



Dear Board of Trustees

The mission of the Churches Education Commission (CEC) is to teach Christian beliefs and values programmes with excellence and innovation. The Life Choices curriculum was written with this mission in mind. Each lesson has a specific learning outcome, and provides an opportunity for students to explore Christian beliefs and values through the lens of key competencies and values found in the New Zealand Curriculum.

We have four core values that shape the delivery of our CRE programme in New Zealand State primary schools:

1. Adding value

We are committed to meeting the needs of today's schools by ensuring the CRE programme is relevant, flexible, and adaptable and 'adds value' to every school community.

2. Acting with Integrity

We respect the opportunity we have been given by school communities, by ensuring that our CRE teachers continue to receive professional development and undergo police vetting.

3. Aiming for excellence

We are committed to using technology to develop resources for our CRE teachers to enable them to develop effective and engaging CRE lessons for the 21st century classroom.

4. Adapting to the needs of each individual school

We are committed to ensuring that the CRE programme meets the needs of each individual school; therefore we will adapt the delivery style and can work with individual schools to ensure the CRE programmes complement the values of the school.

We want to thank you for affording CEC the opportunity of presenting a CRE programme at your school. If you have any questions or queries, please don't hesitate to contact our National Office.

Warm regards,
The CEC National Trust Board

Churches Education Commission (CEC)

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Life Choices

This curriculum is designed to be taught in a three-year cycle. It is suitable for use in New Zealand State schools with year 2 to 6 students, although it may be suitable for year 1 and years 7 and 8 with appropriate adaptation.

The aim of the Life Choices curriculum is to be acceptable to New Zealand State Schools while maintaining the biblical basis of Christian Religious Education. Thus Life Choices utilises the Key Competencies and Values of the New Zealand Curriculum.¹ These specific Competencies and Values contribute to the specific Learning Outcome for each session. While sessions are taught from a Christian perspective: the teaching is open, non-judgmental and appropriate for all children in a school environment no matter their belief system.

Using a variety of teaching methods, students are encouraged to consider their values in relation to Christian values and to develop a sound ethical framework. Students are also encouraged to develop their critical thinking skills and to apply the values' teaching to their own lives.

Life Choices Blue Online Edition

This edition of Life Choices is a revision of Life Choices, Year One, first published in 2008. In keeping with the format of Year Two (2009) and Year Three (2010) in this edition there are no separate sections for junior and senior classes. As a result of this there are fewer stories overall than originally provided but sufficient stories for the first half of the 2016 teaching year.

¹ See The New Zealand Curriculum, Ministry of Education, 2008 (pages 10–13)



Overview of Units

| UNIT | SESSION | VALUES | KEY COMPETENCY | WALT we are learning to... |
|--------------------------------|--|---|--|---|
| 1. Making right choices | 1. All about me 2. Help! Help! (Good Samaritan) 3. Choosing to ask (Bartimaeus) 4. Happy, not jealous (The prodigal son) | Community Participation Integrity Equity Thinking | Relating to others Contributing Managing Self | - What the bible says about children - Help others in trouble - Ask for help - Where God is - Be generous not jealous |
| 2. Love your neighbour | 1. Tarore's world is changed (Tarore part 1) 2. Peace, not war (Tarore part 2) 3. The Grumpy Old Man (part 1) 4. The rescue mission (The Grumpy Old Man part 2) | Respect Integrity Equity | Relating to others | - Treat others as we would like to be treated - Be brave and do the right thing - Be slow to judge others - Show respect |
| 3. Biblical role models | 1. Bothersome brothers (Joseph part 1) 2. Special slave (Joseph part 2) 3. Prison to palace (Joseph part 3) 4. Best mates (Joseph part 4) 5. My two bothers | Excellence Integrity | Managing self | - Not be jealous - Do our best all the time - Always be patient and do the right things - Forgive others |
| 4. Easter | 1. Love is a superpower 2. Putting others first 3. Forgiving others 4. The Easter peacemaker | Excellence Respect Diversity Equity Community Participation | Managing self Relating to others Thinking Participating & contributing Using symbols | - Show love - Put others first - Forgive others - Make peace/be peacemakers |