

MODEL UNIT
BAND B
LEVEL 2

PROMISES, PROMISES

LIFE CONCEPT: GOD SAVES PEOPLE FROM SIN AND EVIL

YEAR: SUGGESTED DURATION: 4-5 weeks (135 minutes per week)

DATE OF USE: FAITH STATEMENTS: ① ② ③

UNIT-SPECIFIC GOALS (highlighted)

1 SIN AND EVIL RUIN GOD'S CREATION

- 1a explore how sin entered God's creation
- 1b investigate ways sin breaks relationships
- 1c explore evidence and effects of sin and evil in the world

2 GOD RESCUES PEOPLE FROM SIN AND ITS CONSEQUENCES

- 2a explore God's promises of rescue to his people
- 2b investigate how Jesus fulfilled God's promise to rescue people
- 2c explore the impact of God's saving action for all people

3 GOD OFFERS ETERNAL LIFE TO ALL PEOPLE

- 3a investigate biblical teachings about eternal life
- 3b explore Jesus' promise to be with people always
- 3c identify the benefits of trusting in Jesus

STUDENT ASSESSMENT

ASSESSABLE STUDENT OUTCOMES

Write a response which describes the consequences of Adam and Eve's actions in Genesis 3. (1a,1b)

Record God's promises about Jesus from Isaiah. (2a)

Record the events of and reactions to Jesus' birth, death and resurrection. (2b,2c)

Produce an advertisement which describes God's gift of eternal life through Jesus. (2a,2b,3a,3c)

ASSESSMENT STRATEGIES

⇒ work sample

⇒ work sample

⇒ work sample

⇒ work sample

UNIT SUMMARY

Students identify the Christian teaching about the way sin entered the world and its consequences for Adam and Eve and all people. Students explore the promises God made through the prophets to provide a solution to the consequences of sin. They investigate the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus to see how God kept his promise. Students examine biblical references to the gift of eternal life Jesus has provided for all people.

UNIT NOTES

To develop the concept of promises, the students will be examining the spectacular but often false claims made in advertisements. The students will explore how Satan tempted Adam and Eve with similar spectacular but false claims about a 'product' which resulted in disastrous consequences for themselves and all people. The students will explore the promises God made to people to provide a solution to their problem and see how, in contrast to Satan, God was not only true to his word but even paid for the solution.

This unit could be taught in conjunction with the Mass Media strand of English.

INTRODUCTION

1. PROMISES IN ADVERTISING

If students are familiar with the claims or promises made in advertising, then briefly revise the ideas included in this section.

Students find examples of advertisements in magazines, or the teacher views and selects television advertisements to share with the students. Look for advertisements which make promises or claims about a particular product.

Students in small groups discuss some of the advertisements and record the following information:

- Name of the product being advertised.
- What claims or promises are made in the advertisement?
- Do you think that these promises should be believed? Give reasons.

Students share their responses to these questions with the class. Make a display of the advertisements and the students' responses.

DEVELOPMENT

2. AN OFFER TOO GOOD TO REFUSE!

Students read Genesis 3:1–6 to discover how Satan (the serpent in the story) made Adam and Eve an offer they felt was 'too good to refuse!'

Students design an advertisement Satan might have used in order to get Adam and Eve to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Students should include the important message the devil wanted to get across to Adam and Eve and the promise he was making.

Assist the students to see that Satan is selling them the idea that

- they can trust Satan, but they can't trust God;
- they can become like God.

Students read Genesis 3:7–24 to discover what sort of 'product' Adam and Eve got from Satan. Discuss:

- When Adam and Eve took the product Satan was offering, were there hidden costs?
- Who had to pay the hidden costs?
- Did the product deliver what they were expecting?
- What happened to their relationship with God?
- What happened to their relationship with each other?
- What happened to their relationship with nature?
- How did they feel about what they had done?
- What would happen to them eventually?
- What are the consequences of Adam and Eve's actions for all people?

Students write their responses to the discussion as one of these:

- a journal entry
- a letter to God
- a review/critique/analysis of the 'special offer' made by Satan (models for product reviews can be found in consumer magazines such as *Choice*).

As a result of sin entering the world Adam and Eve's relationship with God, each other and creation was spoilt, and eventually they would die. These consequences are real for all people.

3. GOD'S BIG PROMISE

Tell students that the Bible stresses that God loved the people and creation he had made. He promised to provide a solution to the disaster caused when people turned away from God and took up Satan's offer. God chose certain people to tell about or 'advertise' this solution.

Students briefly investigate the role of prophets in the Old Testament by using resources such as a Bible handbook or Bible encyclopedia, notes from a study Bible, and/or Teacher Resource Sheets (TRS) B2/1 and B2/2.

Students work in groups to identify the message God gave a particular prophet, Isaiah, about God's solution to the consequences of sin.

Students read: Isaiah 9:6,7
Isaiah 7:14 Isaiah 42:1–4
Isaiah 52:13–15 Isaiah 53: 3–10a,12.

List the information which is given in these passages about the person who will be the solution to sin and its consequences.

The teacher records information from each group onto a class chart.

Students write a script which would be suitable for a radio advertisement, or produce a 'flier' which attracts the interest of the reader or viewer to this 'mystery' person who is going to provide the solution to the consequences of sin. Students include in their script quotes from the Bible passages.

4. GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISE

The birth of Jesus

Students investigate the Bible account of how God kept his promise to rescue the world by sending Jesus. They read Luke 2:1–40 or Matthew 1:18–25, 2:1–18, or read a Bible story book, or view a video about the birth of Jesus.

Students help to compile a list of the main characters in the story. Working in groups, students choose a character from the biblical account, such as Simeon or Anna. They tell the story of Jesus' birth from the perspective of their character/s. Make sure their character explains what this promised gift from God means to them, eg trusting that God will fulfil his promise, anticipation of what Jesus will do, the forgiveness he will bring.

This information could be presented as an interview or personal recount.

The death of Jesus

Christians believe that God not only gave his Son as a free gift to the world but also allowed him to die for the sins of all people.

Students investigate how God completed the part of the promise which was the most costly to God. The teacher could choose from the following options:

- Students read Matthew 26:47 – 28:10, or a Bible story book, or view a video, which deals with Jesus' death and resurrection.
- Students listen to, read or sing songs which deal with Jesus' death and its purpose, such as *You are the prisoner (All Together*

Everyone 245), When our life began again (All Together Again 147), God in human shoes (All Together OK 338).

- Students read and discuss the explanation to the Second Part of the Apostles' Creed in Luther's *Small Catechism* (especially the second and third paragraphs).

Students write a personal response to Jesus' death and resurrection in the form of a report which would be suitable for radio, television or print media, or as a journal entry, prayer or poem. They should comment on the price it cost God (his Son), the price it cost Jesus (his life) and the price it cost people (nothing).

As a class, check to see

- how the statements about God's promised solution found in Isaiah match with the information the students have gathered about Jesus;
- how Jesus' actions rescue people from the consequences of Satan's offer.

RESPONSE

5. JESUS BRINGS THE GIFT OF LIFE

Help the students to see this as central to Christian teaching: through his death and resurrection Jesus has taken the punishment for the sins of all people. People are not separated from God forever but have the gift of eternal life, both now and in the future. The way to claim eternal life is to believe in Jesus and be baptised.

Students complete TRS B2/3 (*Jesus brings the gift of life*). They read Bible verses about the gift Jesus has won for all people and the way people can claim the gift.

Students produce an advertisement for God's free gift of eternal life through Jesus.

Include the following information in the advertisement:

- the problems sin brings
- God's solution to the problems
- the price it cost God and the price it cost people
- the way people can claim the gift
- the impact this gift has on the lives of people.

This advertisement can be for television, radio, newspaper, magazine, billboard or the Internet.

YOU WILL NEED

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> advertisements from print media or video-recording of television advertisements | <input type="checkbox"/> Photocopies of TRS B2/1, B2/2, B2/3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bibles, Bible story books, Bible encyclopedia, Bible handbooks | <input type="checkbox"/> paper for story map, or <i>All Together</i> songbook series or Luther's <i>Small Catechism</i> |

INTEGRATING INTO OTHER CURRICULUM AREAS

ENGLISH: Literature: Explain and justify own opinions about texts. Write character portraits.

Mass Media: Construct advertisements which appeal to a particular audience. Identify text features that help readers distinguish fact from opinion. Demonstrate advertising techniques for persuasive and argumentative speaking and writing. Identify emotive language appeal to lifestyles and use of visual images.

THE ARTS: Media: Experiment with words, sounds, images for different effects to present different points of view. **Visual Arts:** Make works showing knowledge of visual cues and conventions. Make, design, arrange works for a specific audience or purpose.

(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' attitudes to God's saving action for all people?

How did I respond to the range of students' understanding about the purpose of Jesus' birth, death and resurrection?

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?

* * * GOD'S ADVERTISING AGENTS * * *

When someone has a product that they want to sell to as many people as possible, they often hire an advertising agent. The agent's job is to find the best possible ways to get the owner's message across about their product. The advertising agent uses many exciting, interesting, unusual ways to get the attention of people, so they will listen to the message.

God used prophets many years ago as his 'advertising agents'.

God had many important messages for people, such as:

- * warning people of his punishment for sin
- * telling them to turn away from their sin and come back to him
- * promising to forgive and rescue them
- * assuring them of his love
- * giving them hope for the future.

God especially wanted people to know about his most exciting gift to the world, Jesus.

The prophets used many different and unusual techniques in those days to get God's message across, such as using pictures, acting out parables and describing visions. One prophet even walked through the streets of Jerusalem naked in order to get the attention of the people.

People who hire advertising agents usually have to pay a lot of money for their services. Often these people do not present the whole truth about the product they are describing. Most of God's prophets, however, felt a very strong desire to tell God's message without being paid anything. All of them certainly told God's message truthfully.

Some people agreed with the messages the prophets told, but many were angry and shouted insults at the prophets.

Although it was many years ago that God used the prophets to advertise his gift of forgiveness and love for people, their message is still important for people today.



* * * * PROPHETS * * * *

ISAIAH

Isaiah was born in Jerusalem, about 700 years before Christ. He worked as a prophet for about forty years. At that time the people of Judah had rebelled against God and deserved his punishment. They were afraid of being attacked by the Assyrians.

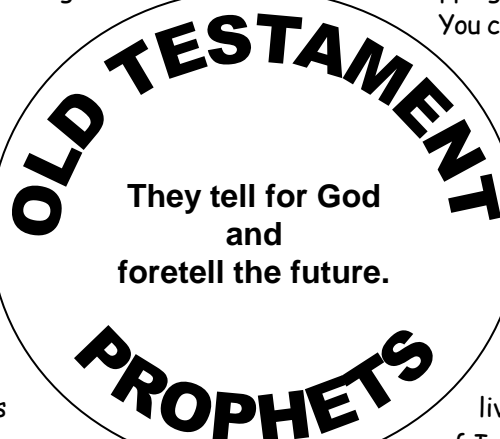
Isaiah told people about how great and important God is. He told people to turn away from sin and return to God. He told them to trust in God. He gave people hope as he told them that God would send his servant who would suffer for all people in order to bring them back to God. There are many famous passages in the Book of Isaiah including Isaiah 9:6,7; 11:2-9; 61:1-4.

HULDAH

Huldah was a Hebrew prophet. She was well known throughout the kingdom of Judah.

King Josiah sent five of his personal messengers (including his high priest) to her with the Book of the Law, which had been recently discovered in the temple at Jerusalem. He knew that she would be able to tell him if it was genuine or not. Not only was she able to tell the king that it was the Book of the Law, but she also warned him that the people of Judah were in terrible trouble because they had turned away from God and were worshipping other gods.

You can read about her in
2 Kings 22:14-20



DANIEL

Daniel was born in the sixth century BC and was taken away to Babylon when he was still a boy. Daniel shows us his amazing faith in God, and tells us how God protected him in extremely dangerous situations. He also gives people a message about God's final victory.

Famous passages include Daniel 3 (the fiery furnace), Daniel 6 (escape from the lions) and Daniel 9:1-19 (Daniel's prayer).

AMOS

Amos was a shepherd who lived in the northern kingdom of Israel about 770 years before Christ. He was one of the first prophets whose words were written down. Amos saw the merchants and landowners becoming richer and richer at the expense of the poor people. He spoke very strongly and dramatically to the people about justice and the importance of not relying on their wealth but rather on God. Famous passages: Amos 5:24.

Other prophets include Elijah, Elisha, Nathan, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Hosea, Joel, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi.

* * JESUS BRINGS THE GIFT OF LIFE * *

After you read each Bible verse record what it says about the gift Jesus has won for all people and the way people can claim the gift.

Bible verse	information about the gift Jesus has won for all people	information about the way people can claim the gift
Mark 16:16	<i>eg people will be saved</i>	<i>eg believe in Jesus</i>
John 3:16,17		
John 3:36a		
John 5:24		
John 6:40		
Romans 5:18		
Romans 6:23		
1 Peter 1:3-5		