:18)

The greatest sacrifice for our sins (1 John 2:2 & 4:10; Heb. 7:27 & 9:28; Heb.4:15-16; Is. 53:3)

The extra mile (Matt. 5:41-42)

Give and it shall be given (Luke 6:38); More blessed to give than receive (Acts 20:30)

Serving and following Jesus (John 12:23-26); Take up your cross (Luke 9:23-26)

**God is Life - *God is the sustainer of life***

Life is more important than food (Matt. 6:25-34)

Man shall not live by bread alone (Matt. 4:4)

God sustained the Israelites in the wilderness (Exodus)

Jesus, the Vine (John 15)

Trees by a stream (Ps. 1:1-3)

Abundant life (John 10:10)

**God is Provider - *God expects us to share His provision***

Be generous and share your food (Prov. 22:9; Ps. 112:5); Share food with the hungry (Is. 58:7-11)

Loaves and fishes (John 6:1-14)

I was hungry and you gave me food (Matt. 25:35-40)

Give and it shall be given ((Luke 6:38)

The widow's gift (Mark 12:41-44)

**God is Peace - *God wants us to be peace-makers***

Blessed are the peace-makers (Matt. 9:5)

Make peace with your brother (Matt. 5:21-23)

Reconciliation to God (Rom. 5:9-10; 1 Tim. 2:4-6)

Joseph forgave his brothers (Gen. 37-47)

Peace with one another (Mark 9:50; 1 Thess. 5:13)

Peace for nations (Ps. 2; Eph. 2:22; Rom 10:12-21)

Don't take revenge (Rom. 12:17-21; Matt 5:38-42)

Love your enemies (Matt. 5:43-48)

Jesus set the example (Matt. 26:50-56; Luke 23:34)

**Modern day stories and biographies**

The Beginning of the World: Man's idea  
(*Creator 7.1*)

When Wonjuna Made the Great Flood  
(*Creator 7.2*)

The Mice in the Piano (*Creator 7.3*)

Korea's First Missionaries (*Love 7.4*)

God's Smuggler (*Protector 7.2*)

Fifth Man in the Flight (*Protector 7.3*)

Miracles in Indonesia (*Powerful 7.2*)

How Pearls are Formed (*Truth 7.1*)

How Can I Find the True God? (*Truth 7.1*)

Where's the Gold? (*Truth 7.2*)

A King Discovers the True God (*Truth 7.3*)

Mike (*Patient 7.1*)

We are Sorry (*Patient 7.2*)

The Christmas Gifts *Servant 7.1*)

The Faithful Shepherd of Eyam (*Servant 7.1*)

Simpson and his Donkey (*Servant 7.2*)

Father Damien, Friend of Lepers (*Servant 7.3*)

Keryn's Story (*Life 7.1*)

George Muller (*Provider 7.1*)

Panov's Christmas Story (*Provider 7.2*)

Peace Maker, Henry Williams (*Peace 7.1*)

Peace Maker, Mary Slessor (*Peace 7.1*)

Martin Luther King (*Peace 7.2*)

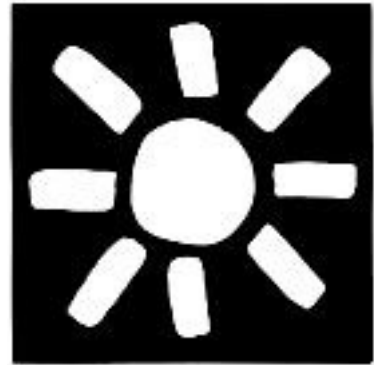
# God is Creator

## Level 7 (age 11)

### 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

The great flood; fossils; bones; archaeology; dinosaurs and other extinct animals

#### Other

- light
- plants
- animal life; ecosystems
- human biology; myself
- solar system
- air
- water
- technology; inventions
- ecosystems; nature's perfect balance; effects of the fall on the creation.

### 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 7.1

## Subtheme

God is a perfect creator

## Focus

God's word gives us the only true account of the origin of the universe.

## Bible references

Genesis 1 & 2 The Creation

## Introduction

What ideas do people have about the way the world began and the beginning of life?

### Story 1: The Beginning of the World: Man's Idea

Some people believe in the 'big bang' theory. That is, that somewhere out in space, billions of years ago, there was a big explosion of particles coming together. This led to the formation of the universe as we know it.

For those who believe in it, the big bang was an explosion of energy, marking the beginning of space and time. These people believe that life happened by accident. By accident, a living cell was formed. Eventually, the single cell divided in two then in two again and a new living thing was formed. As cells kept dividing and changing over millions and millions of years, more and more new living creatures were made.

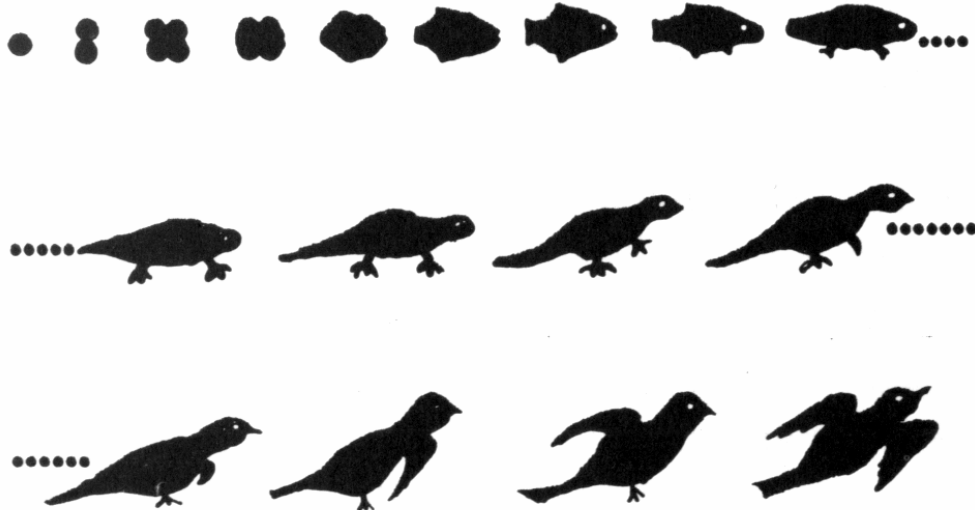
Believing that the world began this way, is believing in the theory of EVOLUTION. A theory is an idea, which has yet to be tested and proved. It is not scientific fact, and yet so many people accept it as fact. Have you ever watched programs on T.V., or read books, which claim that rocks or fossils are millions of years old? This information is based on evolution. The theory of evolution is very different from the account on creation written in God's history book, Genesis.

The person who invented the theory was a man called Charles Darwin who lived in England over a hundred years ago. At that time, people in Britain believed that God created the universe. However, as Darwin studied the similarities between animals he came up with a new idea. Instead of each species being created after their own kind, as the Bible says, maybe one form of life developed into another, and that one developed into another and so on. It would take a long, long time for this to happen, so we would have to say then that the animals as we know them took millions and millions of years to form, and not just 6 days as the Bible says. It also meant that instead of a perfect creation, as God made it in the beginning, the creation would have been imperfect, because a lot of death and suffering had to be involved. According to the theory, the weaker animals died out and only the strongest survived.

While Darwin tried hard to make the theory work, he also realised that there were a lot of problems with it. To begin with, it was opposite to what the Bible says, and besides, there should have been discoveries of skeletons of things like a half-fish-half lizard, or a half-lizard-half-bird or even a half-ape-half-man, and no skeletons like this had ever been found.

Many scientists decided they liked the theory. To believe in evolution meant that there was no God who created the universe. If there was no God who set rules to obey, then there was no such thing as sin. People could do as they wanted to without having to obey God.

Besides this, the highest, cleverest animal was man himself. If there was no God, it meant that man was the cleverest animal in the universe! Yes, people liked the idea. Evolution was here to stay.



## Story 2: The Beginning of the World- God's Way

Read the story from Genesis 1 & 2.

### Discussion

How does the Bible contradict the theory of evolution?

Read Genesis 1:24a once again. If God created animals to reproduce after their own kind, then how could an elephant develop from an amoeba?

Also read Gen.1:31.

What did God mean when He said that His creation was 'good'?

What can we discover about God by looking at some of the complex aspects of the creation? Perhaps you can examine some plant or animal specimens.

Could such design and order happen by chance?

Think about the marvellous design of these:

- birds, and their amazing ability to fly.
- the human body

### Art/Craft

Join with other age groups in making the creation mural. Make a study of extinct animals and illustrate them.

Look at the names of some of the extinct animals mentioned in the Bible:

leviathan (Job 41:1-34; Psalm 74:14)

unicorn (Deuteronomy 33:17; Job 39:9-12; Psalm 92:10)

Make a list of other extinct animals, eg. Tasmanian tiger, woolly mammoth, ptéranodon, tyrannosaures rex etc.

# God is Creator 7.2

## Subtheme

God is a perfect creator

## Focus

- a) The problem of sin
- b) Evidence for the great flood

## Bible references

Genesis 3 The fall  
Genesis 6-8 The flood

## Song

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

## Introduction

If God is a perfect creator, why are there so many parts of the creation which experience pain and suffering?

Was pain and suffering part of God's original plan?

How did it come into the world?

You will find the answers to these questions in Genesis 3.

## Bible research

Read about the beginning of sin from Genesis 3.

Sickness, suffering, sin and death were never part of God's original plan for His creation. When God created the world He said that it was GOOD. That means that it was perfect. These things came into the world as a direct result of disobedience to God. A curse was placed on the earth at that time. Although people may try to be good, they can never be perfect as God requires. However, accepting Jesus who IS perfect, brings people into a loving relationship with God again. What about the suffering though? Although Jesus won the victory over Satan at the cross, Satan and his works will not be completely destroyed until the day that Jesus comes again.

## Discussion: Was the Great Flood really true?

Because people chose to listen to Satan in the Garden of Eden, rather than God, the original plan for a perfect world was destroyed. As time went on, more and more people populated the earth. Fighting, killing, stealing, idol worship and other evils became so bad that God had to destroy the world with a flood. Only one family obeyed God. Only Noah and his family, along with two of each kind of animal, were saved.

God made a new start, and the earth started populating again. In the geography of every continent, there are signs that once the entire world was covered by a great flood. This evidence helps us to realize that the Bible is true.

Many of the great fossils found today exist because the original animals were buried quickly in soft mud. They were covered over and pressed down by the huge weight of the earth above them. Just as you can preserve a plant by pressing it, so too can animal bones be preserved. Because of the great flood described in the Bible, many fossils were formed as the rushing waters caused land-slides, and the earth beneath the waters became a churning mass.

Many people groups, like the Chinese, the American Indians and the Australian Aborigines told stories about a great flood long before they had any contact with Christianity. Here is one. It is an Australian Aboriginal Legend. Try to pick out the similarities with the Biblical account.

### **Story: When Wonjuna Made the Great Flood**

There was once a medicine man called Tanjilli. There was also a man called Umbirri who did not like Tanjilli. He was jealous because Tanjilli was such a famous medicine man. Umbirri was a bad man. He did not belong to Tanjilli's tribe in the first place. He had come to live with them after being chased out of his own tribe for stealing.

Well, Umbirri was a real trouble maker. He decided that he would make Tanjilli look really foolish. There had not been any rain for a long time, so Umbirri suggested to the tribe that Tanjilli should try to make it rain. Umbirri didn't think for a minute that Tanjilli could do this. He only made the suggestion so that Tanjilli would look like a big failure.

Well, Tanjilli went to a secret place and tried to make rain. Soon drops of rain began to fall until everything was soaked. Tanjilli was very proud of himself. He walked around boasting about what he had done.

It rained and it rained. It did not stop raining and the great flood began to flow over the land. The tribe were very frightened for soon they would all be drowned. Tanjilli tried to stop the rain, but he could not. It kept raining for forty days and forty nights. One evening Tanjilli and Umbirri were both washed away. The people were frightened. Then an old man in the tribe called Oolpa called out, "Oh, Great Spirit, tell the rain to come no more." Almost at once the rain stopped falling, and soon after the blue sky showed through.

The tribe was puzzled.

"We know that it was not the medicine man who made the flood," they said, "or he would have not been washed away. Who did send the flood?" they asked.

"Perhaps Wonjuna did," answered one of the members of the tribe. (Wonjuna was the name they gave to the great spirit who made everything.)

They were not really sure, but they all agreed that the loss of Tanjilli and Umbirri was a good thing. Tanjilli, after all, was very proud, and Umbirri was really wicked.

*from 'The Prince of the Totem' T. Rayment 1935*

### **Discussion**

1. What similarities can you see between this story and the Biblical account?
  - a) the extent of the flood. (...over the whole land)
  - b) the duration of the flood. (...forty days and nights)
  - c) sinful people were drowned.
2. If people all around the world have stories of the great flood in their historical records, what does this show us?
3. If the story of the great flood is true, then what should we believe about the rest of Genesis?
4. Why is it important to believe Genesis?
5. How can I help others believe that God did not create the world through evolution?



**Play reading: Noah and Rebekah on T.V.**

*(Prepare by setting up a mock T.V. studio)*

**Reporter:**

This is Billy Cool for O.T.T. News.

The weather for today is rain. Rain, rain and more rain. This is now the fifth day of rain and the bureau of meteorology says that the rain may go on for another 35 days. Already widespread flooding has been reported, and many people living in low-lying areas have moved their family and livestock to stay with friends on the hillsides.

There's one family who has actually settled on top of a hill, and, would you believe it, this guy called Noah has been building a boat! He said that he wanted to build it big enough to take his whole family, plus two of every kind of animal, because he believes that the whole earth will be flooded within forty days.

We have in our studio this morning, a neighbour to this man. Mrs. Rebekah Datepalm has lived next door to Noah and his family for some years.

"Good morning, Rebekah."

**Rebekah:**

"Good morning."

**Reporter:**

"Rebekah, can you tell us how long Noah has been planning this course of action?"

**Rebekah:**

"Well, some months, really. He's been telling everyone that God would send a flood because of the wickedness of everyone. He said that God told him to build the boat."

**Reporter:**

"What did people say about him?"

**Rebekah:**

"Well, most people said he was some kind of nut or something. After all, none of us had ever seen rain before this. But now a lot of us are starting to wonder whether he really was right."

**Reporter:**

"Well, thanks Rebekah. I think all we can do is hope that this guy, Noah, really is a nut case."

Now for an update on the weather...

Heavier rain has been reported in all parts, and this pattern looks like continuing for tomorrow. This has been Billy Cool for O.T.T News.

# God is Creator 7.3

## Subtheme

God is a perfect creator

## Focus

Accepting God's word with faith

## Bible references

Hebrews 11:3 It is by faith that we understand that the universe was created by God's word, so that what can be seen was made out of what cannot be seen. (GNB)

Hebrews 11:6 Without faith it is impossible to please God.

John 5:47 If you don't believe the writings of Moses, how can you believe My words?

Genesis 1:24 God made every creature after their own kind.

Genesis 1:31 God looked at all that He had made and it was good.

## Introduction

Take two ice-cream containers with lids. Get some Lego bricks and place a selection in each container. (Try to have the same kinds and same amount in each.) Put the lids on the containers. Now choose two children. Give them each a container of Lego. Ask them to make something eg. a tower; an aeroplane. One child can open the lid and build the article by putting bricks together. The other child must not open the lid but must shake the bricks and try to make something by banging the bricks together.

## Discussion

Why could one person could make something but the other couldn't?

*Ans: The first person used intelligence, design and craftsmanship.*

Why couldn't the other person make anything?

*Ans: We could not expect the pieces to come together by themselves.*

This illustration is similar to creation and evolution. We could not expect such a beautiful world to be formed just by particles being banged together. We must realise that there was an intelligent creator and designer at work. The creator of course is the God of the Bible.

Many people today believe that the universe was formed by a big bang. They believe that out of that big bang came a single living cell. That cell divided and gave way to new forms of life. Because some forms of life were not strong enough or clever enough, they died out. This of course would mean lots of suffering and death as one form of life gave way to another. According to the theory, after millions of years, the ape was formed and this finally developed into a human being.

The Bible, however, says that God's creation was GOOD. There was NO death or suffering before the creation of man. Death and suffering entered the world when man and woman disobeyed God. The Bible also says that God created everything after its own kind...not one form of life developing into another.

**The Mice in the Piano (play reading)**  
**SCENE 1**

**Person A:**

Come on now...you don't really believe in that fairy tale about Adam and Eve and all that!

**Person B:**

It's not a fairy tale. I believe it is the only true explanation for not only HOW the world was made, but also WHY.

**Person A:**

What kind of explanation can there possibly be in that fabulous Adam and Eve story! There is no scientific proof that they ever existed. Besides, science has proved that man descended from the ape. We are all products of evolution.

**Person B:**

Science hasn't PROVED evolution. It's only a theory. There is even scientific evidence which casts doubt on whether it is in fact true.

**Person A:**

O.K. O.K. So it is a theory. But I'm sure in time it will be proved.

**Person B:**

Where did you say man evolved from?

**Person A:**

The ape.

**Person B:**

What about the ape. Where did he come from?

**Person A:**

Oh! Right at the start of course, all living creatures evolved from single cells. These cells came together accidentally at first, but gradually, through progress of time, these cells have formed, grown and changed, and grown and changed, and they adapt to their environment, until here we stand.

**Person B:**

So that's it.

**Person A:**

Well, that's it in a very simplified form. Anyone with any education and intellect knows these facts.

**Person B:**

Oh! We are to assume that we, the whole human race, were formed by accident.

**Person A:**

Sure. You don't have to hang on to those old religious ideas. Science is the answer. Who needs God?

**Person B:**

Let me tell you a story.

(Person B goes and gets a 'book' called '*The mice in the piano*'.)

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**Person A:**

O.K. But don't take too long. I've got important things to do you know!

(A and B sit down and the story proceeds.)

**Story**

A long time ago there lived in a magnificent grand piano, a whole family of mice. There were brother and sister mice, cousins, uncle and aunt mice, as well as a very old, very wise grandfather mouse. The mice had made this piano their home for many years and they loved the beautiful music, which was part of their every-day life. Even the oldest of the mice could not remember a time without music. All the mice worshipped the Grand Player who, in his kindness, provided them continuously with the rich and beautiful music, which made their wonderful world of sound.

One day, Grandpa Mouse was sitting in his old rocking-chair talking to Thomas, his grandson. Thomas didn't believe that there really was a grand Player because he had never seen him. He asked Grandpa whether he had ever seen the Grand Player.

"No," said Grandpa, "but I know he exists because I hear his music, and I live in the beautiful world of sound he has created for us."

But Thomas still couldn't believe that there really was a Grand Player. He wanted to prove it for himself. Thomas had a cousin called Darwin. He didn't believe that the Grand Player existed either, so the two of them decided that they would go on an expedition in search of the Grand Player.

Well, it took the little mice two weeks of perilous climbing and trekking until finally they arrived at what they were sure was the real solution to the mystery...the true source of the sound. In front of their eyes were big wooden beams. They watched them move, sometimes together, sometimes apart, crashing down upon wires just above them. Although frightened, they were very excited. Here then, was the real source of the sound...not any person, such as the Grand Player, but merely the mechanical motion of wooden beams. The two mice ran home to announce their discovery to the rest of the family.

But Grandpa tried to convince them:

"Those sounds don't just come together by accident. There has to be a Grand Player who created the beautiful sounds we hear."

So, to prove to Grandpa just one more time, the two little mice went back to try and bring home some evidence.

"Maybe I could take my axe and try to chop off a piece of one of those wooden beams," thought Thomas.

Once again the two adventurers left home on a journey of discovery. This time there was a lot more interest shown in their trip. Some of their relatives already believed in the Grand Player.

Well, eventually Thomas and Darwin returned, weary after their long climb, nearly to the top of the grand piano. Immediately the whole family of mice crowded around to see what the two mice had found.

"This time," said Thomas and Darwin, "we have found the real source of the sound. The proof is with us." Darwin brought over a piece of wire and stretched it between two sticks. Thomas hit the wire with a piece of wood.

"Hear that sound!" he said. "You see, we have made a revolutionary discovery. Darwin is going to write a book about it. Yes! It will be called 'The origin of the music'".

Grandpa was very disappointed that the two mice did not actually discover the Grand Player. If they had met with the Grand Player himself, then they would have believed.  
(*Person B closes the book*)

### **Drama (continued)**

#### **Person A:**

Well that was a nice story, but what does it have to do with God?

#### **Person B:**

Don't you see the point? Instead of trying to prove their theory, the two mice really needed to meet the Grand Player. That's like us. We need to put our trust in God, and not just believe in the things we can see. God is a person. He wants to meet each one of us personally. He loves us all you know.

#### **Person A:**

Well, I must admit you have given me something to think about. I suppose it does take a lot of faith to believe that someone like me came about by accident.

*Judy Martin (Used by permission)*

### **Discussion**

Why didn't Darwin and Thomas believe in the Grand Player?

Who does the Grand Player represent?

What do we need to have in order to believe in something we can't see or understand?  
(Hebrews 11:3 & 6)

What is faith?

Even the most intelligent person in the world could not understand how God created the world. God is so much more intelligent and powerful than any human being. That is why we must have faith in what He says.

When God created people, He made them to be His friends. When we know God as our friend, then it becomes easier to have faith in Him.

### **Creation Quiz**

Quiz questions can be prepared on separate slips of paper. Students can run their own quiz based on the format of a popular T.V. quiz.

Q. What is meant by evolution?

A. The belief that a very small living thing grew and developed and changed into another living thing, and that living thing changed into another and so on.

Q. What is a theory?

A. A set of ideas made up by a person to explain something. It is not fact.

Q. What kind of person would say that life came into being by accident?

A. A person who didn't want to believe in God, or someone who just believed everything they were told.

Q. What is meant by the 'big bang' theory?

A. Masses of gases came together with a big bang and the universe instantly appeared.

Q. Why do evolutionists say that the earth is millions and millions of years old?

A. An evolutionist believes that you would need millions and millions of years for life to change from one form to another. (Actually it wouldn't happen no matter how much time you had.)

Q. Do Bible scholars think the earth is millions of years old?

A. No. Only thousands.

Q. Are most nature programs on T.V. based on creation or evolution?

A. Evolution.

Q. What did God create on the second day?

A. Sky and water.

Q. On which day of creation did God make land animals?

A. Sixth.

Q. On which day or days were fish and birds created?

A. Fifth.

Q. What did God say about His creation when He finished it?

A. It is good.

Q. What did God do on the seventh day?

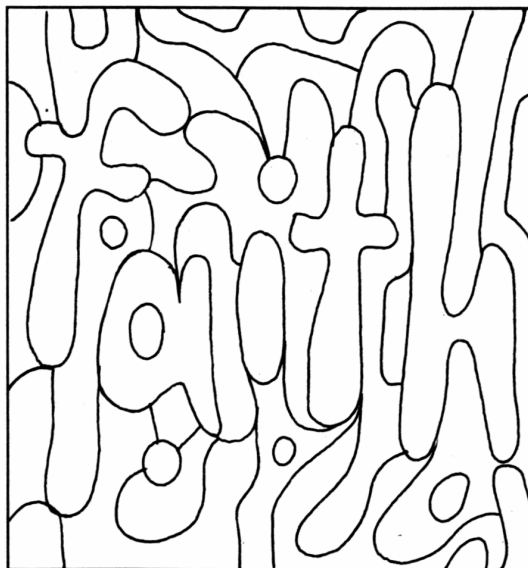
A. He rested.

Q. What did God mean when He said that people were to be in charge of the plants and animals?

A. People should be God's caretakers, and therefore look after the creation.

### **Puzzle**

a) Find a word in this puzzle. It is something we need for believing in God and His word. Colour in the letters. OR, make your own similar puzzle for someone else to do.



# God is Love

## Level 7 (age 11)

### Subtheme

Our love for God

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



### Integrated Topics for Christian Education

Christian love expressed through giving and sharing:

- Third world geography; comparison of technology;
- Giving and sharing activities.

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#### 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
- friendship, fruits of the spirit
- biographies of those who have shown kindness and compassion
- the balance of nature
- the nation of Israel: history and geography; God's love for Jews and gentiles, fulfilled in the coming of the Messiah.

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

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

# God is Love 7.1

## Subtheme

Our love for God

## Focus

Worshipping God, our Father

## Bible references

Luke 7:36-50 The woman with the alabaster jar of perfume.

John 12:1-8 The precious jar of ointment.

Luke 10:38-42 Mary's love for Jesus.

Psalm 141:2 Our prayer to God is as incense.

1 John 4:19 We love Him because He first loved us.

## Song

Clap your hands (*All Creation Sings*)

## Discussion

Which of these points would show a parent's love for a child?

- giving the child things to make him/her happy
- providing good food
- providing lots of junk food
- providing clothes, shelter and other needs
- hugging
- saying "I love you"
- punishing
- forgiving
- protecting
- giving in to everything the child wants
- having fun with the child
- talking to the child

Now think about God as a Father. Which of these points would best show us the kind of father God is?

Because God shows His love to us in so many ways, it pleases Him greatly when we show our love to Him. Just as parents like to know that their children love them, God wants to know that we love Him. He wants us to tell Him that we love Him. We can do this through praying, praising and worshipping.

## Bible research

Read about these women who showed their love for Jesus:

**Story 1:** Mary sat at Jesus' feet - Luke 10:38-42

**Story 2:** Mary anointed Jesus with precious ointment - John 12:1-8

**Story 3:** The woman with the alabaster jar of perfume - Luke 7:36-39 and 44-47

## Discussion

In the first story, Mary was willing to spend time learning from Jesus. Her willingness to sit at Jesus' feet was an expression of her love.



In the second story, Mary gave something very precious to Jesus. We can also give something precious to Jesus. We do this when we tell Jesus that we love Him.

We do not know the name of the woman in the third story, but we do know that she had much to be forgiven for. How did she express her love and appreciation?

In two of these stories perfume was used. Why do you think the most expensive perfume was used?

### **Art/Craft**

Make a spice-perfumed kitchen hanger for Mum.

You will need garden twine, cotton wool, colourful cotton fabric, perfumed oil or essence, eg. lemon, some cinnamon sticks, or if you like, some dried herbs.

1. Make a long thick plait from garden twine.(Loop the top so that you can hang it later.)
2. Cut out circles from decorative fabric. (Draw around a lid of a jar.)
3. Place cotton wool balls inside the circles. Bunch the fabric to make balls and secure with rubber bands. Place a small drop of perfumed oil on each ball. Tie balls to the plait as shown. (Instead of essence, you can bunch up some dried herbs inside the fabric circles).
4. Tie on some cinnamon sticks.

## **God is Love 7.2**

### **Subtheme**

Our love for God

### **Focus**

Give everything you have.

### **Bible references**

Mark 12:41-44 The poor widow who gave everything.

Matthew 25:14-29 The parable of the talents.

Luke 6:38 Give and it shall be given.

Matthew 10:8 Freely you have received, freely give.

2 Corinthians 9:7-9 God loves a person who gives happily.

### **Song**

Clap Your Hands (*All Creation Sings*)

### **Introduction**

Prepare some mock \$100 notes. Give one to each student.

### **Brainstorm**

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



If this money was real, what could you do with it?  
How could you spend it on yourself?  
How could you use it for God?  
*Write up answers in two columns: for self; for God*

### Discussion

Using the money for ourselves would make us feel happy, for a while anyway. Could we also receive happiness from giving the money away?

### Bible research

What sort of 'giver' does God want us to be?  
Read 2 Corinthians 9:7 and Matthew 10:8

### Story 1: The woman who gave everything

Read the story from Mark 12:41-44.  
Why was this poor woman's money so valuable to God?

### Story 2: The talents

Read the story from Matthew 25:14-29.

### Brainstorm


Children usually don't have much money to use for God but they do have talents. What are some?

### Drama


Dramatize the story of the talents.  
Now make up a modern day parallel.

**Puzzle** – When finished, check your answer from 2 Cor. 9:7

Good - o      ♥      a

 wh + (do - d)

lives - l + g

 - y + il + y.

# God is Love 7.3

## Subtheme

Our love for God

## Focus

Serving God because we love Him

## Bible references

Mark 12:29-30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart.

Mark 1:14-20 The disciples left their nets to follow Jesus.

John 5:38-44 The wrong motives of the Pharisees.

1 John 4:19 We love Him because He first loved us.

## Discussion

What are some ways in which people can serve God?

God appreciates what people do for Him when they do it with all their heart. Read Mark 12:29-30

## Story 1: The Pharisees

In the time when Jesus lived on earth, some of the religious leaders were very proud of the way in which they served God. They said long religious prayers and learned the Scriptures off by heart. They helped the poor and did all the right things. But the problem was, they were not serving God from their heart. They only did good things because it made them look good and feel good. They enjoyed feeling that they were better than everyone else.

They made sacrifices too. They went without food, and gave their time and money. But God was not happy with the Pharisees. He was not happy with their good works and sacrifices, because they didn't really love God from their heart.

The Pharisees would not accept Jesus either. Jesus often spoke strong words to them. Read John 5:38-44.

Jesus said, "If you LOVE me, keep my commandments." (John 14) He is not impressed with people who keep His commandments to look good. He wants everyone to love Him with all their heart.

## Story 2: The First Disciples

Jesus knew the hearts of the first disciples. They truly loved Him. This is why they were willing to leave everything to follow Him. Read Mark 1:14-20.

## Discussion

What sacrifices do you think the first disciples had to make?

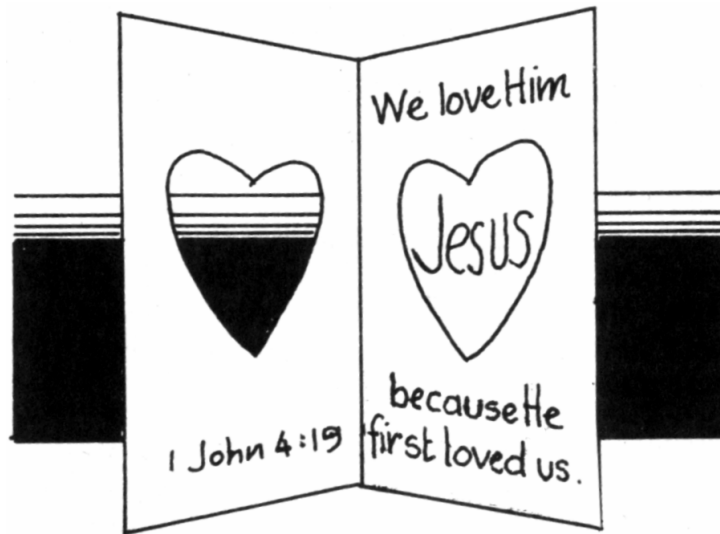
Why were they willing to make those sacrifices?

## Extension activity

Find out about the work of someone who has served God because of their great love for Him.

**Art/Craft**

Make a 'cut-out' card with verse from 1 John 4:19. Decorate it with bright pens and glitter.



**Word search**

Find the words of the Bible verse in the word search below. Check your answer from 1 John 4:19.

S	N	T	O	V	X	W	E	L
A	N	L	O	V	E	S	O	O
B	H	I	M	X	Z	L	F	V
B	H	I	M	X	Z	L	F	V
B	I	B	E	C	A	U	S	E
P	U	Q	J	H	E	K	P	D
V	S	U	F	I	R	S	T	W

# God is Love 7.4

## Subtheme

Our love for God

## Focus

Sharing God's love

## Bible references

Mark 16:15-18 The great commission

Acts 16:6-15 A call from Macedonia

## Introduction

Look at a globe or world map.

Find Israel. Trace the spread of the gospel from this point: first to near-by countries such as Greece and Italy; later to more distant places.

Discuss the way in which the spread of the gospel to all the world has been dependent upon advances in transport and technology.

How was the gospel spread in the days of the early Christians?

Has it changed?

## Bible research

What does Jesus command all Christians to do? (Mark 16:15-18)

## Discussion

We don't have to go to a far away place to tell others about Jesus. How can we show Christian love in the place where we live?

Some people, however, do go to far away places. It is important for Christians who go to foreign lands, to try and understand the people in that place. Here is a story about the first Christian missionaries to Korea. Find Korea on the map.

## Story 1: Korea's First Missionaries

In the 1880's the first Christian missionaries came to Korea. The Korean people accepted the missionaries because they showed the love of God. The missionaries did not come with a proud attitude. They did not say to the people, "You know nothing about God." Instead, they found out about the Korean's belief in God. To their surprise, they found that the Koreans actually knew something about the true and living God, even though no Christian missionary had ever been there before! The Koreans knew that there was one true God who had created the universe. They called Him by the name 'Hananim'.

The missionaries explained to the Koreans that Hananim had sent His Son to forgive all those who wanted to be forgiven. Hananim's son was born into the Jewish people, not because they were better than any other peoples, but simply because God needed to choose one group. Hananim then asked messengers to go into all the world to call all people to Jesus, the Son of Hananim.

Koreans by the thousands listened to the missionaries with awe.

"Here are men and women who know so much more about the true God than even our own king," they thought. "Here are people who pray freely to Hananim in the name of His Son, and get answers!"

Soon there were hundreds of Korean churches being run by their own people. Today, Koreans are still becoming Christians at an amazing rate.

*from Eternity in their Hearts by Don Richardson. Used by permission.*

### **Questions:**

1. How was the gospel spread in the days of the early Christians?
2. Has it changed?
3. If you were a missionary going into a country where the gospel had never been preached, how would you tell the people about Jesus?
4. Why do you think the Korean people listened to the first missionaries?
5. Describe the Christian church in Korea today.
6. What does Jesus command all Christians to do? (Mark 16:15-18)
7. Read about Paul's call to go to Macedonia, from Acts 16:6-15.
8. How obedient was Paul in obeying God's call? (verse 10)
9. How did the Lord help Paul? (verse 14)

### **God is love**

Jesus has told us that we must be willing to give everything we have to follow Him. He has also told us to go into all the world to preach the Gospel. Going to other places to share God's love may mean that we have to give up certain things. Why would we want to do that? Loving God is obeying His call. When He calls us, then we must be willing to go.

**Think: How can I share God's love with people who do not know Him?**

### **Story 2: A Call From Macedonia**

Read the story from Acts 16:6-15.

How obedient was Paul in obeying God's call? (verse 10)

How did the Lord help Paul? (verse 14)

### **Game: World quiz**

Devise questions around categories:

- continents
- countries
- capital cities
- rivers and mountains

Prepare questions and answers on slips of paper.

This game can either be played as a quiz, or as a noughts and crosses game. For noughts and crosses, before placing a nought or cross in place, a question from a chosen category must be answered correctly.

### **Art/Craft**

Make a display of world flags. Make a colourful sign: Jesus said, "Go into all the world"

# God is Wise

## Level 7 (age 11)

### Subtheme

The wisest choice



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

### Integrated topics for Christian Education

Wise choices and decisions; choosing a career; choosing friends; drugs and alcohol

### 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
- explorers who relied on God's wisdom for guidance; maps; orienteering.

### 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 7.1

## Subtheme

The wisest choice

## Focus

Ask God for wisdom. Don't rely on your own good ideas.

## Bible references

Proverbs 3:5-8 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and don't rely on your own understanding.

James 1:5 Ask God for wisdom.

Proverbs 2:6-10 Only the Lord gives true wisdom.

1 Corinthians 3:18-19 The wisdom of this world is foolishness to God.

Genesis 6-8 Noah relied on God's wisdom for the construction of the ark.

Genesis 11 The people of Babel depended on their own wisdom.

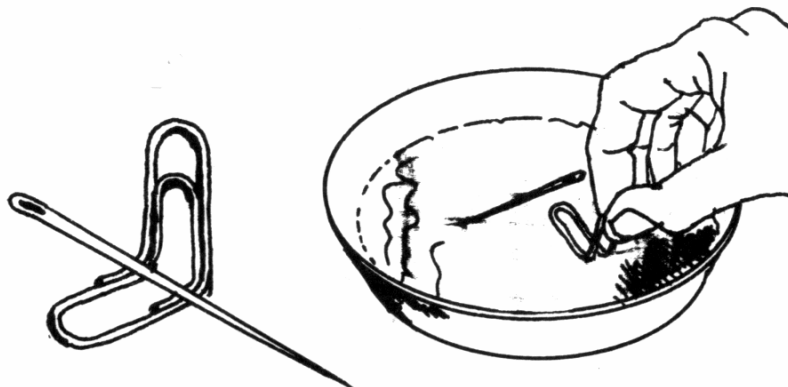
## Introduction

How wise are you?

Conduct some simple scientific experiments. Ask students to try to explain how the experiments work.

## EXAMPLES

### **a) How can a needle float on water?**



You will need a needle, a bowl of water, and a paper clip.

Bend the paper clip as shown. Rest the needle on the paper clip. Now lower the needle on the paper clip very gently into the water. Remove the paper clip very carefully without touching the needle. The needle should rest on the surface of the water like a skin. This is called surface tension. If it doesn't work the first time, try again!

### **b) water volcano**

You will need a large jar and another jar small enough to fit inside the large jar. You will also need hot and cold water and food colouring.





Fill the large jar with cold, clear water. Fill the smaller jar with hot coloured water. Tie string around the rim of the smaller jar that you can carefully submerge it into the cold water in the larger jar. Watch as the coloured water rises upwards, like a volcano. Try to work out why the hot water moves upwards.

### **Discussion**

Scientists have to be wise to understand scientific principles. How wise is a scientist compared to God? Read 1 Corinthians 3:18-19

Because God is the source of all wisdom, it is important that we ask Him for wisdom in all we do. Being clever without God is not being wise at all. The wisest thing we can do is to ask God to be in charge of our life.

### **Story: The Tower of Babel**

This is a story about a group of people who did not ask God for wisdom. They felt that they didn't need God. They wanted to do their own thing. Read the story from Genesis 11:1-11.

Compare this story with the story of Noah's Ark. Was the building of the ark Noah's idea or God's? What might have happened if Noah refused to listen to God's instructions? What if he decided to build it his own way?

### **Game**

Build a 'tower of Babel' from wooden blocks. Each player takes turns to add a block. The one who causes the tower to fall by the addition of their block is out.

# God is Wise 7.2

## Subtheme

The wisest choice

## Focus

Jesus at the centre of our life

## Bible references

Matthew 16:26 Will a person gain anything if he wins the whole world but loses his life?

Psalms 16:7-8 The importance of allowing God to guide us.

Proverbs 9:10-12; Proverbs 10:13,14 & 19 Wisdom in speech.

Proverbs 14:16-17 Wisdom in actions.

Proverbs 8:11 Wisdom is better than riches.

Matthew 19:16-29 The rich young ruler's choice.

Joshua 24:14-16 A choice between the true god and false gods.

## Introduction

Look at drawings on the next page and discuss them.

### Story 1: The Rich Young Ruler

Read the story from Matthew 19:16-29.

What was the choice?

Did Jesus mean that everyone has to sell all they own to become a Christian?

Why did Jesus say this to the rich young ruler?

### Story 2: The True God or False Gods?

Read the story from Joshua 24:14-16.

What was the choice?

The decision to throw away false gods was a life-time decision.

What is the greatest life-time decision people can make today?

When we decide to have Jesus at the centre of our life, we have a source of wisdom for all of life's decisions.

How does God help us make important decisions in life?

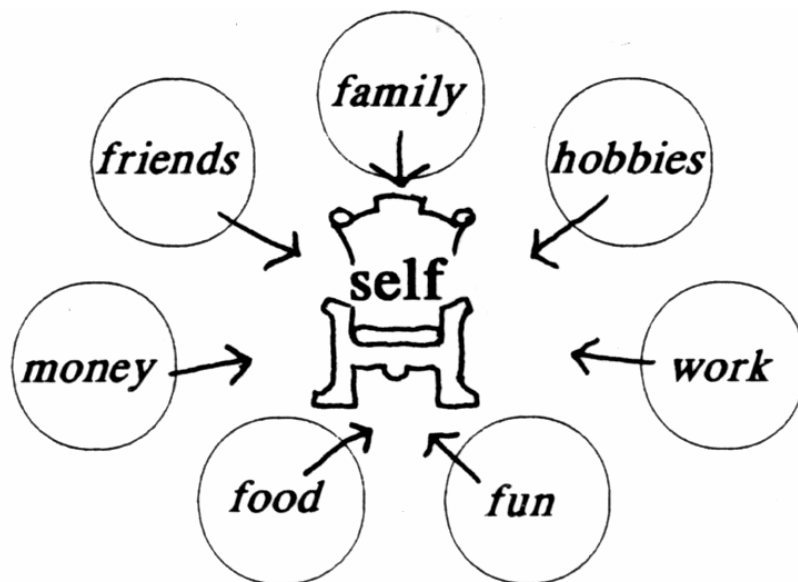
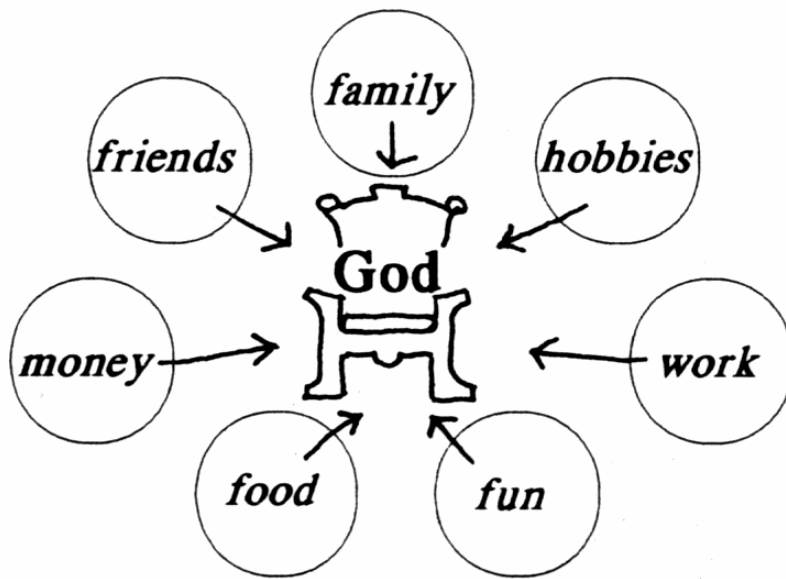
What important decisions may we have to make in the future?

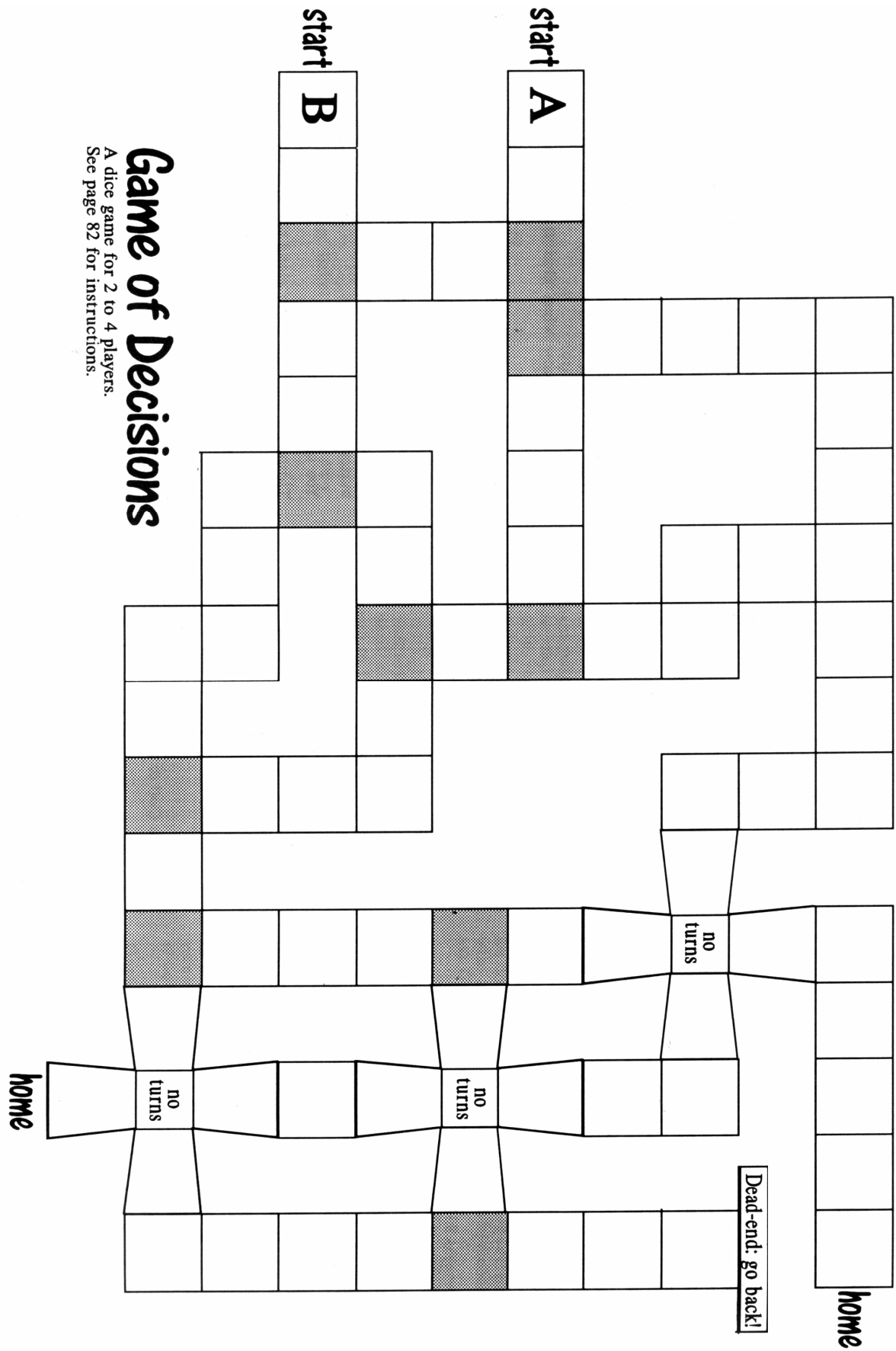
How do we know when God is telling us something?

### Game: Decisions *(a dice game for 2 to 4 players)*

See p. 29 for the board game.

You will need a dice and some counters or buttons. You can start at A or B. Throw the dice and move along the squares. When you come to each large square you must make a decision. You must choose which path to take for the quickest way home. First to reach home wins.





# Game of Decisions

A dice game for 2 to 4 players.  
See page 82 for instructions.

# God is Protector

## Level 7 (age 11)

### Subtheme

God is our shelter.

*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

Shelter from the environment: sun, wind, bushfires, ice and snow; History of shelter.

#### 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
- sea voyages, ships and lighthouses
- environmental protection: saving animals on the verge of extinction
- animal defence mechanisms; camouflage
- ships; shipwrecks; history of lighthouses; early sea voyages

### 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 7.1

## Subtheme

God is our shelter

## Focus

We can go to God when we face problems.

## Bible references

Joshua 2-6 God's protection of Joshua and the Israelites as they entered the Promised Land  
Psalm 17:8; Psalm 27:5; Psalm 32:7 God is a shelter for us.

## Song

What a Mighty God (*All Creation Sings*)

## Introduction

Q. What do castles and igloos have in common?

A. They are both places to go to for shelter.

Look at some pictures of shelters: castles, caves, forts etc.

What do shelters protect us from?

## Bible research

Read some of the Bible verses listed above, telling us that God is our shelter.

## Discussion

Think of situations in which people may need God's shelter.

Just as a shelter is a place to go for protection, so is God.

Sometimes God protects us from unseen dangers. God could have protected you many times without you even knowing it. He can prevent us from walking into danger before we actually do.

## Story: God Protects the Israelites again

We remember how God protected the Israelites as they came out of Egypt, and as they travelled those forty years through the desert.

Now, after forty years, it was time for them to enter the land that God had promised to them. Moses was no longer leading the people. Moses, being very old, had died, and Joshua was now the leader.

Joshua was faced with two problems. The land across the Jordan River that God had promised to the Israelites was occupied by enemies. The second problem was how to get a huge group of people, including young children and animals, across a huge river. Joshua knew that God would somehow solve these problems. He knew what God was saying, and he told the people.

"Be strong and brave," says the Lord. "I will go with you."

Joshua chose two men to cross the river, so that they could investigate the city on the other side. It was the city of Jericho. The men were strong swimmers, and made it safely across the river. Then they waited for their chance. When the guards were not looking, they made a run for it. They entered the city unnoticed, quickly looked around, then ran to a house built

on the wall if the city. Pressing themselves against the wall, they peered in the window. Inside the house was a woman. They went into the woman's house and asked whether they could rest a while before attempting the strenuous river crossing again. The woman's name was Rahab. The woman allowed the two men to stay and rest. By now it was night. They would have to spend the night there and cross the river in the morning.

However, trouble lay ahead for the two men. Read about it in Joshua 2:2-3.

God used Rahab to protect the two men. You would not expect someone from an enemy city to do this, but God caused her to shelter the two men.

Read about it in Joshua 2:4-7.

So the two men hid safely in Rahab's house while the king's soldiers went looking for them down by the river. As the two men talked to Rahab they found out that the people of Jericho were afraid of the Israelites. This was important information. They could plan their battle tactics accordingly.

Rahab knew that the Israelites were planning to take the city. She made a deal with the two men. She asked them to save her, along with her family, in payment for the protection she had provided. It was agreed.

Find out how God used Rahab again in the men's escape. (Joshua 2:15-24)

Now Joshua was confident that they could enter the Promised Land. Find out how they crossed the river. (Joshua 3:15-17)

Seeing the Lord do this great miracle made the people of Jericho even more afraid of the Israelites. The Israelites took the city after marching around the walls seven times. After seven times they gave a great shout and blew their trumpets. The city was theirs!

### **Art/Craft**

Work in pairs or groups to make a shelter, or model of a shelter. Each group can decide on which type of shelter they would like to build.

- How big should it be?
- Which materials should be used?

You may like to restrict the materials to a pile of newspapers, a roll of sticky tape, a pair of scissors and a packet of straws. See who can build the most interesting construction from these materials.

# God is Protector 7.2

## Subtheme

God is our shelter

## Focus

God's special protection for His own people

## Bible reference

Esther 1-10 God used Esther to protect the Jews.

## Song

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

## Story 1: Esther, the Beautiful Queen

Many years ago, in the country of Babylon, lived king Ahasuerus. Many of God's special people, the Jews, were living in Babylon at the time of his rule. There was someone in the kingdom, of notable position, who did not like the Jews, and was devising a wicked plot to get rid of them. It was the king's high servant, Hamaan.

Hamaan was a very proud man. All the people of the kingdom had to bow down to him. He had a lot of influence, even over the king.

Now the king was looking for a new queen. He had dismissed the previous queen Vashti, because she had displeased him. For his new queen, the king wanted the most beautiful young lady in the whole kingdom. The king held a beauty contest. When the king had seen all the beautiful young ladies in the kingdom, he chose Esther. The king did not know it, but Esther was a Jew.

One day, Esther's father, Mordecai, found out that two men were planning to kill the king. He told Esther, and Esther told the king. The two men were caught and put to death. The king was pleased with Mordecai for saving his life.

Hamaan was jealous of Mordecai's favour with the king. He knew Mordecai was a Jew. That made him hate Mordecai even more. He asked Mordecai to bow to him but Mordecai refused. This made Hamaan very angry. He decided that now was the time to put his wicked plan into action. He planned to have all Jews in the kingdom killed.

The first step in his plan was to influence the king. (The king still didn't know that Esther and Mordecai were Jewish.)

Hamaan bowed before the king:

"The Jews who live in your land do not obey your rules, O King," he lied. "They are of no good to you. Why don't you have them all killed?"

As well as being proud, Hamaan was also rich. He promised to give the king 10,000 pieces of silver if he would make the new rule. The king agreed. Soon, word of the new rule was around the kingdom. When Mordecai found out, he was very distressed. He wrote a letter to his daughter:

"You must go to the king," he wrote. "You must talk the king into abolishing the new rule. You must save your people!"

Esther sent back a reply:



"Don't you know that a person cannot go into the King's presence unless he is called for? The penalty for disobeying is death. However, if he were to hold out his golden sceptre to me, then I would know that it is alright to go."

Esther was afraid to go, but finally she decided that she must. She asked her father to gather all the Jewish people together and to do nothing but pray for three days. They were not even to eat.

On the third day Queen Esther dressed herself as beautifully as possible and presented herself to the king. The king held out his golden sceptre to her. She came and touched the tip of it. Then she invited the king to a special banquet.

"What do you request?" asked the king on the second day of the banquet.

"Please save me and my people from being killed," Esther pleaded.

"Who would dare touch you?" asked the king.

"Hamaan has lied to you, O king. The Jewish people, of whom I am one, do not disobey your laws. It is just a wicked plot," Esther replied.

The king was filled with rage. He commanded that Hamaan be hanged, and a new rule was made to protect the Jews from death. Then he gave Hamaan's place of honour to Mordecai. Because of Esther's bravery and obedience to God, all Jews in the kingdom of Babylon were saved from death.

### **Questions**

1. Where were many of the Jews living, when this story took place?
2. Who was devising a plot to get rid of the Jews?
3. Describe Hamaan.
4. Why did the king choose Esther for his new queen?
5. Did the king know that she was a Jew?
6. Who was Mordecai?
7. Why was the king pleased with Mordecai?
8. Why did Hamaan hate Mordecai?
9. How did Hamaan plan to get Mordecai, and all the other Jews, killed?
10. How did Esther save her people from death?
11. Why was it such a risk to go to the king without being called for?
12. Why would you say that Esther showed great courage?

Many people today show bravery in serving God. Some people face dangers as they take His word to places where it is forbidden. They must trust God to protect them. Brother Andrew is a person who has served in such places.

### **Story 2: God's Smuggler**

Andrew, son of a blacksmith, grew up in a typical Dutch town. Living in Holland, a free country, Andrew had great concern for people in countries where the gospel could not be preached. Some of these countries were Russia, Hungary, Albania and China. In those days, the Socialist government did not allow religious freedom.

When Andrew grew older he conducted missions to these countries. With his car packed with Bibles, concealed in all sorts of secret compartments, he would drive his car through

border crossings. As he did, he prayed that the Lord would 'close the eyes' of the border guards. God did it time and time again.

Here is a story about one of Andrew's experiences. He had just made it through the Hungarian border without being caught. God had again made seeing eyes blind. He drove on through the beautiful country side which followed the River Danube. He started to feel hungry so decided to stop for some lunch. He drove down a sandy lane and stopped at a little clearing at the water's edge. In order to get to the camp stove, Andrew had to move several boxes of gospel literature that the guards had just overlooked. No sooner had he opened the can of peas and carrots when he heard the roar of a speed boat approaching. The boat was heading towards Andrew at full throttle. In the bow stood a soldier with drawn machine-gun. At the last possible instant the boat swerved and coasted to a neat landing at the river's edge. Andrew now saw that there were two other soldiers in the boat. The man in the front leapt ashore followed by another one.

"Lord," Andrew prayed, "help me not to be afraid."

The first soldier kept the machine-gun on Andrew while the other ran to the car. Andrew kept stirring the peas and carrots as he heard the car door open.

"Well," said Andrew, "it is certainly nice to have you drop in this way. Would you care to join me?"

Andrew reached into his picnic box and drew out two extra plates. He motioned to the soldier to come and sit down. The soldier stared stonily and shook his head, as if to say, "I'm not going to be bribed." Andrew could hear the other soldier poking around. Any moment now he was going to ask about those boxes.

"Well," said Andrew, "if you don't mind, I'm going to go ahead and eat while the food is hot."

Andrew bowed his head and prayed. Then an amazing thing happened. While he prayed there was no sound from the soldier inspecting his car. Just as soon as he had finished praying, the door slammed. Andrew heard the sound of footsteps coming rapidly towards him. He picked up his fork and started to eat. For a moment both soldiers stood over him. Then abruptly they whirled around. Without looking behind them, they ran down to their boat, jumped in, and roared off in a spray of white. That was the last he saw of them.

*From God's Smuggler by Brother Andrew (Used by the permission of "Mission Without Borders")*

### **Questions**

1. Name some of the countries that Andrew went to.
2. Why did he want to go to these countries in particular?
3. What miracles did God do for Andrew, to enable him to get Bibles into these countries?
4. Why would you say that Andrew showed great courage?
5. What do you think could have happened to Andrew if he had been caught?
6. Write about a time when God has protected you, or someone close to you.

### **Discussion**

Think of times when God has protected you, or someone close to you. Also think of times when God may have protected you without you even knowing it.

# God is Protector 7.3

## Subtheme

God is our shelter

## Focus

Awareness of God's protection

## Bible research

Make a list of all the Old Testament stories that tell us about the protection of God's people.

## Song

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

## Activity

Make a time-line, beginning with Adam and Eve and ending with Jesus Christ. Use the Bible stories students have listed in the Bible research section and place them in their correct sequence on the time-line.

*Check: Did we forget any Bible stories about protection?*

## Discussion

God gave special protection to the Israelites.

Why was this group of people special to God in Old Testament times?

Who are God's special people now? *Answer: All those who receive Jesus.*

## Game: Charades

Work in pairs to mime Old Testament stories that show us God's protection. The group must guess which story is being mimed.

## Story: Fifth Man in the Flight

I was quite comfortable in the cockpit of my single-seat jet fighter when God intervened in my life in 1976. I was a major in the United States Marine Corps. I was content with my lifestyle and career as a naval aviator. My church upbringing had taught me that there was a God and I knew about the historical Jesus, but I had long since ignored this training. There was no room for God in my life.

God was soon to change that. For thirteen years I had been a jet pilot, flying missions throughout many countries in different types of aircraft and in all kinds of weather conditions. I had experienced much combat in action.

In 1970 I was one of sixteen pilots selected by the Marine Corps to fly a uniquely new jet, the vertical takeoff-and-land AV8A Harrier. My squadron, VMA 513, was stationed in Japan, preparing to "transpac" seven Harriers from Japan to the United States. They would fly in two divisions one hour apart. This "transpac" (trans-Pacific flight) was a very extensive mission. Thirteen large aerial refuelling and maintenance tankers were needed to service the Harriers.

I was looking forward to the flight, and to the re-union with my wife and two children. My wife had recently become a Christian, but I had no time for her Christianity. We were soon soaring over the ocean. The aerial refuelling, which is a precise and sensitive manoeuvre, went well. We were now past Hawaii, en route to San Francisco, unaware of what lay ahead. Approximately 1000 miles east of Hawaii we encountered unexpected thunderstorms. We tried to find an area that was less difficult for refuelling. We 'plugged' into the refuelling

basket just as we entered the storm. The next 100 miles turned out to be one of the wildest rides I had ever experienced. After what seemed like an eternity, we broke out of the storm into a thick layer of greyish cloud. Our visibility was limited to about two miles. We proceeded to re-establish our formation. While rejoining my flight, however, I lost my formation airspeed by deflecting my nozzles a fraction of a second too long. I began to fall behind the other three aircraft.

They couldn't pull their power back since they were climbing. I was rapidly becoming a flight of one. The three aircraft ahead became small dots as I continued to fall further behind. "I'll be able to catch up with them later," I thought to myself, "when they have reached the necessary height. Then they'll be able to level off and pull their speed back."

Suddenly I sensed a presence to my left. I looked over and to my astonishment I saw another Harrier flying next to me. But one of us was upside down. I was looking down on the pilot, canopy to canopy. His face, turned toward me, couldn't be seen because of his helmet visor and oxygen mask. Nevertheless, I saw that his gaze was calmly fixed upon me. He was flying rock-steady, perfect wind position, only a few feet away.

There couldn't possibly be another aircraft of any type in my vicinity...Did I overfly my flight? Am I flying through their formation? Are we going to have a mid air collision? As these questions flashed through my mind I fixed my eyes on the altimeter. Until now I had neglected my instruments. To my utter disbelief, the altimeter showed that I had lost more than a mile of altitude. I thought I was climbing, but in reality I was diving full speed toward the ocean. I had been experiencing something called vertigo, and had unknowingly rolled to a near-inverted position.

I righted my position then looked for the other plane, but it was nowhere in sight. My heart was pounding. I couldn't deny what I had just seen: another Harrier that wasn't supposed to be there. After joining the other three Harriers it slowly dawned upon me that something supernatural had just happened in my life. The appearance of that fifth aircraft, which caused me to check my instruments, had saved me from a fatal crash into the Pacific. And the timing was perfect; had I lost even one more mile of altitude, I would have insufficient fuel to fly the remaining distance to San Francisco. When I finally landed at San Francisco I had approximately four minutes of fuel left.

Reunited with my family, I didn't share my experience right away with my wife. For months I went through an inner struggle, knowing that God wanted me to give my life to Him. Finally, I asked Jesus to forgive me for my sins and to become Lord of my life. Jesus was now fully revealed to me as the One who had saved me out over the Pacific. In church one Sunday, I heard about the three men who were thrown into the fiery furnace for not bowing to an idol. In the fire there appeared to be four men. The form of the fourth was like the Son of God. The three were unharmed. I realized that the fourth man in the furnace had been the fifth man in my flight.

*Voice Magazine Volume 32 No.9 September 1984, "Fifth Man in the Flight" by Major Robert Snyder  
Used by permission*

## **Discussion**

How did this miracle of protection cause the pilot to become a Christian?

Although we are not always aware of God's protection, there are some occasions when we KNOW that God has protected us. These times make us aware that God is very real and very close to us. Can you think of a time when you have been aware of God's special protection for you or your family?

# God is Powerful

## Level 7 (age 11)

### Subtheme

God is a source of power



*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

Sources of power in the creation: electricity; magnetism

#### Other

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

### 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 7.1

## Subtheme

God is a source of power

## Focus

God gives power to His people.

## Bible references

Judges 13-15 Samson

Psalm 63:2; Psalm 66:3; Psalm 89:13; Psalm 145:6; Psalm 147:5, God is powerful.

Psalm 66:5; Psalm 145:6 God is awesome.

## Song

What a Mighty God (*All Creation Sings*)

## Introduction

Look at photographs of some of the great and powerful aspects of the creation.

## Brainstorm

Think of words that could be used to describe these scenes.

## Story: Samson

Read the story from Judges 13:1-5 & 24-25.

Why did Philistines rule over God's people? (verse 1)

What special job did God have for Samson? (verse 5)

What was Samson's mother instructed NOT to do? (verse 5)

Read Judges 14:1-9

Why did Samson's parents want Samson to marry an Israelite?

What did God want? (verses 3-4)

How did Samson begin to show signs of great strength? (verses 5-6)

At the wedding reception, Samson made a riddle about the honey in the lion's body. All week long the guests tried to guess the answer. Finally they found out the answer from Samson's wife. They had threatened to burn her house down if she didn't tell them so she bothered Samson until he told her. Then she ran and told the others. Samson was so angry that he left his wife and went home to live with his mother and father.

Later, when Samson had 'cooled off' he decided to go back to the land of the Philistines and get his wife. But he found that his wife hadn't waited for him. She had married someone else. That made him angry again. He decided to do something bad to the Philistines.

Find out what he did. (Judges 15:3-4)

Now the Philistines were after Samson. In fact they wanted to make war with all the Israelites. The Israelites didn't like it. They found Samson in a cave, tied him up and handed him over to the Philistines.

Read about this. (Judges 15:11-13)

How did Samson show his super strength again? (verses 14-15)

Find out how God used Samson to have victory over the Philistines. (Judges 16:4-31)

### **Discussion**

Do you think Samson could have had been more powerful if he had been more careful about obeying God's special command concerning his hair?

Samson's long hair was not something that magically caused him to have strength. It was a sign to make him remember that without God he had no strength.

We too must depend on God for power to live the Christian life. What might happen if someone decides to live their life without God?

### **Art/Craft**

Choose something from the creation that shows God's great power. Decide on an art form to depict it, e.g. painting, drawing, group mural or model.

## **God is Powerful 7.2**

### **Subtheme**

God is a source of power

### **Focus**

The power and authority of Jesus

### **Bible reference**

Mark 5:1-19 A man with demon

### **Songs**

What A Mighty God (*All Creation Sings*)

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

### **Brainstorm/team game**

Make a list of the miracles performed by Jesus during His life on earth.

OR Make it a competition between two teams. See which team can come up with the most examples.

### **Discussion**

Why was Jesus able to perform miracles?

What effect did the miracles have upon people?

In what way did Jesus show power in His words as well as his actions?

What effect did the words of Jesus have upon people who heard Him?

### **Story: A Man with Demons**

Read the story from Mark 5:1-19.

How does this story show the power and authority of Jesus in both words and actions?

## Quiz

Use the questions below, or make up your own list of questions about the miracles of Jesus. You could hold a 'noughts and crosses' competition or a T.V. quiz.

Examples:

Q. Which disciples saw the miracle of the great catch?

A. Peter, Andrew, James and John.

Q. What did Jesus say to the storm ?

A. Peace. Be still.

Q. What did Jesus do for Jairus's daughter?

A. Brought her back to life.

Q. What food did Jesus use to feed 5000 people?

A. 5 loaves and 2 fish.

Q. What miracle did Jesus do for Bartimaeus?

A. Healed him from blindness.

Q. For how many days had Lazarus been dead, before Jesus brought him back to life?

A. Four.

Q. What was the first miracle Jesus performed?

A. Turning water to wine at the wedding feast.

Q. Which disciple wanted to walk to Jesus on the water?

A. Peter.

Q. When Jesus healed the ten lepers, how many thanked Him?

A. One.

Q. What was the name of the man who had many evil spirits?

A. Legion.



# God is Powerful 7.3

## Subtheme

God is a source of power

## Focus

God works powerfully today.

## Bible references

John 15:1-5 The Vine

Acts 1:8; Acts 2 The disciples receive power

Acts 3 Peter and John demonstrate power

Acts 13:4-12 Barnabas and Paul demonstrate power

## Introduction ideas

Look at a mobile phone and charger. Discuss how it is dependent on a battery.

Experiment with battery operated toy(s).

Set up an electrical circuit with bulbs and battery.

## Discussion

How does the toy work?

A battery is a store of electricity. We could call the battery a SOURCE of power. Unless the toy is connected to the source it will have no power.

## Bible research

Read John 15:1-5 What does this tell us about the need for Christians to be connected to the Source?

What did Jesus promise the disciples in Acts 1:8?

What does it mean to be a 'witness'?

## Story 1: The Disciples Receive Power

Read the story from Acts 2:1-17 and verse 22.

In what way were the disciples more powerful once the Holy Spirit had come upon them? (See Acts 3:1-10)

Other followers of Jesus, called Apostles, also demonstrated God's power. (See how Barnabas and Paul used God's power to put a stop to the work of Elymas the magician in Acts 13:4-12).

## Discussion

How can WE demonstrate God's power in our lives?

### EXAMPLES:

Power to say 'no' when tempted

Power to overcome problems

Power to forgive

Power to control anger

Power in speaking the truth at the right time

## Story 2: Miracles in Indonesia

In Indonesia, in the 1970s, amazing things happened as God's Spirit moved throughout the land. This true story tells us about one of these miracles.

The story took place in a mountain village. Life in the mountains was not always easy. The flimsy palm huts were no match for the cruel winds. The huts contained little furniture. The bed, for instance, was nothing more than four notched sticks stuck in the dirt in the shape of a bed. The pillow was a small log placed at the end of the bed. There were no blankets. A fire was built in the middle of the house, filling the room with choking smoke.

In one of these huts lived a man named Stefanus Toto. For him, his house had become a grimy prison. He couldn't run outside in the morning to take a breath of fresh air. Nor could he see the smile of the sun. Stefanus was paralysed.

He did nothing but lie on his scratchy bed all day. He couldn't move and he couldn't talk. In fact he couldn't do anything for himself. His wife and children had to feed and dress him. Stefanus was terribly depressed, until one day, a Christian lady named Ibu Marow came to pray for him.

She laid her hands on his head and prayed a simple prayer: 'Dear Jesus, I know you don't want Stefanus to be sick like this. Please heal him. We know you have the power. Thankyou that you are going to give him a brand new wonderful life. Amen.'

Stefanus fell into a deep sleep. For the first time in months he slept like a contented baby. Sometime, during the night, while his whole being was relaxed, God's magnificent power entered his body and healed him completely from the paralysis.

When Stephanus woke up he suddenly realised that something wonderful had happened. He sat up slowly, then swung his legs over the side of the bed. He walked towards the door, free from his horrible dungeon forever. He couldn't stop thanking God for the new life he felt in his body.

*From 'The Gentle Breeze of Jesus' by Mel Tari (Used by permission).*

## Discussion

1. Where is Indonesia?
2. Describe life in an Indonesian mountain village.
3. Describe the life of Stefanus.
4. What happened when a Christian lady prayed for him?
5. Can we expect God to demonstrate His power today, or was it only demonstrated in Bible times?

## God is powerful

God is the sources of power. We see His power in the creation. When we look at the power of the ocean, the power in a storm, the power of the solar system, we know that only a powerful God could have created them. When we need power in our lives, we can look to God, and He will give us the power we need.

## Puzzle

Unjumble these letters and find names of people who worked powerfully for God. All these names are in the New Testament.

terPe hnJo luaP pthSene narBasab hilPpi miTyohT IsaiS

# God is Truth

## Level 7 (age 11)

### Subtheme

Those who seek the truth will find it.



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

### Integrated topics for Christian Education

The search for truth by scientists; the scientific method; Galileo; pendulums

- 

#### Other

- friendship: faithfulness, truthfulness and honesty
- discovering truth through the scientific method
- 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.
- discerning truth in the media and advertising; consumer education

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

- honesty
- discernment

### Christian Life

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

# God is Truth 7.1

## Subtheme

Those who seek the truth will find it

## Focus

Searching for truth with all our heart

## Bible references

Luke 11:9 Ask, seek, knock.

Matthew 6:33 Seek first God's kingdom.

Matthew 13:44-45 The pearl of great price and the hidden treasure

## Song

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

## Introduction: How are pearls formed?

Use a string of pearls as a visual aid.

A pearl is born when something very tiny gets inside the oyster and irritates the animal. It may be a grain of sand. When the sand grain gets between the shell and the soft body of the shell-fish, the oyster protects itself by covering the intruder with the same pearly substance that lines its shell. Few pearls are large, and few are perfect in shape. As few as one in a thousand pearl oysters may contain a pearl of any value.

These days pearls can be 'farmed' or 'cultured' by placing tiny grains of sand in the pearl oysters. The oysters are then carefully fed and protected, in special cages. Then, at the right time, opened up and the precious pearls are removed.

In the olden days, however, people did not know how to culture pearls. To find pearls, people had to search for them. Divers would collect thousands of oyster shells. Sometimes they would open the shells on the boat. Sometimes they would take them to the shore and open them there.

Imagine that you are a deep-sea diver looking for pearls. You know the type of shells which might contain the pearls, so you keep your eyes alert. When you have collected enough shells, you start to open each one carefully with your special tool. You patiently open one shell after another, but no luck. You throw them back into the sea. Then finally you find a shell containing a pearl!

Finding pearls is a bit like finding hidden treasure. Things of value are not always easy to find. This is also true with finding gold and precious stones. In mining, tons of earth must be extracted in order to find tiny portions of precious minerals.

Panning for gold is not easy either. If you want to pan for gold you would go to a stream that is likely to contain gold, then fill your pan with water and stones from the stream. Then swish and swirl the mixture, looking carefully all the time for any little lumps of gold that may be amongst the stones. In your pocket you would have a little container for your findings.

Searching for truth is a bit like searching for treasure because truth is something of great value. Like the person panning for gold, or the pearl diver, we also have to be very careful in our search, because we don't want to overlook it. The Bible is the source of truth.

Understanding what God has to say is like finding treasure because having God's word in our heart is so valuable.

### **Bible research**

Jesus said that God's kingdom is the most valuable thing in the world. (Read Matthew 6:33 and Matthew 13:44-45.)

Just as people need to search for hidden treasure, they must also search for the truth about God. (Read Matthew 6:33 and Luke 11:9).

### **Story: How Can I Find the True God?**

In some countries it is not easy to find the truth about God, because people grow up learning to worship false gods.

Bindu lived in India and belonged to a Hindu family. Her father and grandfather and great grandfather before her had spent their lives as Hindu holy men. Another name for a Hindu holy man is a Yogi. To be a great Yogi you had to sit in a special yogi position day after day, meditating and reading the sacred book of Hinduism. Meditating in the Hindu way is to sit very still and allow your mind to think of nothing. In this way the Yogis would try to contact the many gods they worshipped. They would often experience the presence of these gods. Really they were experiencing the power of evil spirits. Although Bindu didn't really know her father, she thought that he was someone very special.

Bindu and her brother and sister were instructed in Hinduism each day. With their mother, they would sit in the prayer room, in front of the altar with its many little statues. They repeated certain prayers to these gods of clay, wood or brass.

From the age of five Bindu was taught to meditate. She would sit with crossed legs and stare at nothing. For a past-time the children would draw pictures of these gods and pin them up on their walls.

Some of the gods were terrifying, but the Hindus still worshipped them because of their great power. One of the gods, Shiva, was most fearsome. In fact his real title was Shiva the destroyer. Sometimes Bindu would have nightmares of Shiva, who presented himself as a huge cobra poised ready for attack.

One of the most sacred gods was the cow. All Hindus took great care of the cow, giving it prime place in family life. They were horrified at the thought of people who actually ate their god! In fact they were horrified at people who ate any living creature, for they believed in reincarnation. That is the belief that when something or someone dies, they return in the next life as another creature. You dare not tread on an ant, because it could just be your great grandmother.

Had the Hindus believed in the God of the Bible they would have realised that God created everything after its own kind, that people were far more special to God than animals, and that life after death was not here on this earth at all.

Bindu was taught to respect her father, the great Yogi, as someone so special that he could have been a god himself. "Surely the great creator of the universe is the only true God!" she thought one day. "Not the great Yogis, not Shiva, with his horrible evil eyes, not all the other gods. Surely there is only one true God, and surely He is a good God!"

"God, the true God and creator, please show me the truth," she prayed one day, to a God she had never prayed to before.

As Bindu grew older she met some Christians, who told her how she could meet the true God and know Him as a loving friend. Bindu knew what she must do. She opened her heart to Jesus, and at once felt such happiness and peace. She no longer experienced the terrible nightmares. She had found the God of love. She also knew that Jesus wasn't just another one of several million gods. He was the only true God.

**Discussion**

1. Why is it difficult for people who grow up in a Hindu society to become Christians?
2. Is it impossible for them to become Christians?
3. Why do you think that God wants Christians to 'Go into all the world'?
4. Some of the false gods worshipped by the Hindus really had power. Where do you think the power came from?
5. How can we tell whether a person is worshipping the true God or a false god? What are the characteristics of a false god?
6. Can a person worship the true God and other gods at the same time?
7. How can we tell whether a person worships the One true God?
8. Many people in our society today practise a form of exercise called Yoga, which is taken directly from the Hindu religion. Do you think Christians should practise Yoga?

**Word Search: Pearls of Truth**

Some words are missing from these Bible verses. Find them in the word search below.

You will \_\_\_\_ the truth and the truth will make you \_\_\_\_\_. (John 8:32)

Jesus said, "I am the \_\_\_\_, the truth and the \_\_\_\_\_." (John 14:6)

Jesus said, "Come and \_\_\_\_\_ me." (Matthew 4:19)

U	S	N	F	Z	O	P	Q
N	W	H	O	U	D	F	S
W	V	R	L	W	A	R	M
A	Y	E	L	I	F	E	B
Y	G	F	O	F	Y	E	B
K	N	O	W	H	L	I	E

# God is Truth 7.2

## Subtheme

Those who seek God's truth will find it

## Focus

Accepting God's word with faith

## Bible references

Luke 24:13-35 The two followers on the road to Emmaus: They understood the truth when they believed.

John 20:24-29 Unbelief prevented Thomas from knowing the truth.

Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Never rely on what you think you know. (GNB)

John 1:17 Truth came through Jesus Christ.

John 16:13 When the Spirit of truth comes He will guide you into all truth.

## Song

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

## Introduction

Revise 'searching for treasure'.

What kinds of treasure do people search for?

## Story 1: Where's the Gold?

Early one morning a man was visited by his neighbour.

"Quickly, quickly!" said the neighbour. Someone's found gold in the river.

"How could that be?" said the man. "I've lived near the river all my life and there's never been gold in the river."

The man decided to go away for a few days. Meanwhile the news spread. People came with their pans. Sure enough, they were finding gold. There had been a landslide upstream. Part of the bank, which contained a seam of gold had fallen into the river.

When the man returned, some days later, all the gold had been collected. Because the man did not believe the news about the gold, he missed out on finding any.

The Bible is like treasure. Because many people do not believe the Good News of the Bible, they miss out on finding true happiness in life. Knowing Jesus is the best treasure we can have.

## Questions

1. Why didn't the man believe there was gold in the river?
2. Why did the man miss out on getting any gold?
3. Why can people miss out on finding the truth about Jesus?

## God is truth

Jesus said " \_\_\_\_\_ and it shall be given. \_\_\_\_\_ and you shall find." (Matthew 7:7)

Some people never think about *who* made the world and everything in it. They never think about what happens when we die. They just live their life without ever thinking about God.

However, God has told us that we have no excuse for not knowing the truth. The creation tells of the wonders of God. If we seek, we will find the truth.

*"For since the creation of the world, God's invisible qualities - His eternal power and divine nature - have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse." Romans 1:20*

### **Story 2: The Doubters**

After Jesus died, and rose again, there were some followers who could not believe that Jesus really had risen from the dead.

Two of his friends were walking along a road when Jesus himself started walking along beside them. They did not recognise this person to be Jesus because they did not believe.

"Why are you so sad?" asked Jesus.

"Haven't you heard?" said the one called Cleopas. "Our best friend Jesus was crucified on Friday."

"But haven't you read the Scripture?" asked Jesus. "Doesn't the Scripture say that He will come alive again on the third day?"

As Jesus started to explain the Scripture to them they started to believe.

When they got to the town of Emmaus, two friends begged Jesus to stay with them. (They still didn't know it was Jesus). As they were having a meal together the two friends suddenly recognised Him. Then Jesus disappeared.

Now they believed that Jesus had risen. "Wasn't it exciting," they said to each other, "when Jesus talked to us on the road and explained the true meaning of the Scriptures!"

They went at once to tell the other followers.

These two friends of Jesus were not the only ones who didn't believe the truth at first. Thomas was another. Read about his experience from John 20:24-29.

### **Bible research**

Perhaps it is harder for people to believe the truth about Jesus today because they cannot see Jesus. However, God has sent the Holy Spirit to help us believe the truth. (Read John 16:13)

The Bible tells us that we must trust God in everything, and not rely upon what we think we know. Read Proverbs 3:5. Trusting God, and believing His word is having FAITH.

### **Discussion**

1. Who was walking with the two friends?
2. Why didn't they recognise Him?
3. When did they start to believe?
4. Why is it important for us to read the Bible? These two friends of Jesus were not the only ones who didn't believe the truth at first. Name another friend of Jesus who also doubted. Find out from John 20:24-29.
5. How can I help others to believe in Jesus, even though we can't see Him?

### **Activity**

Make up an acrostic which shows the meaning of FAITH.

You may like to start each line with the given words. (See next page.)



<b>F</b>	<b>Following.....</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>Always.....</b>
<b>I</b>	<b>Inviting.....</b>
<b>T</b>	<b>Trusting.....</b>
<b>H</b>	<b>Having.....</b>

**Act it out**

Dramatise 'The Road to Emmaus'.

**God is truth**

Fill the missing words. Look up the Bible to find them.

You will \_\_\_\_ the truth and the truth will make you \_\_\_\_\_. (John 8:32)

Jesus said, "I am the \_\_\_\_, the truth and the \_\_\_\_\_." (John 14:6)

Jesus said, "Come and \_\_\_\_\_ me." (Matthew 4:19)

## God is Truth 7.3

**Subtheme**

Those who seek the truth will find it

**Focus**

God has placed within every person a desire to search for the truth about Himself.

**Bible references**

Romans 1:20 For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen...so that they are without excuse. (KJV)

Acts 14:17 He has always given evidence of His existence by the good things He does: He gives you rain from heaven and crops at the right times...(GNB)

Luke 11:9-10 He that seeks finds.

John 8:32 You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

Luke 19:37-40 The large crowd of His disciples began to thank God and praise Him in a loud voice... If they keep quiet, the stones themselves will start shouting. (GNB)

Matthew 16:13-20 Peter declared that Jesus was the Son of God, a truth given directly by the Father.

**Song**

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

**Introduction**

Show photos of God's creation, or look at some real life examples. eg. plants, insect specimens. What does the creation tell us about God?

**Discussion**

When we look at a waterfall or a tree we must ask "Who made it?"

Finding the truth about God is easier for some people than others. Some children grow up in Christian families. Others grow up in places where the name of Jesus is not known. However, even in these places it is possible to know the truth about God by looking at the greatness of His creation. The Bible says that God has shown His great power through the

things He has made. God has also placed within every person a desire to find out the truth about Himself.

### **Story 1: Peter Discovers the Truth**

Peter had been a friend of Jesus for some time. When Jesus called him to leave his fishing nets and follow Him, something inside Peter said 'Go!' As Peter spent time with Jesus, day after day, he knew that Jesus was a very special person. No one had ever told Peter that Jesus was God's Son, but somehow he just knew.

One day, Jesus asked, "Who do you think I am?"  
Straight away Peter answered, "You are the son of God."  
Read what Jesus said to Peter in Matthew 16:17.

### **Story 2: A King Discovers the True God**

In South America, over 5000 years ago, lived the king of the Inca people. His name was King Pachacuti. The king organised the building of huge palaces and forts, as well as a beautiful temple in honour of the sun god that the Incas called Inti. Inti, of course, was a false god, but the Incas didn't know that.

Then one day, the king fell upon a great discovery. If the light of Inti can be dimmed by clouds, then Inti cannot be all-powerful. He also thought about how restless Inti was, always moving across the sky. Surely such a great god would not be so restless. And why did Inti only give light some of the time?

Suddenly the king realized that he had only been worshipping a thing as a god. Inti was not a real god at all.

"If Inti is not the true god, then who is?" he thought.

The king realised that there was a more powerful One, the Lord, the Creator of all things. He called this God, Viracocha.

"A God who created all things deserves worship," thought the king. He called all his priests of Inti. He commanded that from that time forward, Inti be only respected as something created by Someone much more powerful. He also commanded that now all prayer be directed to Viracocha. The king wrote many hymns to Viracocha, the great God of the universe.

Unfortunately, the king thought that He would be more special if he was the only one worshipping Viracocha. He therefore decided to keep it a secret. Only his own priests and closest friends knew about the true God. The rest of the Incas went on worshipping Inti, the sun god.

Many years later, when Christian missionaries arrived, they found the hymns written by the king. They were amazed that the king had discovered the true God, without their help.

This true story shows us that God can reveal Himself to people who have never been told of Him, if they are truly searching with all their heart.

*from Eternity in Their Hearts by Don Richardson*

**Game: Hidden Treasure** (*A dice game for 2-6 players*)

**PREPARATION:**

- Everyone needs a copy of the following pictures ('playing cards').
- Each player cuts out the 6 picture playing cards and sets out cards in front them.
- Quiz questions have been prepared in advance.

**Example:**

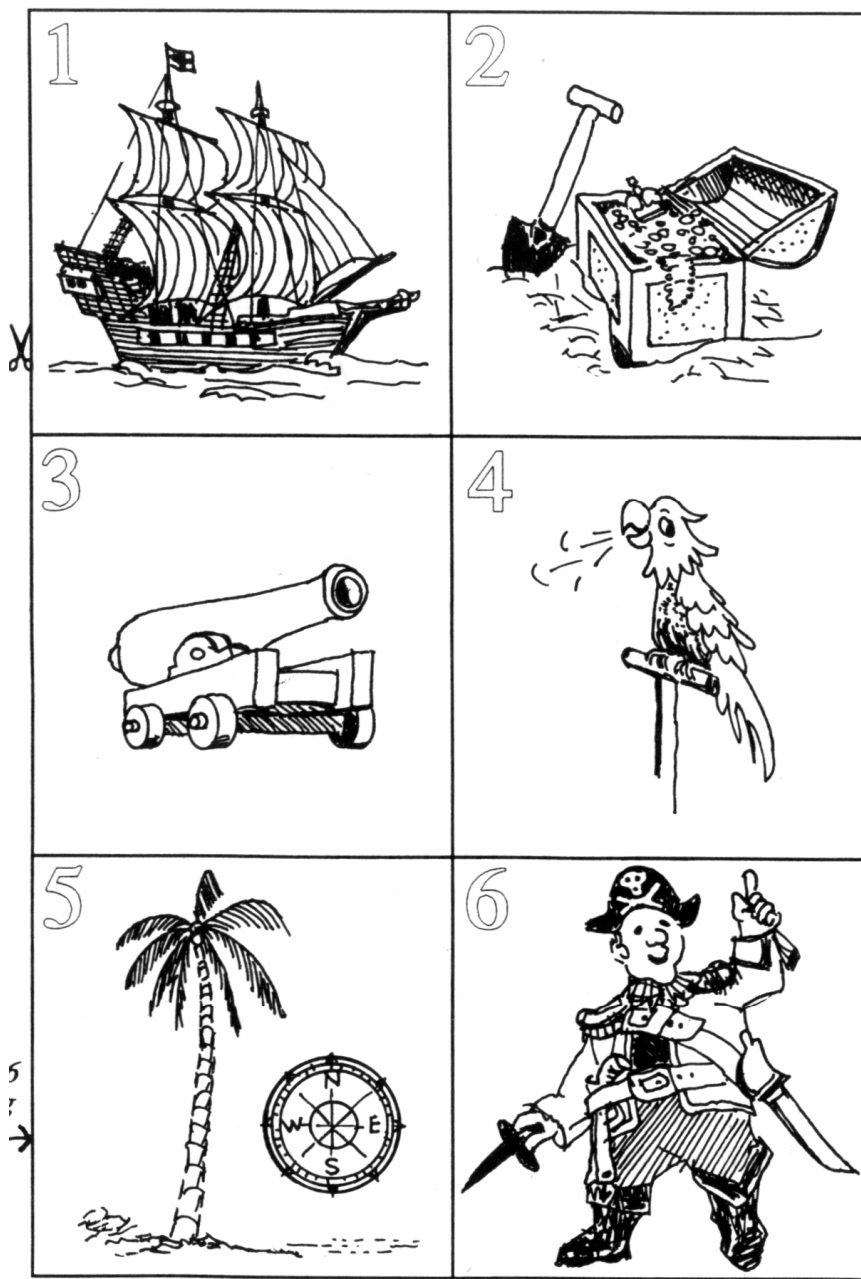
1. God made the world in \_\_\_ days.
2. Jesus is the way, the truth and the \_\_\_.
3. Jesus said, "No one comes to the \_\_\_ except by Me."
4. Ask, \_\_\_, knock.
5. Jesus said, "Enter by the \_\_\_ gate."
6. Jesus said, "I am the \_\_\_ of the sheep fold."

**TO PLAY THE GAME:**

Each player takes turns in throwing the dice.

The player must answer the question corresponding to the number on the dice. For example, if 4 is thrown, then question 4 must be answered.

If the player answers correctly he turns over his playing card. The first to have all playing cards turned over is the winner.



# "Hidden Treasure"

A dice game for 2-6 players.

# God is Pure

## Level 7 (age 11)

### Subtheme

What happened to God's perfect world?

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



### Related topics for Christian schools

The Fall of mankind and the effect of the curse upon the creation

- pollution of water, air, land
- environmental disasters
- disposal of waste; recycling
- the Christian response to the environment.

### Other

- cleaning in the home
- water (symbol of purity)
- light (symbol of purity)
- purity in relationships: loving and forgiving
- the purity of heaven
- Consumer education: honesty/dishonesty in advertising.

### 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 7.1

## Subtheme

What happened to God's perfect world?

## Focus

Comparing the original creation with today's world

## Bible references

Genesis 1-3 The Creation and Fall.

Romans 5:12 Sin came into the world through Adam.

## Song

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

## Introduction

Look at some pictures of a polluted world: rubbish dumps; polluted lakes and rivers; smoggy cities.

## Discussion

How far removed is today's world from the original Creation? Consider the following:

- actions of people
- animal behaviour
- disease
- ageing
- the environment

Can you imagine a wolf and a lamb lying peacefully together in the same field? It is hard to imagine but that is how it was in God's original perfect creation. That is how it will be in heaven where once again things will be perfect. Animals were originally made to live in peace with one another. There was no killing. All animals were vegetarians.

Can you imagine a world where people never fight or hate each other?... where people are never selfish or greedy? That is how it once was.

Can you imagine a world where no one gets sick or injured?... where no one gets old and dies? God originally made people and animals to have perfectly healthy bodies.

Can you imagine a world where there are no droughts or floods or earthquakes or other natural disasters?... where there is no famine? The temperature is perfect and the vegetation is green and lush. There is no pollution to spoil the beautiful environment.

This is the creation as God made it. It was His plan. Think about the effects of sin upon God's perfect world. When mankind sinned, the world was no longer perfect. The earth was under a curse. Thorns and thistles started growing, choking the beautiful plants. Ugly creatures used bites and stings. Animals started attacking each other. Pollution began. Worst of all, the men and women, whom God had created to be His friends, started going their own way. They rejected Him and did the things that displeased Him.

Do you think the pollution of the world could be stopped if all people obeyed God?

Much of the pollution we see today is due to greed, selfishness and carelessness. If people were really God's caretakers, as God asked us to be, then people would think more about the consequences of the things they do.

Do you think the world really needs all the THINGS that are made in factories? Do you think that all the resources of the earth are being used wisely?

### **Art/Craft**

Work in pairs or groups to show through art, the difference between God's original Creation and the present world. You could use a combination of magazine collage, paint and felt pen.

For the imperfect world children can cut out pictures of things like soup cans, food packets, tyres, and put them altogether to make a rubbish dump. They could also show a polluted lake or river. For the perfect world, they can cut out, paint or draw, green trees, clear lakes, lush vegetation and animals living in peace.

# God is Pure 7.2

## Subtheme

What's happened to God's perfect creation?

## Focus

How does God feel about the pollution of His creation?

## Bible references

Genesis 6-8 The flood

Matthew 21:12-13 Jesus did not tolerate sin in His Father's house.

1 Chronicles 16:33; Psalm 7:11; Psalm 96:13; Acts 17:31; Revelation 20:4 God judges sin because He is holy.

Romans 3:23 All have sinned.

## Songs

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

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

## Discussion

Discuss environmental disasters. eg. oil spills; the expansion of the Sahara desert. How does God feel about all this? How does God feel about the pollution of human nature? (sin)

God must be very sad about the pollution of the beautiful world that He created. However, God is even more broken-hearted over sin, which began in the Garden of Eden. Instead of being completely obedient to God, people became disobedient.

Because God is pure and holy He cannot tolerate sin. There must be consequences.

What was His first act of judgement upon a world destroying itself? (Genesis 6-8)

Is there anyone in the world who is perfect? (Romans 3:23)

Although we all sin, we can ask for God's forgiveness. Jesus made this possible. By becoming a man, He took the punishment that WE deserved. If we have received forgiveness through Jesus then we can be in right relationship with our Heavenly Father.

Some people blame God for the sin and suffering in the world. They can understand why a robber or murderer may suffer, but what about innocent children? God is not to blame for suffering. When He created people, He placed THEM in charge of the Creation. People were not created like puppets. They can think for themselves and make responsible decisions. That's the way God wanted it to be. He wanted people to CHOOSE to love and obey Him. Unfortunately, mankind did not choose to obey God's laws, and as a result, the world is in a mess. In the beginning, God set a plan in motion. This plan could not be changed. Because sin was not part of God's plan, there had to be consequences for disobedience. Adam and Eve chose to allow Satan into the world. They chose to give Satan power. Because of this, the world must continue to live under Satan's influence.

One day, in God's perfect timing, He will make a new heaven and earth, where everything will be perfect once again and Satan will be completely destroyed. However until that time, God has provided special protection for those who love and obey Him. It is the armour of God. (Ephesians 6)

**Discussion** - Is God really responsible for the sin and suffering in the world? Who is?



# God is Pure 7.3

## Subtheme

What's happened to God's perfect creation?

## Focus

God's answer: receiving His forgiveness

## Bible references

Jeremiah 18 Jeremiah at the potter's house.

Isaiah 64:8 You are the potter, Lord, and we are the clay.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, God will forgive us.

1 John 1:5-10 Walk in the light.

Matthew 5:13-15 Salt and light.

## Songs

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

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

## Introduction

Bring a piece of clay and ask someone to model something from it. Or bring something made of clay and talk about how it has to be moulded and fired.

## Play reading: Jeremiah At the Potter's House

SCENE 1: *Jeremiah is praying before the Lord.*

### Voice:

Jeremiah! Go down to the potter's house. There is a message that I will give you as you watch the potter at work.

SCENE 2: *Jeremiah is at the potters house. There are pots all around and in the middle, a potter's wheel. Jeremiah watches the potter at work. The potter makes a bowl from clay, then smashes it, putting it back into a ball of clay.*

### Jeremiah:

Hey! Don't smash it! That was good!

### Potter:

No Jeremiah. I only produce perfect vessels. This one wasn't round enough. However, with the same piece of clay I can make another bowl that is exactly how I want it.

SCENE 3: *Jeremiah is praying once again.*

### Voice:

Jeremiah! Did you see the potter at work? Just as the potter requires a perfect vessel, I require people who are pure and holy. If they ask for forgiveness, I will take away their sin and start over again. If they give their lives to me, I can remove the things that are displeasing to me.

## Discussion

1. What kind of people does God require?
2. Is anyone perfect? What is God's answer? (1 John 1:9)
3. How does God want us to live after we have received His forgiveness? Should we keep on doing things that displease Him?
4. How can Christians offer hope to an impure world? (*Ans: Telling others about God's forgiveness; Being salt and light*)

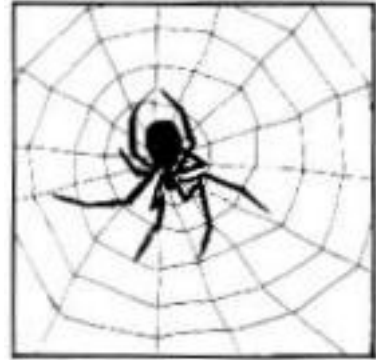
**Puzzle:** How many smaller words can you make from the word 'forgiveness'?

# God is Patient

## Level 7 (age 11)

### Subtheme

God is patient with us.



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

### Integrated Topics for Christian education

Culture contact:

- problems it has brought about historically
- the need for patience in understanding another culture.
- showing patience and forgiveness towards others, as God shows patience and forgiveness towards us.

#### 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. eg. 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
- life 100 years ago or more: patience in doing tasks manually.
- lifestyle of pioneers and early settlers
- 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 7.1

## Subtheme

God is patient with us

## Focus

God's patience in searching for the lost

## Bible references

Luke 15:1-10 The lost sheep and the lost coin.

Revelation 3:20 Jesus stands at the door and knocks.

## Song

The Waiting Father (*Sing A Joyful Song*)

## Introduction: An outdoor treasure hunt

Each person will need to find certain THINGS mentioned in these Bible verses. See brackets for initial letters of items required.

1. Ezekiel 17:3 (F)
2. Genesis 8:11 (L)
3. Isaiah 15:6 (G)
4. Matthew 21:42 (S)
5. Psalm 103:15 (F)
6. 2 Kings 6:6 (S)

In a treasure hunt we have to search for things. Ask students to think of any Bible stories that speak about searching.

## Story 1: The Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin

Read the story from Luke 15:1-10.

Why did Jesus tell this story?

What does this tell us about God's patience with people?

Were the Pharisees patient with people who didn't obey the laws?

## Story 2: Mike

Once there was a boy called Mike. He had grown up in a Christian family, and had loving parents. However, when he was fifteen, he decided that he didn't want to be a Christian any more. His best friends were not Christians. In fact they laughed at the Christian values of Mike's parents.

When Mike was 18 he went to university. In his heart he started to question the Bible? He didn't believe it was true any more.

One day he was sitting on a train when the young man beside him struck up a conversation. Mike noticed that the young man was reading a Christian book.

"Oh no," thought Mike. "Not a Christian."

The Christian was going beyond Mike's stop, so had plenty of time to talk.

When Mike got off the train, he couldn't stop thinking about the conversation. He remembered a Christian friend that he once knew. Mike hadn't been in contact with David for three years. He decided to give him a call. Yes, he still lived in the same place.

Mike saw quite a bit of David over the next few weeks. Finally Mike knew what he must do. He knew that he had been the lost sheep over these three years. He knew that He must return to the Shepherd.

### **Discussion**

1. Why do you think Mike turned away from the Christian faith?
2. Which two people helped Mike to return to the Lord?
3. Read Revelation 3:20. Why do you think Mike returned to God?
4. What might have happened if the Christian on the train didn't speak up about Jesus?
5. The Christian on the train would never know that Mike became a Christian. What does this show us about the importance of obeying God, even when we don't see results?

### **God is patient**

God has shown more patience with people than any human being has ever shown. He was even willing to forgive those who killed Him.

**Think: How can I be more patient and forgiving towards others?**

### **Discussion**

Read Revelation 3:20. Why do you think Mike returned to God?

### **Act it out**

Dramatise 'The lost sheep' and/or 'The lost coin'.

# God is Patient 7.2

## Subtheme

God is patient with us

## Focus

God is forgiving.

## Bible references

Luke 15:11-32 The son who left home. The father showed patience and offered forgiveness.

Psalm 103:8-18 God is slow to anger.

Luke 23:34; 1 John 1:9 God forgives us.

Matthew 18:21-22; Colossians 3:12-13; Ephesians 4:32 We should forgive one another.

## Songs

The Waiting Father (*Sing A Joyful Song*)

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

## Introduction

- Think about times when your parents have lost patience with you or your brothers/sisters. Share experiences.
- Think about God as a father. Who are His children?
- What could we say about God's patience with his children?

## Story 1: The Son Who Left Home

Read the story from Luke 15:11-32.

Who does the father represent?

Who does the son represent?

How do you think the father felt as he waited day by day for his son to return?

Would all fathers be as patient and forgiving as this father?

## Bible research

If God is so patient and forgiving towards us, how patient and forgiving should we be towards others?

Read Matthew 18:21-22; Colossians 3:13; Ephesians 4:32.

## Act it out

Make up a modern day parallel to 'the son who left home'.

## Story 2: We Are Sorry

A story from Australia

On June 10, 1838, some white settlers murdered a group of Australian Aboriginal people. While the men of the Aboriginal tribe were away working, a group of white settlers attacked the Werei tribe's camp. Women, children and old people were taken to a nearby cattle yard and killed. The event became known as the 'Myall Creek Massacre'. Later, seven of the nine men responsible were caught and hung. (Two had escaped). However, the memory of what the Whites had done would always remain with the Aboriginal people.

In May 1988, Australia's new parliament house was opened in Canberra. Christians from all over Australia decided to get together to pray for Australia outside parliament house. They encircled the building and prayed all day and all night. They prayed that Australia would continue to be a free country. Some of the white Christians decided that they wanted to say

'sorry' to the Aboriginal people for the great injustices committed by white people against them.

A rough wooden cross was carried by a group of white Church leaders. The cross was made from timber taken from the cattle-yard where the Aboriginals had been killed 150 years before. It was placed in the ground in front of the crowd who had gathered to hear speeches of reconciliation. One of the white church leaders addressed the group of Aboriginal People.

The Aboriginal people then performed a ceremony, which showed their forgiveness towards the whites. They placed leaves on a fire. The smoke represented purification. They also poured water from plastic buckets into small paper cups held by the white church leaders. This was another sign forgiveness and acceptance.

### Discussion

1. What was the Myall Creek Massacre?
2. How did Christians express how sorry they were?
3. Do you think it makes sense to say sorry, even if you didn't do the act?
4. How did the Aboriginal people show that they forgave the whites?
5. Do you think the whites deserved to be forgiven?
6. Do you think it would have been hard for the Aboriginal people to show forgiveness?
7. How were the Aboriginal people putting into practice the words of Jesus in Matthew 18:21-22?

### God is patient

When people from two different cultures live together in one community there may be difficulties because of the differences. In some places in the world there is fighting between different groups of people who live in the same country. God's love overlooks the differences. God's love can also help us to forgive one another.

**Think of a country where there is fighting between two groups of people. What would you tell a person from this country?**

**Puzzle:** Decode the following scripture verse using the code below:

2 5 6 3 3 8 2      5 5 2      1 5  
 [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]    [ ] [ ] [ ]    [ ] [ ] —  
 [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]    [ ] [ ] [ ]    [ ] [ ]

5 7 3 2 6      1 7      3 5 2      3 1  
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2 5 6 3 3 8 2 5      9 5 7  
 [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]    [ ] [ ] [ ]  
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7 3 6 5 7 3 3      1 3 6 3 7 7  
 [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]    [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]  
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Code:

1	A	2	D	3	G	4	J	5	M	6	P	7	S	8	V	9	Y
	B		E		H		K		N		Q		T		W		Z
	C		F		I		L		O		R		U		X		

# God is a Servant

## Level 7 (age 11)

### Subtheme

Jesus, the sacrificial servant

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



### Integrated topics for Christian Education

Pioneers, missionaries and explorers who made sacrifices to 'pave the way' for others

#### 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
- biographies of people who have served
- Serving with our talents.
- missionaries; Bible translators; Flying Doctor Service

#### 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 7.1

## Subtheme

Jesus, the sacrificial servant

## Focus

What is a sacrifice?

## Bible references

Matthew 27; Hebrews 10 Jesus sacrificed His life.

Matthew 18:18 Jesus served at the Last Supper.

1 John 2:2 & 4:10; Hebrews 7:27 & 9:28 Jesus made the greatest sacrifice of all.

Hebrews 4:15-16; Isaiah 53:3 Jesus took our sin upon Himself.

## Song

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

## Introduction

What is a sacrifice?

What sacrifices do your parents make for you?

How can we make sacrifices for others? Who?

Write down a definition of 'sacrifice'.

## Story 1: The Christmas Gifts

It was two weeks before Christmas. Stephen emptied his money-box and counted his money. Only five dollars. That wouldn't buy much at all. He needed money to buy presents for his Mum, Dad, little sister, and his grandparents.

All the next week Stephen worked as hard as he could to earn some extra money. He raked the grass, washed the car, washed dishes, minded his little sister and cleaned the carpet. Each job earned him another twenty cents.

At the end of the week he tried to think of suitable gifts for each family member. He still didn't have enough to buy all the things he wanted. Stephen decided that instead of buying all his presents, he would make some. For Grandma and Grandpa he made some cookies and for his little sister he made a hand puppet, (with a bit of help from Mum.) That left enough money to buy some earrings for Mum and some chocolate for Dad.

Luke came from a wealthy family. He didn't have to earn money. Dad gave him \$2 every week. Luke had saved some of his pocket money, but most of it he had spent on himself. He emptied his money box...only four dollars.

"Dad," said Luke. "Can I have some money to buy Christmas presents?"

"Sure, son," said his father. "How much do you need?"

"About \$50," said Luke.

Dad opened his wallet and gave Luke the money. The next day Luke went to the shops and bought Christmas presents for his family.

## Discussion

Which boy was most sacrificial in his giving? Why?



## **Bible research**

Discuss the use of sacrifices in the Old Testament.

Why could only the best animal or produce be offered?

God does not expect these kind of sacrifices any more. In Old Testament times sacrifices had to be made as a way of saying 'sorry' for sin. However, when Jesus died on the cross, that all changed. Why? (Hebrews 7:27; Hebrews 10:1 & 10)

What sacrifices did Jesus make throughout his life-time?

EXAMPLES...comfortable home; secure job; family; reputation; His life

Many of the followers of Jesus made sacrifices too. Stephen was one who died for Jesus. Serving God is not always easy. What sacrifices do people make today in order to serve God?

## **Story 2: The Faithful Shepherd of Eyam**

In the centre of England is the tiny village of Eyam. On the green hillsides surrounding the village, white sheep graze. This is a true story retelling some events which took place during the 17th century, in the time of London's Great Plague.

In the spring, the sheep would be shorn by the shepherds and the farmer's wives spun the wool into yarn. The weavers of the village would weave the yarn into fine woollen cloth which would then be taken to London to be sold to traders from all over Europe.

In the summer of 1665, the terrible disease, the bubonic plague, struck London. The disease was carried by fleas which lived on the back of rats. It caused high fevers and black and pink swellings like huge boils all over the body. Very few people who contracted the disease recovered.

The disease did not spread to any great extent outside London because in those days few people travelled. However, one day the tailor in the village of Eyam started to show all the symptoms of the plague. In a few days he had died. Shortly afterwards his wife and children all became ill and died. Where had this family contracted the disease? They reached the conclusion that it had been introduced into the tailor's household when a package of patterns had been sent to him from London. Evidently the package had been handled by someone who had the disease.

The villagers were terror-stricken and many quickly packed their household goods and fled from Eyam. William Mompesson, a minister of the Church of England, and his helper, William Stanley, gave all their time caring for the sick as one by one, people fell ill with the plague.

Catherine Mompesson, the minister's wife, became fearful. She saw that there was no hope for any of the family to escape the disease, and she begged her husband to leave the village with her and their children. But William would not leave the people he cared for, so Catherine decided to stay with her husband, but they sent the children to stay safely with friends in another village.

After a few months the plague had the village in its grip. It became obvious to William that if any more people left the village, they would be causing the disease to spread to other parts of England. William explained the situation to the village people, who all agreed to stay in Eyam and isolate themselves from the rest of the population. They gave up their work, closed down schools and all trade ceased. The houses became hospitals for the sick.

For four months Eyam was left to itself without once coming into contact with the outside world. Day by day they saw the villagers become ill and die. Catherine Mompesson was one

who died. There were 259 deaths out of the 300 residents. Then, with the advent of colder weather in October 1666, the plague suddenly ceased.

The people of Eyam had given themselves unselfishly in order to save the lives of possibly hundreds of others. William and Catherine Mompesson followed the example of Jesus in giving themselves to help and encourage the village people, instead of running away.

*From Margaret McIntyre's collection, used by permission*

**Questions:**

1. Where did this story take place?
2. What was the main industry in Eyam at the time of the story?
3. How was the bubonic plague carried?
4. What were the symptoms of the disease?
5. How did the bubonic plague spread to Eyam?
6. As the plague grew worse, William advised people to stay in Eyam. Why did he do this?
7. Why would you say that the people of Eyam made a sacrifice?
8. When we think about giving, we usually think about giving money. However it is possible to give in other ways, just as William and Catherine gave of themselves to help others. Make a list of ways in which people can give without using money.

**God is a servant**

Jesus served in the greatest way anyone could ever serve. He gave His life as a sacrifice for our sins. God tells us that when we serve by giving, we will receive back more than we have given (Luke 6:38). This does not mean that we will always be given money or possessions. God can give to us in other ways. Acts 20:35 tells us that we receive more blessing from giving than receiving.

**Giving project: Make a gift for someone**

It can be a card, a picture or anything you can make.

Healthy no-bake recipes...

**Apricot balls**

1 cup dried apricots

½ cup dessicated coconut

½ cup orange juice

1. Soak apricots overnight in the orange juice, or cook briefly in the juice.
2. Combine all ingredients in a food processor and blend.
3. Form balls and chill.

**Sesame Crunch** *(requires baking)*

2 cups oats

1 cup coconut

1 cup sesame seeds

1 teaspoon olive oil

1 tablespoon honey

1. Place all ingredients in large saucepan. Stir over low heat for a few minutes.
2. Bake on shallow tray in moderate oven for ½ hour.
3. Stir, then bake another 15 minutes. Cool.
4. Place in a jar and give to someone.

# God is a Servant 7.2

## Subtheme

Jesus, the sacrificial servant

## Focus

Serving is giving

## Bible references

Matthew 5:41-42 The extra mile

Luke 6:38 Give and it shall be given.

Acts 20:35 It is more blessed to give than receive.

## Song

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

## Brainstorm

When we think about giving, we usually think about giving money. However it is possible to give in other ways. Make a list of ways in which people can give without using money.

Examples: possessions, time, effort, love, kindness, joy.

## Bible research

Making a sacrifice means giving up something that is important to you. Read Matthew 5:4-5 Verse 5 speaks about giving 'things'. However verse 4 speaks about giving something else. What is it?

What do the following verses say about giving: Luke 6:38; Acts 20:30

Think of ways in which we can give to others and to God in the coming week. Remember that giving does not have to be in terms of possessions or money. It can be time and effort.

## Story: Simpson and His Donkey

During the First World War, Private Simpson, a British soldier, served with the Australian Ambulance Corps. The Ambulance Corps was responsible for giving first aid to the wounded and for bringing them to safety as quickly as possible. Wherever the bullets rained thickest, there Simpson was to be found, bandaging the wounded, or holding a water flask to the lips of a dying soldier.

On the second day after landing, about one hundred donkeys were brought ashore to carry tins of water to the soldiers. 'Murphy' was among them. From the moment of their first meeting, Simpson and Murphy became fast friends, and were afterwards always to be seen together. Day after day the two did their noble work, setting out with a tin of water and bringing back the wounded. The animal seemed to know that he must tread carefully to avoid the bumps and jolts over a long and tiresome road. Had he not done so the journey may have meant death to a badly injured soldier. Often a man would be lying wounded, and no one else would know until Simpson found him or the donkey scented him out.

For some time this life-saving work went on, but one day, the animal was struck by a bullet, and had to be left behind. Then Simpson and some of his comrades half dragged and half carried the poor beast back to the lines. A few days later, Murphy, although slightly lame, was again at his work and as keen as ever.

One day, however, he came down the gully carrying a wounded man on his back, but his master was not there. As soon as he had delivered his burden, he trotted back up the gully. Not long afterwards he was seen sniffing at a form lying quite still on the ground. It was Simpson, who had been shot through the heart while returning slowly with a wounded comrade. The story of Simpson and his donkey will long be remembered among the bravest deeds of Anzac.

### **Discussion**

1. Describe the work of the Australian Ambulance Corps during the First World War.
2. What work did the donkeys carry out?
3. How do we know that Murphy had a special love for Simpson?
4. What sacrifice was made in this story?
5. What is the greatest sacrifice anyone can make? ( John 15:13)
6. Who made the greatest sacrifice for us?

# God is a Servant 7.3

## Subtheme

Jesus, the sacrificial servant

## Focus

Serving God means giving all

## Bible references

John 12:23-26 Whoever serves Jesus must follow Him.

Luke 9:23-26 Take up your cross

Hebrews 13:15-16; 1 Peter 2:5; Romans 12:1; Ephesians 5:2...Sacrifices we can make.

## Song

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

## Introduction

In the 1970s a man called Arthur Blessit decided that he would take a large wooden cross around the world with him and use it to witness for Jesus. He would walk into a town carrying the large wooden cross over his shoulder. Then, when he had drawn a crowd, he would stop and tell people about Jesus. He would then go on to the next town and do the same. His cross went with him on trucks and planes. How amazed the airport staff were as Arthur stood at the check-in desk with his huge wooden cross!

## Bible research

What does Jesus mean when He asks us all to take up our cross? Read Luke 9:23-26.

Jesus also said that to serve Him we must follow Him. (Read John 12:23-26)

Jesus meant that we must be willing to follow Him even if it means difficult times for us. There are many stories of people who have given everything to serve Jesus. Here is one.

## Story: Father Damien, the Friend of Lepers

Joseph Damien was born in 1840 in the village of Tremeloo in Flanders, Belgium. He was the son of a Belgian peasant, and as a boy, often helped his father with the work on the farm. Because of this he grew into a strong lad, and being very handy with tools, was able to do all kinds of useful jobs. Joseph and his brother were brought up to understand the Christian message, and it was Joseph's brother, Pamphile who wanted to be a missionary to the Sandwich Islands. However, Pamphile became seriously ill, and realised that he might never go to the Sandwich Islands and share the gospel with the people there.

"Would it make you happy if I took your place as a missionary?" asked Joseph one day. Pamphile's eyes lighted up for a moment and he squeezed his brother's hand, smiling.

Joseph wrote to the church for permission to be his brother's replacement on the mission. When permission was granted Joseph was very excited.

In 1863, Joseph Damien started out by sailing-ship for the South Seas. He was full of enthusiasm as he began his ministry on one of the Sandwich Islands, and as he worked there teaching and preaching for ten years, During this time, the disease of leprosy was detected among an increasing number of the local people. Because leprosy is contagious the authorities became increasingly alarmed for the disease was spreading at a great rate. The government decided to isolate all lepers on a separate island to prevent any further spread of the disease in the community. The island of Molokai was set aside for lepers and

anyone banished to the island knew they had little or no hope of ever returning to their home and families.

Father Damien's kind heart was deeply touched by the sad plight of these poor people and he approached the Bishop of the church in the islands for permission to go to Molokai and minister to the neglected lepers. The Bishop agreed to his request and he made his way to the isolation from which he would never return.

On arrival at Molokai he was appalled at the conditions in which the poor people had been left to exist. They lived in makeshift houses, often with poor roofing that let the frequent rains in, creating mud puddles on the earth floor. They had no regular food supply and insufficient water for their daily needs. Some of the more fortunate had relatives who brought them food or clothing occasionally, but they would not venture on to the island and any such goods would be left on the beach without contacting the ones for whom it was intended.

As soon as he arrived, Father Damien set to work to supply the settlement with an adequate water supply. He asked the government for materials and, with the help of the strongest lepers, he built a reservoir in the hills and laid water pipes to the villages near the coast. His next task was to build better housing for the people. In ten years Father Damien had seen to the building of six hundred houses. There was the need for a hospital where the more advanced cases of leprosy could be treated medically. He nursed them, dressed their wounds, comforted them when they were dying and dug their graves when they were to be buried. As time passed, people in Europe heard of his unselfish work and sent out money and goods to help in the work.

One day as he worked in the hospital, he accidentally spilt some boiling water on his foot. "That's strange," he thought. "I can't feel anything. I should be feeling the burning."

Leprosy affects the nerves of the body and causes lack of feeling on the affected parts. The fingers and toes wear away because, without any feeling, the victim damages them in hard and sharp things and because there is no warning pain there is irreparable damage done to their limbs.

Father Damien went to a doctor. "Do I have leprosy, doctor?" he asked. After a thorough examination the doctor looked at him gravely and confirmed his suspicions.

Father Damien said that even if he could be cured by forsaking the island he would not desert the lepers. They were the people to whom God had called him, and there he would remain. He worked on as a leper among the lepers until his death. Father Damien's ministry is remembered around the world. He had lived out the life of Jesus among the outcasts of the islands, showing kindness and love to them which brought many to know Jesus personally.

*From Margaret McIntyre's collection, Used by permission*

# God is Life

## Level 7 (age 11)

### Subtheme

God is the sustainer of life



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

### Integrated Topics for Christian Education

Desert survival: methods of sustaining life in harsh environments; traditional skills of people groups who live/have lived in these environments.

#### Other

- plant life; ecosystems
- growing things
- requirements for life-support: air; food; water
- animal life
- the cycle of life from birth to old age
- requirements for life: air, water
- water; the water cycle; rivers, river systems and lakes; river settlements.
- study of an ecosystem: looking at ways in which plant and animal life is sustained.
- joy in life: 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 7.1

## Subtheme

God is the sustainer of life

## Focus

The most essential things in life

## Bible references

Exodus chapters 16 & 17 God sustained the Israelites in the wilderness.

Exodus chapters 25 & 40 The ark of God

Matthew 6:25-34 Life is more important than food.

Matthew 4:4 Man shall not live by bread alone.

## Song

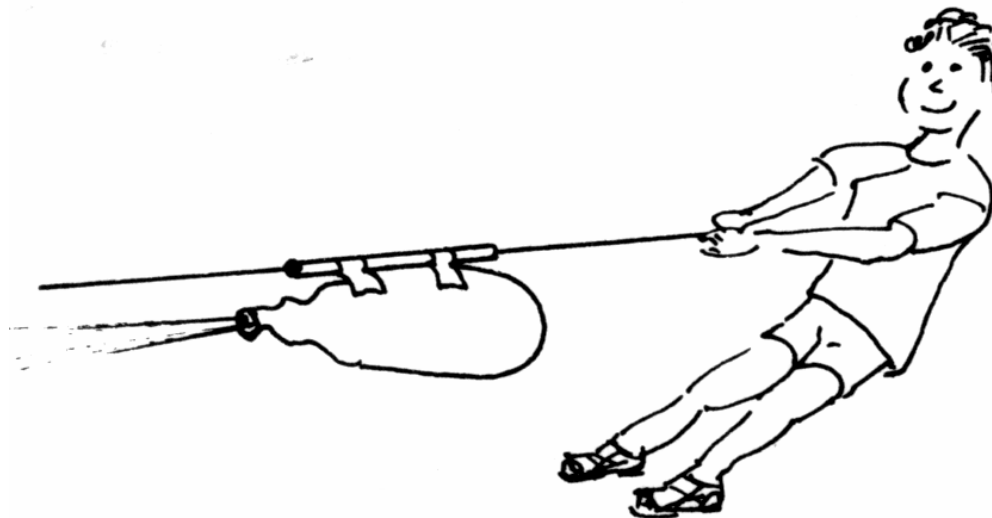
The Journey (*Sing A Joyful Song*)

## Introduction

Conduct some simple experiments with air.

### EXAMPLES

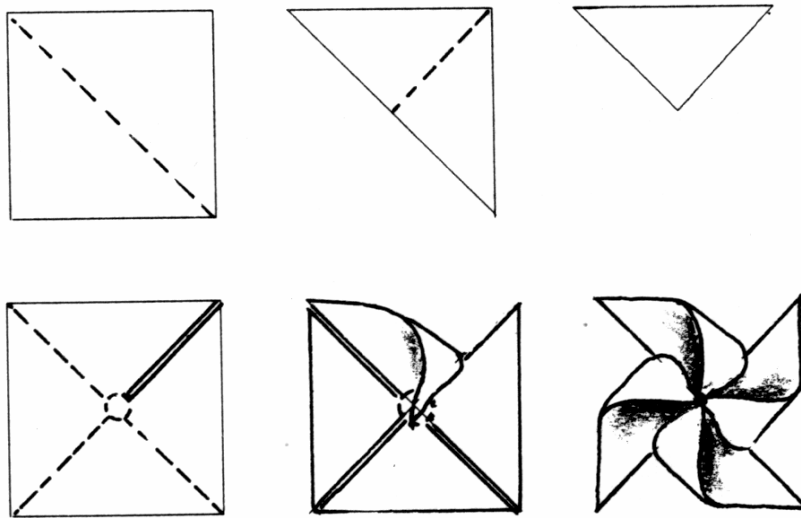
1. *Show that air takes up space by pushing an inverted cup into water.*
2. *Show that air can exert pressure by making a parachute.*  
As the parachute falls, air is trapped inside the umbrella part. The air is squashed (compressed) so that it has greater pushing power than the air around it. The air presses up from under the parachute and pushes it upward.
3. *Experiment with moving air:*  
**A Balloon Rocket**
  - You will need a long piece of fishing line or thin nylon twine; a straight drinking straw; masking tape; a balloon; two friends to help you.
  - Thread the straw on to the end of the fishing line. Ask your two friends to hold an end. They must keep the line taut. Blow up the balloon, but don't tie a knot in it. Tape the balloon underneath the straw with its nozzle pointing to the closest end of the fishing line. Let go of your balloon.





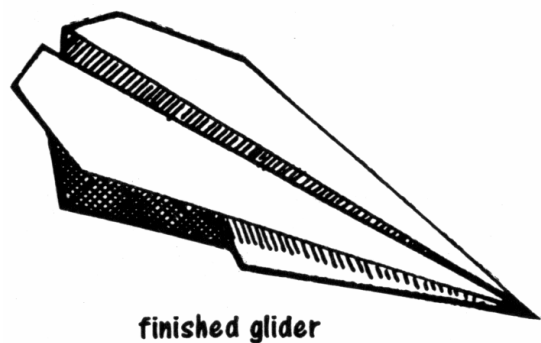
### **A Pinwheel**

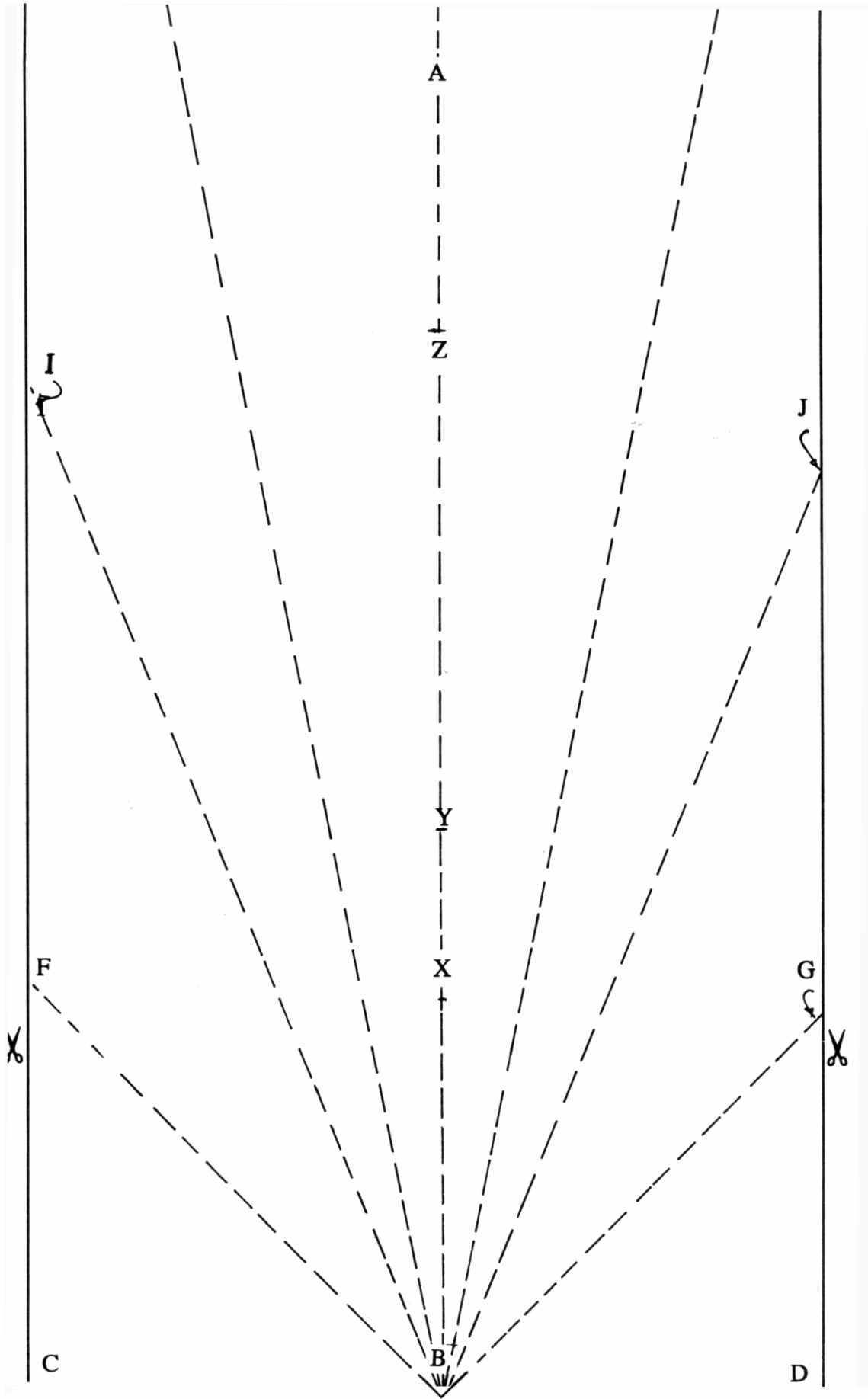
- You will need paper; scissors; a drinking straw; a small piece of cork or a soft rubber; a five cent piece; a drawing pin.
- Cut a piece of paper 15cm square. Fold the paper in half to make a triangle. Fold it in half again to make a smaller triangle. Press hard on the fold lines.
- Open the paper so it is flat. Find the point in the middle where the 4 fold lines meet. Put the 5 cent piece on this spot. Trace around it with a pencil.
- Carefully cut along the 4 fold lines just to the circle. (Don't cut all the way through the circle!)
- Take the right corner of each triangle and hold it to the small circle. Put one corner on top of another. When you have 4 corners on top of one another, push the drawing pin through all of them. Now push the pin through the top of the straw, and then through the cork. Watch the pin wheel spin as you blow it or hold it in the wind.



### **A Paper Glider**

- You will need paper and scissors.
- Cut out the rectangle as shown.
- Fold along line A-B so you can see the marks.
- Fold point C to meet E along line B-F.
- Fold point D to meet E along line B-D.
- Fold point F to meet H along line B-I.
- Fold point G to meet H along line B-J.
- Fold point I to meet K.
- Fold point J to meet K. (This completes the wings.)
- Hold plane along line A-B at point H. (Do not hold the wings.)
- Uncrease the wings about half way. Turn the plane so that the wings are on top. Throw the plane gently into the air.





## **Discussion**

In these experiments we have seen some of the things we can do with air. Air has an important function in making things move. However, air has an even more important function. No living thing can survive without air. God has created air to sustain life. A person cannot survive without air longer than 3 minutes.

What are the other two things essential for sustaining life?

A person cannot go without water for more than about 3 days, and cannot go without food for more than about 4 weeks.

## **Bible research**

Jesus said that there is another thing essential to life. That is the word of God. Read Matthew 4:4. Although a person may be able to live physically without God's word, they could not live spiritually. The part of each person that cannot be seen is our spirit. It is the part that has been created to communicate with God. Our spirit needs love, and the Bible says that God is love. Everyone needs God to sustain them as much as they need air, water and food.

What does God say is the most important thing in life? Read Matthew 6:25-26 & 33

## **Introduction to the story**

Discuss some of the foods that you would take with you on a long bush trek. You have to carry your food in your back pack so you would only take the most sustaining types of foods.

## **Story: The journey**

The Israelites were on a long journey from Egypt to the Promised Land. Men, women and children were travelling with their animals and possessions across the desert. No one would think that it was humanly possible to take such a large group that distance over such a harsh terrain. However, their leader, Moses obeyed and trusted God. Because of this the group saw God sustain them continuously by many miraculous events.

In a place where there was no water, God provided water from a rock. In a place where there was no food, God provided birds called quails, and a miraculous kind of food called Manna, which covered the ground every morning.

However, God knew that the Israelites would need something more than air, water and food on their journey. They needed the presence of God.

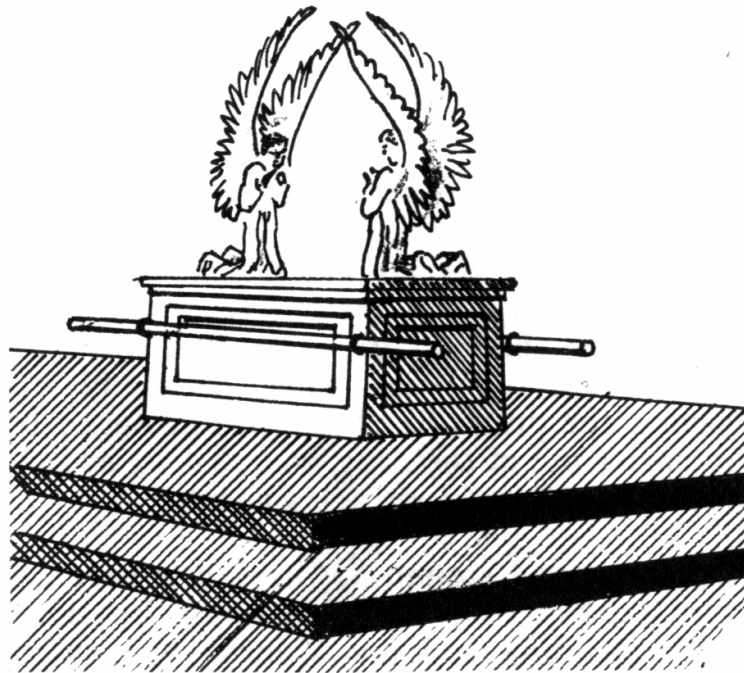
God went to a great deal of trouble to miraculously show them His constant presence. As their camp moved by day, a special cloud would follow them. As their camp rested by night, a supernatural fire burned brightly while they were stationary. The cloud and fire were signs of God's presence.

God wanted to remind the people of his presence in another way too. He asked Moses to organise the building of an ark. This was not an ark like Noah's ark. It was a small box which carried the tablets on which the Ten Commandments were written. Read about this in Exodus 25:10-22. The ark would be carried with them on long poles. They could never forget that God was present with them as long as they were carrying the ark.

Later God asked Moses to set up a special meeting tent where the people would come together to remember God's goodness to them. Read about this in Exodus 40:1-5 & 20

These days, God does not ask us to carry an ark with us wherever we go to remind us of His presence. Instead, we have God's word, which tells us that Jesus came to give life. By [www.beaconmedia.com.au](http://www.beaconmedia.com.au)

accepting the life that Jesus gives, we can experience God's presence with us wherever we go. For a Christian, Jesus is the sustainer of life.



# God is Life 7.2

## Subtheme

God is the sustainer of life

## Focus

We all need Jesus as sustainer in life, but many people turn to other things instead.

## Bible references

John 15 Jesus, the vine.

Psalms 1:1-3 Those who obey the Lord are like trees that grow beside a stream.

John 10:10 I have come that you might have life, and that you might have it abundantly.

## Keryn's story

The ambulance pulled up at the hospital, and Keryn, a drug addict in a critical condition, was admitted. Keryn had begun her habit using light drugs in her late teens. She soon started on heroin, an extremely addictive drug. Now, four years later, her body was paying the price. Her body was damaged by intensive use of the drug, and, as drug addicts often do, she had contracted hepatitis B.

Doctors stood around her, trying to save her life. Her heart was barely pumping, her lungs were flooding and her kidneys had failed. Keryn's family waited at the hospital for news of her condition.

"I'm sorry," said the doctor. "We are doing all we can, but she probably has only about two more hours to live. We really don't think she could survive a heart transplant."

Keryn's brother was a Christian, who believed in God's power to heal. He prayed desperately, and as well, asked others from his church to pray. As Christians stood around the bed-side and prayed, something miraculous happened. Two hours passed, and Keryn was still alive. In fact, she showed some signs of improvement. She was admitted to the coronary care unit where she continued to fight for her life. After four days her condition had improved a little more, but tests showed that the damage to her heart was so bad survival would be impossible. On the eighth day, as the heart was monitored again, doctors could hardly believe that it was the same heart. Keryn overheard a doctor speaking to some student doctors outside the room. "Yes, we do sometimes have miracles like this," he said.

Doctors now believed that Keryn might live, but if she did, she would be bed-ridden for the rest of her life. Keryn stayed in hospital another four months, still improving day by day. As she lay in the hospital bed she started thinking about God. Only now was she told how close she had been to death. Her brother told her about the prayers of Christians, and how God had miraculously saved her life.

'Why have you chosen to heal me, Lord?' Keryn asked. 'I know I am guilty of causing my own illness.'

Keryn was finally discharged from hospital. Although she was not bed-ridden as the doctors had said, her body was still in need of more healing. Although Keryn did not deny God's power to heal, she still did not know God in a personal way. She knew that God had saved her physical life, but could not comprehend God's power to forgive her for the past and give her a new life within. Keryn's brother continued to pray that she would fully accept God's love and forgiveness for herself.

It took one more miracle before Keryn finally asked Jesus into her life. Keryn had now married, and desperately wanted to have children. However, the damage to her body prevented her from having children. This time, Keryn cried out to the Lord herself. "Please, Lord, give me a child," she prayed. Keryn heard about a Christian meeting so went along with the intention of asking God to heal her fully. However, healing was really all she wanted. She still wasn't interested in a personal friendship with Jesus. As she went forward for prayer, she felt God's power to heal in every way. It was at that point that Keryn gave her life totally to God, and made Jesus her personal friend.

Keryn is now completely healed and has three beautifully healthy children. She is not proud of her past, but is thankful that the Lord chose to give back to her the life which she almost destroyed. Many people turn to drugs because they need something extra in their life. They think that taking drugs will help to sustain them and help them forget about life's problems. But in fact, it has the opposite effect. A Christian knows that Jesus is the only true sustainer in life. He can help us with all life's problems and bring true happiness and joy. His joy is everlasting... not just momentary.

This is a true story as told by Keryn herself. Here are Keryn's answers to some further questions:

**Question:** How did you first get into using heroin?

**Keryn:** I started using light drugs, then heroin, at a friend's place.

**Question:** Can you use heroin just now and again, so that you don't actually become addicted to it?

**Keryn:** Heroin is far too addictive for that. It doesn't take long before you're taking it regularly.

**Question:** How did heroin make you feel?

**Keryn:** At first you feel really great, and full of self-confidence. That's why they call it heroin...because it makes you feel like a hero or heroine. But when the effect wears off, you feel extremely depressed, and you feel that you just have to get some more.

**Question:** Why do you think you finally became a Christian?

**Keryn:** Because of the prayers of my brother and other Christians.

*Keryn's testimony has been used by permission.*

### **Discussion**

Why do you think people take drugs?

What other things do some people turn to instead of Jesus?

### **Bible research**

Why does Jesus say that He is the vine? (John 15)

For a Christian, what does being connected to the vine really mean?

What are some of the false things that people turn to in order to find life?

### **Art/Craft**

Make a bookmark or wall hanging using the words from John 10:10.

# God is Provider

## Level 7 (age 11)

### Subtheme

God expects us to share His provision

*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

World food supply: supply and demand; food imports and exports; countries experiencing famine

#### Other

- Food: buying food; preparing food; kitchen chemistry; heat
- plants
- forestry
- animal husbandry
- technology
- rainforests; ecosystems
- fibres and fabrics
- natural materials
- the sea: resources; sea life; fishing industry

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

- trust
- faith
- thankfulness
- generosity

### Christian Life

- trusting God as Father
- thanking God for His provision

# God is Provider 7.1

## Subtheme

God expects us to share  
His provision

## Focus

God has provided enough food for the whole world, but greed and selfishness prevent many from receiving it.

## Bible references

Proverbs 22:9 Be generous and share your food with the poor. You will be blessed for it. (GNB)

Isaiah 58:7-11 Share your food with the hungry and open your homes to the homeless poor. (GNB)

John 6:1-14 The boy who shared his loaves and fishes.

## Songs

The Journey (*Sing A Joyful Song*)

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

## Introduction: Bean sharing exercise

*The object of this exercise is to realise the differences in food consumption around the world.*

Students are seated around a large map of the world. Names of countries are written on slips of paper. (One country per student.) Each person selects a slip of paper from the 'hat'. They will be in charge of that country. Both prosperous and poor nations should be represented.

*Examples: Australia, Japan, U.S.A, Germany, Cambodia, Sudan, Somalia, Mozambique.*

Students will be given dried beans, representing food, for their particular country. The group can decide on the amount of beans each country should receive. One bean could represent one good meal. Beans could be given on the basis of what the average person from a particular country would eat in one week. e.g. 3 good meals per day for one week would be 21 meals, (21 beans); 1 good meal per day, or the equivalent, would be 7 beans.

## Discussion

Do countries such as Australia and U.S.A. produce more than enough food?

What often happens to the surplus?

What prevents poor countries from receiving the surplus?

Why is it that some countries cannot produce enough food for their population?

What do you think God would want people to do about the food crisis?

Is it true to say that God has not provided enough food for the whole world?

Who is responsible for the hunger that many people experience?

## Bible research

Because God has given people a free will, He cannot change the hearts of people who are selfish and greedy. He cannot change the hearts of people who start wars and deliberately pollute the earth. However, Christians can do their part in sharing what they have with the needy. Read Proverbs 22:9 and Isaiah 58:7-11.

Think about the story of the loaves and fishes. How much food did the boy have? (John 6:9)



It seemed that the small amount of food was next to nothing compared to the amount of food needed. However, because the boy was willing to give, Jesus was able to bless and multiply the amount.

Sometimes Christians who decide to help the poor feel the same as the disciples did: so little food and so many to feed. However God can do great things when we are willing to give what we have. Something as small as a mustard seed can grow into a big tree.

### **The story of George Muller**

In the 1830s, George Muller was disturbed by the number of homeless children throughout England. Although he himself had no money to provide for these children, he prayed for God's provision, and proved the faithfulness of God. He prayed for enough money to set up an orphanage, and without telling any one of the need, started receiving funds from various Christian people.

On December 7th, 1835, he wrote in his diary:

'Today I received the first shilling for the orphan house. Afterwards I received another shilling from a German brother.

On December 9th, he wrote:

This afternoon, the first piece of furniture was given - a large wardrobe.'

On the evening of the 9th he addressed a meeting, announcing the planned establishment of the home.

"The home will only be established," he said, "if God provides the means and suitable staff to run it."... "Under no circumstances," he continued, "will any individual ever be asked for money or materials."... "The institution will be for truly destitute children and any orphan whose relatives are able and willing to pay for their maintenance will be ineligible. The children will receive a plain education. The chief and special end of the institution will be to seek, with God's special blessing, to bring th children to the knowledge of Jesus Christ by instructing them in the Scriptures."

As God continued to provide, George Muller eventually supervised the building of five large orphanages, housing thousands of children.

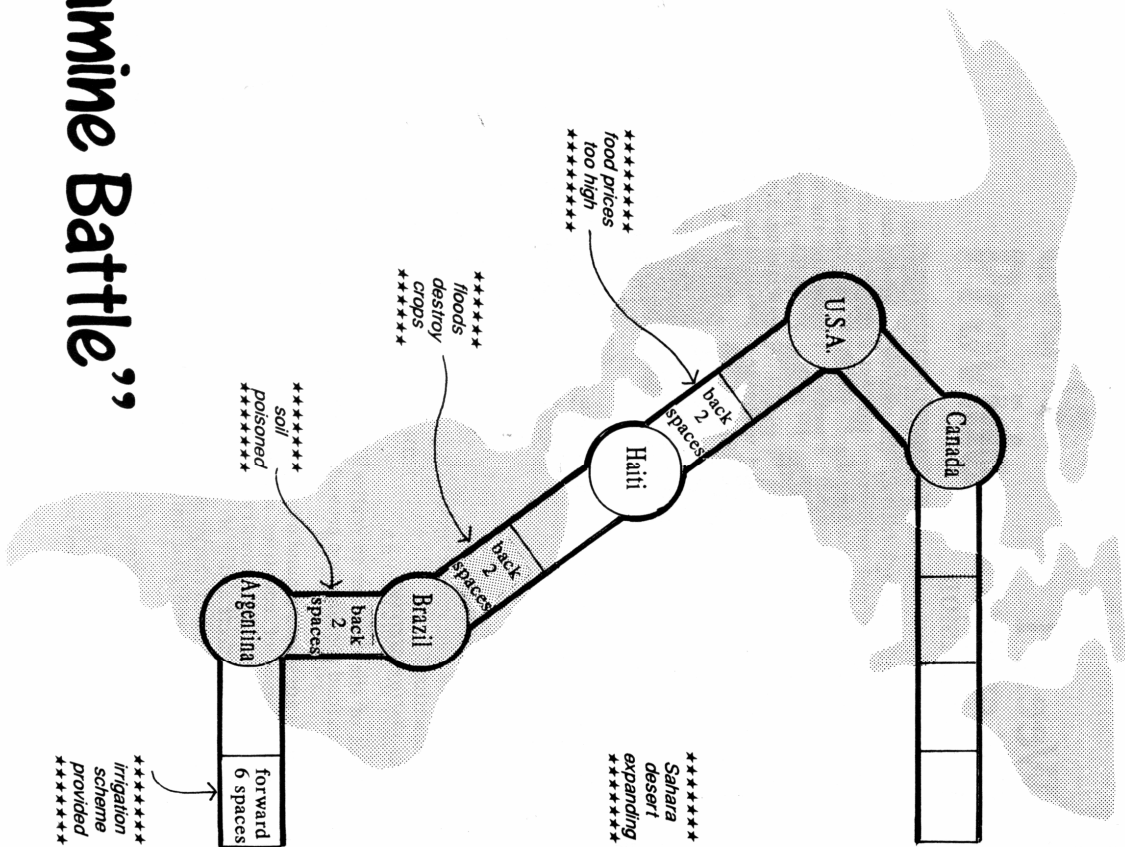
### **Discussion**

1. George Muller did not receive money for the orphans by asking people for it. How do you think he received the money?
2. Describe the education that the children received.
3. Do countries such as Australia and U.S.A. produce more than enough food?
4. What often happens to the surplus?
5. What prevents poor countries from receiving the surplus?
6. Why is it that some countries cannot produce enough food for their population?
7. What do you think God would want people to do about the food crisis?
8. Has God provided enough food for the whole world?
9. Who is responsible for the hunger that many people experience?
10. What happens to the person who shares his food with the poor? (Proverbs 22:9)
11. How can I share what I have with the hungry?

## Dice & board game – “Famine Battle”

Find out some of the reasons for food shortages around the world. Join these two sheets together and make a board game. Use a dice and move around the board.

Each player is allocated a country. Starting from their own country, they must do a complete circuit of the board, finishing at their own country again. The first player home wins the game



# “Famine Battle”



# God is Provider 7.2

## Subtheme

God expects us to share  
His provision

## Focus

Everyone can give.

## Bible references

Matthew 25:35-40 I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me drink.

Luke 6:38 Give and it shall be given.

Mark 12:41-44 The widow's gift

Psalm 112:5 Be generous.

## Introduction

Revise the story of the widow's gift. (Mark 12:41-44) Dramatise the story.

Try to think of a modern day parallel to this story.

### EXAMPLE

One person is collecting money for famine relief. Two well-dressed people, in turn, give a small coin from their wallets, bulging with notes. An old pensioner empties his money tin and gives the last of his money for that week.

## Bible research

Matthew 25:35-39 What is this passage saying?

## Panov's Christmas Story

A long time ago in a small Russian village lived an old shoe maker. He was known by the people of the village as Grandpa Panov. He was not very rich, but he had all he needed: his small house and his shoe making tools. One Christmas he started feeling lonely, and started to complain to himself. He sat down and decided to read from his old Bible. From the book of Matthew he read the story of Christ's birth. He thought about the gifts the wise men brought to Jesus. "I wonder what I could have given to Jesus," he thought. "I have no money for expensive gifts." Then as he glanced over at his shoe making tools he suddenly thought of what he could give. "I would make a tiny pair of shoes for the baby, from the finest leather," he said to himself.

Grandpa Panov turned the pages of his Bible and read from another part of Matthew.

"For I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you took me in. I was naked and you clothed me. I was sick and you visited me. I was in prison and you came to me..." He read no more as his head was nodding and soon he was fast asleep in his chair. As he slept he had a dream. In the dream he heard a voice speaking to him. The voice said, "Look out in the street tomorrow, for I will come to you." It was the voice of Jesus.

The next day Grandpa Panov remembered his dream. He looked out the window but did not see Jesus. Instead he saw an old road sweeper, so cold and lonely. Grandpa Panov asked him to come in for some coffee and to warm himself by the fire.

Then he saw a young woman carrying a baby. She looked so tired, and her clothes were worn. The baby had no shoes. Grandpa Panov asked them in and gave them some of the cabbage soup he had cooking on the stove. Then he remembered a little pair of shoes he

had made some time ago. He had been keeping them because they were the best ones he had ever made. He looked at the baby's bare feet. "These are for the baby," he said.

Later in the afternoon he saw some children playing in the street. Their parents were poor and couldn't afford expensive presents. "I know something I can give them!" he thought. "Would you like to hear a story?" he asked the children. He told them the true story of Christmas.

By the end of the day Grandpa had been able to help quite a number of people. His day had not been so lonely after all. However he was disappointed. The most important visitor had not come. He continued to look out the window until dark. Finally he went to bed. As he slept he dreamed once again. In the dream he heard the same voice that he had heard the night before.

"Didn't you see me, Grandpa Panov?" said the voice. I was hungry and you gave me food. I was lonely and you invited me in. All the time you were helping others, you were helping me."

*A traditional Russian folk tale*

### **Discussion**

1. After reading the story of the three wise men, what did Panov think about?
2. How did Panov help the poor on Christmas day?
3. Why was he disappointed?
4. What did Jesus say at the end of the story?

### **Sharing Activity**

Make something to give away to others.

# God is Peace

## Level 7 (age 11)

### Subtheme

God wants us to be peace-makers



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

### Integrated Topics for Christian Education

- Current affairs relating to world peace: treaties and alliances; arms; the Middle East; United Nations; racial unrest; causes of war and unrest: greed, prejudice and selfishness.
- God's answer to world peace: forgiveness and reconciliation.
- Peace makers: Martin Luther King; Mary Slessor.

### 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
- missionaries - bringing God's peace to the nations

### Character Development

- contentment
- being a peace-maker

### Christian Life

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

# God is Peace 7.1

## Subtheme

God wants us to be peacemakers

## Focus

Reconciliation

## Bible references

Matthew 5:9 Blessed are the peace makers.

Matthew 5:21-23 Make peace with your brother.

Romans 5:9-10; 1 Timothy 2:4-6 Reconciliation to God.

Genesis 37-47 Joseph forgave his brothers. (Reconciliation within a family)

## Songs

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

Shalom (*All Creation Sings*)

## Two Brothers (*Play reading*)

**John:** (*shouting*)

OK Who's put a great hole in my skateboard! (*John notices that there is a small chip in one side.*) You did it, didn't you! You always ruin my things!

**Ben:**

Why me? Maybe you did it yourself and you've only just noticed it.

**John:**

Fat chance! Don't you think I know what my own skateboard looks like? Don't expect to use anything of mine ever again.

**Ben:**

OK then. Don't expect to use anything of mine ever again either.

## Discussion

Think about three different possible endings:

- a) The boys don't speak to each other.
- b) The boys have a fight.
- c) The boys decide to forgive one another.

## Definition

When two people have a fight, the bitterness and hatred they feel for one another continues until the trouble is settled. When people settle their differences and come into right relationship again, it is called RECONCILIATION. Reconciliation is making peace.

## Bible research

Matthew 5:9 and Matthew 5:21-24. What do these verses say about making peace?

Just as people's relationships with each other can be broken, so can people's relationship with God. Sin is the cause, and everyone has sinned. However, Jesus is our peace-maker. Because of His death on the cross He can reconcile people once again to God. Read about this in Romans 5:9-10 and 1 Timothy 2:4-6.

## Story 1: Joseph and His Brothers

Joseph was one of twelve brothers. His father was Jacob. Because Joseph was Jacob's favourite son, the brothers became very jealous, especially when Jacob would give Joseph

special presents like the beautiful coat of many colours. The brothers plotted to kill Joseph. However, Reuben felt it was better not to kill him, but to sell him as a slave to some traders. (Genesis 37:18-28)

You would think that this treatment would cause Joseph to hate his brothers for the rest of his life. Joseph was finally sold to an important Egyptian called Potiphar. The Lord was with Joseph, and he became so successful that he was put in charge of many things. God used Joseph to warn the king of a great drought that would stricken the land. Joseph told the king how they must save up grain in the time of plenty to prepare for the great drought. When the great did drought strike the land, Joseph was put in charge of distributing the grain. People came from far and wide, even from his home country, to receive grain. Finally the day came when his own brothers came to ask for their supply of grain. Surely this would be an opportunity to take revenge. But Joseph didn't take revenge. He forgave his brothers instead. He wanted his whole family to come to be with him in Egypt. Through a clever plan he was finally able to get the whole family to come. He then told them who he was, and introduced them to the king. The family was reconciled. The king gave them the best land in Egypt and all the food they needed. (Genesis 47:1-12)

### **Story 2: Peacemaker: Henry Williams**

Henry Williams loved ships. He decided that when he was old enough he would join the British navy and go to sea. When he finally joined the navy, he found that his life became centred around battle. Although he still loved ships, he hated the fighting. "There must be a better way," he thought. After eleven years in the navy, William finally left and went to the far away country of New Zealand. In those days, few Europeans lived there, and the Maori people who inhabited the country, fought amongst themselves a great deal.

The Maoris came to accept Henry, because he had been a fighter too. They came to love and trust him. When they had arguments among themselves, which might have grown into battles, they used to come to Henry and he would help them to find ways of settling their quarrels without fighting.

Henry settled in New Zealand, and when he was quite old, he became ill. As he lay in his bed, dying, he heard about some of his friends who were about to go to war with each other. He knew how terrible Maori wars could be. The warriors used sharp spears, wooden clubs, stones and darts. They would continue fighting until all the members of one side were killed. Henry was too weak to talk to his Maori friends. He sent his sons to try to make peace. However the Maoris would not listen.

As darkness fell that evening, someone brought a message to the waring groups. Henry had died. The battle ceased. At once, both groups went to Henry's house to express their sorrow. Henry's death brought about reconciliation, and the two groups of Maoris made an agreement never to fight again.



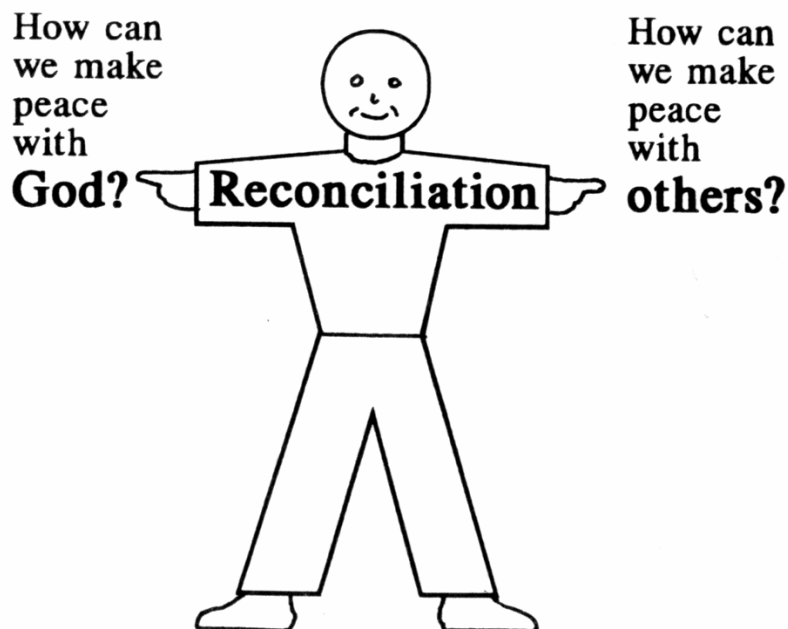
### **Story 3: Peacemaker: Mary Slessor**

Mary Slessor was born in Scotland in 1848. She came from a very poor family. Her father died when she was quite young, and her mother supported the four children through her job at the weaving mills. When Mary was only eleven, she started working at the mills with her mother. The family lived in one room, in a dirty street.

When Mary was a teenager she decided to educate herself. Mary's mother was a Christian, and while attending the Presbyterian church, Mary was challenged by the need for missionaries in West Africa.

Mary went to Africa and dedicated her life to helping the people of Calabar, (now in Nigeria). The hot, humid climate, and prevalence of malaria made life difficult, but she didn't give up. Mary is remembered for her work as a peace maker among the people. The slave trade, which had developed in earlier years, had made human life cheap. White people would arrive on African shores and offer black traders all kinds of gifts for capturing men, women and children, who would then be forced on to ships and taken to far away places to work for the whites. Although this practice was no longer in existence when Mary arrived, the bribery and corruption of earlier years had caused tribesmen of Calabar to become cruel and unconcerned for the value of human life. Fighting, drinking and cruelty to women were common. Mary rescued hundreds of unwanted babies, particularly twins. The tribesmen came to respect her and she convinced them of the need to talk about their troubles instead of fighting. She set up court cases and reasoned with the tribesmen.

She also set up schools and cared for the sick. She built a hospital and set up training centres for women. Mary never stopped working. She finally died in Calabar in 1915.



# God is Peace 7.2

## Subtheme

God wants us to be peacemakers

## Focus

Love your enemies.

## Bible references

Mark 9:50; 1 Thessalonians 5:13 Peace with one another  
Psalm 2; Ephesians 2:22; Romans 10:12-21 Peace for nations  
Romans 12:17 Don't repay evil for evil.  
Romans 12:18-21 Don't take revenge.  
Matthew 5:38-42 Don't fight back.  
Matthew 5:43-48 Love your enemies.  
Matthew 26:50-56; Luke 23:34 Jesus set the example.

## Songs

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

Shalom (*All Creation Sings*)

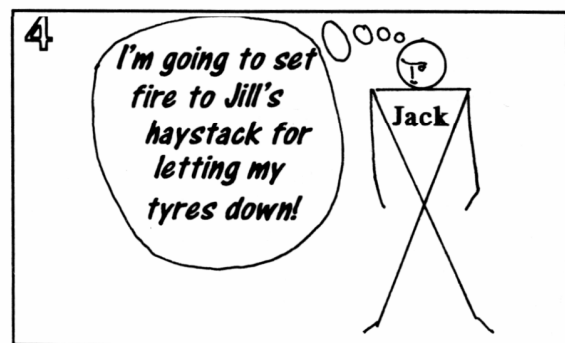
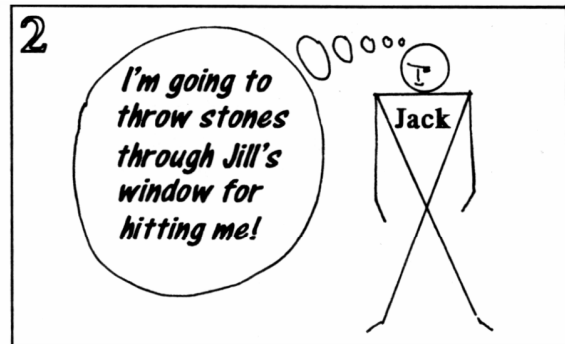
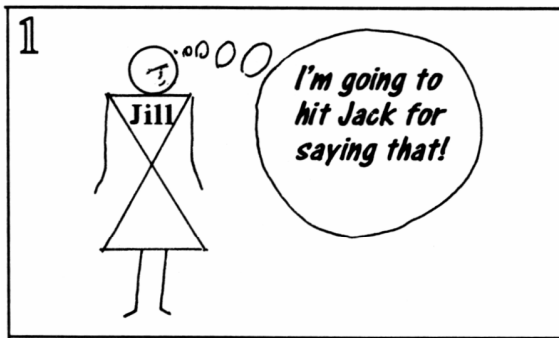
## Introduction

Discuss the Old Testament saying, "An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth." (Matthew 5:38)

Why do you think Jesus set a new example? (Matthew 5:39-40)

Which is harder to practice: the old way or the new way?

An eye for an eye is the same as taking revenge. Taking revenge only makes a problem into a bigger problem.



Read Matthew 5:43-44. If we find it hard to love our enemies, then there is something we can do to help. Find it in verse 44.

### **Further research**

How did Jesus put His own words into practice at His crucifixion and the time leading up to it?

Matthew 26: 50-56 Jesus told Peter to put away his sword.

Luke 23:34 Jesus forgave His enemies.

### **Story: Martin Luther King**

Martin Luther King was the minister of a Baptist church in Alabama, U.S.A. In 1955, a Negro woman called Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her seat on a bus to a white person. Although not the first incident of its kind, it stirred King and some others into action. King believed that he must take action against injustice in a non-violent way. He called for a boycott of the city's bus services by the whole Negro population. It was decided that on the Monday, no Negroes would ride on buses. That evening a meeting was held in one of the city's churches. Thousands gathered outside. It was decided that the boycott would continue, and a campaign would be launched. King delivered a speech which explained how the campaign would be run.

He told the crowd that love must be their ideal. 'Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, and pray for them that despitefully use you.' He believed that if they failed to do that, their protest would be meaningless, and only bring shame upon themselves. He told the people that in spite of the mistreatment they had received, they must not become bitter, and end up hating white people.

The campaign continued for over a year. As they were met with violence, King continually reminded the people of their non-violent stand. One night King's house was bombed while he was at a meeting. He spoke to the crowd who gathered at the scene:

After assuring them that his wife and baby were alright, he told them to go home and put down their weapons. He reminded them that the problem could not be solved through retaliatory violence. Remember the words of Jesus, he said: 'He who lives by the sword will perish by the sword.' King told the people again that they must love their white brothers no matter what they did to the Negroes. He believed that meeting hate with love was the only way.

*From Margaret McIntyre's collection*

Just before his death, Martin Luther King said:

*"I still have a dream today,  
That one day war will come to an end,  
That men will beat their swords into ploughshares  
And their spears into pruning hooks...  
With this faith we will be able to speed up the day  
When there will be peace on earth  
And goodwill towards men.  
It will be a glorious day  
The morning stars will sing together  
And the sons of God will shout for joy."*

Just before Jesus died, He said:

*"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." Luke 23:34*

## Discussion

1. Why was Rosa Parks arrested?
2. What does this tell us about the laws in the U.S.A. at the time?
3. If you were a black person, how would you feel?
4. How COULD you show your anger if this sort of thing happened to you?
5. How did Martin Luther King stand against the injustice without violence?
6. King told his people that they must not hate white people, even though white people had mistreated them. Although we may hate the things people DO it is wrong to hate people. What did Jesus say about this? (Find 3 words.)

E	T	Y	F	G	I
Z	L	O	V	E	P
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O	Y	T	D	E	M
W	G	H	K	S	G

## Act it out

Work in pairs/groups to make up a drama sketch about loving your enemies.

EXAMPLE:

### **Scene 1**

Bill is captain of the class cricket team and will never let Tom have a bat because he says Tom is no good at cricket.

### **Scene 2**

Tom brings a bag of marbles to school and organises a game. He shares out the marbles, allowing Bill to join in the game.