



**THINK
FAITH**

CEP
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ABOUT THINK FAITH





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CURRICULUM PHILOSOPHY

Think Faith provides a learning framework for nurturing, equipping and guiding students in their understanding of the Christian faith. In addition to outlining the areas to be covered over a student's school life, the curriculum also specifies appropriate learning experiences for teachers to use in their classrooms.

Think Faith aims to:

- engage students with the Bible
- encourage students to think more deeply about the beliefs and tenets of the Christian faith
- provide students with opportunities to develop skills in Christian practices such as bible reading and prayer
- provide students with the tools to consider issues from a Christian world view
- help students connect their learning with how Christians are called to live.

To achieve these aims, *Think Faith*:

- uses the Bible as its foundational text
- teaches from a faith perspective, that is, while acknowledging the various faith positions of students, *Think Faith* teaches from a position of belief
- connects learning with how Christians are called to live
- values the place of story and storytelling
- supports student engagement with text.

CURRICULUM STRUCTURE



SECONDARY CURRICULUM

	Foundation for Christian living –the Bible	Foundation of the Christian world view—the gospel	Living out the Christian life	Living as a Christian in the world
Stage	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
Stage 4A Years 7 and 8	The Bible is the world's most influential book	Mark: Jesus is the powerful Son of God.	Acts part 1: Paul	Genesis 1–12:3: God is at the centre and that is good.
Stage 4B Years 7 and 8	The Bible tells one big story of creation, fall, redemption, and consummation.	Matthew: God's promises are fulfilled in Jesus.	Acts part 2: Peter	Daniel and Paul: A Christian world view helps to answer the question 'Who am I?'

Stage 5A Years 9 and 10	The Bible as history: Historical salvation themes of Moses and the historical Jesus.	Luke 1–9: Jesus' life is different to expectations.	Luke 10–19	Ecclesiastes and 1 Peter: Jesus gives meaning to our lives.
Stage 5B Years 9 and 10	The Bible as genre/text: There are a number of different genres in the Bible written by a number of different authors.	John: The signs of John's Gospel.	Ephesians: United with Jesus and each other.	Proverbs and James: Living wisely in God's world.

UNITS OF WORK

Think Faith is built on units of work. There are four units per year. Each unit of work is organised around a Launch lesson, six or seven Stillas, and a Landing lesson.

LAUNCH LESSON

This lesson establishes the direction of the unit. It aims to motivate and inspire the students to want to learn more by introducing the main idea and essential questions of the unit. At the end of the Launch Lesson, the students should be able to explain what they will have to understand by the end of the unit.

STILLAS

Stilla is a term especially created for Think Faith. It is derived from the Latin where stilla means a liquid drop. Just as water takes the shape of its container, a stilla in Think Faith is expected to take the shape of its context. For some classes, a stilla will be taught in one period. For other classes, the stilla can be stretched over more than one period, or contracted and taught in less time. As teachers understand their students' learning needs and teaching context they are best placed to determine how long to spend on each activity in their classroom. Stillas put teaching and learning decisions in the hands of the teachers, rather than in the hands of the curriculum developers.

An approximate guide to timing is provided in the Stilla Plan, but this may be modified by the teacher due to the length of the lesson, the number of teaching lessons available in the school term, and/or the interest, experience and ability of the students.

LANDING LESSON

The Landing Lesson provides space for the students to consolidate and demonstrate what they have learned over the course of the unit. Like the Launch Lesson, this is written as a stand-alone lesson.

UNIT OUTCOMES

Each unit has a set of unit outcomes that drive the learning activities in each of the lessons. These are:

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

Three or four questions that drive the unit are provided to foster inquiry, meaning-making and transfer beyond the unit of work.

UNDERSTANDING

Themes or concepts that it is expected students will understand at the end of the unit.

KEY TERMS

Key terms that will be taught through the unit.

ACQUISITION

Knowledge about the Christian Faith that students will acquire through the unit.

SKILLS

Skills students will develop during the unit.

RELATING

Think Faith is designed to help students connect their learning with an understanding of how Christians are called to live. These ‘connectings’ have been organised around three kinds of relating described by Jesus in John 15: relating to God, relating to others, and relating to the world.

Relating to God

- Christians keep God’s commands.
- Christians acknowledge that they are sinners who have fallen short of God’s glory.
- Christians love God.
- Christians believe that God’s word is living and active.
- Christians believe that they are transformed by God’s Spirit through reading the Bible.
- Christians are guided in their decision-making and ethics by the Bible.
- Christians believe that faith impacts every aspect of a Christian’s life.
- Christians trust in what Jesus has done for them and recognise him as Saviour and Lord.
- Christians believe that Jesus’ power is working in their lives to change them.
- Christians pursue a relationship with God through prayer, worship, service and reading the Bible.
- Christians are thankful for what Jesus has done.
- Christians believe that God reveals himself to us through the Bible.
- Christians acknowledge that sin has broken humanity’s relationship with God.

Relating to others

- Christians love each other.
- Christians care for one another.
- Christians show grace and love to others because of God’s action towards them.
- Christians understand the importance of forgiveness and repentance in their relationships with God and others.
- Christians use their gifts to serve others.
- Christians show generous hospitality to all.
- Christians participate in a Christian community.
- Christians believe that they should attempt to do good for all people.
- Christians understand that God does not play favourites.
- Christians acknowledge that sin has broken humanity’s relationships.

Relating to the world

- Christians delight in God's world.
- Christians are good stewards of God's world.
- Christians look at the world through their Christian world view.
- Christians enjoy and cherish the life that God has given them.
- Christians acknowledge that sin has broken humanity's relationship with the world.
- Christians recognise that there is diversity in the world.
- Christians understand that suffering and perseverance are part of God's world.
- Christians care for those who are in need.
- Christians relate to the world in hope of all creation being redeemed.
- Christians often do not feel quite at home in the world.
- Christians understand they need to testify to a world that has rebelled against God.
- Christians understand that they may need to suffer for the profession of their faith in the world.

TEACHING AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Each lesson contains a number of teaching and learning activities that have been designed to engage students in an age-appropriate way. As teachers prepare for their class, they may choose to substitute or modify an activity to better suit the learning needs of their students.



Engaging

A teaching and learning activity that engages students in their learning by connecting with their world, reviewing what has been previously taught, and/or drawing on existing knowledge.



Instructing

A teaching and learning activity that uses direct instruction to provide essential content. While direct instruction is predominantly centred on one person, there may be some interaction with other students. For example, it may include a question–answer format, or an activity that checks for comprehension. Direct instruction can come from the teacher, a student, or outside expert (visiting or via DVD).




Investigating

A teaching and learning activity where the students explore the Bible to understand the meaning of the text.



Conversing

A teaching and learning activity where the students discuss ideas, concepts or themes, that is, having a conversation around a particular topic. This is different from a question–answer format and may include small and large group discussions, silent discussions, and think-pair-share. Students learn when they are given the opportunity to talk and share ideas. Two kinds of questions are provided: (i) simple recall questions designated with a single question mark; and (ii) deeper thinking questions designated with a brain icon . The questions provide a helpful guideline but do not have to be followed precisely as the conversation should be guided by students' interactions and not by teacher questions.



Reinforcing

A teaching and learning activity that reinforces understanding by giving the students the opportunity to engage deeply with ideas, concepts and themes, or to practise a skill.



Applying

A teaching and learning activity that helps the students to express their understanding, focusing on connecting, meaning and acquiring.



Reflecting

A teaching and learning activity that draws the Stilla, or Stilla Learning Segment, to a close and helps students to consolidate their learning.