

## Year 1 Material

### Learning Strand - GOD - TE ATUA - IO MATUA KORE

#### Focus: God Is Creator:

*God is the creator in all that is "seen and unseen". Each person is God's unique creation made in love for love. We are part of what God made and "saw was good". We are called to respect our own dignity of others and the value of all parts of creation. We are sacred and Holy because we share in the Tapu of God. We are also called to respond with praise and worship of God.*

#### **Take time to**

- gaze at the moon and the stars and talk to God
- watch the sunset and feel God's presence near
- care for your pet because it is part of God's creation
- make up your own songs, rhymes and prayers of praise for creation
- whisper to God how much you Love God and all the gifts in creation

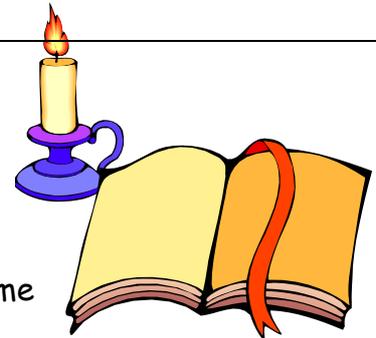


#### **Imagine**

- what would life be like without our senses?
- what God would say when you care for creation?
- what will happen to the world if we do not care for it?

#### **Plan to**

- do something to care for creation
- remind each other to care for God's gift of creation
- show how much you love each other in a special way
- feed the birds in winter
- read the Creation story from the Children's Bible at bedtime
- enjoy God's creation all around you this week



#### **Make a display at home of**

- magazine pictures or photographs of creation
- family photos - bless and name people
- beautiful things from creation, eg shells

#### **Talk about**

- what God is like
- how God cares for. .... ?
- planting things and caring for them
- why people are God's best creation

#### **Games to Play**

I spy something God created  
My Favourite things

## Year 2 Material

### Learning Strand - GOD - TE ATUA - IO MATUA KORE



#### Focus: Our Gracious God:

*God is Gracious - a giver of gifts. The greatest of these gifts of love is Jesus who revealed that God is Abba- his loving Father - Matua, who is also our Father. Our response to God's gifts of grace is to truly appreciate them and to live lives of gratitude.*

#### **Take time to**

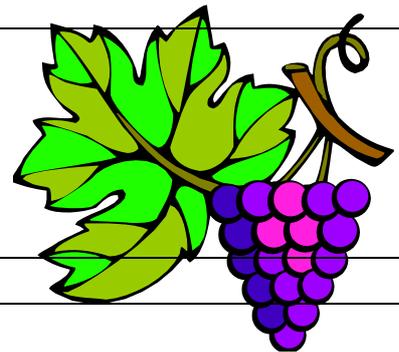
- leave little messages of love for family members in unexpected places, e.g. in lunch boxes, under pillows, on answerphones, faxes and on e-mail
- demonstrate to children that you are contented with what you have and that it is not things that make you truly happy, but loving people

#### **Talk about**

- ways your family shows graciousness to each other
- how to receive and acknowledge a compliment graciously
- what gracious people do when they receive a card or present
- ways people show gratitude

#### **Pray together**

- a Litany style prayer for creation in family prayer, e.g. For green grass - We thank you *gracious* God, For trees to climb - We thank you *gracious* God



#### **Affirm family members**

- when they show they are grateful to others

#### **Encourage Children**

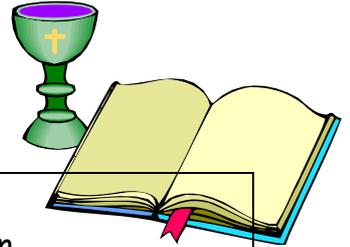
- to notice little things people do for them and say thank you for them

## Year 3 Material

### Learning Strand - GOD - TE ATUA - IO MATUA KORE

#### Focus: God Is Present in the World:

*God is present in the world in creation, and speaks to people through the scriptures especially when they are proclaimed in the church. God is active through people who accept his gift of grace - Mana Atua and God's activity in the world is expressed through different cultures.*

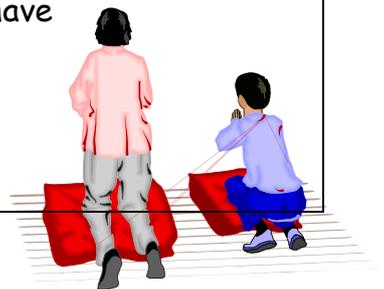


#### **Plan to**

- go for a family walk and take time to enjoy God's presence in creation
- buy or find a family Bible and place it where can be seen and used
- listen to Vivaldi's 4 Seasons tape or CD and enjoy it together

#### **Bring your children's attention to**

- people from different cultures and talk about way people show respect for different cultures, eg
- \* by admiring the differences in the way they look, speak and behave
- \* by showing an interest in what is different about them,
  - St Paul's blessings in
  - 1 Thessalonians 5:28
  - 2 Corinthians 13:13



#### **Think about**

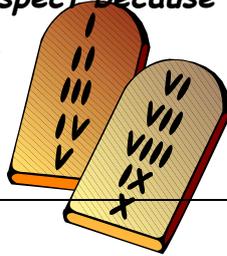
- your favourite aspects of each season and remind each other when you see them
- Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 and reflect on what time it is in your life
- ways your family can care for different parts of creation

## Year 4 Material

### Learning Strand - GOD - TE ATUA - IO MATUA KORE

#### Focus: God is Love:

*The Holy Trinity, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit is a loving community of three persons who are one God. One of God's great gifts or taonga is the natural world of creation, which we should respect because it is tapu. Another of God's gifts of love is the Ten Commandments.*

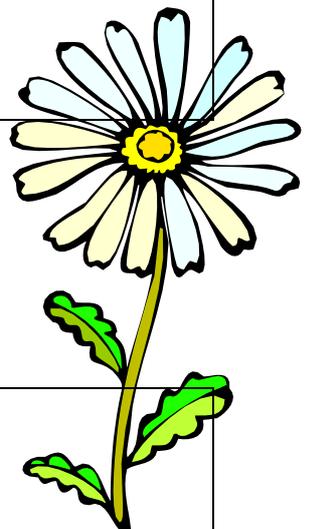


#### **Take time to**

- encourage family members to take responsibility for treating the land with respect
- read Exodus 20 and discuss what each commandment means - refer to Children's activities 6 & 7
- name the 2 new commandments Jesus gave the people and suggest ways you can keep them, giving time to God each day, loving each member of your family and your friends every day
- affirm each other for showing love and care of others - *aroha* and *manaakitanga*
- give thanks in your family prayer for all the loving people in your lives

#### **Plan to**

- do something as a family that shows you respect the *tapu* of whenua - and caring for your garden clearing up a favourite picnic spot or beach



*Ideas for Parents to write in Comment boxes in Children's Book - see Page 39 Family Whanau book.*

## Year 5 Material

### Learning Strand - GOD - TE ATUA - IO MATUA KORE

#### ***Focus: God Is Faithful:***

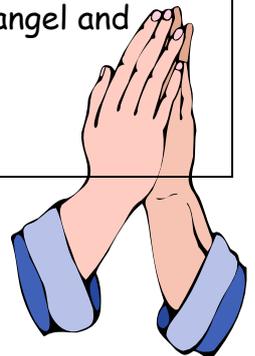
*God is always faithful - pono. This is one of the basic messages in the scriptures. God calls people into a relationship sealed with a covenant. People may go back on their word and so awful things can happen, but God's love - aroha is constant. In the new covenant of Jesus, Christians are called to trust in God, and to build up God's Kingdom or Reign - Te Rangatiratanga on earth.*

#### ***Talk about***

- the importance of being faithful - pono, eg doing your homework and the other tasks that are your responsibility without having to be reminded, sticking with your mates when times are hard, keeping the promises you make with others, doing what you say you will do.
- people you know who are good models of faithfulness
- what is meant by the word covenant - which is a sacred and serious agreement or contract, and name some examples that you know of, eg marriage contracts, peace treaties, the Treaty of Waitangi
- how situations change and people break contracts, and recall that God is always faithful to the promise that God will always be with people
- times in your lives when you have had to break promises and how you have dealt with this
- the difference that belief in God makes to your life

#### ***At family prayer***

- invite children to recall the story of God's call - karanga to Abraham and Sarah in the book of Genesis and discuss God's promises to them
- pray the Hail Mary and draw children's attention to the words of the angel and Mary's old wise cousin, Elizabeth, which are included in this prayer
- talk about Mary's faithfulness to her call to be the Mother of Jesus
- pray for people who are dealing with broken promises



## Year 6 Material

### Learning Strand - GOD - TE ATUA - IO MATUA KORE

#### Focus: Who is God?:

*The names and images for God found in the Old and New Testaments tell us something about what God is like. Christians come to know God through Jesus and respond in faith through worship and action. Catholic beliefs about God have been summarise in the Creeds.*

#### ***At Family Prayer***

- read and think about some of the Scripture quotes on Children's Activities 1 & 2
- invite family members to share their favourite name and image of God
- read the Nicene Creed on page 53 and talk about what it says Catholics believe
- bring to your children's attention people who are Good Samaritans today
- share your experiences of Good Samaritans
- remind your children to join the community in saying the Nicene Creed at Eucharist

#### ***Take time to***

- talk about different images and names for God that family members have, eg a loving parent - Matua, a shepherd, a weaver
- imagine what God is like from all that Jesus taught people about God, remembering that God, who is the source of all *Tapu* and *Mana*, created the world from nothing and holds it in balance at all times
- share ideas about Jesus' special relationship with God , God's only Son and imagine what God must be like as a loving Father
- recall that Christians build their relationship with God through worship and service of others and suggest ways your family could do this

