

Big Questions

Revised 2018

Lesson aims and outcomes

Semester 1, 2018

For students in their last year of primary school.



Aim of Big Questions

“The overriding aim of this curriculum is to present the heart of God’s message of salvation in a clear and attractive manner. It could be helpful to think beyond the immediate lesson to ways interested students can be encouraged to explore church-run children’s and youth activities, so they can experience Christian community and learn more about the Christian faith.”

Lesson 1 Who am I?

Lesson aims For the students to understand that the Bible teaches that God is generous and he promises that those who search for him will find him.

To introduce students to their teacher and to the **Big Questions** curriculum.

Lesson outcomes

Students will:

- understand that God welcomes their questions and promises to be found by those who search for him
- identify the way in which the lessons for the year will be conducted
- share facts about themselves without describing what they look like
- complete a questionnaire about their interests and their attitudes

Lesson 2 Who really knows me?

Lesson aim To help each student appreciate what the Bible says about how intimately God knows every person and that he is ultimately in charge.

Lesson outcomes **Students will:**

- think and write about who knows them well
- rework part of **Psalm 139** as part of a small group
- discuss what the Psalm teaches us about God
- have opportunity to respond to the Psalm by expressing how this knowledge about God makes them feel.

Lesson 3 Where does our world come from?

Lesson aim To show that the Bible teaches that the world was created by God and is maintained by him.

Lesson outcomes **Students will:**

- discuss questions about the creation of the world and whether God is still in control
- read parts of **Genesis 1**
- identify what **Genesis 1** says about the creation of the world
- discuss the different roles of science and the Bible
- consider what it means to accept God's invitation to seek him.

Lesson 4 Why are we here?

Lesson aim To help the students to understand that the Bible teaches that God made people in his image, he loves us and wants us to live his way.

Lesson outcomes **Students will:**

- discuss what makes people a unique part of God's creation
- identify and discuss different responses to God's authority
- consider the significance of God being loving and good
- consider what it looks like to express a personal response to God's authority and love.

Lesson 5 What's wrong with the world?

Lesson aim To help the students understand that because of an initial lack of faith and disobedience, the world has become a difficult place in which to live.

Lesson outcomes **Students will:**

- discuss the question – what has gone wrong with the world?
- read Genesis **3:6-13** and discuss it
- describe how the world has been spoiled by humans
- understand that God has not given up on his creation

Lesson 6 What's gone wrong with people?

Lesson aim To show the students that beginning with the disobedience of Adam and Eve, people continue to disobey God and feel the effects of sin.

Lesson outcomes **Students will:**

- describe a situation where 'one thing leads to another'
- use a drama script to explore **Genesis 37**
- describe how people today experience the effects of sin
- discuss how we know whether God cares about suffering and sin.

Lesson 7 What is God really like?

Lesson aim To encourage the students to develop a clearer understanding of who the Bible says God is and how people can draw near to him.

Lesson outcomes **Students will:**

- share their opinions about what God is like
- discuss how people can know what God is like
- discover some ways the Bible describes God
- explain how people can come near to God and relate to him
- have the opportunity to write a prayer.

Lesson 8 Does God really care?

Lesson aim To help students to appreciate from the Bible that God cares about the suffering of his people and promises to care for them like a shepherd.

Lesson outcomes **Students will:**

- discuss the kinds of questions they ask about God when life gets hard
- read **Psalm 23** and explore what it teaches about God
- express in words, or drawing, their personal reaction to the psalm
- have an opportunity to share their thoughts and questions.

Lesson 9 Does God speak to me?

Lesson aim To help students understand that the Bible is historically reliable and relevant to people today, and why Christians believe that the Bible is God's word.

Lesson outcomes **Students will:**

- discuss why some people consider the Bible to be special
- understand the evidence for the reliability of the New Testament
- discuss the ways in which the Bible is important for people today.

Lesson 10 How do I read the Bible?

Lesson aim To encourage the students to read the Bible for themselves.

Lesson outcomes **Students will:**

- begin to handle the Bible with confidence
- know how to look up Bible references
- discuss why reading the Bible is important
- read a Bible passage for themselves and reflect on the application.

Lesson 11 How does God forgive us?

Lesson aim To help students to understand that God offers forgiveness to those who put their faith in Jesus.

Lesson outcomes **Students will:**

- learn about how God forgives us through Jesus
- learn about what it looks like for someone to forgive
- learn to recognise why God's people are called to forgive others

Lesson 12 Who is Jesus?

Lesson aim To encourage the students to understand that the unique circumstances of Jesus' birth described in the Bible show that he is God's Son.

Lesson outcomes **Students will:**

- identify some of the signs that accompanied Jesus' birth
- read various Bible accounts of Jesus' birth
- express what they think about the idea that Jesus is unique.

Lesson 13 Is Jesus so special?

Lesson aim To encourage the students to understand from the Bible that Jesus demonstrated by his actions and attitudes his uniqueness as God's Son.

Lesson outcomes **Students will:**

- discuss commonly held views about Jesus
- research as part of a small group a Bible account of Jesus' miracles
- describe some character qualities that Jesus demonstrated
- explain what the Bible accounts show about Jesus.

Lesson 14 What can he do?

Lesson aim To encourage the students to consider different responses to Jesus, God's Son.

- Lesson outcomes **Students will:**
- identify one response to one of Jesus' miracles or one truth shown by one of Jesus' miracles
 - participate in presenting either a news report or a class newspaper concerning Jesus' miracles
 - consider present-day responses to Jesus

Lesson 15 Why did Jesus die?

Lesson aim To help students gain an understanding of why Jesus died on the cross and how this made the way open for people to become friends with God.

- Lesson outcomes **Students will:**
- suggest why some were opposed to Jesus
 - read excerpts from **Luke 22-23** and answer questions about the events of Jesus' arrest, trial and death
 - discuss why Jesus died
 - state what Jesus' death means for Christians

Lesson 16 Did Jesus really rise from the dead?

Lesson aim To encourage the students to consider the evidence for, and the significance of, Jesus' resurrection.

- Lesson outcomes **Students will:**
- discuss their opinions about how we know whether something is fact or fiction
 - explore the evidence that supports Jesus rising from the dead
 - suggest what Jesus' resurrection reveals about his identity
 - identify why Jesus' resurrection is significant for all people.

Lesson 17 What difference does Jesus make?

Lesson aim To encourage students to begin to understand how following Jesus changes someone's life.

Lesson outcomes **Students will:**

- explore Bible accounts of some people Jesus met
- describe how meeting Jesus changed the lives of some people in Luke's Gospel
- participate in a dramatic presentation of an encounter with Jesus
- summarise the responses of Peter, Zacchaeus, the rich young man and Mary and Martha
- consider what it looks like for someone to follow Jesus.

Lesson 18 Responses to Jesus

Lesson aim To encourage students to reflect on what different responses to Jesus and the invitation to live as God's friends look like.

Lesson outcomes **Students will:**

- read the Parable of the Sower from Luke
- participate in a drama about different responses to Jesus
- discuss the meaning of Jesus' parable
- identify what Christians believe.

Lesson 19 Will Jesus return?

Lesson aim To help the students understand that the Bible tells us that Jesus will return and what it will be like.

Lesson outcomes **Students will:**

- be able to state the events surrounding Jesus' ascension
- discover as part of a group, something about Jesus' return
- understand why Christians look forward to, and are excited by, the promise of Jesus' return.