



Middleton Grange Primary School

Review of the Scripture Programme

November 2018

There are two programmes currently being used in the Primary School.

1) **Biblical Choices** (1984) is used in Years 1 & 2.

Because it is from the U.S.A. the lessons have to be moved around to accommodate a New Zealand time frame for celebrations like Christmas and Easter. The programme is jam-packed with 4 x 30 minute lessons a week, but we modify it so that we can teach 2 x 30 minute sessions weekly. *Please refer to the attached programme for an idea of the content.* The first lesson each week is taught to two classes at a time during Monday scripture time.

Because of this abundance of resources Primary staff are free to pick and choose which lessons suit their class best and to fit in with the curriculum programme. This gives good choice and variation. Many of the resources have been adapted and improved over time.

2) **Positive Action Bible Curriculum** (2010 edition) is used in years 3 – 6.

This is also an American programme that emphasises character development and focuses on life changes not just head knowledge. It comes with Teachers' Manuals with 35 lessons or topics. The focus is on truth, life principles and character traits. It has practical application, and includes puzzles, skits, artwork and discussion starters. There is a write on pupil book that accompanies it. We use this as a resource, but pupils record their answers and ideas in an exercise book. *Please refer to the attached year 5 programme for an idea of the content.*

3) **Context:**

The above programmes are taught in the context of a Christ-centred classroom where there are daily prayer times, singing, and curriculum that is taught from a biblical perspective. Teachers endeavour to model and encourage Christian character and conduct.

The best way for the Board to understand how this works in practise would be to arrange a visit sometime to see a classroom scripture programme in action.

Teachers report that pupils are very inquisitive, and the Scripture lesson may go on longer because of questions (which tend to be quite thoughtful). The emphasis is not just on recitation and remembering, although this a part of the programme. The Biblical content is used wherever possible in everyday situations, for example in playground discipline so that we are modelling a practical and a living faith not just 'head knowledge'. The primary school themes echo these understanding as does the overall motto: Excellence (Head) Character (Heart) Service (Hands) to the glory of God.

4) **Challenges:**

The “Biblical Choices” Programme is old – twenty years. It was digitised three years ago to try and preserve it. Twenty years of wear and tear have taken their toll. The Positive Action Curriculum is in much better shape and the pupil books are colourful and attractive.

Both programmes are American and require some modification, and both have far more content than can be used.

There is no formal method of assessment, and no intention to assess scripture.

All pupils NE-Y6 have a memory verse for homework every week. This is largely driven by parent buy in, and unfortunately many parents do not make the effort to follow up and practice the verses at home.

5) **Summary:**

The scripture programmes have been modified to suit the needs of our pupils and our school. On most occasions they are taught skilfully, and the pupils are provided with interesting follow-up activities. No changes are needed at this time.

Rod Thompson

Head of the Primary School

Biblical Choices Curriculum – Year 1 and 2 programme

Year 1 – The God of Creation

First Quarter – God Created the Perfect World

1. God's Wonderful Plan
2. God's Beautiful World
3. God's Amazing Space
4. God's Pretty Fish and Birds
5. God's Interesting Animals and Bugs
6. God's Best Creation: People
7. It Was All Very Good: God Rested
8. QUARTER PROJECT

Second Quarter – Choices in the Family

1. How Do We Make Choices?
2. Adam And Eve: Sin is a Choice to Disobey
3. The Difference Between a Sin and a Mistake
4. Cain and Abel: Violence is the Wrong Choice
5. Cain and Abel: Jealousy Hurts, Sharing Helps
6. Cain Chose to Lie: Lies Make Things Worse
7. Obeying Your Parents is a Good Choice
8. QUARTER PROJECT

Third Quarter – God Becomes the Perfect Person

1. God Promised the Coming of Jesus
2. Jesus is Born
3. Jesus Grows Up to Do His Father's Work
4. God Cares for My Needs
5. God Hears My Prayers
6. God Promises to Help Me Do My Best
7. God Wants Me to Be Nice
8. QUARTER PROJECT

Fourth Quarter – Jesus is Our Example

1. Jesus is Loving: He Cares for Others First
2. Jesus is Not Mean: He is Nice to People
3. Jesus is Gentle: He Makes People Feel Better
4. Jesus is Honest: He Always Tells the Truth
5. Jesus Tells Us to Forgive Others
6. Jesus Tells Us to Share What We Have with Others
7. Jesus Wants Us to Tell People about God's Love
8. QUARTER PROJECT

Year 2 – The God of Impossibilities

First Quarter – God's New World

1. Review of Kindergarten 1: "God Created the Perfect World"
2. Review of Kindergarten 2: "Adam and Eve Break God's Covenant"
3. God's Perfect World is Spoiled By Sin
4. God Tells Noah to Build the Ark
5. God Saves the Animals and Noah's Family
6. God Makes a New "Covenant" with Noah
7. The Tower of Babel: God Scatters the People Across the Earth
8. QUARTER PROJECT

Second Quarter – God's Covenant with Abraham's Family

1. God Makes an Agreement with Abraham
2. Isaac: God Keeps His Promise
3. Abraham Puts God First
4. God Gives Isaac a Family
5. Joseph's Family Makes Bad Choices
6. God is Faithful to Joseph
7. Joseph Forgives His Brothers
8. QUARTER PROJECT

Third Quarter – Jesus: The Son of God

The Life Of Jesus- PART 1

1. Jesus is Born: A Humble Beginning
2. Jesus Grows Up and Teaches in the Temple
3. Jesus is Baptized by John
4. Jesus is Tempted
5. Jesus Chooses His Disciples
6. Jesus Teaches on the Mountain
7. Jesus Tells Us How to Live
8. QUARTER PROJECT

Fourth Quarter – Jesus Does the Impossible

The Life of Jesus – PART 2

1. Jesus Proves He is God: He Forgives Sin
2. Jesus has Power Over Nature
3. Jesus has Power Over Our Bodies
4. Jesus has Power Over Life and Death
5. Jesus has Power to Heal Our Minds
6. People Worship Jesus
7. People Thank Jesus
8. QUARTER PROJECT

Positive Action Curriculum – Year 5 programme

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