GRADE: 5

TOPIC: CELEBRATING EASTER

CURRICULUM NOTES

According to Webster's Dictionary, the word "sacrifice" means the offering of something to a deity, as in propitiation; something so offered; to surrender for the sake of something else. The word propitiation comes from the word propitiate which means to appease or conciliate. A sacrifice is therefore intended to appease a deity.

In the Old Testament, lambs and other animals were used as sacrifices when persons committed sin. The priest usually offered sacrifices on behalf of the people. Sacrifices were offered year after year for sin. The New Testament records the death of Jesus on the cross. Jesus was referred to as the "Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world." (John 1:29) After Jesus' death animal sacrifices were no longer needed.

Jesus sacrificed His life so that mankind everywhere could have eternal life. Because of Jesus death, anyone who believes in Him "shall not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16) This sacrifice appeased God fully. Individuals now have the freedom to approach God because of the death of Jesus (Hebrews 10:22). Through Jesus' death the lives of individuals can be transformed.

Jesus sacrificed His life to save mankind. Individuals are required to sacrifice their time, money, talents and even their lives to help others. Romans Chapter 12 verse 1 states that we must offer our bodies as living sacrifices to God.

Although the world was filled with sin, God loved it so much that He sent His only Son to die for mankind. This was the ultimate sacrifice and showed the extent of God's love. In John 15:13 Jesus states, "The greatest love you can have for your friends is to give your life for them."

Because of Jesus' love for mankind He endured much pain and suffering. Jesus was whipped, mocked and teased cruelly. A crown of thorns was pressed on His head. He had to carry a heavy cross on the way to Golgotha. He was nailed to the cross with large nails where He endured the brutal death of crucifixion.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

God's love and ultimate sacrifice for mankind through the death of His Son, Jesus, has impacted the whole world. Individuals in every part of the world have experienced salvation from sin. This transformation of the hearts of individuals has resulted in the love of Jesus being spread throughout the world. God's love helps, teaches and heals us.

The message of God's love should be demonstrated by Christians every day. They should show this love in the way they treat others. The Bible states, "My children, our love should not be just words and talk; it must be true love, which shows itself in action." (I John 3:18) If we love God, we cannot hate others. (I John 4:20-21)

Jesus' resurrection is an event of great triumph. Jesus died on Good Friday and was resurrected three days later. Many individuals were witnesses to the resurrection of Jesus, namely Mary Magdalene and the disciples. Through Jesus' resurrection He triumphed over death and sin. (I Corinthians 15:56-57)

The resurrection gives hope to all believers that one day they will also rise from the dead. (Corinthians 15:21-24) It also reminds them that God is able to forgive sins and bring hope to a world that seems hopeless. Hope gives life meaning and makes it worth living. During times of sickness, struggle, conflict or hardship, people may feel hopeless. However, because of Jesus' resurrection there is hope for the future.

There are many scriptures which relate to living a life of hope because of Jesus' resurrection. I Thessalonians 4:13 states that even when someone dies we should not be "sad as those who have no hope." 1 Peter 1:3 states that Jesus' resurrection gives believers a 'living hope." Romans 12: 12 states, "Let your hope keep you joyful, be patient in your troubles, and pray at all times."

This message of hope should be shared with people everywhere. It should be shared with the sick, those who are lost in sin and those who have lost loved ones. It could be shared through drama, singing, and the electronic and print media.

LIVEWORKSHEETS