

# God is the God of Nations

Term 3, 2016

Curriculum Focus: Social Studies –  
Place and Culture  
(revised version)



*Learn, serve and grow in God*



## **Key Idea: God is the God of Nations**

Every nation, every tribe, every people, every language. Everyone, Everywhere!

### **Values:**

1. Humility before God (Knowing how great God is and who I am in Him)

### **Key scriptures:**

*Revelations 7:9 After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the lamb...*

### **Key Learning Intentions for this unit:**

1. Students will learn that God created peoples of all nations, tribes, peoples and languages and that His love toward them is equal and constant.
2. Students will learn that the richness of God's nature and character is expressed through the people He has created.
3. Students will learn about the Great Commission and that God wants the message of His Kingdom to be heard by all people, everywhere.

### Links to curriculum theme: Social Studies

- Understand how cultural practises reflect and express people's customs traditions and values
- Understand how places influence people and people influence places.

### Studies could include:

- Our national identity and the Treaty of Waitangi
- Olympics and sports studies
- Cultures
- World Geography
- Atlas studies
- Other countries
- The production – The Amazing Race
- Learning Languages
- Our National Anthem
- Racism and inequality

### Biblical Foundation:

God's nature and character is expressed in the wealth of cultures we see worldwide. The Bible explains that historically everyone on earth once spoke the same language and was most likely of one (or similar) culture however this was used to rebel against God. God divided all peoples of the earth into Tribes and Tongues and Nations at the Tower of Babel (see Genesis 11)

*1 Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. 2 As people moved eastward,[a] they found a plain in Shinar[b] and settled there. 3 They*

said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. 4 Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth." 5 But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower the people were building. 6 The Lord said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. 7 Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other." 8 So the Lord scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. 9 That is why it was called Babel[c]—because there the Lord confused the language of the whole world. From there the Lord scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

Conversely, Heaven will be a place where the riches of God, expressed in all of the Tribes and Tongues and Nations will be reunited as it should be (see Revelation 5:9-10 and 7:9).

*Revelation 5:9-10 And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."*

*Revelations 7:9 After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the lamb...*

All cultures in the world have a redemptive aspect that points towards our heavenly father (*He has written eternity in the hearts of men – Ecclesiastes 3:11*).

The Bible also indicates that the gospel must be preached to all tribes and tongues and nations before the end will come. This is our mandate as God's children.

*Matthew 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.*

The essence of this term is Mission. It is hoped that students in the school will be given opportunity to see that:

1. God commands mission
2. Human condition necessitates mission
3. Mission enables us to join with what God is doing worldwide

The term will also be a celebration of God's nature and character as expressed in the awesome diversity of culture we see worldwide. A key part of this will be the production in week 9.

Scriptures that could be used in devotions or as memory verses:

*Matthew 28:19-20*

*19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

*Acts 1:8*

*8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

*Acts 13:47*

*47 For this is what the Lord has commanded us: “ ‘I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.’ ”*

*Mark 16:15*

*15 He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.*

*Romans 10:13-14*

*13 for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” 14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?*

*Matthew 24:14*

*14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.*

*1 Chronicles 16:24*

*24 Declare his glory among the nations, his marvellous deeds among all peoples.*

*Revelation 14:6*

*6 Then I saw another angel flying in mid-air, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people.*

*Mark 13:10*

*10 And the gospel must first be preached to all nations.*

*1 Chronicles 16:23*

*23 Sing to the LORD, all the earth; proclaim his salvation day after day.*

*Acts 13:2-3*

*2 While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." 3 So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.*

*Psalms 96:3*

*3 Declare his glory among the nations, his marvellous deeds among all peoples.*

*Other verses from brainstorm*

*John 3:16*

*Micah 6:8*

*Philippians 2:6*

*Matthew 20:16*

*Proverbs 15:33*

*1 Peter 5:6*

*Romans 1:16*

*Acts 10:28*

*Proverbs 22:2*

*Galatians 3:28*

*Acts 10:34-35*

*Romans 10:12*

*James 4:10*

*Abraham – God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob*

*Balaam -*

*Character studies:*

In this unit it would be good to focus on Biblical characters that show examples of both mission focus and humility

- Abraham – father of many nations, Sarah etc
- The story of the tower of Babel.
- The early church in the book of Acts where persecution caused the spread of the Gospel to other nations. We have several students here at Cornerstone who can trace their Christian Heritage to Jesus' disciple Thomas who ended up in India in Kerala province and established several churches there.
- The Apostle Paul and his journeys
- Jesus sends out his disciples
- Jonah – didn't want to go to Nineveh. He had to humble himself.
- Joshua – wall of Jericho (people had to humble themselves)
- Good Samaritan –
- Eric Liddell – chariots of fire / Missionary in China
- Amy Charmichael
- Jackie Pullinger – Chasing the Dragon
- Ten boys who changed the world (Library)

- Hudson Taylor
- Through the Gates of Splendor
- Book – Eternity in their hearts

#### Other ideas

- Adding in Olympics
- Focussing on the country we are looking at in the production
- Learning languages
- Israel – Focus on Hebrew culture (see Katrina)
- Social Studies is the study of people – are we learning for learning sake, or are we learning to use?
- Missions focus – fundraising. Operation Christmas Child (Rebecca Jorg)
- Service -

#### Teachers and parents with Missions experiences

Jane – Papua New Guinea

Tarryn – Philippines / Africa

Francelle – Papua New Guinea

Gareth – Samoa

Gemma - Zambia

Chris – India / China

Jane S – India / China

Levy's – Vanuatu

Oldfields – Papua New Guinea

Piez – Columbia

Bethany Ala'ifaiva – Thailand

Mollard – India

Andrea Wales – Africa

Linda Jackson – Mercy Ships

## Key competencies

### **Thinking**

The consideration that other people exist in other countries with cultures and lifestyles often completely different to their own is a difficult concept for a lot of children to grasp. Children progressively grow from ego-centricity towards 'other-centred' understanding and it is critical as teachers that we aid this process. The subject focus of this term is an ideal opportunity for students to 'walk in other people's shoes' and realise that here in New Zealand we are among the top 5% of the world's most privileged peoples.

Thinking is about using creative, critical, and metacognitive processes to make sense of information, experiences, and ideas.

### **Language, symbols and texts**

Our loyalty to God is shown in our responsible use and understanding of all forms of communication.

Communication keeps us safe, helps us grow, and enables us to achieve excellence personally and with those we work with.

### **Relating to others**

It is easy for children to pick up racist attitudes and values from a range of sources – the media, their peers and even their family. This term we want students to see that God treats all people equally, irrespective of the colour of their skin or cultural heritage.

### **Respect:**

Look at the PB4L matrix!!

We honour those in authority who God has appointed to lead us. We use protocols that honour others as we would be treated ourselves.

Manners – Golden words = "Please", "Thank you", "Excuse me", "Sorry", "After you", "You're welcome".

Waiting for adults to finish their conversations before interrupting.

Letting adults walk through a doorway first before yourself.

Making requests in a polite way – "May I...", "Could you please pass the ..."

Respecting other's opinions and questions.

### **Participating and contributing**

My opinions and questions are valuable. They always help the whole group to grow. Always giving my best effort. Knowing when I should be patient and when I should contribute.

## Other Ideas from the Staffing Meeting Brainstorm