Key Idea (1): Christians believe that God is one God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

God has chosen to reveal himself as triune God through specific revelation in his word. Exploring the mystery of the trinity is made possible through the language, imagery, symbolism and use of metaphors in the bible. These identify the rich, multi-layered aspects of a personal God.

Outcomes
CB 4.1 Students analyse Christian beliefs about the ways God reveals himself as one God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Specific knowledge
Attributes of a personal God – loving, patient, compassionate, angry, merciful, forgiving, forbearing, righteous, faithful, loyal, wise, emotional, powerful
God reveals himself through his word, through the incarnation - Jesus the word of God among us
The mystery of the trinity: imagery, symbolism, and metaphors in the Bible reveal a multi-layered understanding of God

Links with the LIFE Curriculum

BAND C

God helps people
- Holy Spirit gives people power to believe and live as God’s people
  Explore the Holy Spirit work in creating and sustaining faith.
  God helps people by his word
- God reveals himself to people through his word
  Investigate what Christians believe God reveals about himself through the written (Bible) and living word
Possible Focus Questions

- What is the Trinity?
- How does God reveal himself to people?
- Is God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit?
- Do they play the same role?
- Do people believe the Trinity is a mystery?
- Is it okay to ‘just believe’?
- How do we know what God is like?
- Does God communicate with you?
- What do various symbols, artistic representations of God, reveal about God?
- Why do I want God as my father if my earthly father is not very nice?

Introductory Activities

- View an episode of the Children’s Cartoon, Scooby Doo. After watching the short episode identify the mystery that Frank, Daphne, Velma, Shaggy and Scooby had to solve. What were they investigating? How did they solve the mystery? What did they do to solve the mystery? Why was it a mystery, was it really a mystery? Discuss and record in Christian Studies books.

As part of the unit read a novel to the class such as ‘The Bloodhound Gang’, where the characters have a mystery to solve and identify the steps they take in order to solve the mystery.

- In pairs respond to the following questions and be prepared to share with another group: Can all mysteries be solved? What makes a mystery a mystery? Come up with a group definition for ‘mystery’ and record on a blank sheet of paper. Personal sharing…the lost wallet!! Think of a time when you encountered a mystery. What was the mystery? Did you solve it? How did you achieve this? Write a short personal recount- no longer than a page of quality work, describing in detail the mystery you faced and the resolution.
- Find a partner and share your story- provide positive written feedback (before sharing, identify the key elements of positive written feedback!!)
- [http://www.world-of-lucid-dreaming.com/unexplained-mysteries.html](http://www.world-of-lucid-dreaming.com/unexplained-mysteries.html) View and discuss each mystery (10 in total) and why it is makes the list.
Learning Activities

- After our previous lessons and developing an understanding about what is a mystery, are there any mysteries in the bible? Share and record in Christian Studies books. Invite Pastor Andy to come and answer some of these mysteries.
- What is God like? Use the resource sheet (What is God like?) to read various bible verses and record what it tells about God and his nature. Also look at Jesus because it demonstrates many of the characteristics and personality of God. What is God’s role and purpose?
- Read select verses from the OT - Exodus 13:21,22 19:9, Psalm 18:1-3 & 23:1-4. Explore the image of God. After reading these verses, students draw the image they have created through these stories. (divide page into halves and draw picture at the top) Contrast this with the images created in the NT verses- Mark 10:46-52, Luke 8:40-56, Matthew 27:32-56 & Colossians 1:15-23. Explore these verses and draw the image created of God in the bottom half. What does the Bible teach us about God? Share.
- Through the bible we read about God and the way he deals with all people, even those that don’t believe. (remind the class that he always loves and wants what is best for us he) Many people have differing opinions about God and what he is like and how he handles different situations. In the movie, Bruce Almighty, Bruce thinks he has an understanding of what he does. View the movie and complete the question sheets throughout. (Note home to parents for permission to watch Bruce Almighty).
- How does God communicate & reveal himself to people in the OT and NT? Brainstorm and indentify some of the ways in which he does this? (prophets, miracles, teachings, displays of power, Jesus- birth/death and resurrection, Holy Spirit etc)
- Assign OT & NT verses to 'o’clock groups' and record the verse where it refers to the Holy Spirit. Transfer these findings to a computer generated activity sheet and copy for all students. What does this list of verses teach us about the role and purpose of the Holy Spirit?
- Imagine you were a reporter who happened to be present at Pentecost? Your task is to write a newspaper highlighting all that occurred and how you felt throughout the whole ordeal. Be creative.
- Discuss the life of Saul and then later as Paul. Identify key points in his life and the direction it was headed. Highlight the hate he felt towards all Christians and how this strongly influenced his desire to
see all Christian people dead! Read the conversion story and share thoughts and record any questions that arise from this story.

ACTS
26:1-28:31 (Philippians 3:4-16)

• What is a creed? Class discussion- it is a statement of belief. View the Nicene Creed and the Apostles Creed does it mention God, Jesus the Holy Spirit or all three. Use Luther’s Small Catechism which helps to describe specific aspects of the Apostles Creed.

• Research the bible (using the w/sheet) to locate and record the biblical symbols and metaphors for the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. What do these names communicate to us about God? Do they make you see God differently? Is so how?

• Who has heard of the ‘Trinity’ before? He is also known as the tri-une God. View you tube clip from the movie where Robbie Coltraine is explaining the Trinity to Eric Idle. Talk about other metaphors for describing the Trinity- states of water, God as maker, Jesus as tool, and Holy Spirit the act of creating. God as process not product, Egg: it has multiple component parts: the shell, the yoke, and the white part.

• Complete the 'Trinity' w/sheet in pairs or groups of three. Using at least three bible verses identify what is said about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Share and discuss findings with another small group. What is similar and what is different?

• View the 'Symbols of the Trinity' power-point created by Anne ‘Benni’ Marschall and perhaps have some quiet music playing in the background. Invite Anne in to lead a discussion about the symbols with her valuable insight and knowledge to many of the slides. Reflect on the slides for a few minutes. How did you feel when you saw the symbols? What were you thinking about? Did any of the slides grab your attention? Share

Assessment

Create your own symbols for the Trinity. Write a statement that helps to describe what you have created and that demonstrates your understanding of the Trinity, OR, annotate the symbol to demonstrate your understanding.
Resources

- Variety of Bibles- Good News, NIV, Message
- Luther’s small Catechism
- Life Curriculum
- CSCF curriculum statements/ curriculum framework
- DVDs & CDs
- IT- power-points
- Trinity w/sheet, Biblical Metaphors & Symbols, What is God like & Bruce Almighty w/sheet
- Guest Speakers