



### **What is Christian SRE?**

Special Religious Education (SRE) also known as Scripture, is the time set aside in Public Schools where parents/carers can choose to have their children educated in the faith of their family and cultural background. The NSW Education Act (1990) allows for the local community to make this contribution to public education, via annually approved providers, responsible for authorising age-appropriate lessons, training and authorisation of teachers.

Christian SRE begins with the understanding that we were created by a loving God, who calls us to fullness of life. Children are encouraged to see themselves as God sees them, full of gifts and potential to be a force for immense goodness in our world. As such, Christian SRE, contributes to positive self-image, identity and resilience, forming young people in their understanding of the morals and values from the teaching of Jesus.

The Christian SRE program takes various forms in different schools and regions. In some schools individual denominations provide specific class options (E.g. Anglican, Catholic, Orthodox). In other schools Churches unite their efforts to deliver a common curriculum in combined Christian SRE classes.

### **Who teaches SRE?**

SRE teachers are people from local Christian churches, some are paid, most are volunteers. All SRE teachers have mandatory working with children checks, as well as ongoing training in child protection and classroom management, lesson preparation and the appropriate use of authorised curriculum materials.

### **What is taught?**

Christian SRE teachers follow an authorised curriculum enabling students to question, explore and discover more about their Christian faith by examining the Word of God, church teaching and the faith experience of others. It helps students to grasp what it means to live well, to be in relationship with God and to embrace a life of service of others.

SRE teachers are encouraged to use a variety of teaching activities including writing, craft, small groups, class discussion, songs, drama, storytelling, games and new learning technologies. Every SRE provider must have on their website a link to the outline of the authorised curriculum they use.

### **How do we choose SRE?**

Schools regularly inform parents/carers of available SRE options and a participation letter is included in the enrolment pack. The participation letter informs parents/ carers of the SRE options available and gives parents/carers the choice of which SRE class the student may attend e.g. Anglican, Catholic or Combined Christian SRE. If a parent/carer is unsure or wants an update, they can contact the school directly.

A parent/carer can also alter their choice at any time by sending a note to the school Principal. SRE is all about choice and SRE providers fully support the right of parents/carers to choose any of the SRE options, or non-SRE options, including private supervised study or Special Education in Ethics classes where available.

### Communication

On occasion and with pre-approval from the Principal, teachers may send information home about local church services, annual seasonal celebrations, access to sacramental or church programs, as part of ongoing communication with parents/carers. There are clear processes available at a school level and via SRE providers to enable parents/carers to have dialogue, to ask questions or to make a complaint if they have concerns about SRE.

### Why Choose SRE?

Christian SRE helps students to 'become successful learners, confident and creative individuals, and active and informed citizens. It aids them to 'have a sense of self-worth and personal identity that enables them to manage their emotional, mental, spiritual and physical wellbeing'.

“  
SRE teachers are making such a significant contribution to our communities. In NSW government schools, the teaching of faith and scripture should be available for parents who want it, underpinned by the principle of parental choice. ”

**The Honourable Prue Car, MP,  
NSW Deputy Premier & Minister  
for Education and Early Learning**

“  
SRE is a strength of our public education system, it benefits student mental health and well-being, provides safe places for students to explore faith and belief and strengthens multiculturalism. ”

**The Honourable Sarah Mitchell, MLC,  
New South Wales Shadow Minister for  
Education & Early Learning.**

The NSW Government published the independent SRE review findings and recommendations in 2017. These highlighted how SRE positively contributes to students' understanding of their cultural heritage, is an avenue for their spiritual care, builds tolerance in schools, promotes multiculturalism, contributes to a well-rounded education, and connects schools with their local community.

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 For regular updates about SRE,  
[facebook.com/christiansrensw](https://facebook.com/christiansrensw)

Episode	Title	Big Idea	Aims	Bible Focus	Bible Story	Values
1	Creation	God created the world and everything in it.	This lesson aims to answer the big question 'How did the world and everything in it get here?'	<b>Genesis 1:1 and 37</b> In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.....All of it was very good (CEV)	'Creation' by Quizworx	Curiosity, Creativity, Faith, Wonder, Respect
2	Made in the Image of God	Created in God's own image, we've been handed the responsibility of caring for his creation.	In this lesson we discover God made humans in his own image and gave them charge over the fish in the ocean, the birds in the sky, and every animal on the earth.	<b>Genesis 1: 26- 28</b> So God created humans to be like himself; he made men and women. 28 God gave them his blessing and said: Have a lot of children! Fill the earth with people and bring it under your control. Rule over the fish in the ocean, the birds in the sky, and every animal on the earth.	'Made in the Image of God' by Andrew McDonough	Stewardship, Responsibility, Care, Respect
3	Choices	God's perfect creation is spoiled by sin	This lesson aims to create awareness that God's perfect creation has been spoiled by the consequences of sin.	<b>Genesis 3</b>	<b>Adam and Eve</b> (Shadow puppets) Genesis 3	Responsibility, Seeking truth
4	The Big Rescue	Jesus is the only one who can rescue people from sin.	Children will learn the sin problem cannot be fixed by the doctor, a lifesaver, the fire brigade or a church minister. It can only be fixed by God's one and only son Jesus.	<b>John 3:16</b> God loved the people of this world so much, that he gave his only son, so that everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life and never really die (CEV)	<b>Dave the Donkey</b> based on Mark 11:1-10 by Andrew McDonough	Respect, Responsibility, Trusting God
5	Even the Wind and Waves Obey Him	Jesus proved he was God when he did amazing miracles.	This lesson introduces children to the concept that Jesus is powerful because he himself is God.	<b>Mark 4:35</b> 'Even the wind and the waves obey him' (CEV)	<b>Jesus Calms the Storm'</b> Mark 4:35-41	Curiosity, Wonder, Faith in Jesus
6	Jesus is Powerful	Magic tricks and illusions are very different to a miracle of God.	Help the children understand that a miracle is something only God can do. Reinforce that Jesus could do miracles because he is God.	<b>Matthew 14:25</b> '...Jesus came walking on water...'	<b>Jesus Walks on Water</b> Matthew 14:22-33	Authenticity, Trustworthiness
7	Jesus Gave Us Signs	What did the signs reveal about Jesus? God's power, Jesus is God.	To explore the role and importance of signs in our community. To help children understand when Jesus did miracles like feeding 5000 it was a sign to show us he is God.	<b>John 1: 18</b> Nobody has ever seen God. But God's only Son has shown God to us. He is very near to the Father, and he himself is God (Easy English Bible)	<b>Jesus Feeds 5000</b> John 6:1-14	Faith in Jesus, Authority, Character
8	Jesus - The Greatest Superhero	Jesus died, was buried and came alive again.	Our overarching aim is to present Jesus as the greatest superhero of all time because he died, was buried and came back to life again.	<b>Romans 6:9</b> He died and was raised to life, never again to die (CEV)	<b>The Big Rescue</b> (Based on Mark 15 and 16 CEV)	Faith, Trust, Hope
9	Hot Cross Buns	Easter is an important celebration on the Christian calendar.	To help children make the connection between the Hot Cross Bun and the crucifixion (and resurrection) of Jesus Christ.	<b>1 Corinthians 15: 3-4</b> I told you the most important part of the message exactly as it was told to me. That part is: Christ died for our sins, as the Scriptures say. 4 He was buried, and three days later he was raised to life, as the Scriptures say (CEV)	<b>The Way of the Cross</b> by Andrew McDonough.	Knowledge, Faith in God, Trust
10	I Am the Good Shepherd	The Lost Sheep was found by the Good Shepherd who did not stop looking for it.	To explain what Jesus meant when he said 'I am the good shepherd'.	<b>John 10:14</b> Jesus said 'I am the good shepherd....'	<b>The Lost Sheep</b> Luke 15 (CEV)	Character, Trust, Care
11	Jesus is the Way	Jesus is the only way to God.	Reveal to children that Jesus said he is 'the way' to God.	<b>John 14:6</b> Jesus said 'I am the way, the truth and the life (CEV) 'The only way to the Father is through me' (ICB)	<b>The Last Supper</b> John 14:1-14	Discovery, Seeking truth, Trust
12	Light for the World	Jesus is the light who makes God known to us.	In this lesson we discover three reasons Jesus said 'I am the light for the world' 1) He reveals God to us 2) Guides us in God's right way to live 3) Gives life both now and forever	<b>John 8:12</b> Jesus..... said 'I am the light for the world!' (CEV)	<b>The Pool of Bethesda</b> John 5:1-14	Care, Compassion, Authority, Discovery
13	The Prodigal Son	The Prodigal Son' is a parable Jesus told to help us understand how much God loves us.	The Bible tells us God's love is deep, wide, long and high, but is there a way to measure it? This lesson aims to find out.	<b>Ephesians 3:19</b> I want you to know all about Christ's love although it is too wonderful to be measured (CEV) and <b>1 John 4:16, 1 Corinthians 13:4 7, Psalm 118:1</b>	<b>The Prodigal Son</b> Luke 15:11-32	Compassion, Love, Responsibility, Joy
14	The Wise and Foolish Builders	Jesus said it is wise to listen to his words and put them into practice.	To explore the parable of 'The Wise and Foolish Builders' emphasising the main idea: Jesus said it's smart (wise) to obey him.	<b>Matthew 7:24</b> ...everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house (NIV)	<b>The Parable of 'The Wise and Foolish Builders'</b> Matthew 7:24-28	Wisdom, Responsibility

15	Love Your Neighbour	Jesus said 'Love your Neighbour...' We can put this into action through kindness.	Jesus commands all who follow him to love their neighbors, but who exactly are they and what does it mean to love them? This lesson answers those questions through the retelling of the parable Good Samaritan and by exploring practical ways we can love our neighbour in the school setting.	<b>Matthew 22-39</b> 'Love your neighbour as yourself'	<b>The Good Samaritan</b> Luke 10: 25- 37	Kindness, Care, Compassion, Empathy
16	God's Crew	Anybody who follows Jesus belongs to God's crew.	In Matthew 4:19 we learn Jesus called out to four fishermen saying 'Come follow me and I will show you how to fish for people!' We'll discover who the fisherman were, why Jesus called them and what it means to 'fish for people'.	<b>Matthew 4:19</b> Jesus called out to them, 'Come follow me and I will show you how to fish for people!' (NLT)	<b>Peter the Fisherman</b> Luke 5:1-11 by Andrew McDonough	Commitment, Participation, Community
17	Kingdom of God and Kids	God's Kingdom welcomes children.	In this lesson we discover God's Kingdom is a family people belong to rather than a destination people travel to. Anybody is welcome including children.	<b>Matthew 19:14</b> 'Let the children come to me. Do not stop them.	<b>Jesus and the Children</b> Mark 10:13-16	Community, Inclusion, Love, Trusting Jesus
18	David - Chosen to be King	God does not look at the outward appearance of people but instead looks at what is in their hearts.	To discover why God chose David the shepherd boy to become king over his people.	<b>1 Samuel 16:1-13</b> 'People judge others by what they look like, but I judge people by what is in their hearts.'	<b>David, Chosen to be King</b> 1 Samuel 16:1-13	Integrity, Character
19	David and Goliath	David had the courage to face Goliath because he trusted in the power of God.	Today we will learn about a shepherd boy named David who, with God's help, defeated a giant named Goliath.	<b>Psalms 121:1-2</b> Where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord	<b>David and Goliath</b> 1 Samuel 17:1-24, 26b-43, 45-46a, 47-48a, 50 (CEV)	Courage, Trusting God
20	Prayer: Anytime Anywhere	Prayer is talking and listening to God	Using the Bible as our reference point we answer questions children have about prayer.	<b>Jeremiah 33:3, 1 John 5:14, Psalm 46:10</b>		Participation, Communication, Faith
21	Wow, Thanks, Sorry and Please (Part 1)	We can use 'Wow' and 'Thanks' to help us pray.	To provide a beginners guide to prayer.	<b>1 Thessalonians 5:16-18</b> Always be happy. 17 Never stop praying. 18 Give thanks whatever happens. That is what God wants for you in Christ Jesus.		Wonder, Gratitude, Participation
22	Wow, Thanks, Sorry and Please (Part 2)	We can use 'Sorry' and 'Please' to help us pray.	To provide a beginners guide to prayer.	<b>1 John 1:9</b> ..... if we confess our sins to God, he can always be trusted to forgive us and take our sins away. <b>Timothy 2:1-2</b> .....to pray for all people. Ask God for the things people need, and be thankful to him.....		Forgiveness, Responsibility, Accountability, Thoughtfulness
23	Praise the Lord! He is Good	Praising God is a celebration and appreciation of who God is	When faced with big trouble King Jehoshaphat and his people chose to praise God instead of worrying. Today's lesson emphasises praise as a way of celebrating and appreciating all God has done and for what he is going to do	<b>Psalms 136</b> Praise the Lord. He is good.	<b>Jehoshaphat</b> 2 Chronicles 20: 1- 22 (ICB)	Trusting God, Peace
24	Do Not Worry	Look at the birds and remember if your Heavenly Father takes care of them he will take care of you too.	Encourage children to follow the advice of Jesus and look at our feathered friends. They are a reminder that we have a Heavenly Father who knows, cares and invites us to prayerfully trust him with everything.	<b>Matthew 6:26</b> Look at the birds in the sky! They don't plant or harvest. They don't even store grain in barns. Yet your Father in heaven takes care of them. Aren't you worth much more than birds? <b>Philippians 4:6</b> Do not worry about anything. Instead, pray to God about everything.	<b>Bob The Bird</b> based on Matthew 6:25-35 by Andrew McDonough	Peace, Appreciation, Curiosity, Trust in Jesus
25	Daniel in the Lion's Den	Daniel trusted God knowing he was truthful, strong and reliable.	Define the concept of trust and discuss what makes something or someone trustworthy. Retell the story 'Daniel in the Lion's Den' with an emphasis on Daniel's trust in God.	<b>Isaiah 41:10</b> Don't worry- I am with you. Don't be afraid- I am your God. I will make you strong and help you.	<b>Daniel in the Lion's Den</b> Daniel 6:1-23 (CEV)	Trusting God, Excellence,
26	Gideon	God could see Gideon's true potential.	God saw Gideon's true potential, a 'mighty hero' who simply needed to trust that in his weakness God was strong.	<b>Judges 6:12</b> 'Mighty Hero, the Lord is with you' (NLT)	<b>Gideon</b> Judges 6	Courage, Trust in God, Potential
27	Jonah and the Whale	God is loving, patient, merciful and kind.	Retell the story of Jonah as a demonstration of the lengths God will go to rescue people.	<b>Jonah 4:2</b> He complained to the Lord and said "I knew this would happen. That's why I left my own country and headed for Spain. You are a loving and merciful God, always patient, always kind, and always ready to forgive rather than punish.	<b>Jonah And The Whale</b> based on the book of Jonah	Love, Patience, Mercy, Kindness, Trust in God

28	The Man With Leprosy	Jesus showed us that compassion is a feeling plus an action.	Jesus shows us who God is and what God is like. In this lesson we discover the compassionate heart of God the day Jesus meets the man with leprosy	<b>Mark 1: 41</b> Moved with compassion, Jesus reached out and touched him (NLT)	<b>The Man with Leprosy'</b> based on Mark 1:40-44 by Andrew McDonough	Compassion, Care
29	Zacchaeus	Jesus has the power to transform people's lives.	This lesson explores the miraculous transformation that took place in the life of Zacchaeus the day he met Jesus.	<b>Luke 19: 1-10</b>	<b>Zacchaeus</b> Luke 19: 1-10	Transformation, Character, Observation, Responsibility
30	Christmas Cards	At Christmas we send and receive Christmas cards to celebrate the birth of Jesus.	This lesson explores the tradition of sending and receiving Christmas cards as a way of celebrating the birth of Jesus.	<b>Luke 2:14</b> Peace on Earth to everyone who pleases God (CEV)	<b>God's Promised One is Born</b>	Participation, Hope, Peace
31	Good News: It's Christmas	Shepherds were the first to hear the Good News of Jesus' birth.	Shepherds were startled by a choir of Angels bringing the good news of Christ's birth.	<b>Luke 2:10-11</b> I have good news for you, which will make everyone happy. 11 This very day.....a Saviour was born for you. He is Christ the Lord	<b>The Shepherds</b> Luke 2: 8- 20	Hope, Peace, Joy
32	The Wise Men	Wise men visited Jesus bearing gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh.	We will discover the first known gifts given at Christmas were gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh given by wise men to Jesus.	<b>Matthew 2: 1-12</b>	<b>The Wise Men Visit Jesus</b> Matthew 2:1-12	Community, Peace, Generosity
33	Jesus: Born to Rescue	Jesus came to rescue people from the consequences of sin.	Today we take a brief but punchy journey from creation to the cross highlighting the significance of Christ's birth	<b>John 3:16</b> God loved the people of this world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life and never really die (CEV)	<b>Adam and Eve</b> Genesis 3	Trust in God, Insight, Reflection, Meaning