

**MODEL UNIT
BAND A
LEVEL 3**

GOD GIVES LIFE

LIFE CONCEPT: GOD SAVES PEOPLE FROM SIN AND EVIL

YEAR:..... SUGGESTED DURATION: 3 weeks (approximately 100 minutes per week)

DATE OF USE: FAITH STATEMENTS: ① ② ③

UNIT-SPECIFIC GOALS (highlighted)

**1 SIN AND EVIL
RUIN GOD'S
CREATION**

- 1a hear the biblical account of Adam and Eve turning away from God
- 1b explore the concept of sin
- 1c investigate the way sin and its consequences affect feelings

**2 GOD RESCUES
PEOPLE FROM
SIN AND ITS
CONSEQUENCES**

- 2a explore Bible stories of rescue
- 2b consider the Bible's teaching that Jesus makes people friends with God

**3 GOD OFFERS
ETERNAL LIFE TO
ALL PEOPLE**

- 3a consider that God gives his friends the gift of heaven
- 3b consider that Jesus' friends look forward to being in heaven with him

STUDENT ASSESSMENT

ASSESSABLE STUDENT OUTCOMES

- Name and illustrate effects of sin in their lives. (1a, 1b,1c)
- Write a response expressing how they feel about Jesus. (2b)
- Write an imaginative description of heaven. (3a, 3b)

ASSESSMENT STRATEGIES

- ⇒ contribution to brainstorming activities; students' own pictures
- ⇒ TRS A3/3
- ⇒ work sample

UNIT SUMMARY

Students reflect on and illustrate activities they enjoy and how these activities are spoiled by sin. Students explore three gifts that God gives: the gift of other people, the gift of Jesus and the gift of heaven. Students hear what the Bible tells about heaven and explore images of heaven.

UNIT NOTES

This unit explores the gift of life, the reality of life now and the promise of life in heaven. Students' artwork is used to build up a display with the theme of 'Life'.

WORDS TO KNOW

life, perfect, sin, spoilt, gift, heaven

INTRODUCTION

1. GOD GIVES LIFE

Tell students about some of the things that you most enjoy doing. Do this with enthusiasm and excitement.

Students brainstorm things that they enjoy doing. Record students' suggestions on a large piece of paper. Use brightly coloured textas to fill the paper completely and make it look visually appealing.

Encourage a range of ideas with questions like:

- *What quiet things do you enjoy doing?*
- *What do you enjoy doing by yourself?*
- *What do you enjoy doing with older people or your younger brothers and sisters, etc?*

Students make their own bright, colourful pictures of the things that they enjoy doing. Display students' artwork along with the brainstorming ideas under a heading like *Life is great!*

2. LIFE IS SPOILT

When God made the world he made a place where everything was perfect. The first people lived in this wonderful place that God had made. Use the reflection on Teacher Resource Sheet (TRS) A3/1 to help students imagine the things that Adam and Eve were able to do.

When Adam and Eve sinned and disobeyed God, it spoilt their life. Use the story on TRS A3/1 to help students focus on the reality of the first sin and its consequences.

Sin spoils things for us too.

Refer to the students' pictures of things they enjoy doing. Ask students if they can identify some things that spoil their good times, eg

- I like playing with my friends, but sometimes we argue.
- I like playing by myself, but sometimes I get lonely.

Brainstorm words that describe the way people feel when sin spoils things for them, eg unhappy, angry, jealous, etc.

Record these words on a second large piece of paper. Make this list less visually appealing, eg use only one colour (grey) write the words all the same size.

Avoid using black or brown to illustrate the concept of sin. Associating these colours with evil can be hurtful for people with black or brown skin.

Students make their own pictures of ways sin spoils things for them. Display these, along with the brainstorming words, under a title like *Life gets spoilt.*

DEVELOPMENT

3. GOD'S GIFTS

If you feel it is appropriate, develop an atmosphere of excitement and joy by giving each student a small gift, eg a pencil, a party hat, a lolly.

Talk about giving and receiving presents:

- How do you feel when you get a present?
- When do people give presents?
- Why do people give presents?
- What are you showing when you give a present?
- What do people expect when they give a present?
- How do you feel if you get a present you didn't really want or don't know what to do with?

You are aiming to develop these concepts which relate to giving and receiving gifts:

- People give gifts for different reasons.
- Giving a present is one way of showing love.
- When someone gives a present, they want the other person to accept it.
- Sometimes people receive gifts which they think are not important or which they do not know how to use.

Students respond by writing about and drawing an illustration of the best present they ever received.

For the following sessions prepare the three gift parcels as listed in *You will need*. Build up a mood of anticipation by displaying these in the classroom at the beginning of the day.

God's gift of people.

Tell students that there are things God gives to people which show that he loves them. These are like presents from God.

Open the first present, which contains pictures of people. Talk about times when students need someone to love them and take care of them. God gives people who care.

Tell either of the following stories:

- The good Samaritan: Luke 10:30–37
- Jesus heals a paralysed man: Mark 2:1–12.

Students use TRS A3/2 to illustrate people who care about them.

God's gift of Jesus

Open the second present which shows a picture of Jesus. Students consider why Jesus is like a present.

Share a book which explains the life and death of Jesus (see Recommended Resources).

Jesus may appear to be an unusual present to students at this band level, perhaps like receiving a T-shirt instead of a toy. Give your own witness of why Jesus is special to you. Use words like *Jesus is special to me because he loves me. He showed me that he loved me when he died on a cross for me. He is special because he will always love me.*

Allow students the freedom to express how they feel about Jesus, whatever that may be. Do not force students to acknowledge that Jesus is their best present.

Talk about the responses to Jesus on TRS A3/3. Students use this sheet to record their personal feelings about Jesus.

God's gift of heaven

Aim to develop the following concepts:

- Heaven is a gift from God. We may not yet understand just what a wonderful gift it is.
- Heaven is more wonderful than we can ever imagine.

Ask students if they have ever been given a gift that they were not able to use straight away, eg a too-complicated construction set, a too-high basketball ring. God's next present is a gift like that. We don't know everything about it and we can't use it yet, but God knows that it is just what we need.

Open the third present which contains the vouchers (TRS A3/5). Give one to each student to paste into their book.

Ask students what they know about heaven.

Listen carefully to the students' ideas and treat all answers with respect. They will help you understand what your students think about heaven and can provide you with future teaching points.

TRS A3/4 contains statements about heaven. Copy this and make a small book of the statements. The teacher reads through the book, allowing students to reflect and comment on each statement. If students have questions which you cannot answer, read the background notes and Bible references for this concept. Consult your pastor if you need further information.

People who wrote the Bible have painted some pictures with words to tell what heaven is like. Share the images of heaven from TRS A3/5.

In order to help students appreciate the abundance and wonder of heaven, lead students to imagine the very best thing they can and assure them that heaven is even more wonderful than that. For example:

- *Imagine being with your best friend all of the time; heaven is more wonderful than that.*
- *Imagine being able to play with the toy that you always wanted; heaven is even more wonderful than that.*

Students complete their own sentences based on this format. Provide colourful art materials to illustrate these. Display the illustrations alongside of students' other pictures from this unit with a title like *Life in heaven will be the best of all.*

RESPONSE

4. LIFE FOR ME

There will now be three sets of pictures on your wall display: *Life is great! Life gets spoilt,* and *Life in heaven will be the best of all.* Students each complete their own response to the unit, and if appropriate, add these to the display.

Students could do one or more of the following:

- Complete an evaluation sheet on the unit by finishing statements such as:
'In Christian Studies I have learnt that . . .'
'I enjoyed . . .'
'Next time I would like to . . .'
- Show students a model of a thankyou letter that you have written. Students write a letter to God, thanking him for the gifts he has given.
- Use the slogan *Life — be in it* as a model for students to write their own slogan based on what they have learnt in the unit, eg
Life — from God
Life — sometimes sad
Life — in heaven will be best
- Make up a dance or mime which illustrates different aspects of life.

YOU WILL NEED

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> large pieces of paper on which to record students' suggestions from brainstorming activities<input type="checkbox"/> three attractively wrapped gifts. In the first you will need pictures of people (cut from magazines); in the second you will need a picture of Jesus (ideally in a frame); in the third you will need a copy of the voucher (TRS A3/5b for each student) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> small gifts to give to each student in the class (if you feel this appropriate)<input type="checkbox"/> colourful textas, paints, crayons<input type="checkbox"/> crayons or pencils in subdued colours<input type="checkbox"/> photocopies of TRS A3/2, A3/3, A3/5b for student use |
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INTEGRATING INTO OTHER CURRICULUM AREAS

ENGLISH: *Literature:* Relate what is read to own knowledge and experience; appreciate that people can have their own interpretation of the same text; extend vocabulary through language use.

THE ARTS: *Visual arts:* Draw or paint to interpret imagination, feelings, thoughts.

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 way sin spoils their lives?

How did I respond to the range of students' understanding and questions about heaven?

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?

REFLECTION AND STORY

Before you begin these reflection and story sessions, create an atmosphere for listening. Choose an appropriate time of day, allow time for students to settle and concentrate, play reflective music in the background if you wish, speak quietly and with expression.

PART ONE

Reflection: The world without sin

When God made the world it was perfect. Adam and Eve, the first people that God made, lived in a garden that the Bible calls Eden. Life for Adam and Eve was wonderful.

Reflection

Close your eyes and imagine what it would have been like to be in the perfect world that God had created.

There was new life everywhere in this garden. The soil was rich and moist, plants were growing, animals moved to and fro, birds swooped through the air.

Look, there's Adam and Eve going to explore their new garden home.

'Adam, listen! I can hear something. Look around that corner. It's a waterfall. Come on, let's swim in the pool at the bottom of it.'

'Look, Eve! Look at those trees! They stretch right up into the sky, and the trunks are huge. See the parrots on that branch there.'

Imagine Adam and Eve stopping to watch and play with some of the animals. The cheeky monkeys coming down and chattering around about, stroking wild animals without being afraid.

At the end of the day they watch the sun go down and listen for the night sounds: birds singing, crickets chirping, frogs croaking and the night animals beginning to scurry around.

When they look up, there are thousands of stars sparkling like jewels in the sky.

God comes to talk with them. Adam and Eve listen while God tells them about the stars, the planets and all of his world in space.

There are never any arguments; they never get upset or disagree with one another.

Life in God's world is perfect.

PART TWO

Story: Sin comes into the world

Life in God's world was perfect . . . until Adam and Eve had to make a decision. Maybe you know the story.

There was Eve, in the garden. Who should come along but the snake. The sneakiest snake. We know now that it was the devil, disguised as a snake.

'Did God say that you can't eat fruit in this garden?' asked the snake.

'Oh no', replied Eve. 'God has told us we can eat any of the fruit, any at all — except for the fruit from this one tree. If we eat the fruit from this tree we will die.'

'Die? No, my dear. You won't die! That's what God has told you, but really, if you eat the fruit from this tree you will become just like God. You will know as much as God does. Imagine that! Come on, do have some.'

Poor Eve! She made a bad decision. She listened to the snake and ate some of the fruit from the tree. Then she gave some to Adam.

Poor Adam! He made a bad decision too. He took the fruit from Eve and ate it.

Now life wasn't perfect any more.

Do you remember what God had said? He had told them they must not eat the fruit. So now things were spoilt for Adam and Eve.

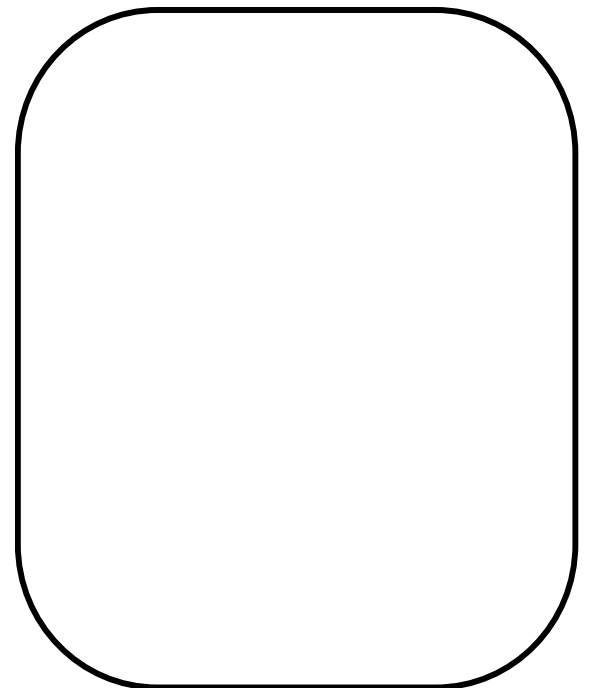
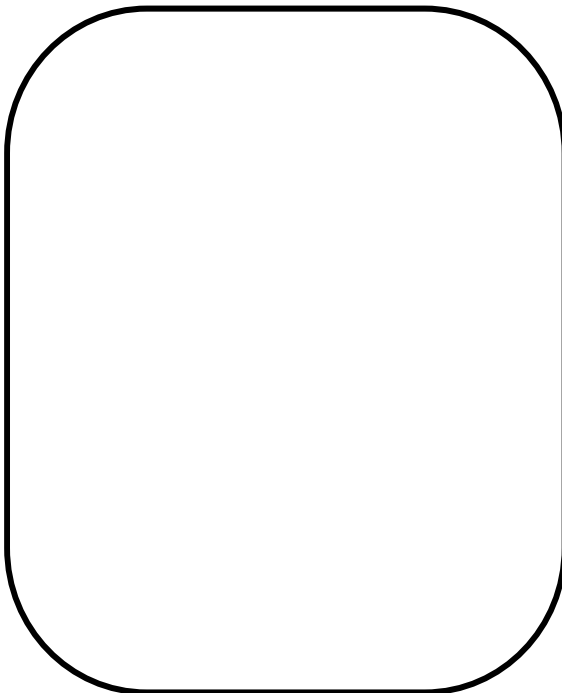
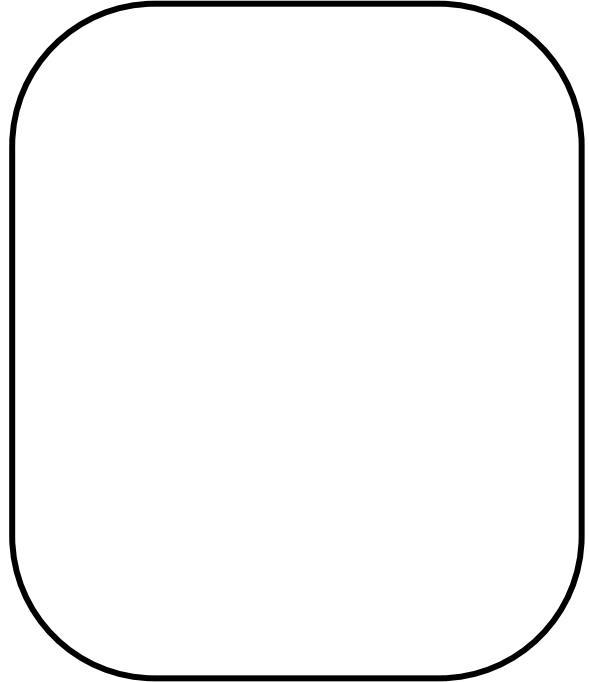
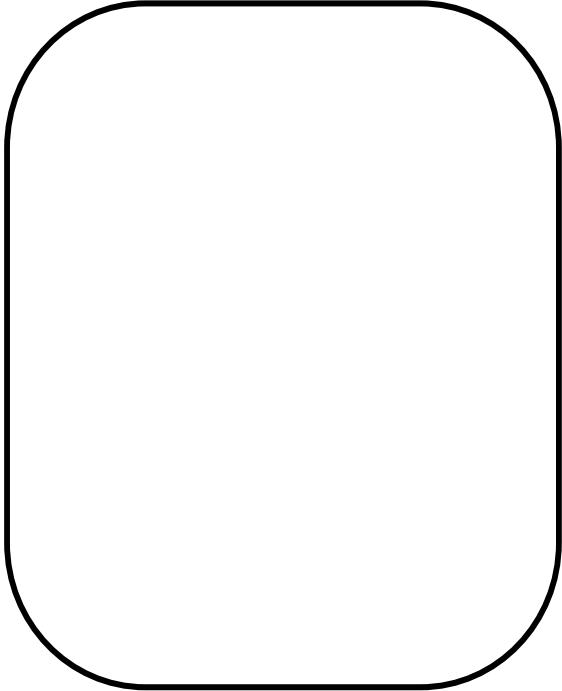
They could no longer live in the garden that God had given them. They had to leave their home and go out into a world that was not perfect any more. They had to work hard to grow their own food. The weeds grew, the sun dried up the ground, the rains did not always come. Sometimes Adam and Eve went hungry.

There were arguments and disagreements between Adam and Eve. Sometimes they became angry with one another. Sometimes they wanted to be alone rather than be together.

But God continued to love them.

He loved Adam and Eve so much that he gave them a promise. He promised that one day the spoilt world would be made new and life would be perfect again.

God gives me these people who love and care for me



GOD'S GIFT OF JESUS

Jesus is special to me because he is like a friend. I know that he is always with me.



Jesus is special to me because he died on the cross for me.



Jesus is special to me because I know that he loves me and cares about me.

Jesus is special to me because I can talk to him about whatever I like, and I know he will always listen to me.



I'm just beginning to learn about Jesus and find out why he is special.



Draw a picture of yourself and write what you think about Jesus.

A BOOK ABOUT HEAVEN

<p>You can find these ideas about heaven in: Isaiah 11:6–8 Philippians 3:21 Isaiah 35:5,6 Hebrews 4:4–11 John 14:2 Revelation 21:4; 22:5</p>	<p>What the Bible tells us about heaven</p>
<p>In heaven people will live with God forever.</p>	<p>There will be no fighting or arguing in heaven. People will not get sad or upset in heaven. Everyone will be happy.</p>
<p>People will not have to work hard in heaven.</p>	<p>People will not get sick in heaven.</p>
<p>People's bodies will look different in heaven.</p>	<p>Heaven lasts forever. It will never end.</p>

IMAGES OF HEAVEN

These images are based on Bible verses found in
Matthew 22:2–14; Revelation 19:5–9; Revelation 21:1 – 22:5.

1. THE PARTY

Heaven is like a party that God gets ready. At this party there will be food for everyone.

Everyone is invited to this party; no-one has to be left out.

People wear their best clothes to come to this party. There is singing and dancing and praising God.

This party goes on and on forever. It doesn't come to an end.

Imagine the best party you can. Heaven will be even better than that.

2. THE CITY

Heaven is like a beautiful city.

This is not a dirty city made with bricks and cement. The walls of this city are made from gold and decorated with jewels.

This city sparkles like diamonds.

It is never dark or scary in this city because there is never any night.

There is a river that flows through the city. The water is always fresh and clear and trees grow alongside the river. One tree is especially beautiful, with different kinds of fruit growing on it.

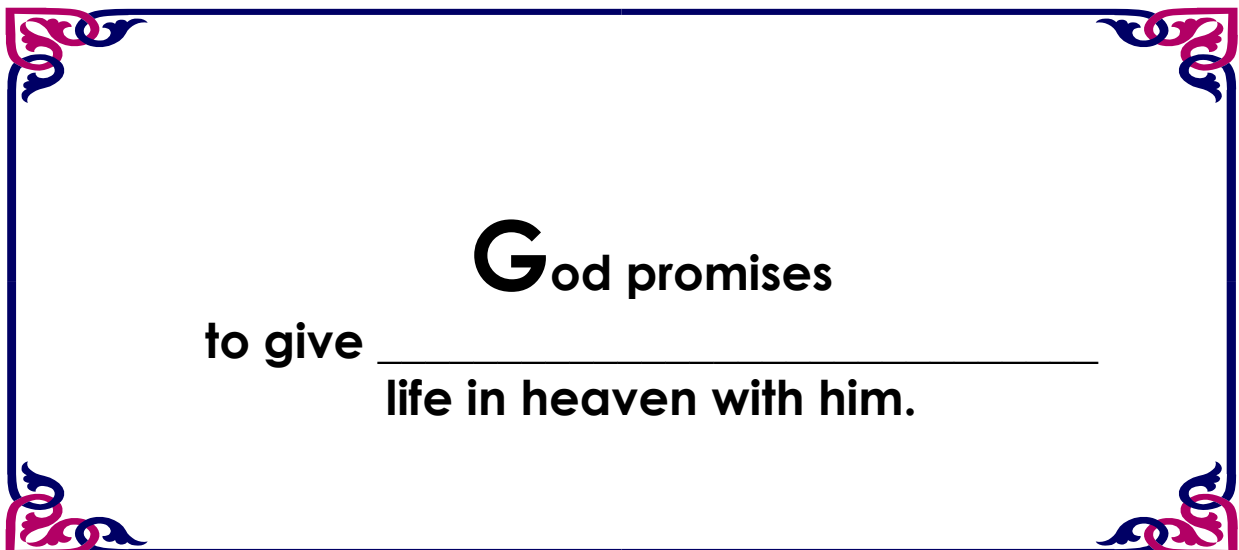
There is room for everyone in this city. It is so large that everyone can come inside.

There are people from many different countries living there, and they are all having a wonderful time.

Imagine the most beautiful city you can. Heaven will be even more beautiful than that.

A HEAVEN VOUCHER

for each student



God promises
to give _____
life in heaven with him.

ZACCHAEUS

Zacchaeus lived in a town called Jericho.

He was a tax collector. It was his job to collect money from the people and give it to the government.

Zacchaeus was very rich. Not all of the money that Zacchaeus had was his own. Sometimes when Zacchaeus collected money from the people, he would keep some of it for himself. People in Jericho knew that Zacchaeus did this and they did not like him.

One day Jesus visited the town of Jericho. Many people crowded the street because they wanted to see Jesus. Zacchaeus also went out into the street, but because he was short, he could not see over the crowd. Zacchaeus climbed up a tree, hoping to be able to see Jesus.

But when Jesus reached the tree, he stopped. 'Come down, Zacchaeus', Jesus said. 'I must stay at your house today.'

Zacchaeus came down at once and was very happy to think that Jesus wanted to visit him.

But the people muttered, 'Why has Jesus gone to eat at Zacchaeus's house? Everyone knows that he is a thief.'

Zacchaeus told Jesus, 'I am going to give half of my things to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody, I will pay back four times more than what I took.'

Jesus said, 'I came to show love to people who are sinners. Today Zacchaeus has become one of my children.'



Some things you can do

- Read this story in a children's Bible, a Bible story book or an adult Bible. Ask an adult to help you find it in Luke chapter 19, verses 1–10.
- Use paints, crayons or textas to illustrate the beginning, middle and end of this story. Show your illustration to the class and say what is happening in your picture.
- Pretend you are Zacchaeus. Write what happened to you or what you did after Jesus left your house and town.
- Make up a play about Zacchaeus. You could make puppets to be the characters. Practise your play and show it to the class.
- Jesus said, 'I came to show love to people who are sinners'. Make drawings of Zacchaeus, the people and yourself. Draw thought bubbles and in them write what Zacchaeus might have thought when Jesus said this, what the people might have thought, and what you think when you hear these words.

GOD SAVES PEOPLE FROM SIN AND EVIL