

Christian Studies Term 1



Christianity in the World: Where is God?

Central Idea: People express their spirituality in various contexts within and beyond Christianity (**Key Idea 2**).

Scope Statement:

Young people express their spirituality in terms of how they see themselves, their relationships with others and the world around them, and their perceptions of a Supreme Being. Lutherans believe students will draw their understanding of God from their families, their culture, the faith community to which they belong, as well as their sense of self.

An Inquiry Into:

- ☉ Where is God?
- ☉ What is God like?
- ☉ What does the Bible tell us about God?
- ☉ How do people communicate with God?

Outcomes: 2.2: Students investigate spirituality by describing how Christians experience the presence of God in the world.

Students will be able to:

- ☉ Share thoughts about what they feel and know about God
- ☉ Compare and contrast how people communicate with God
- ☉ Discuss the sense of mystery about God
- ☉ Represent their ideas about what God or Heaven might look like

Resources:

- ☉ Jonah Ch1-3 - Jonah and the Whale
- ☉ Luke 15 - The Lost Sheep and other parables
- ☉ Luke 14: 15-24 - The Great Feast
- ☉ Acts 2 - The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost
- ☉ Genesis 6-9 - Noah's Ark
- ☉ "Nothing in all creation can separate us from God's love for us in Christ Jesus our Lord."
Romans 8:39
- ☉ Jesusandkidz.com - various Bible stories
- ☉ <http://www.holyspiritinteractive.net/kids/biblestories/64.asp> - God's Amazing Plan
- ☉ <http://www.holyspiritinteractive.net/kids/> - Online Storybook

Tuning In: week 1,2

- ☉ Discuss: Who is God? Where is He? Is He alive? Can we communicate with Him? What do you think God looks like? Create a title page: God. Draw what you think God looks like, and anything else you know about God.
- ☉ Share the student's title pages. Share and talk about some artworks/images of God from different sources.
- ☉ Read one of the above stories, and discuss what this tells us about God. What happened in the story? What part did God play? Discuss the 'mystery' of God.

Week 3: Finding /Sorting Out:

- ☉ Continue reading the Bible stories each week. Compare and contrast with previous stories read and talk about what God is like in each story, how he appears/what he does/Holy Spirit etc.
- ☉ Discuss. Has there ever been a time when you have felt close to God? Illustrate/record.
- ☉ Share some of the children's work and compare situations. How was that student feeling/what were they doing at the time?
- ☉ Discuss some other times that students/others might feel close to God (e.g. through singing, praying, serving others, hearing Bible stories).
- ☉ Invite Glenda to talk to us about times she feels close to God/things she does that help her feel close to God.

Week 4: Finding /Sorting Out

- ☉ Quiet reflection in nature. Discuss with the class how nature makes them feel. Walk out into the yard with CS books and pencils, sit quietly, draw what you see (if you like), and think about nature, and what you see/hear/smell/feel. Come back and discuss as a class. Record students' comments and add to their work later on. *OR* students record a short sentence about what they thought about while they were reflecting.
- ☉ View youtube video 'Our God Is An Awesome God'. What does this video make you think about?
- ☉ Invite another member of the community to talk to us about times she feels close to God/things she does that help her feel close to God.

Week 5: Finding /Sorting Out

- ☉ Prayer: Why do people often pray quietly and calmly? Does God answer back? How? Think of a quiet place and time that would be good for prayer. Record in books.
- ☉ Prayer and meditation. Lead the children in a quiet time of meditation. Start with a short prayer asking for God to be with us, and perhaps read a passage of Scripture. Discuss afterward the feelings we felt/what we thought about.

Week 6: Going Further

- ☉ Communicating God's love through human gifts: e.g. song, dance, artwork, poetry, stories.
 - Discuss what we have learned so far about God through the stories we have read/ hearing visitor speaking. In small groups, write a song, make up a dance, create an artwork that either communicates to God, or shows others about God's love for us.
 - How can we use our God-given gifts to help others? Brainstorm some ideas and undertake a form of service for a person/group in the school community.
 - Discuss and record/illustrate in books what we did and what we thought about it.

Week 7: Going Further/Making Conclusions

- ☉ What are some ways we have learned, that people can communicate with God?
- ☉ What are some different things that people do to feel close to God? Mind map to illustrate
- ☉ Are there any things that you do/times that you feel close to God?
- ☉ Look at your title page for the unit. Has your thinking about God changed? Draw a new picture showing what God is/where he is/what you know/what God is like to you