

STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

To involve the 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.
- Inform parents about the topic through class newsletters. The examples below relate specifically to model units.

LEVEL 1 NEWSLETTER

Our Christian Studies unit is titled ***Caring for others***. To help students learn about caring, we will be visited by 'Care-bear', an old, ragged bear who needs lots of love.

Students will be talking about how they could help Care-bear when he is feeling lonely, hungry and needing love . . . and giving him lots of love in the process.

At the same time students will be sharing stories of Jesus caring for people in his life on earth — the sick, the hungry and the lonely.

It is the love of Jesus which is the Christian's motivation to care for others. Students will learn about people in our class, town and country who need care. Together our class will undertake a project in which we can show care for others.

You could help your child develop concepts in this area by talking about ways in which people in your family help and care for each other.

LEVEL 2 NEWSLETTER

'It's not fair!' How often have you as parents heard this cry from your children?

In our Christian Studies unit ***Fair or not fair*** students will be given the opportunity to identify things they see as being unfair.

The book of Jonah is the basis for the Bible stories. The Bible tells how God sent Jonah to warn the people of Nineveh of his impending punishment if they did not repent of their sins. Although Jonah at first resisted, he finally went to preach his message, still thinking that the people deserved to be punished. In Jonah's eyes that would have been fair. However, the message of the Bible story is that God was 'better than fair' and was very ready to forgive.

Being fair the way God wants people to be fair is something people can do only with God's help. As a class, students will identify ways in which they can be fair to others, and actively work together to make the classroom a fairer place. This is the first step in developing students' awareness of making the world a fairer place in which to live.

You could help your child develop concepts in this area by talking through problems that arise in your child's relationships, encouraging them to see things from both points of view.

LEVEL 3 NEWSLETTER

The Bible contains stories of many of God's people. One of these was Paul, who Christians believe was chosen by God to carry out some of the most important mission work of the Christian church.

In Christian Studies students will be learning about the life of Paul. We will do this through a series of 'postcards' from Paul which relate stories of his conversion, his work and the response of people to the message he preached. At the same time students will begin to consider how the news of Jesus continues to be shared by Christians through words and actions and how people respond to this today.

One of the most important passages that Paul wrote was about love. Students will hear verses which describe love (eg *Love is patient and kind*) and begin to think what this would look like in their own lives. You could help your child develop concepts related to this unit by encouraging them to show love and care for others by the things they say and do.