

STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

To involve families in this unit, choose from the following suggestions:

- Share work samples the students have completed during the unit.
- Provide opportunities for parents to comment on students' work.
- Invite parents to see presentations or displays developed by the students.
- Present work from this unit in a school worship session to which families are invited.
- This concept contains some of the essential teachings of the Christian faith. In consultation with the local pastor, arrange an information evening at which parents have the opportunity to hear and discuss what the Lutheran church teaches.
- Inform parents about the topic through class newsletters. The examples below relate specifically to model units.

LEVEL 1 NEWSLETTER

For our Christian Studies unit, entitled 'Lost and found', students will be asked to bring one of their special possessions to show the class. Just as we all have special things we care about, God cares about each one of us. Students will hear stories which illustrate God's care: the story of the lost coin, the lost sheep and the lost son and his loving father. The story of Adam and Eve's first sin also illustrates God's love: just as God cared about Adam and Eve after they had sinned, so he continues to care for us.

At the end of the unit we will have a 'party' (with foods similar to those eaten in Bible times) to celebrate, just as the people in the stories celebrated when they found what was lost.

You can help your child develop an understanding of God's love by modelling love and forgiveness at home. Use the words and actions to say 'I love you' to your child.

LEVEL 2 NEWSLETTER

Our Christian Studies unit will begin with the story of Adam and Eve disobeying God and God's promise to send someone who would make things right again. Students will hear stories of the birth and life of some of the people God used in his plan to make things right again: Isaac, Moses, Samuel, John, and finally, Jesus.

Jesus was **the** person whose life and death makes things right again. But God's plan didn't stop there, and students will hear that the best part is still to come, that is, when God takes us to heaven to live with him. Students will each make their own book of 'People in God's plan' which they will bring home to share.

You can help your child revise what they learn by asking them to show their book to you and tell you about the people in it.

LEVEL 3 NEWSLETTER

Life can be so wonderful! Think of the things that you enjoy doing the most. But life can also be disappointing; people let you down, you don't always live up to your own goals as a parent, etc. In our Christian Studies sessions students will be sharing just this type of experience, tracing the disappointments back to their original source — sin.

The good news is that God provides the solution to sin, and he does this through his gift of Jesus and the gift of heaven. Students will explore what the Bible tells about heaven, especially that it is going to be with God, which is more wonderful than anything they could possibly imagine.

Although the topic of death is not specifically part of this unit, you may find that questions about death arise. There are books available to help young children understand the experience of grief. Feel free to use resources from the school to help you talk about this with your child. Your local library will also have resources.