

CB	CC	UNIT TITLE/TOPIC Christian spirituality in practice	BAND YEAR GROUP- 5	DURATION OF UNIT TIME ALLOCATION 1 and half hours per week
CL	CW 3.2			
KEY IDEA(S) People express their spirituality in various contexts within and beyond Christianity.			OUTCOME(S) Students explore and reflect on expressions of Christian spirituality as described in the New Testament and experienced in the school community.	
<b>UNIT OVERVIEW</b> Christian spirituality is firmly grounded in the belief that God has revealed himself to people in the person Jesus. Christian spirituality is expressed in the practical outworking of a life of faith. It is nurtured by God through his Word, sacraments and Spirit. The Holy Spirit gives people power to believe, live as God’s people and helps God’s people grow.  <b><u>Related Theology</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Christian spirituality is –<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ A response to God’s actions (leads to the way Christians live.)</li><li>○ Based on the word of Jesus (We have freedom to live in response to God.)</li><li>○ Centred on God’s word, (Remaining in contact with God’s word is essential.)</li></ul></li><li>• There is a link between word, meditation and prayer</li><li>• Worship allows for hearing God’s word, having sacraments, community</li><li>• There is an importance for stillness and silence before God but not to retreat from the world.</li><li>• Christians can express their spirituality through service to others by using their gifts.</li></ul>			<b>CONTRIBUTION TO LIFELONG QUALITIES FOR LEARNERS</b> <i>Love, Justice, Compassion, Forgiveness, Service, Humility, Courage, Hope, Quality and Appreciation.</i>	
			<b>LINKS TO LIFE</b> Band B- Level 2,3 God helps people by the work of the Holy Spirit Band B Level 2,3, God calls people to serve	
<b>STUDENTS/LEARNERS PROFILE</b> (prior learning/interests/needs of students) Different backgrounds of student’s families Other churches formats of baptism, or naming ceremonies.			<b>ESSENTIAL/GUIDING QUESTION/STATEMENT</b> (that makes explicit the central, core idea developed in unit)  What is spirituality? How do Christians practise their spirituality?	
<b>STUDENT QUESTIONS</b> How did God reveal himself to Christians? How do Christians express their spirituality? How do Christians grow and nurture their faith? Who is the Holy Spirit? How is the Holy Spirit linked to God? In what ways does the Holy Spirit transform?			<b>RESOURCES TO SUPPORT UNIT</b> LIFE Band B Follow Me- old church text Luther’s small catechism Internet Experts Library	
			<b>RESOURCES TO SUPPORT TEACHER</b> LIFE Band B Follow Me Luther’s small catechism Internet Experts Library	
<b>ASSESSMENT</b> Create a lotus diagram showing how Christians express their spirituality. Rubric used to assess.			<b>RESOURCES TO SUPPORT TEACHER</b> LIFE Band B Follow Me Luther’s small catechism Internet Experts Library	

This unit flowed on nicely from our term 1 unit on worship. We found that it built on the knowledge they had acquired in that unit and helped them realise that there is more to a relationship with God than worship.

This worked quite well. It was the first time we have used a lotus diagram as an assessment tool and we found it quite effective. We got the students to complete it at beginning and then add to it at the end

IDENTIFY SPECIFIC KNOWLEDGE STUDENTS NEED TO ACHIEVE THE OUTCOME ("students know...")

The ways the early Christians expressed their spirituality  
Christians use a number of ways to help them know God and grow closer to God  
Christians spiritually as expressed and experiences in school  
People ask questions and wonder about puzzling aspects of life and experiences such as faith, holy Spirit, unexplained personal experiences, miracles, angels, heaven and hell.  
Some aspects of life raise questions that are difficult to answer.

Many students only experience Christianity through our college so for many of them, they have very little experience with how to have a relationship with God.

LINKS TO LIFELONG QUALITIES FOR LEARNERS

Explore different types of meditation  
  
Investigate how the Holy Spirit shapes people

SEQUENCE OF LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Week 1- Tuning In  
Discuss and draw pictures of what they think heaven looks like and the views portrayed in books and movies. What are some questions you have about life?  
Brainstorm – What is spirituality? How do Christians practise their spirituality?  
Week 2- Early church spirituality  
Read Pentecost story Acts 2:1-18 Write a diary entry as if they were one of Jesus’ disciples, recalling the events which took place at Pentecost and their feelings about the changes which occurred since the coming of the HS. How did the early Christians live?

Looking at how the early church lived as described in Acts was an effective way of comparing how this has or hasn’t changed over time.

The students really enjoyed this session as many had seen the movie before. We briefed them beforehand, encouraging them to pay particular attention to the different ways people related to God in the movie

Week 3- Spirituality today  
How do people express their spirituality today?  
Watch Bruce Almighty and discuss the ways different people practise their worship, their relationship with God and the way they treat others. Compare to real life. (Refer to assessment section.)  
Week 4- Prayer  
Look at how Christians nurture their faith through prayer. Using LIFE unit ‘Someone to talk to’ discuss who you like to talk to and why? Why do Christians talk to God? What do they talk about? Look at how God answers prayer TRS 2/2. Why would certain passages answer certain prayers, eg when scared. Complete prayer survey TRS B3/1.  
Week 5- Meditation  
Who do Christians meditate? (on God’s word)  
Lead the students in a meditation and reflection time. Encourage students to think about meaning behind meditation and the role it could play in their lives. SOAP

Meditation was something new to many students. I led them through a guided meditation with instrumental music. It was interesting to see how they coped with this. I would like to use it more in the future.

IDENTIFY WHAT STUDENTS WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE ("students can...")  
Ask, collate and sort questions relating to the topics covered and examine and response to various answers and perspectives.  
Share personal understandings and feelings related to the topics explored, using various media  
recount how people they have interviewed relate to God, experience times of stillness and refection- Holy Spirit poster/booklet  
Gather information from various sources about faith.  
Compare biblical references of heaven and how it is portrayed in society.  
Explore the purpose and role of the seen and unseen.  
Research how Christians nurture their faith- Baptism and Holy Communion.  
Develop a set of symbols and practises that the whole class can use in a reflective way.  
Compose songs, poems to celebrate the love and goodness of God based on biblical evidence.  
Create picture story book on how monks and nuns live in relationship with God.  
Interview and recount how people relate to God  
Investigate Christian meditation  
Experience times of stillness and reflection.

	<div data-bbox="653 123 1178 354" data-label="Text"> <p>Pastor Tim came in to talk to the students about the role community can play in building our relationship with God. The students had many ideas to share regarding how they saw community.</p> </div> <div data-bbox="478 250 653 391" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="281 402 1535 859" data-label="Text"> <p>Week 6- Using gifts  Explore Bible passages referring to spiritual gifts and discuss how using our gifts are a way we express our spirituality. Assess our own gifts and ways we use them in serve to God.</p> <p>Week 7- Worship / Community  How does gathering together as Christians assist them in their relationship with God?  Investigate the purpose and roles Christian community plays for Christians.</p> <p>Week 8- Communion  Discuss Holy communion and what it means for Christians and the church. Look at the Lord's supper passages in the bible and draw images of this event. (LIFE)</p> <p>Week 9- Baptism  Discuss what they know. Compare to what children have already experienced and the differences to a naming ceremony. Compare and contrast. Do a mock baptism outlining what happens and record findings. (LIFE)</p> <p>Week 10- Unit Reflection  How has your understanding of spirituality changed?</p> </div>	
<b>EVALUATION OF UNIT</b> This unit covered a lot of areas and I sensed they did not reach the level of understanding we were hoping. Each student has their own faith journey however so hopefully some of the content addressed will assist the students in knowing how to have a relationship with God.		

