

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.
- In consultation with the local pastor, arrange an information evening at which parents have the opportunity to hear and ask about what students are doing in Christian studies.
- 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

It has been said that God has spoken in two books: the book of his words, the Bible, and the book of his works, nature. In Christian Studies the students investigate what God's words and works tell us about him as the Creator of the universe. Students explore what the Bible reveals about God's creating and his relationship with his creation. They also observe and study the natural world to consider what it reveals about God. Students are encouraged to reflect on the magnitude, complexity, intricacy and interdependence of creation.

You can support your child by visiting a place where nature can be observed and enjoyed, eg the back yard, a local park, the beach, or a wildlife park.

We would appreciate any books or videos about living things and space that you may be able to lend us for these investigations.

LEVEL 2 NEWSLETTER

The environment seems to be an issue that we are all aware of. But what is the Christian perspective on this issue? Do Christians have a special responsibility for the environment?

The students investigate this topic as part of their Christian Studies. They explore the relationship God has with creation and how God planned to care for it. They compare the image of unspoilt creation with the condition of the world today, looking at how God's creation has changed and why these changes have occurred.

Students consider the positive and negative results of scientific and technological discovery and investigate why Christians have a special responsibility to care for the environment. Students use their knowledge to develop an environmental action plan at the completion of the unit. You may have some ideas you could share with your child.

You may support your child at home by viewing a video with an environmental theme.

LEVEL 3 NEWSLETTER

In Christian Studies we explore what people believe about the beginning of the world. The students investigate what the Bible states about the beginning of the world and how different Christians interpret the Bible's message. They also look at various scientific theories that relate to the origin of the universe. During these activities the students keep a personal journal, in which they record their own thoughts, learning and beliefs about the beginning of the world.

You may support your child by visiting the local library to gather books about the beginning of the universe, and if you have any resources (or expertise) in these areas that we would find useful, please let me know.