

**MODEL UNIT
BAND A
LEVEL 3**

GETTING TO KNOW JESUS

LIFE CONCEPT: GOD SAVED PEOPLE THROUGH JESUS

YEAR: **SUGGESTED DURATION:** 5 weeks (100 minutes per week)

DATE OF USE: **FAITH STATEMENTS:** ① ② ③

UNIT-SPECIFIC GOALS (highlighted)

**1. GOD'S SON
BECAME A HUMAN
BEING TO SAVE
THE WORLD**

- 1a hear the biblical account of the birth of Jesus
- 1b investigate Bible stories which describe Jesus' human life

**2. JESUS BROUGHT
GOD'S LOVING RULE
INTO THE WORLD**

- 2a explore Bible stories which illustrate Jesus' love for people
- 2b hear stories that Jesus told

**3. JESUS DIED AND
ROSE AGAIN TO
SAVE ALL PEOPLE
FROM SIN AND
DEATH**

- 3a hear what the Bible tells about Jesus' death and resurrection

STUDENT ASSESSMENT

ASSESSABLE STUDENT OUTCOMES

Record information about Jesus from a variety of art forms. (1a,1b,2a,3a)

Hear and respond to stories of the birth, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus. (1a,1b,2a,3a)

Present what they have learnt about Jesus. (1a,1b,2a,3a)

ASSESSMENT STRATEGIES

⇒ work samples

⇒ TRS A3/3

⇒ presentation TRS A3/4

UNIT SUMMARY

Students respond to the question: *What do you know about Jesus?* In order to find out more about Jesus, students explore the way artists, songwriters, films and books portray Jesus. Students then use children's Bibles to investigate what the Bible tells about the life of Jesus: his birth, ministry, death and resurrection. At the end of the unit students prepare a presentation which tells what they have learnt about Jesus.

UNIT NOTES

People over the ages have portrayed and responded to Jesus through the arts. Section 2 of this unit, *Learning about Jesus through the arts*, is an opportunity for you to share some of these art forms with your students. Four options are given. Select one or more.

Section 3, *Learning about Jesus from the Bible*, is an essential part of this unit and must be completed by all students.

Teacher Resource Sheet (TRS) A3/extra contains information about Jesus and activities for students. You may wish to use this at an appropriate time during this unit.

WORDS TO KNOW

Jesus illustration stable manger
cross grave

INTRODUCTION

1. WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT JESUS?

Ask students to identify times they hear people talk about Jesus, eg in worship, Christian Studies, church. Then ask: *What do you know about Jesus?* Students work individually or in groups to record things they know. This can be done with words or pictures.

When you feel that students have recorded enough ideas to give you a basis for talking about Jesus, come together as a group and discuss students' work. Record their ideas on a web. This will be added to during the unit and can be used as a resource for students in their final response.

Use this activity as an opportunity for you to assess what students know and to develop future teaching points.

DEVELOPMENT

2. LEARNING ABOUT JESUS FROM THE ARTS

Be aware that students' responses to art forms will differ. Aim to create an atmosphere in which students are free to express an honest response, eg *I don't like that song; I didn't think that Jesus looked like that*. The teacher's role is to guide, listen and use the reflections of the students as teaching points. The key question for all art forms that you explore is: *What is this 'artist' telling people about Jesus?*

Tell students that many people have shared what they know about Jesus in different ways. The class will be exploring some of these to find out new things about Jesus.

OPTION A: JESUS IN ART

Make a collection of pictures of Jesus. Collect books from the library (including books of art reprints) and artwork in and around your school, ask students to bring books or pictures from home, use Christmas cards or calendars.

Include pictures which will begin to challenge the stereotypical image of Jesus, as well as pictures from a variety of cultures, eg Papua New Guinea, Africa, Eastern Europe, Indigenous Australian.

See TRS A3/1 for discussion questions.

Activities could include:

- Choose a picture and tell the story that goes with it. This could be done by the teacher or by the students.
- Sort the pictures in different ways, eg topic, style.
- Students make their own picture of Jesus, using a similar art form.

As a class, add to the web. Students can respond to the art works and what they have learnt by using TRS A3/2.

OPTION B: JESUS IN SONG

Collect new and familiar songs about Jesus for singing and listening to. See TRS A3/1 for questions to use with your students.

Activities could include:

- Read or tell Bible stories or verses that match the songs.
- Students underline words in a song that answer questions such as: What did Jesus do? What did he say? What do you think are the most important words in this song?
- Group the songs according to their message.
- Students work in groups and create their own movement or dance for the songs. They present their work to the class.
- Choose a song with a simple pattern, words or refrain. Students write their own words for the song.

As a class, add to the web. Students can respond to the songs and what they have learnt by using TRS A3/2.

OPTION C: JESUS IN FILMS, VIDEOS AND COMPUTER PROGRAMS

Your use of the computer will depend on the program and the facilities in your school. See Recommended Resources Menu for titles.

(When using a video, remember to watch it yourself first and then decide on which aspects of the video you wish to focus on with your students. This is an ideal time to link Christian studies with English outcomes.)

See TRS A3/1 for discussion questions to use with your students.

Activities could include:

- Select a section of the video and compare it with the Bible story. What similarities and differences are there between the two?
- Students choose a scene from the video and make their own storyboard for it.
- Students work in groups and choose their favourite story about Jesus. Practise and present each story as a play. Use a video camera to film the plays. Invite parents for a video screening.

As a class, add to the web. Students can respond to the videos and what they have learnt by using TRS A3/2.

OPTION D: JESUS IN PICTURE BOOKS

Use picture books which tell about Jesus from a variety of perspectives (see Recommended Resources Menu).

Use questions on TRS A3/1 for discussion.

Activities could include:

- Match the picture book to the story or message of the Bible.
- Students choose a book and read or retell it to younger students or share it with older buddies.
- Students write a simple book review for their favourite book.
- Students use the art style of the book to illustrate a favourite part of the story.
- Students take home books used in this option to share with their families.

As a class, add to the web. Students can respond to the picture books and what they have learnt by using TRS A3/2.

3. WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT JESUS

The Bible is the most important book that tells about Jesus. All art about Jesus is a response to what is recorded in the Bible.

Provide sufficient adult and children's Bibles of different reading levels to enable students to work in small groups. (You may encourage students to bring children's Bibles from home).

TRS A3/3 can be used by students working independently, or the teacher can use it to guide the investigation of the whole class.

Use TRS A3/3, Part 1, to help students find stories about Jesus in the Bible.

Use TRS A3/3 Part 2 to focus students' attention on key stories in the Bible which tell about the life of Jesus. Include the stories of Jesus' birth (Luke 2:1–20) and death (Luke 23:26–49) and selected events from the ministry of Jesus, eg Jesus attends a wedding with his friends (John 2:1–11), Jesus heals a deaf man (Mark 7:31–37).

As you do this, construct a class time line on which you record and illustrate stories of the birth, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus.

As a class, summarise what students have learnt about Jesus from the Bible. Add this to the web. Students use TRS A3/2 to reflect on what they have learnt about Jesus from the Bible.

If you or your students wish to discuss further why Jesus had to die, you could use an explanation like this.

People cannot do what is right. People sin. Long ago God promised to send somebody who would make things right between God and people. Jesus came to live on earth and then die. Jesus died in the place of all people. Because Jesus died, God no longer sees the sin that people do. He sees Jesus on the cross and he says: 'I love you, I forgive you'.

RESPONSE

4. WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNT ABOUT JESUS?

Use the web, work samples and students' reflections to review what the class has learnt about Jesus over the duration of this unit.

Students each prepare a response to the question *What have you learnt about Jesus?*

TRS A3/4 gives guidelines for students to follow as they prepare for their presentation.

Use this presentation as an assessment of what students know and have learnt. TRS A3/4 contains an assessment certificate that can be used for each student.

YOU WILL NEED

- different versions of children's Bibles
- Bible story books

Depending on the options you choose you will need

- a collection of pictures which portray different images of Jesus
- a collection of songs about Jesus
- tape or CD player

- CD-ROM which explores Jesus' life
- videos which tell stories of Jesus' life
- TV, video player
- picture books which give a message about Jesus
- materials for students to prepare their final presentation
- photocopies of TRS A3/3, A3/5 for student use

INTEGRATING INTO OTHER CURRICULUM AREAS

ENGLISH: *Literature:* Appreciate that people can have different interpretations of the same text; introduce aspects of plot, setting and characters in picture books and videos. *Everyday Texts:* Plan written and spoken texts to achieve their purpose; respond to comments on work.

THE ARTS *Drama:* Use known stories as a basis for drama; cooperatively develop, rehearse and present drama; share drama with a familiar audience. *Dance:* Experience dance activities that explore feelings and ideas; share dance with others in the class. *Media:* Order images by use of a storyboard; explain responses to certain sounds and images. *Music:* Explore and create rhythmic patterns; create own musical ideas. *Visual Arts:* Look at works and describe the visual features; explain the features liked and disliked; describe the meaning of works; experiment with different media and tools.

from the National Statements and Profiles

UNIT EVALUATION

Which activities worked well in this unit?

Which resources were useful in the implementation of this unit?

How did I respond to the range of students' understanding of the birth, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus?

How did I respond to the range of students' attitudes, interest and involvement in exploring images of Jesus presented through different art forms?

What would I do differently if I was teaching this unit again?

How will I use and build on knowledge, understandings, skills, attitudes, and values students have developed in this unit?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

FOR TEACHERS' USE

Use the following questions as a guide when discussing ways Jesus is presented in various art forms.

OPTION A: JESUS IN ART

- What is Jesus doing in this picture?
- What is happening in the background?
- Does Jesus look the way you imagine that he would? Why? Why not?
- What does this picture tell you about Jesus?
- Why do you think the artist drew Jesus in this way?
- How does this picture make you feel?
- Why does Jesus look different in each picture?
- What does this painting tell you about Jesus?

OPTION B: JESUS IN SONG

- What is this song telling you about Jesus?
- What picture of Jesus do you get in your mind when you hear this song?
- What words in the song do you like best? Why?
- How does the tune of the song match the words?
- How does this song make you feel? Why?
- Can you match this song with a story from the Bible?

OPTION C: JESUS IN FILMS VIDEOS AND COMPUTER PROGRAMS

- Where there any characters in the video that were not in the Bible story.
- How does the video show that Jesus is a special person?
- Listen to the music in the video. How does it help you understand what is happening?
- Did the video help you understand the story better? Why was this?
- What have you learnt about Jesus from this video?

OPTION D: JESUS IN PICTURE BOOKS

- From whose point of view is this story being told?
- What do you think the author is trying to tell us about Jesus?
- How is this book the same as or different from the story that is told in the Bible?
- How did this book make you feel?
- What have you learnt about Jesus from this book?

Use questions from Option A to focus on the illustrations in the book.

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

Use the reflection on the following pages for the options you choose. You may wish to enlarge these and add space for students to do their own illustrations. Add any extra questions that are specific to the work that you have done.



GETTING TO KNOW JESUS THROUGH ART

We have looked at different illustrations and paintings of Jesus.

My favourite illustration (or painting) of Jesus is _____

I like this picture because _____

After looking at different illustrations and paintings, I have learnt that _____



GETTING TO KNOW JESUS THROUGH SONGS

We have learnt about Jesus from different songs.

My favourite song about Jesus is _____

I like this song because _____

From different songs about Jesus I have learnt that _____



GETTING TO KNOW JESUS FROM VIDEOS

We have watched a video about Jesus .

It was called _____
My favourite part of the video was _____

I liked this part because _____

After watching this video I learnt that _____



GETTING TO KNOW JESUS FROM A COMPUTER PROGRAM

We have been using a computer program called

My favourite part of the program was _____

I like this part of the program because _____

After using this program I have learnt that _____

GETTING TO KNOW JESUS FROM PICTURE BOOKS



We have been using picture books which tell us about Jesus.

My favourite picture book about Jesus is _____

I like this book because _____

After reading this picture book I have learnt that _____

GETTING TO KNOW JESUS THROUGH THE BIBLE



We have looked at different Bibles.

My favourite story about Jesus is _____

I like this story because _____

After using these Bibles I have learnt that _____




JESUS IN THE BIBLE


— 1 —

Work in a small group. Use a children's Bible to answer these questions:


 In what part of the Bible do you find the stories of Jesus? _____

 Look at some of the illustrations of Jesus. Is this the way you imagine Jesus to look?


Yes or no? _____ Why? _____

 Look at the table of contents at the start of the Bible. Use this to help you find stories about Jesus. How many stories are there about Jesus? _____


— 2 —

 Find the story that tells about Jesus being born.
Look at the illustrations. Either read the story or ask an adult to read it to you.

What have you learnt about Jesus from this story? _____

 Find a story that tells about the work of Jesus.
Look at the illustrations. Either read the story or ask an adult to read it to you.

What have you learnt about Jesus from this story? _____

 Find a story that tells about the Jesus dying on the cross and coming alive again.
Look at the illustrations. Either read the story or ask an adult to read it to you.

What have you learnt about Jesus from this story? _____

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT JESUS?

Work by yourself or in a group to answer this question:

What do you know about Jesus?

Share this with an audience.

- Step one:** Decide on a way that you can present what you know about Jesus.
You may make a poster or a book.
You could work with some friends and use words, actions and songs.
You may use paints, boxes or a camera to help.
- Step two:** Collect things that will help you.
You may need paper, costumes, instruments, books, paints, craft materials.
If you are working in a group, decide what things each person is going to be responsible for.
- Step three:** Plan your presentation.
How will you begin? What will you say? How will you end it?
Talk with your teacher about what you plan to do.
- Step four:** Work on your presentation. Remember, you will be sharing this with an audience.
If you need help, ask a friend, another group, your parents or your teacher.
Go over in your mind what you want to say or do. Be ready to answer any questions.
- Step five:** Give your presentation.
Remember to look at your audience and speak loudly and clearly. Most of all, enjoy what you are doing.

*Thank you _____
for sharing what you know about Jesus
with our class.
I liked the way you _____

_____*

*Something that I know about Jesus
and would like to share with you is that

_____*

Your teacher, _____

JESUS

The Bible tells the story of Jesus. Jesus was born in Bethlehem. He looked just like a normal baby, but he was special. Angels sang when he was born, shepherds and wise men came to visit him, and a special star shone above the place where he lay.

Jesus grew up in a town called Nazareth, where he lived with his mother Mary and his father Joseph. Jesus also had brothers and sisters.

When Jesus was about thirty years old, he left his home and began to do the special work that God had chosen for him.

Jesus travelled around the country. He taught people about God, he healed people who were sick, he loved people and cared about them. Many people followed Jesus and believed the things that he taught them. They believed that he was a special person sent by God.

But not every one liked Jesus. There were people who did not like the things that Jesus did and did not believe that he was special. Those people made plans to kill Jesus.

Even though Jesus had not done anything wrong, he was arrested. Jesus was hung on a cross and he died.

But because Jesus was special he did not stay dead. He became alive again. He returned to God, his Father in heaven.

People can no longer see Jesus, but Christians believe that he is with them all the time. He loves and cares for people now, just as he loved and cared for people we read about in the Bible.



Activities

1. Look through a children's Bible and find your favourite story about Jesus. Either read the story yourself or ask an adult to read it to you.
Write a book report on the story. Tell where the story happened, who were the main characters, what Jesus did, what other people said or did, and how the story ended.
Add your own illustrations of the story.
2. Look through several different children's Bibles to find illustrations of Jesus. Are the illustrations all the same? Why? What do these illustrations tell you about Jesus?
Do your own illustration of Jesus.
3. Read a story about Jesus from a Bible story book. Find the same story in a children's Bible. What things do you notice that are the same? What things do you notice that are different?
4. Work in a group. Choose your favourite story about Jesus. Read the story then decide how you can tell the story as a play. Practise acting the story, then present it to the class.
5. Divide a paper into six sections. Illustrate six scenes that you think are important in Jesus' life.