

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

Celebration and young children seem to go together. Children celebrate with all of their senses; they feel the gifts they are given; they love to taste their favourite foods; they dance to music.

The Bible tells how God's people, the Israelites, celebrated as they worshipped. In Christian Studies students will hear how God's people, the Israelites, danced and sang, burnt incense and played music as part of their worship. Students will participate in these activities themselves.

Christians believe that worship today is a time of celebration. Students will learn what Christians do as they worship at Christmas and Easter, eg hear the Christmas or Easter story and songs, see the decorations, watch the sun rise early on Easter morning, share Easter buns together.

Worship is an important part of our school and class routines. Students will be given the opportunity to suggest things they would like to have happen in our class worship. At the end of this unit we will invite you to come and worship and celebrate with us. We look forward to you joining us.

LEVEL 2 NEWSLETTER

History abounds with examples of great buildings that people have constructed: the pyramids, the ancient temples, great cathedrals, skyscrapers, bridges and monuments. The Bible tells that God's people also constructed buildings of religious importance. In Christian Studies students will hear the Bible's account of the building of the temple by King Solomon and its importance as a place of worship for the people of the time.

Worship is an important part of our school life. To help students learn more about worship they will look closely at the school's worship centre to identify the purpose of furnishings such as the altar, the cross, the Bible and the candles. These are all designed to assist people recall what God has done for them. God's words and works and people's response through prayer and praise form the essence of Christian worship. At the end of the unit students will make their own model of a place of worship.

You could help your child develop concepts in this area by pointing out buildings of importance in our local community, including buildings which are set aside for worship.

LEVEL 3 NEWSLETTER

Worship is an integral part of life at our school. In Christian Studies students will be given the opportunity to learn about worship. We will begin by using stories based on the Bible from which students identify what worship is, why people worship and ways in which people worship. Christians believe that worship occurs when God speaks and acts and people respond. It may happen in a group with other Christians, or it may be the personal thoughts or prayers of one person.

Christian worship contains distinct parts. At this level students will be introduced to five parts of worship; a beginning in which people recognise God's presence, praise, prayers, listening to God's word, and an ending after which people leave assured that God will go with them.

At the end of the unit students will use this structure as a guideline for planning and presenting a worship session to the class. You will be invited to worship with us at these sessions and will be informed of the times. We look forward to seeing you.