

# STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

To involve students' families in this unit, teachers can choose from the following:

- Students share work samples with their families.
- Invite parents to see presentations or displays developed by the students.
- Present the students' investigations in a school worship or assembly.
- Students produce their own class newsletter to share with their families, which includes samples of students' reflections, psalms, prayers, art, research etc.
- Inform parents about the topic through a newsletter. The following provide examples related specifically to the model units.

## LEVEL 1 NEWSLETTER

Friends are important to everyone. The Bible tells how Jesus himself chose twelve people to follow him and be his friends.

In our Christian Studies unit students will be learning about the friends of Jesus. At the beginning of this unit students will each make their own puppet to represent one of Jesus' friends. This puppet will come along to each story session as students hear how Jesus helped his friends, taught his friends, loved his friends and gave them a job to do. At the end of the unit students will use their puppets to tell what they think it would have been like to be a friend of Jesus.

When your child brings home their 'Jesus' friend' puppet, ask them to retell one of the stories they have heard or initiate a conversation with the 'puppet' in order to hear what your child has learnt about being a friend of Jesus.

## LEVEL 2 NEWSLETTER

Hurt caused through conflict is a part of everybody's life, even the life of children. In our Christian Studies unit students will begin by identifying times of conflict in their life and the way this makes people feel. They will then hear the Bible story of Jacob and Esau, a story of conflict, hurt, and finally forgiveness.

Even Jesus experienced hurt at the hands of other people. But from the cross Jesus provided the model for Christians with his words: *Father, forgive them, they don't know what they are doing*. Students will then explore what the word *forgive* means and identify ways they can say and show forgiveness to others. The good news of the Bible is that through his death Jesus offers forgiveness to all people.

You can help your child develop an understanding of forgiveness by modelling it in your relationships at home.

## LEVEL 3 NEWSLETTER

Choices, choices. People make them every day. Some are easy, some are much more difficult.

The Bible describes how Jesus chose twelve disciples to follow him. People who follow Jesus today are also disciples, and for these people the Bible gives guidelines in making choices. One of these guidelines is given by Paul, who wrote: *Let love be your guide* (1 Corinthians 14:1). Students will use the story in the book of Philemon to investigate a choice Paul had to make and consider how Paul was guided by love.

Students will be challenged to think how they can let love be their guide in the 'hard' choices they must make, eg what to do when someone disturbs them as they work, or when they see another person being hurt. Students will use a step-by-step approach to identify choices and possible consequences of the decisions they make.

The Bible tells that Jesus made a choice too — a choice to die on the cross. Because of Jesus' choice, Christians believe that they are forgiven for the times they make wrong choices.

You can help your child develop their skills in this area by giving them a choice in decisions at home, talking through decisions they make, and allowing them to experience the consequences of their decisions.