

## Outcome 1 examples of how you can reference readings within a session.

### Example 1

Session 1 - God's grace as revealed in Jesus is central to a Lutheran understanding of spirituality.

What are important aspects of spirituality from a Lutheran perspective?

Reflections of learning and practice: Important aspects of spirituality from a Lutheran perspective?

- A current buzz words in society is spirituality. Instagram shows popular users going on 'spiritual' retreats with #spirituality showing 12.9million posts ranging from focussing on your goals, keeping relationships and daily affirmations.
- The readings from Session One told how people are comfortable with the terminology 'spirituality' but society is turning away from religious and church terminology.
- I thought that someone was spiritual if they believed there was something 'bigger' in the world other than themselves. I was quite off the mark. **At its core, spirituality is all about relationships (Grieger, 2018).** From a Lutheran perspective spirituality includes worship, prayer, study of the Bible, living out one's faith in vocation, academics, practicing in debates and in areas of philosophy (Bartsch, p.46). **Christian spirituality starts with the first step of having faith in Jesus Christ and as we respond to the action of God in our lives we continue to receive gifts (Bartsch, p178).**

### Example 2

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## Connect ePortfolio exemplar

Personal Documentation of Connect Reflections

### Induction

Beliefs and Purpose Sharing

What do Lutheran Schools Believe?

### Connect 1

#### Grace in the Bible

What are important aspects of spirituality from a Lutheran perspective?

- It is important to identify how God's grace is apparent throughout scripture.

trust and faith of the children  
show grace to all people  
having grace  
Little Children Mark 10:13-16  
loving all people  
grace is unconditional

### Connect 2

#### Creation Theology Informs Lutheran Education

How does creation theology inform the why and how of Lutheran education?

Key quotes

*The Bible does not answer all questions about the creation of the universe. That is not its purpose. It is the legitimate domain of science to investigate questions of origin. The Bible is more concerned to lead people to know the creator and the relationship between the creator and his creation than it is to teach them to know everything about the creation. (Bartsch 2013)*

It was great to read this quote and then discuss as a group how Christians can believe different things about the origins of the universe. I have always struggled with thinking that I had to believe the Genesis story is literal. This is freeing and I hope to explore this further.

Grace means that God loves all people no matter who they are or what they have done. "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). I think this is really an important concept for students. I remind my students regularly that they are unique creations of God and loved by God. They are created just the way they are meant to be with a special mix of gifts and abilities.

## Outcome 1 and 2 examples of how you can reference readings in final commentary

### Example 3

Through my learning in Connect and professional development at ..... Lutheran Primary I have begun exploring a very different understanding of the word, grace. The central recurrent theme of Lutheranism is: 'Lutherans are justified by grace through **faith**' (Christenson, p45). **Christianity.com states**, 'Grace is the love of God shown to the unlovely; the peace of God given to the restless; the unmerited favor of God.' (Christianity.com). **The Skit guys refer** to grace as 'God's crazy love' which really resonates with me as it doesn't make sense and it is where God loves us so much even though we don't deserve it.

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### Example 4

As a teacher it is my role to assist my students in their own self-exploration of Christianity and developing a deeper sense of Spirituality. My school has always provided an inclusive environment for all students and staff to explore what this concept means to them. As stated **by Neville Grieger in** Introduction of Spirituality of Lutheran Education "We can use the positive threads to make connections, we can draw people into a deeper spirituality, at the centre of which is our God ... a God who is not absent, remote, or judgemental, but is dynamically present in us, with us and around us, as a God of abounding love". My personal relationship between Christianity and Spirituality is ever-changing and constantly growing, I will continue to develop new thoughts and questions, but at heart of my belief is that God is always at the centre of my life. He will continue to be present in my life no matter where my Spiritual journey leads me. As a teacher if I can continue to allow my students to grow and broaden their understanding and assist them to continue to see that God is always at the centre of all the things we do in life. He is gracing us with the ability to learn and adapt.

After a conversation I had with one of my peers, I was reminded of the Connect session we undertook on Grace. One meaning of Grace can be beautifully summarised by **Justin Holcomb in his article of** **What is Grace?** "Grace is unconditional love toward a person... Grace is most needed and best understood in the midst of sin, suffering, and brokenness. We live in a world of earning, deserving, and merit, and these result in judgment... Grace is the love of God shown to the unlovely; the peace of God given to the restless".