**[ 5 ] WEEK FIVE - LEA Value: appreciation**

**KEY TEXT**: Mark 10:13-16 Let the children come

(admiration, approval, enjoyment of, gratitude, thankfulness, value, recognition, respect, wonder and awe, comprehension ...

Appreciation is recognising and valuing highly the gilts and blessings given to us and surrounding us. It is an attitude of gratitude for learning, loving and being. It is a positive attitude that responds in wonder and awe to, and with respect for, the created world its fragility and its potential.

Other verses to look up:- Psalm 148, Habakkuk 2:20, Philippians 4:4-9, 1 Thessalonians 5:18, 1 Pet 2:17,...

**BIBLE TEXT**: The Little Children and Jesus

*People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.*

**TEACHING FOR TEACHERS**: Jesus shows his great love of the smallest of people when he tells people to let the children come to him. We celebrate the big events and famous people, but Jesus reminds us to cherish also the seemingly insignificant things. This also extends to creation. It we stop to consider what we overlook everyday, then we will discover that there is a lot that we miss out on.

**DISCUSSION**

We need to be encouraged to honestly look at ourselves and see how we are wonderfully made by God. Dr Seuss once said: “A person’s a person, no matter how small.” Each person is unique and we can show our appreciation of this truth, by honouring the gifts that each of us. We do this by building up each other: cheering at each other’s success; finding ways to celebrate each other; refusing to gossip about others; saying thank you to compliments; speaking well of others. Often we expect others to simply conform to our expectations. When we try to clone others to look like us, we make the world a colourless place. God has given us a wonderful rainbow of persons and personalities.

This heart of appreciation also needs to be directed to creation. The earth is not there to be trampled down and squeezed of it’s life. We have opportunities every day to honour the gift of the world that God has given to us. We can work to prevent pollution and to stand against the misuse and mistreatment of the animal life on this planet.

Finally this focus on appreciation means we must explore the qualities that make human beings unique in creation – through the expression of the arts and sciences.

**ACTIVITIES**

\* What skills, abilities, hobbies, talents exist in your class group? Who are the artists and musicians? What are the games that different student play? What music is most appreciated by students in your group?

\* Conduct a student performance: MY PCG HAS TALENT.

\* Join or regularly support environmental groups that are designed to “save the planet”.

\* Make posters designed to prevent litter on the School Grounds

\* Reproduce a list of the Australia Day Awards for this year. What does the list tell us about the things that we “appreciate” in Australian Culture?

\* We often fail to appreciate certain skills or activities as OUTSTANDING or NOTEWORTHY – What does your class group think?

\* Learn about the story of Susan Boyle

\* DEBATE THIS TOPIC: Young people who have "nothing to do" too often find themselves doing things that they would rather not be doing?

\* How do the students in your group spend their time free time? What activities would the students say show that they are appreciating, using and enhancing their own skills and abilities?

\* Encourage children and teens to tackle work or hobbies that are difficult for them and then work together to see them through.

\* Discuss careers, colleges; courses and dreams for the future. How do we choose career pathways that make the most of “who we are”?

\* What does it mean to “seize the day.”? Check out the foyer scene with Robin Williams in the movie: Dead Poets Society *(beware of the suicide theme in this movie)*

*A Bible Text:*

For it as you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. — Psalm 139:13-14