

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

The family plays a vital role in the life of all people and especially in the lives of young children. Christians believe that the family is one of the structures God has put in place for the care of people, young and old.

In Christian Studies students will hear stories about families in the Bible and use these as a basis for investigating the structure, roles and relationships within their family, eg: Does the family all live in the same house? What tasks do different family members do? Who else beyond the immediate family helps care for them? At the end of the unit students will consider how they can show their thanks to someone who takes care of them.

The school library contains picture books which help young children explore issues related to living in a family. Feel free to browse through the library and borrow any of these.

LEVEL 2 NEWSLETTER

If you have more than one child, you are no doubt aware of the complexity of relationships between the children in your family. While there are times when your children play happily together, no doubt there are times when there are disagreements, arguments, jealousy and rivalry.

This is not unique to your family! The stories of many families are recorded in the Bible, and in them we read of the same conflicts. In Christian Studies students will hear the story of Joseph and the relationships between the people in his family: Joseph was favoured, the brothers were jealous; Joseph was proud, his brothers hated him; Joseph was made leader in Egypt, his brothers were afraid; Joseph forgave, relationships were restored. Students will hear that the God cares about families and gives words in the Bible to help families get along with one another.

If you would like to read the story of Joseph yourself, or to borrow books about relationships within the family, please feel free to browse through the collection in the library.

LEVEL 3 NEWSLETTER

Relationships are important to all people. Stories in the Bible depict people in their relationships with one another. Their relationships included all the aspects of life that we are familiar with: love, loyalty, jealousy and disagreement.

In Christian Studies students will hear the Bible story of Ruth and Naomi. This story is one which illustrates love and respect between mother-in-law and daughter-in-law. Students will then consider the reality of relationships within their own families and what the Bible says about parents and children showing love and respect to one another. Students will be encouraged to identify practical ways of showing love and respect for the family and other people who are important to them.

The school library contains books on parenting that you may like to borrow and use as a starting point for discussing and developing the relationships within your family.