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| **Christian Studies Weekly Planner**  **Term 2, 2011**  Christian Church, Key Idea 2 and 3 |
| **Week 1-** Inquiry Question: What is a community? What is a Christian community? |
| **Tuning In:** Read the students the Easter Story. Discuss how Christians believe that Jesus Christ died for their sins on the cross, and 3 days later He was resurrected from the dead and became a living man once again. Discuss how this is Christians’ hope in Christ. This is their salvation in Him.  Read: Luke 24:1-12  **Activity:** Students will create a tomb with the stone rolled away. Using paper plates, crayons and rolled up newspaper.  Students them complete ‘He is Risen’ Jigsaw colouring picture. |
| **Week 2** |
| **Tuning In**: Ask students why people pray? What is the purpose of people praying? Do you ever pray? What kind of things do you pray about?  Discuss how Jesus also had time to think about what He wanted to pray about to God. His disciples wanted Him to teach them how to pray properly to say the right things. So Jesus taught them a special prayer that was recorded in the Bible. People still use this prayer often to help remind them of what things they should ask for, things they should be thankful for and things they need to be sorry for.  Show the students the poster of the Lord’s Prayer and go over what each sentence actually means. Explain why Jesus chose to pray these particular words.  **Activity**: Students to cut out the boxes with the Lord’s Prayer written in each box and paste in correct order in their Christian Studies books. |
| **Week 3** |
| **Tuning in:** Prayer -define what Prayer is for Christians (talking to God, fostering a relationship). When we care about people we talk to them. We tell them things that are important to us, we listen in their company and we ask for their help when we need advice or when we are worried. Prayer is like that. It is a Christian’s time with God. Speaking and listening. It is when a Christian shows that they trust God and look to him for advice, because he cares for them and wants the best for them.  Refer to the Lord’s prayer as a reminder about the way people can pray.  Read- Luke 18:9-14 (This is about being right with God). Luke 24:30 ( Giving thanks before we eat).  **Activity:** Read the selection of table graces. Ask children to say their family meal time grace if they say one. What do they each mean?  Children can write a Prayer heading in their books and then paste in a table grace, The Lords Prayer or put food on the plate. |
| **Week 4** |
| **Focus:** students compare their understanding of family with life in Jesus family. Jesus wants people in his family, rather than assuming that all students are in Jesus family.  **Tuning in:** Pentecost tells us about the beginning of the Christian church.  *Pentecost:* The church begins …Pentecost was the day that people who joined the church became part of God’s family. We do things as a family.  Tell me what you know about a family. What sorts of things do families do together?  Show students a photo of your own family and explain that you also belong to Jesus family because you believe in Jesus. Read the story of Pentecost from the Bible. People who believe can be in Jesus family.  **Activity:** Complete a drawing of your own family in the picture frame.  **Bible reading**: Acts 2: 1-13 |
| **Week 5** Inquiry Question: How do Christians believe God is present in their lives? |
| **Focus**: Interact with **members** of the local church and identify their roles and responsibilities.  **Guest speaker:** Pastor Mark, Tuesday 24th @ 2:00 in the Hall  **Tuning In**: God calls people to serve at various levels in different ways: by helping individuals, families, people in communities (school, church, world). Christians serve unselfishly and without the thought of reward. It’s not about “what’s in it for me?” and looking for recognition. Jesus gave up his life for all people in humble service. People are not saved **by** good works, but **for** good works. Just as Jesus said, “a good tree produces good fruit” (Matthew 7:17). People can be that tree! Even the smallest and ‘lowliest’ act of service that is done in faith is acknowledged by God.  **Activity**: Make a fruit tree from paper with the title, ‘*A good tree produces good fruit’* with the following words on the trunk; ‘*God’s love inspires and equips Christians to love and serve others’.* Students then brainstorm how they can help and serve others, drawing reference from Jesus’ work as a healer, teacher, carer.  **Bible references depicting love, care, and service:**   * Jesus heals a blind man (Matthew 20:29-34) * Ways people serve Jesus (Matthew 25:31-40) * Jesus heals a sick girl (Mark 5:21-24) * The good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37) * Jesus heals a lame man who has no-one to help him (John 5:1-8) * Dorcus, a lady who cared (Acts 9:36-42) * The Church: one body, many parts (1 Corinthians 12:12-27) |
| **Week 6-** Inquiry Question: What symbols represent a Christian community? |
| **Focus**: Identify **churches** in the local Community.  **Tuning In**: Brainstorm different churches in our community (Anglican, Catholic, Lutheran, Christ Church, Uniting, etc). Using the I.W.B, look at images of different churches, Google ‘*church pictures’*. Explain that the shape of churches are usually formed in a cross shape, with the wings representing a cross, and the high ceilings representing an upside down boat- Jesus told many stories where boats were involved. The stained glass windows are of stories in the Bible- Mary, Jesus, disciples etc. The process of baptisms can also vary in churches from a bath to a Baptismal font. Some call it a Christening, dedication or a baptism- depending on the age of a child and church. The word Pastor can also be called a Priest, Father, Vicars etc, depending on the church as well. Discuss the students’ personal churches.  *When the word of God is taught and when God’s special gifts of baptism and the Lord’s supper are celebrated, the Holy Spirit is present and active to build up the family of God. The family is called the Church.*  **Discussion:** How are these churches similar, different? What do all of these churches have in common? (God. There for the same reasons. Christians. Sing songs, worship, have a Bible, discuss Jesus’ life, teachings etc)  **Activity**: Complete the ‘Gods family gathers together’ paper craft by folding the church doors and adding what we would find in Gods house (people, candles, cross, Bible).   * **Assessment task**: ‘Slice of Pie’- Describing their thoughts using words, symbols and colours. Students then discuss their pictures. |
| **Week 7** |
| **Tuning In**: Display some symbols used in everyday life. See if students can identify them and write their meanings underneath it explaining where they are likely to find it. Within these symbols, include Christian ones, such as the Cross and Fish, etc  Explain to the class that something that represents something else is known as a symbol. A symbol can be used as a means of remembering something that has happened in the past. For example, each November, you will see people wearing red poppies. They do this because the poppy reminds people of the fields in France where many soldiers died in the First World War. The poppy is a symbol to help people remember all soldiers who have died in wars since the First World War.  *Ask the children why they think that it is important to have symbols like that.*  In the Christian faith there are lots of examples of symbols that help people think about God. The most famous symbol of Christianity is the cross. In Christian churches, eating bread and drinking wine is an important symbol to remind Christians about Jesus’ death on the cross. Different churches have different names for it. Communion, The Eucharist, The Lord’s Supper and The Breaking of Bread are all ways to describe this important symbol. Sometimes the wine is drunk from one big cup, in others there are small glasses. But however it happens; the important thing is that the symbols of the bread and the wine remind Christians that they believe Jesus died so that they could be forgiven. When they eat the bread and drink the wine, they are remembering Jesus.  **Activity**: On an A4 piece of paper have students draw or write all the different types of symbols that might be found in a Christian church or to represent the Christian faith. |
| **Week 8** |
| **Tuning In:** Explore the Christian teaching that through baptism people become members of God’s family.  Jesus is baptised (Mathew 3:13, Mathew 4:11, Mark 1:9-11, Luke 3:21-22)  **Activity**: Read through the story of Jesus’ baptism (Read Matthew 3:13-17). Discuss what it means to be baptised with the students. Do they know someone who has been baptized? Illustrate baptism by using a Barbie or action figure to show someone being immersed in water. Covering the action figure with mud will illustrate how dirty we are in our sin and how we come out of the water with our sins washed away. The muddy water resembles our sinful nature which is now dead. Illustrate going “down into the water” and “coming up out of the water”.  Baptism represents our commitment to God. Our beliefs, our faith and our want to be a part of his family. Just like a ring represents our commitment to marriage.  **Activity:** Students to make a paper Dove craft. They can then colour in the Bible verse passage and picture. |
| **Week 9-** Inquiry Question: How do Christians encourage and help one another grow in faith? |
| **Tuning in:** Explore bible stories of people in the early Christian church  How can Christians serve others in the world? Jesus rose from the dead was seen by different people and then ascended into heaven.  After Jesus ascension the disciples were told to spread the good news.  His disciples were to tell others about Jesus love and forgiveness and to pray for others. Jesus had gone but now the Holy Spirit was left on his behalf.   * read the Story about how Peter healed the crippled man.( or tell the story and get children to act it out)   From Acts Ch 3 1-21p 1270 in the children’s class Bible. There are 2 parts to this story.   * Peter & John stopped and responded to the crippled man outside the temple. * They offered practical and Spiritual help. They called on Jesus name to heal the man and then told him the good news as well. * Brainstorm amd record the ways Christians can serve and share the good news with others.   **Activity:** Make a big book that shows drawings of how the children think Christians can serve others and share the good news.   * **Assessment task**: ‘Take a look’- Students form small groups and pick up a card. They are then to discuss their thoughts and ideas based on what they have learnt during the term according to the card. |
| **Week 10-** reflection of inquiry questions throughout unit |
| **Individual Assessment task (Rubric)**: When you think of the word God’s Family, what does it make you think of?  Students are able to express their thoughts and ideas in the form of a brainstorm, on paper with pictures or images, sentences or as a discussion.  **(Small group Assessment Task**) In small groups get the students to rotate around each of the question centres discussing and answering the following questions- What is Baptism, what does it mean? How does a Christian community help one another grow in faith? What is the church made up of? What symbols represent God/ Christians? Who is part of God’s family? When do Christians believe God is present in their lives? |