



Ideas about God

(Some time will be spent looking at Hindu beliefs about God in this unit.)

- *What might God be like?*
- *What do Hindus believe about God?*
- *What do Christians believe about God?*

Christians believe that humans are created in the image of God. They believe God is in three parts; God the Father, God the Son (Jesus) and God's Holy Spirit. The analogy of an egg (yolk, white and shell) or water, ice and steam, or humans as mental, physical and spiritual beings could be used to help the children grasp the concept of 'three in one' - The Trinity.

- Ask class to think about how we often use words beyond their literal meaning - metaphor, analogy, simile etc.

In the Bible words are used in various ways to describe God:-

- As a parent 'We are God's children' Romans 8:16
- As a king 'God is king for ever' Exodus 15:18
- As a mother bird 'Hide me under your wings' Psalm 17:8
- As a mother 'Just as a mother could not forget her baby, so I could not forget you' Isaiah 49:15
- As a shepherd 'The Lord is my shepherd' Psalm 23:1
- As a rock 'The Lord is my rock' Psalm 18:2
- As a judge 'Won't the judge of all the earth be fair?' Genesis 18:25
- As a friend 'God's friendship blessed me' Job 29:4
- As a potter 'You are the potter and we are the clay' Isaiah 64:8
- As a helper 'I will hold your hand' Isaiah 42:6

- Read a modern translation of Psalm 139. Talk about the words.

The Bible describes God as a loving Father. In Isaiah Chapter 49 verse 15 God says "I will not forget you. I have written your name on the palm of my hand"

- How do these words make the children feel?

Christians believe that God loved the world so much that he sent Jesus so that by looking at his life and listening to his teachings, people would know what God is like.

- You may like to explore the parables of the Lost Sheep and the Prodigal Son found in Luke Chapter 15.
- Also look at the picture 'Tell Me!' by Andràs Simon (click [here](#) to view), which shows a father and child, depicted as one continuous line.

Pentecost and the early church

The Bible claims that in the weeks following the first Easter (27 CE) many people saw Jesus alive again. Jesus told his followers to wait for his Holy Spirit to come to them. In Acts Chapter 2 (verses 1 - 41) there is a description of what happened when it did. It says that the first Christians were meeting together in a room to pray when something that seemed like a wind filled the room and that something that looked like fire was over their heads. Everyone started talking in foreign languages which were recognised by the people that were gathered outside. Even though it was early in the morning many thought at first that the Christians must have been drinking. Peter explained what was happening and about 3000 became Christians that day. The rest of Acts describes the travels and persecutions of the early Christians around the Mediterranean area and the growth of the early church.

Christians today desire to be filled with God's Holy Spirit. In Galatians Chapter 5 (verse 22) the various 'fruits' of the Holy Spirit are listed - i.e. Christians believe that when people are filled with the Holy Spirit they will develop qualities of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Ask pupils to look up these attributes and use their own words to describe situations where they would be beneficial.

- We have copies of a 25 minute video (actors playing the parts of early Christians) available for loan to local schools.
- See Jesus Through Art - available from us on loan.
- See Cracking RE Summer '98.