

# 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

The Australian census questionnaire has multiple-choices of possibilities in the section on religion. Where do all those choices within the Christian church come from?

Students will begin the Christian Studies unit 'One Lord, One Faith, One Church' by considering their own ideas about and attitude towards 'church'. They will complete a mini church census to find out the religious composition of the class. Each student will research one leader from Christian church history. Then we will fit the reports together to get an idea of the history that led to the great number of variations within the Christian church. Students will examine Bible texts relating to the church, and then re-evaluate their own ideas and attitudes.

If you have any questions or any information that could help with the research, please contact me.

## LEVEL 2 NEWSLETTER

What is the church? A building? An organisation? An institution that belongs to the past and that has little relevance for the concerns and issues of contemporary people? An easy target for jokes and ridicule? A place where people meet to worship God? A community of people who seek to live out God's purpose for their lives and the world?

In the next unit of work students will examine the concept of the Christian church as a community of people who have diverse backgrounds, who are not perfect yet are forgiven, people who have a common bond and purpose. Students will first examine what the New Testament reveals about the church as a community. They will then have a choice of investigating either how Christians try today, or how Christians have tried in the past, to live as a community called by God to do his work. Students who choose to investigate contemporary Christian communities will have an opportunity to visit a Christian church and interview some of its members to gain some first-hand knowledge.

Should you have any comments or questions, please contact me.