Fertile Question: *Why do I need a story to live by?*

Core Content Area 2: The big stories

**TOPIC 2.3: The Jesus Story**

**Depthing Understanding: Stories in glass and stone**

In this lesson students will explore the sacred stories in stained glass and cemeteries.

**Teachers: Before You Start!**

1. Read the Teacher Background regarding visual representations of Sacred Stories.
2. Suggest to students that when they next visit a cemetery with family, they might like to complete activity one.

**For students to explore the sacred stories in stained glass and cemeteries, select from the following activities:**

1. Explore and imagine the stories represented by gravestones.
   a. Visit a cemetery and examine different gravestones.
      i. Choose one that interests you to examine closely.
      ii. Draw the headstone and write a paragraph about the person based on the information obtained from the gravestone.
   b. Examine images of gravestones.
      i. Choose one of the images listed here and write a paragraph about the person or people based on the information obtained from the gravestone: [image one], [image two], [image three] or one of your own choice.
      ii. Discuss how sacred stories can be presented and preserved in gravestones.

2. Explore stained glass as a method of sacred storytelling.
   a. Explore the use of stained glass in Christian churches as a storytelling device.
      i. Explore the Awesome Stories website about the Christian stories told in stained glass windows.
      ii. What reasons are given for using stained glass windows to tell stories in Medieval cathedrals?
      iii. View the stained glass windows displayed under the beautiful examples link and discuss as a class Christian stories that you recognise in the stained glass windows.
      vi. Design a family stained glass window that includes the family’s sacred stories.
God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear though the
earth gives way,
though the mountains be moved into
heart of the sea,
spray and foam,
mountains terrible at its
Selah

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