

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

Extraterrestrials, UFOs, voices from outer space: phenomena that make science fiction so intriguing and make us question whether they are simply fiction or reality.

Our Christian Studies unit uses the imagery of this area of science fiction as a structure in which students explore a range of Christian beliefs about God: God really exists 'out there'; God constantly seeks to communicate with human beings; God has had 'close encounters' with selected people; God had the closest possible encounter with human beings when he came to earth as a human being; and we can encounter God today through his written message: the Bible.

While exploring these beliefs, students will be developing skills for 'decoding' and understanding the message of the Bible.

We will begin the unit by watching a science fiction video. We will conclude it with students developing an outline for their own video which explores God's communication from beyond.

LEVEL 2 NEWSLETTER

Although the Bible is rated as the world's bestseller, not many people in our society — apart from Christians — give it rave reviews. 'Irrelevant', 'boring', 'unreliable', 'fiction' are some of the more common descriptions of the Bible, often given by people who have not read it for themselves. In many ways these descriptions are understandable. The Bible was written by people who lived in a world far different from ours, using a range of literary styles that are not always familiar to us. So for many the Bible remains an alien book, often baffling and apparently contradictory.

For Christians the Bible is the story of real people and their relationship with a real God. They find that the Bible introduces them to Jesus and a new life and hope. It is a book that sustains them in their relationship with God.

Students often have many questions about the Bible, and they want to know that the Bible is genuine before they will accept it as a book which holds authority for them. The unit *Digging For Truth* provides students with the tools to investigate questions they have about the Bible and its truth. It gives students a process of investigation with a range of options. Students can examine questions relating to the historicity of the Bible, or the accuracy of biblical documents or the relevancy of the Bible for people moving into the 21st century. All students will consider the nature and purpose of the Bible, in particular the claim that the Bible is 'God's powerful way of saving all people who have faith' (Romans 1:16). Students conclude the unit by presenting a report with their personal evaluation and conclusions.