



# YEAR

# 4

# UNIT A

## CREATION & THE STORY OF ABRAHAM TO JOSEPH

### ABOUT THE UNIT

In this unit the children will hear and learn about some important stories from the Book of Genesis. They will explore some important images of God found in these stories and consider what it means for human beings to be made in the image and likeness of God.

### WHERE THE UNIT FITS IN

This unit builds on lots of previous work on the creation story in Key Stage 1 and some significant work on the Old Testament in Year 2.

### PRIOR LEARNING

It would be helpful if the children have:

- some knowledge of the difference between the Old Testament and the New Testament.

### SKILLS

Reading, research, empathetic writing, discussion, thinking skills, map work.

### VOCABULARY

Creation, image and likeness, Old Testament, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, jealousy, sacrifice, reconciliation.

### ASSESSMENT

At the end of this unit:

	A.T.1	A.T.2
<b>Most children will</b> know the stories of creation, Abraham and Isaac, Jacob and Joseph from the Old Testament. They will understand from the story of creation that human beings are made in God's image and likeness and that this needs to be valued and respected in other people. They will be able to identify how God called and protected both Abraham and Isaac.	3a	3a 3b 3c
<b>Less able children will</b> know parts of the stories studied in this unit and will recognise that human beings are made in the image and likeness of God.	2a	2b 2c
<b>More able children will</b> be able to retell with confidence the stories studied in this unit. They will be able to consider lots of ways in which people can respect the image and likeness of God in other people. They will be able to ask important questions about why Abram trusted God and followed his commands.	3a 4b	3b 4a

## PROGRAMME OF STUDY

## TEACHING STRATEGIES

**R1** Hear, read and explore key images that speak of God in the Old Testament.  
**L2** Diversity and richness in Creation.

**L3** The values and challenges of the differences between individuals and peoples.

**R1** Hear, read and explore key images that speak of God in the Old Testament.

- Explore with children words we might use to describe significant people in our lives and what they do for us (e.g. friend, parent, brother, etc.)
- What words and statements would the children use to describe God?
- Provide children with blank alphabetical word bank sheets to record words they would use for God. This activity could be done in small groups.
- Share findings with the rest of the class and reasons for choosing certain words.
- The Bible is a source of knowledge for Christians about what God is like. Explain to the children that in this unit of work we will be learning about some important images of God that we find in the Old Testament.
- Recall some of the images of God that the children have suggested. Explain that an important image of God for Christians and indeed for the Jewish people is that of the Creator.
- What does it mean to create something? What responsibility does this entail?
- Children to read the story of the creation of human beings from the Book of Genesis. Highlight words in the text that describe the actions of God.
- Identify words that tell us about the creation of human beings.
- What does “image and likeness” mean?
- Why do you think God created human beings?
- What does the creation story tell you about the way God thinks about human beings?
- Children to write an account of the creation of human beings using some of their thoughts and reflections from the above questions.
- If human beings are created in the image and likeness of God, what effect should that have on the way human beings treat one another? Children to discuss and write about this. Highlight the importance of respect, care and consideration for other people and for ourselves.
- Research stories and events from newspapers and magazines that show people respecting or failing to show respect for other people. What do you think are the most important differences?
- Discuss with the children the idea of God creating an entire human race. Is everybody the same? What differences do people have across the world? Create a concept or web map to highlight as many differences as possible.
- You might consider adding that we respect other people’s beliefs even if we do not hold to them ourselves.
- Having recognised the differences, what unites human beings?
- Christians believe that it is important to value and respect the differences that exist between people and to recognise that everybody is made in the image and likeness of God.
- Research information about the work of CAFOD, Fr. Hudson’s Society and Mission Together.
- In what ways do these organisations work to value and recognise the image and likeness of God in others?
- Create fact files about the work of these organisations.
- Explore ways in which the class might commit themselves to working for the needs of other people.
- Revise with pupils their previous learning in Years 2 & 3 about the basic structure of the Bible.
- Introduce the term “Pentateuch” as the name given to the first five books of the Bible. Children to find the names of these books. Find out the Jewish name given to these five books.
- Explain that the Pentateuch contains many stories about people who were called into friendship with God, and from these stories we can discover what God is like.
- Children to read the story of the call of Abram. Focus on *Genesis 12: 1-9* and *Genesis 13: 14-17*.
- Consider Abram’s feelings about being chosen by God. Find the land where Abram came from and on the map track his journey to the land of Canaan. What are some of the similarities and differences between this land and our own land?
- Look at the text and discuss the promise God made to Abram. How important do you think Gods’ promise was?
- What does this story teach us about God and what he thought of Abram?
- What titles are given to God in the text? Children to use Bible glossary to find the

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

## FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

**R1** Of how to find their way around the Bible.

**L2** That every human person is made in the image and likeness of God and is called to reflect God's love.

- Know the story of the creation of human beings in the Book of Genesis.
- Understand what being created in the image and likeness of God means.
- Understand that human beings have similarities and differences that should be valued and respected by everyone.
- Explore ways in which Christians can work to value other people, especially those who are different from them.
- Research, discuss and write about the story of Creation of human beings and explore ways in which we can work to value other people especially those who are different from us.

**L3** Of diversity as a source of blessing and strength as well as challenge.

**R1** Of how to find their way around the Bible; that the Bible is God's living word handed on in the living tradition of the Church; that the first five books of the Old Testament are the Torah (Law) of Jewish faith.

- Know the story of the call of Abram.
- Understand the importance of God's promise.
- Be able to imagine the thoughts and feelings of Abram being chosen by God.

Use some examples of religious art of the story of creation.

Use circle time as an opportunity to explore opportunities to reflect on attitudes that promote care and respect for other people.

Link this work with the October Family Fast Day.

Link this work with class and school rules and mission statement.

Find out about how the Jewish people show care and respect for the books of the Torah.

Create role-play or mime out of this story.

continued...

## PROGRAMME OF STUDY

## TEACHING STRATEGIES

- meaning of these titles.
- Children to imagine that they are Abram. Write stories about being chosen by God in this special way.
  - Children to create a prayer to God as Abram, thanking him for the promise he has made.
  - Children to read *Genesis 17: 1-8* about Abram's name changing to Abraham. What does this passage tell us about God's promise? Why do you think God changed Abram's name to Abraham?
  - God described his relationship with Abram as a covenant. Children to use dictionaries to find the meaning of this word.
  - Make links here with what Jesus did at the Last Supper and what he said about his blood being the blood of the new and everlasting covenant.
- 
- Discuss with the children difficult things they have been asked to do. Why were these things so difficult? Did they manage to achieve them in the end?
  - In the stories of the Pentateuch God sometimes asks his people to do very difficult things.
  - Read the story of Abraham and Isaac and talk about this as an example of God asking somebody to do something very difficult.
  - Explore the order of the text by mapping out the main parts of the story. Look at the introduction, the journey of Abraham and Isaac, the conflict for Abraham, the climax of the story and the ending with the resolution to the problem that God provides.
- 
- Children to highlight the sentences that set the scene and convey the message of the story.
  - Why do you think God tested Abraham?
  - What have you learnt about Abraham from this story? Draw pictures and captions to share ideas.
  - The story of creation reminds Christians of God being the creator. What image of God do we find in this story of Abraham and Isaac? (e.g. faithful, protector, etc.)
  - Christians believe that God protects his people and is faithful to them by always giving them his love. Children might like to write some prayers about God's love and faithfulness.
- 
- Ask children to think of all the different things that get passed on through families (e.g. clothes and other possessions, character traits and looks, etc.)
  - Look at *Genesis 28: 10-17*. Explain that God's promise to Abraham was passed on through Isaac and Jacob.
  - Children to dramatise the dream of Jacob and produce some art-work of the images contained in the story.
  - What have you learnt about God from this story?
- 
- Jacob had twelve sons and one of these was Joseph.
  - Children to recall the story of Joseph.
  - What words would you use to describe Joseph?
  - What words would you use to describe his brothers?
  - Children could draw pictures and write captions to show the dreams of Joseph and the jealousy of the brothers.
  - Create a playscript of the story.
  - How does the story end in Egypt? How is Joseph's behaviour different from that of his brothers?
  - What does the story of Joseph teach us about jealousy?
  - Joseph's brothers failed to recognise his gifts and talents. Why is it important to recognise and value the gifts and talents of other people?
  - What does the word reconciliation mean?
  - What does the story of Joseph teach us about the value and importance of reconciliation with other people?
  - Ask the children to think of a time when they have been jealous. How did it feel and what did they do?
  - Ask the children to think of a time when they have needed to be reconciled with other people.
  - Make some links here with previous learning about the Sacrament of Reconciliation celebrating forgiveness and reconciliation with God and with other people.
  - Conclude the unit of work by creating a family tree for Abraham and his descendants or a timeline to put the characters into chronological order.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

## FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

- Know the story of Abraham and the sacrifice of Isaac
- Recognise the difficulties that Abraham must have faced.
- Be able to recognise images of God being faithful and a protector of his people from the story.

- Know some of the images of God found in the story of creation, the story of the call of Abram, the story of Isaac and the story of Jacob.
- Be able to describe some of these images and consider what they say about God.

- Know the story of Joseph and his brothers.
- Understand some reasons for jealousy and hatred in the story.
- Recognise the importance of reconciliation with other people and valuing their gifts and talents as human beings.

Show the children a video presentation of this story.  
Produce some drama work on the story, e.g. freeze-frames.

Circle time might be used as an opportunity to look at issues of jealousy and also as an opportunity to appreciate the gifts and talents of other people.

## RELATED SCRIPTURE

*Genesis 1: 26-31* – The Story of the Creation of Human Beings

*Genesis 12: 1-9* – The Story of the Call of Abram

*Genesis 13: 14-17*

*Genesis 12: 1-3* – The Promise God Made to Abram

*Genesis 17: 1-8* – The Covenant God Made With Abraham

*Mt.22: 14-20* – The New Covenant of Christ at the Last Supper

*Genesis 22: 1-8* – The Story of Abraham and Isaac

*Genesis 28: 10-17* – God's Promise is Passed on Through Isaac and Jacob

*Genesis 37* – The Story of Joseph

*Genesis 41-45* – The Conflict is Resolved

## OTHER LINKS

History Links: Exploring the concept of a family tree.

Social Development: Links with CAFOD, Mission Together and Fr. Hudson's Society to be explored.

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- Explore the importance of showing reverence and respect to the Scriptures by listening to the Word of God.
- God is faithful to his promises even today. We can turn to God with confidence.
- Praying that we might see the image and likeness of God in other people.
- Asking forgiveness for the times we have been jealous of the gifts God has given other people.

## EVALUATION

**What went well?**

**Which areas of planning need to be developed/adapted next time?**

**What needs to be revisited/developed in a later unit?**