

Christian Education in Schools – 4 session summary

The Christian Education In Schools project presents four one-hour sessions through the school year that take into account modern pedagogy, learning intelligences and student engagement. The CEIS staff, including qualified teachers and experienced children’s ministry workers, develop each session, with guidance received from qualified theologians. The CEIS volunteers are endorsed by their local minister and attend a training session prior to session delivery. They are also screened according to the Working With Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Act 2011. Students are encouraged to question and explore Christianity through these sessions, with all responses accepted and respected. CEIS aims for education and understanding, with no expectation or pressure applied for any student to make a faith choice.

Term 1: Easter Extravaganza

This session assists students to explore the Christian perspective of Easter. It introduces the Christian God as a God of love and peace, desiring such for all people. Reference is given to the mix of choices people make about God, to give context to God’s coming to earth as the person Jesus. Jesus is presented as God’s son who came to remind people about God and to demonstrate the power and extent of His love and peace. Jesus’ death and resurrection are gently explored as God’s way of showing the ultimate act of love and power beyond human death. The session incorporates discussion and questions about Christians believing that Jesus re-connects people to God, and Easter being the celebration for that.

Term 2: Beyond You

This session assists students to explore the meaning of faith and religion for people and the concept of a Christian God. It provides context by discussing the mix of good and bad that happens in our world and our relationships - with ourselves, others and God. Through a range of activities and discussion students reflect on these relationships and are presented with the Biblical promises of God, who Christians believe is with us and who intends love and good for His creation and all people. This session allows for discussion and questions about what faith means and how it impacts people’s lives and actions around the world (and into forever). It concludes with the fact that our values, actions and choices impact others, good or bad, and that Christianity (and a God beyond humanity) aims to make a good difference in the world (even though Christians are real people and make mistakes too).

Term 3: Bible Bonanza

This session coincides with Book Week celebrations. It presents the Bible as the book of Christianity, written by people but inspired by the Christian God, with an ultimate message of love. As with all CEIS sessions, a slightly different approach is taken over a 4-year period so that learning and exploration is varied and built upon for students. The various Bible Bonanza sessions all provide the context of God’s big love story, but may explore components of Biblical history (how the Bible came to us), Biblical people (who they are in God’s plan) and major Biblical events (pointing to Jesus). Each session is a moment for students to open the world’s ‘best-seller’ and discuss what its content means to millions of people (Christians) around the world.

Term 4: Christmas Celebrations

This session assists students to explore the Christian perspective of Christmas. As with the Easter session, it provides the context of a loving God and people’s varied responses to God, resulting in Jesus coming to earth. The events of the traditional Christmas as outlined in the Bible (Mary, Joseph, angels, manger in Bethlehem, shepherds, Magi) are unpacked through a range of interactive stations, with discussion encouraged. The session concludes by linking the baby Jesus to the Easter Jesus and to God’s promised plan of everlasting friendship. The closing discussion, questions and/or song focus on Christmas being the Christian celebration for Jesus’ birth, God’s values for humanity and God’s plan for all people through Jesus.