

Christianity in the world

(Developed by early years teachers at a Christian Studies in the early years day)

Key idea 2: People express their spirituality in various contexts within and beyond Christianity

Outcome: Students begin to explore spirituality by describing experiences of awe and wonder.

Key questions:

How does it make you feel?

What things or people make you feel ...?

What makes you amazed? What makes you curious? What things make you go wow? Who or what's awesome and wonderful?

What's amazing about God?

Can you tell us something about being happy /.....?

What does this make you wonder/think about?

What does happy/sad/frightened/angry... look, feel and sound like?

Learning experiences could include:

- Establish a reflective atmosphere by asking students to sit with eyes closed. Play music quietly in the background if you wish. Lead students to imagine that they are in a beautiful park, with trees, flowers, a river, animals etc. Then ask students what they would need to do to take care of such a place. (from LIFE Band A, Universe concept. See People concept for more ideas)
- Create a celebratory, joyful experience. Children bring in photos of celebratory experiences. Discuss what does celebration looks like, feels like and sounds like.
- Provide sensory experiences to explore; small and great, rough and smooth, sour and sweet tastes, different smells, bright and dark, harmonious and discordant sounds.
- Display and make available for play objects and artefacts of beauty that create awe and wonder. Children bring objects of beauty from home.

- Still life drawing of fruit, flowers, branch...
- Create a book, make a video of happy things...
- Displays and books of photos of the environment and children's experience with it.
- Play different types of music while children paint, draw, create...
- Placing scarves, fabric, ribbons, for dancing to different types of music.
- Make a big book recording their experiences of joy, happiness, creativity...
- Make a book/wall of things we wonder about the world, life, people, God.
- Observe and discuss beauty from different countries and indigenous perspectives.
- Observing animals and pets and recording, drawing what they see and experience.
- Provide scoops of water from a creek and children observe and record what they see. Children view with magnifying glasses. (Micro-invertebrates)
- Discuss questions such as; What is there but we can't see? Children experience these things and record. How do we know people/ God loves us?
- Explore the awesomeness of our own body. Trace around each other, make fingerprint pictures...
- What can we do with our bodies? Obstacle courses, vigorous activities,
- Invite people to share experiences of awe and wonder. New parents bathing baby, teachers, parents talking about experiences of wonder, sharing photos, video.
- Play with bubbles, gloop, shaving cream, musical instruments
- Giving children camera to record objects of beauty, wonder...
- Parents sharing creative gifts.
- Children recording awesome wonderful experiences with family.
- Create sensory collages to make the senses sparkle
- Dance to different music, instruments.
- Can you express a storm, a rainbow with your body.
- *Meditation for kids* CD

Resources

Stimulate students' interest in the world around them by using books which illustrate aspects of the natural environment, eg picture books by Jeannie Baker.

Titles include:

Because nothing looks like God

The Feelings series

What is God's name?

You are so wonderful

Where does God live?

How did God make me?

Colourful creation

Bible stories

Creation

Jesus feeds five thousand

Moses and the burning bush

Jesus calming the storm

The Israelites journey out of Egypt

Naaman

Joshua and the walls came tumbling down

Psalms

Daniel in the lion's den

Questions:

What do these make us wonder about God/ Jesus?

What is the story telling us? What can we learn from the story?

What feelings do you have as we read, after we read the story?

Who would you like to be in the story?

How do you want to respond to the story?

Art

Artwork see Google images

<http://www.artcyclopedia.com/> Art encyclopaedia

Music

You tube clips such as

God of wonders by Third day <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1CBNE25rtnE>

Indescribable by Chris Tomlin <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7PTvr755V8s>

Images of the beauty of creation <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ib22Us5Yqcl>

John Rutter, For the beauty of the earth

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qpEbQGsPqHE&feature=related> and

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MHifRLNYUGw&feature=related>

John Rutter, Look at the world

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xLxM0s6XOJo&feature=related> (animals)

Hillsong for kids, This is the day <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hZCraZvCGC8>

Songs and music of many different kinds of beats and forms that will inspire actions, dance and stillness.

CD: Action Bible songs

CD: Preschool praise

JAM Chris Jaensch

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