

Outcome 1 artefacts from session 1

Session 1 evidence of learning in Connect

The Story of Jonah

What are the characteristics of God portrayed in this story?

Tender Mercies - Chapter 4 God sends the plant to comfort and assist Jonah, without him asking for it. God gives us gifts, tender mercies, sometimes without us asking for them, often without us deserving them.

God is **true to his word**. Jonah knew the character of God before he went to Ninevah and claimed this was the reason he initially refused to go – he knew that God wouldn't follow up on the destruction if the people repented.

God is **no respecter of persons** - Just because you claim to be a follower of God/Hebrew/Christian (as was Jonah in this tale) doesn't mean you are the righteous one. This story is a parallel to the parable of the Good Samaritan – the foreigner (king, captain, sailors, Ninevites) are the ones who do the right thing, exhibit faith, repent of their bad ways, and the Hebrew (Jonah) is the negative Nancy, trying to avoid doing God's work, just as the foreigner (the Good Samaritan) is the good guy, compassionate, self-sacrificing and the Jews (Levite, rabbi) are the ones who are selfish.

We have a **God of second chances** – for Jonah, for Ninevah, for me.

God's grace in *90 seconds Why I am a Lutheran* by Nadia Bolz Weber

- God's grace is a gift that is freely given, we don't earn it, we just live in response to it.
- Its not about self-improvement, God's grace makes us new > Death and resurrection analogy.
- We are both sinner and saint.

Luther says - Even believing in God is a gift from god, not through his own reason or strength

"Grace means there is nothing we can do to make God love us more . . . and there is nothing we can do to make God love us less." --Philip Yancey What is so amazing about grace

Grace is the difference between Christianity and other religions. All we have to do to be saved is to accept Christ as our lord and saviour. His grace saves us. There is nothing we need to do and no bar we need to jump over to be saved. God's grace saves us.

Outcome 2: Analyse and describe the ways Lutheran theological perspectives can shape practices at ...

I have had reinforced the focus on grace that leads to restorative practices in our relationships here at Although students need to be guided in their behaviour and sometimes "told off" or receive consequences, I try to focus on the ongoing relationship I have with them. The idea of grace enables me to give the student (and me) a clean slate. I try not to group students into a negative category eg lazy/naughty/talkative, but always look for the best in their efforts and behaviour. This is certainly something that I must continue to work on.

The Lutheran ideas of grace and God infused relationships is highlighted by the pastoral care focus at With all my students, but particularly my form class, I have opportunity to build a caring relationship, and be concerned about the welfare of the whole child – not just their academic performance. I like that I am linked to my form class for three years so we can develop relationships and an identity as 11A. Attending chapel is an important part of the Pastoral Care program as well, where we can share worship and learning.

Love of God and Love of others naturally leads to the idea of Service learning. Each senior form class had the opportunity last year to create and participate in a service learning project. My form class chose to do project on looking after the creation and helping the other students in their year level to learn ways to be more environmentally friendly. I would like to look for more opportunities to be involved in service learning – formally and informally.