

# Connect Session 1

Updated: Jun 17, 2020

**Learning Intention: To consider the different ways spirituality is perceived in Australia?  
What is important to me and my spirituality?**

*The main thing that is important to me is ensuring that I always try to do what is right. A fascinating thing that my grandmother once told me was that always check in your neighbours basket to make sure they have enough, rather to compare. I base my spirituality off of God and knowing that he loves me, so therefore I should love everyone else.*

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**Video 1** <https://www.sbs.com.au/news/seeking-spirituality-as-australia-becomes-less-religious>

**Seeking spirituality as Australia becomes less religious What is the understanding of spirituality in the resource?** *I think that my understanding of spirituality in this resource that Australians are actually branching out from organised religion but still seeking the spiritual component which religion encompasses. People are finding this through meditation and yoga and are not entirely dismissing the concept of religion, rather seeking different avenues to experience spirituality. **What does the author suggest are the key ideas about spirituality in Australia?** -The key ideas are that people are moving from organised religion to other outputs such as yoga and meditation -It is also about finding oneself and connecting to themselves through being flexible and adaptable -Another key idea that the article suggests is unlike set belief systems, spirituality is a subjective construct and may mean something different to each individual.*

**What conclusions can you draw about what is important to Australians?** *The main conclusion that I draw from this article/video is that seeking spirituality has become less religious and more about finding meaning within their own lives.*

## Article 2

**Faith and Belief in Australia | Mark McCrindle on the Today Show**



**What is the understanding of spirituality in the resource?** *Australia is still typically a Christian country with 52%. 14% are spiritual but not religious and 30% are not religion at all. People are falling into a category of evidence based rather than faith. **What does the author suggest are the key ideas about spiritualist in Australia?** The key ideas I think from this video are that this country is still a nation of people who are spiritual, however some people do not define themselves and religious. 4 out of 5 Australian believe that Jesus existed and over a third of those people state that Jesus has significance in their lives.*

**What conclusions can you draw about what is important to Australians?** *The main conclusion that I draw from this is that Australians are still religious, however it is declining. People are maintaining spirituality but the decline of religion is definitely occurring.*

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### Article 3 2 David Tacey part two SPIRITUALITY



**What is the understanding of spirituality in the resource?** *All indigenous cultures look at the world outside them to live inside their world. The seasons and natures moods dictates how spirituality moves. It is difficult to understand the indigenous culture because we are so deeply entrenched of rationality. What does the author suggest are the key ideas about spiritualist in Australia?* *The key ideas of this video is that their should be more of a focus of the land and recognition of indigenous culture* **What conclusions can you draw about what is important to Australians?** *That there are two big incentives of Spirituality. 1. Indigenous culture Longest spiritual culture and the sense of the sacredness of spirituality of culture in reverse.*

**2. Develop a closer and more spiritual relationship with the land.** *We can't continue to controlling land but rather growing with it which requires spiritual intelligence.*

**Web Quest** Conduct a web search to find an image that resonates with your understanding of spirituality. Share your image and explain how it reflects you understanding of spirituality. Add your image and explanation to your e portfolio.



*This is a very honest representation of how I am feeling at the moment with reading through this information. Whilst it all makes sense and I can see the purpose, I struggle to truly understand the differentiation between spirituality and a belief in a different power- whether it be a God or what not.*

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**Posing Question** What is of importance to the community? What is revealed about the spirituality of Calvary by the text and images? What questions arise as you consider the Calvary website and the information about spirituality in Australia? *The importance of community is that we share a common goal each, which in the case of Calvary is REACH. In a community we lean on each other to ensure that no child/family is left behind. Calvary is a very spiritual school. Whilst we are a Lutheran school, we accept all families for who they are and what they believe. We uphold the word of God to ensure that each child has an opportunity to learn through relationships, engagement, achievement, Christ Centred and by being holistic. This is very evident through the Calvary website as you are able to see the motto, including a strong focus on the REACH*

outlook and how it looks in the school. Some questions that I have about Calvary are how do we go about ensuring that this information reaches our community and uphold our values throughout our school. **Look at 3 or 4 from column 2 of Padlet and identify common words and phrases** In the four documents that I looked at, I didn't really find any common phrases per-say, however common words used would be spirituality, God and Jesus Christ. From what I can understand, these are the central elements in Lutheran Education, thus also the Lutheran Church.

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**Investigation- Learning Intention: To explore spirituality from a Lutheran perspective and consider in greater detail the centrality of grace (guiding questions 1 and 2)** -Gods grace as revealed in Jesus is central to a Lutheran understanding of spirituality. -In what ways might the concept of grace shape Lutheran education communities?

Each select one resource from the Padlet from under from under the headings

1. Perspectives on grace 2. Biblical perspectives on grace 3. Related resources

**You Are Special- Related Resources** *You are Special related to the grace of God that we were made perfect in his image. In Lutheran education we are very lucky because we are able to see passed the behaviours, while not excusing them, but be able to express and educate with the understanding and preface that God created each child intentionally and we need to embrace that.*

**CS Lewis- Perspectives on Grace** *CS Lewis perfective on Grace was that it was the uniqueness of Christianity, that no matter what we do, God loves us no matter what. We are able to live by this in our Lutheran communities by living out God's love for all people in our relationships with our students, colleagues and families in the community.*

**Revisit your notes and ideas about the nature of spirituality in Australia and compare with your notes about the nature of spirituality from a Lutheran Perspective** *The common thread that I can find throughout spirituality from the Australian statistics and the Lutheran Perspective is that they both foster the notion of believing in something bigger than yourself. The stark differences that are evident is that the Lutheran perspective is heavily based around grace and the enduring love of Christ, whereas the non religious perspective is that there is no one belief.*

**Record in your portfolio one challenge and one opportunity that Lutheran education may encounter as it seeks to live out its spirituality.** *A challenge that Lutheran education may encounter is that families and especially younger families are becoming less religion based so therefore a prominence on a Christian education may not be a priority especially due to cost. An opportunity is that although people are becoming less religious, people are becoming more spiritual. In saying that the Lutheran Church can take this spirituality and put a focus on encouraging spirituality but through the lenses of grace and forgiveness.*

**Critically reflect on the following statement from the LCA and its schools and Growing deep... "The good news of Jesus Christ informs all learning and teaching." What does this statement mean to the Calvary community?** *At Calvary one of its primary goals through the learner map is being Christ centred. This informs each learning area as well as the attitudes that we show our community.*

**How does it inform my practice?** *This statement informs my practice predominantly by the way I present myself. By trying to show continuous kindness and grace to each child, I feel I can teach better as I try to understand each child as God has made them perfect in his image.*

**What other questions do I have?** *I would like to know more about where it mentions spirituality in the bible.*

**In what ways might the concept of grace shape Calvary?**

Grace is very prominent at Calvary. Because of the group of students we have and the environmental factors many of our students are witness to, we have some challenging behaviour and incidents that occur. As a Lutheran teacher I recognise that God loves us and is graceful to us and therefore when interacting with students at Calvary, grace needs to be at the forefront of our attention. Grace shapes our school and often the students and families are graceful towards us as a staff. It comes around full circle much of the time.

**In what ways might the concepts of grace inform the understanding of my role and my contribution?**

As a teacher, I am acutely aware of the impact we are having on our students. Many, if not all of our students look to us for guidance and support even when they are with drawn. My role as a teacher is to deliver a high quality education to each student in my class but I can not do this to the best of my ability without developing a relationship. I find this very similar to my relationship with Christ as his grace is always there and I always need it, even when I am at a different point in faith.