

**MODEL UNIT
BAND C
LEVEL 1**

SPECIAL AGENTS

LIFE CONCEPT: GOD CALLS PEOPLE TO SERVE

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

DATE OF USE: FAITH STATEMENTS: : ① 2 ③

UNIT-SPECIFIC GOALS (highlighted)

**1. GOD’S LOVE
INSPIRES AND EQUIPS
CHRISTIANS TO LOVE
AND SERVE OTHERS**

1a investigate the radical nature of Jesus’ teaching about love and service

1b investigate in the epistles ways Christians can love and serve others

1c explore Christians’ motivation for love and service

1d identify opportunities for love and service in the school and community

**2. GOD CALLS
ALL PEOPLE TO
WORK FOR
PEACE AND
JUSTICE**

2a explore the responsibility of all people to work for peace and justice

2b examine the biblical understanding of peace (shalom)

2c analyse the cause and impact of conflict and injustice in the world

**3. GOD CALLS
CHRISTIANS TO
SHARE THE GOOD
NEWS BY WORDS AND
ACTIONS**

3a investigate Jesus’ commission to tell the good news

3b explore ways the early Christians shared the good news about Jesus

3c investigate ways Christians share the good news in words and actions

STUDENT ASSESSMENT

ASSESSABLE STUDENT OUTCOMES

Retell the story of Jesus’ commission to his disciples. (3a)

Describe the way in which the first Christians shared the good news about Jesus in words and actions. (3b 1c)

Describe ways Christians today love and serve others. (1b,1d)

Record Christian motivation for love and service. (1c, 3c)

ASSESSMENT STRATEGIES

⇒ TRS C1/1

⇒ work sample: photos and recorded conversation

⇒ work sample and observation: file report on interview

⇒ work sample and observation: file report on interview

UNIT SUMMARY

The students consider Jesus’ commission in the New Testament as a mission he gave his followers to be his special agents. The commission calls Christians to witness to Jesus’ message for all people by words and actions. Students explore the way in which Jesus’ followers past and present carry out this mission.

UNIT NOTES

In this unit students act as spies investigating the way in which Christians act as special agents of Jesus in the world. Students consider the two aspects of Christians' mission: teaching and healing. They compile a spy file about Jesus' special agents and their mission. The file includes information and 'photos' of the special agents at work.

If students enjoy codes, statements shown in **bold italics** may be 'discovered' as coded messages (see Teacher Resource Sheet [TRS] C1/4) and decoded by the 'spies'.

INTRODUCTION

1. SPECIAL AGENTS

Students view a movie or an episode from a TV series in which special agents carry out a mission, eg an excerpt from *Mission Impossible* or one of the 'James Bond' films. Discuss:

- What do special agents do?
- What types of missions are they involved in?
- How are special agents portrayed?

As a class, clarify students' understanding about special agents and their missions.

Tell students that Christians can be considered as Jesus' special agents in the world, carrying out a mission for Jesus. However, unlike the special agents in the films and television series, these special agents are not secret agents. The students act as spies filing a report on Jesus' special agents in the world. See Teacher Resource Sheet (TRS) C1/1. Discuss with students how the report will be filed, eg in a manila folder or computer file. Students develop a code name for the investigation.

DEVELOPMENT

2. JESUS' MISSION

Christians believe ***Jesus' mission on earth was to live a perfect life for people and to die to take the punishment for their sins.***

If students are familiar with the Bible's message about Jesus, this section may take the form of a brief review.

Students read Matthew 4:17–25 and John 3:16,17 and record in their spy file what Jesus' mission on earth involved. Students can draw pictures as 'photos' to support their file.

3. JESUS GIVES THE SPECIAL AGENTS THEIR MISSION

Tell students that the Bible says ***Jesus knew that after his mission on earth was completed, he would go back to heaven. Jesus gave his disciples an ongoing mission to carry out after he had left them.***

Students read Matthew 10:1–31 and Matthew 28:16–20 to explore Jesus' commissioning of the disciples, and describe how the disciples might have felt about the mission, eg excited or frightened (see TRS C1/2). Students include the TRS in their file.

Share the students' responses and highlight that ***the mission of Jesus' secret agents is to teach people about God and to bring healing to people's lives.***

Tell students the Bible says ***Jesus recognised this was a difficult mission and promised that they wouldn't have to do it all by themselves.*** Jesus promised they would have a secret weapon to help them complete the mission.

Students read John 14:15–31 to record what the secret weapon was. They record in their spy file what the promised secret weapon is and how it helps.

4. DISCIPLES AS SPECIAL AGENTS

Students read Bible passages listed on TRS C1/3 and record what Jesus' disciples and early Christians said and did to carry out ***Jesus' mission to teach others about God and to bring healing to people's lives.***

Discuss with students:

- What motivated Jesus' disciples to act as his special agents?
- How did the disciples and early Christians carry out Jesus' mission?

Students choose from the activities listed on TRS C1/3 to record information about the work of the special agents.

Students share their work and discuss:

- In what different situations did the early Christians teach others about Jesus? (preaching to large groups, one to one)
- What message about Jesus did they share?
- In what ways did they bring healing to people's lives?
- Which groups of people were the early Christians most concerned about? Why? You may like to refer back to Jesus' teaching, Matthew 5:1–12.

Tell students that ***as the early Christian church grew, the special agents Paul, Peter and John would sometimes write letters to congregations, advising them about ways they could teach and bring healing to people's lives.***

Read the following Bible passages to find out what Paul said about the mission they were carrying out. Students list in their file what Paul teaches about the special agents' mission.

Romans 12:9–21 1 Corinthians 13:1–7,13
2 Corinthians 4:1–15 Colossians 3:12–17

Students draw a symbol or write a password that could serve as the secret password or sign for Christians.

5. SPECIAL AGENTS ACTIVE IN THE WORLD TODAY

Choose activities to explore ways Christians today teach and bring healing to people.

Teaching

- Read local Christian congregations' bulletins to explore ways special agents teach others about Jesus.
- Invite pastors to share the ways they communicate messages about Jesus.
- This would be an ideal time for the teacher to give a personal witness to the way in which they witness to Jesus in their lives.
- Visit a Christian radio station to interview people about how they communicate a Christian message to people.
- Read a range of Christian magazines (eg Scripture Union publications, *The Lutheran*, Christian music magazines), and record ways special agents teach others about Jesus.

Students record in their spy file ways in which Jesus' agents teach others about Jesus today.

Healing

- Brainstorm a list of organisations or people who act as special agents in the world today, eg local Christian congregations, Salvation Army, Desmond Tutu.
- Visit a Christian welfare centre or organisation such as Lutheran Community Care, or invite a guest speaker from such an organisation. Use the following questions to guide the investigation:
What is your organisation's motivation?

What is your organisation's mission?

What does your organisation do to fulfil its mission?

Which groups of people does your organisation serve?

- Interview members of a local congregation to gain information about ways the congregation is involved in care and healing, eg counselling, women's fellowship, craft groups.

Students record in their spy file information about the work of Jesus' special agents today with photos and reports on their activities.

6. THE SCHOOL AS A SPECIAL AGENT

Tell students that ***a Christian school has the opportunity to be active as a special agent for Jesus.***

Students list ways in which the school teaches and provides healing, eg Christian Studies lessons, worship, counselling, caring for students with special needs.

Students interview leaders in the school community to explore how the school responds to Jesus' commission.

Students record in their spy file responses to:

- In what ways does the school provide opportunities for people to learn about Jesus?
- In what ways is the school involved in healing?

RESPONSE

7. JESUS CALLS ALL CHRISTIANS TO BE SPECIAL AGENTS

Students reflect individually on their spy file about the special mission Jesus has given all Christians.

- What do you think Jesus' commission means to Christians?
- What do you think is the best way for people to teach others about Jesus?
- What do you think is the best way for people to bring healing into other people's lives?
- What is the most interesting or important thing that you discovered in the unit?

YOU WILL NEED

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|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Bible encyclopedias and handbooks with pictures of life in Jesus' time<input type="checkbox"/> arrangements made for an excursion to a Christian welfare organisation, or for a guest speaker from an organisation such as Lutheran Community Care<input type="checkbox"/> photocopies of TRS C1/1/2/3/4<input type="checkbox"/> manila folders or computer files | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> arrangements made for an excursion to a Christian radio station, or an invitation to a guest speaker from the station<input type="checkbox"/> arrangements made for an excursion to a Christian community welfare centre or an invitation to a guest speaker<input type="checkbox"/> a range of Christian magazines, eg <i>One Up</i> available from Scripture Union, <i>Sport and Sportsmanship</i> available from The Open Book shops, <i>The Lutheran</i>, Christian contemporary music magazines. |
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INTEGRATING INTO OTHER CURRICULUM AREAS

ENGLISH: *Literature:* Explain and justify own opinions about texts. Find and cite elements of a text to support a point of view. Directed reading, reading alone. Editing skills. *Media:* Identify stereotypes in the media. *Everyday Texts:* Consider needs of audience when speaking. Develop discussion and problem-solving skills. Use strategies for gathering, recording and reporting data. Report findings in speech and writing.

SOCIETY AND ENVIRONMENT: *Investigation, Communication, Participation:* Formulate questions, reflect on knowledge and understanding. Identify information sources. Gather, organise and interpret information using diagrams. Identify similar data. Draw conclusions. Identify, analyse and clarify values. Consider audience in presentation. Cooperation skills.

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' knowledge about what Christians believe was Jesus' mission on earth?

How did I respond to the range of students' reflections about what it means to be a special agent for Jesus?

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?

Special Agents Under Investigation

You are about to become a spy
and gather information on the special agents
of Jesus Christ, of Nazareth.

Your task is to file a report of the evidence you uncover
about the mission Jesus gave his special agents
to carry out in the world.

Your report will include photos and reports about their activities.
Write the code name for your investigation here.

.....

You will gather information on the following:

The Master Agent, Jesus

What was his mission on earth?

Special Agents

1. The disciples of Jesus

What mission did Jesus ask them to carry out?

2. The early Christians

How did they carry out Jesus' mission?

3. Christians today

How do they carry out Jesus' mission?



The Special Mission Is Revealed

Read Matthew 10:1–31. List what Jesus says the special mission involves.

Read Matthew 28:16–20. Record any further information about the mission.

Imagine you are one of the disciples when Jesus gave the special mission.

Listen carefully to what he says.

What do you, the disciple, think this mission will involve?

What do you think about the mission?

What are your feelings at this stage about being a special agent for Jesus?

Jesus knew the mission was difficult and it would require a secret weapon.

Read John 14:15–31 to find out what the secret weapon was.

What is it? What does Jesus say it will do?

What do you think the disciples' code name for the mission would have been?



Special Agents in the Bible

Read the following verses to explore the Bible's record of the special agents at work.

Acts 2:1–42

Acts 3:1–10

Acts 8:4–8

Acts 10:34–43

Acts 4:32–37

Acts 6:1–7

Choose one of the following activities to record the activities of the special agents. Include your work in your file.

- Draw a series of 'photos' that show the special agents fulfilling Jesus' commission. Use a children's Bible, such as Selina Hastings' *Illustrated Children's Bible*, to study pictures of the setting of the stories and the people of the time.

- Imagine spies have tapped the phones of the first Christians. Tape-record a conversation that might have taken place between two Christians talking about the mission.

- The early Christians often faced persecution. Design a code that Christians might have used to communicate with each other. Use the code to record a message one Christian might share with another about how they are fulfilling Jesus' commission.



CODED SPY CLUES

1. Jesus' mission on earth was to live a perfect life for people and to die as the punishment for their sins.
(1 for a, 2 for b . . .)

**10 5 19 21 19 13 9 19 19 9 15 14 15 14
5 1 18 20 8 23 1 19 20 15 12 9 22 5 1
16 5 18 6 5 3 20 12 9 6 5 6 15 18
16 5 15 16 12 5 1 14 4 20 15 4 9 5 1 19
20 8 5 16 21 14 9 19 8 13 5 14 20 6 15 18
20 8 5 9 18 19 9 14 19.**

2. Jesus knew that after his mission on earth was complete, he would go back to heaven. Jesus gave his disciples an ongoing mission to carry out after he had left them. (*word spacing altered*)

Jesus knewt hataf terhi smiss ionon earth
wasco mplet e,hew ouldg oback tohea ven.J
esusg avehi sdisc iples anong oingm issio
ntoca rryou tafte rheha dleft them.

3. The mission of Jesus' secret agents is to teach people about God and to bring healing to people's lives. (*all vowels deleted*)

**Th# m#ss##n #f J#s#s' s#cr#t #g#nts #s
t# t##ch p##pl# #b##t G#d #nd t# br#ng
h##l#ng t# p##pl#'s l#v#s.**

4. Jesus recognised this was a difficult mission and promised that they wouldn't have to do it all by themselves.
(*letters of words reversed*)

Susej desingocer siht saw a tluciffid
noissim dna desimorp taht yeht
t'ndluow evah ot od ti lla yb
sevlesmeht.

5. Jesus' mission was to teach others about God and to bring healing to people's lives.
(*numbers embedded in words indicate their order in the message*)

Wathrees tofour tothirteen toten otsixhers tefiveach
pefourteenople's mitwossion Jeonesus' hetwelvealing
absevenout Goeightd lififteenves brelevening annined.

6. As the early Christian church grew, the special agents Paul, Peter and John wrote letters to congregations advising them about ways they could teach and bring healing to people's lives.
(*a for b, c for b*)

Zr sgd dzqkx Bgqhrshzm bgtqbg fqdv, sgd
rodbhzk zfdmsr Oztk, Odsdq zmc Ingm vqnsd
kdssdq sn bnmfqdfzshnmr zcuhrmf sgdl zants
vzxr sgdx bntkc sdzbg zmc aqhmf gdzkhmf sn
odnokd'r khudr.

7. A Christian school has the opportunity to be active as a special agent for Jesus.
(*first and last letters reversed*)

A Nhristic lchoos sah eht yportunito ot eb ectiva sa a
lpecias tgena rof Sesuj.

