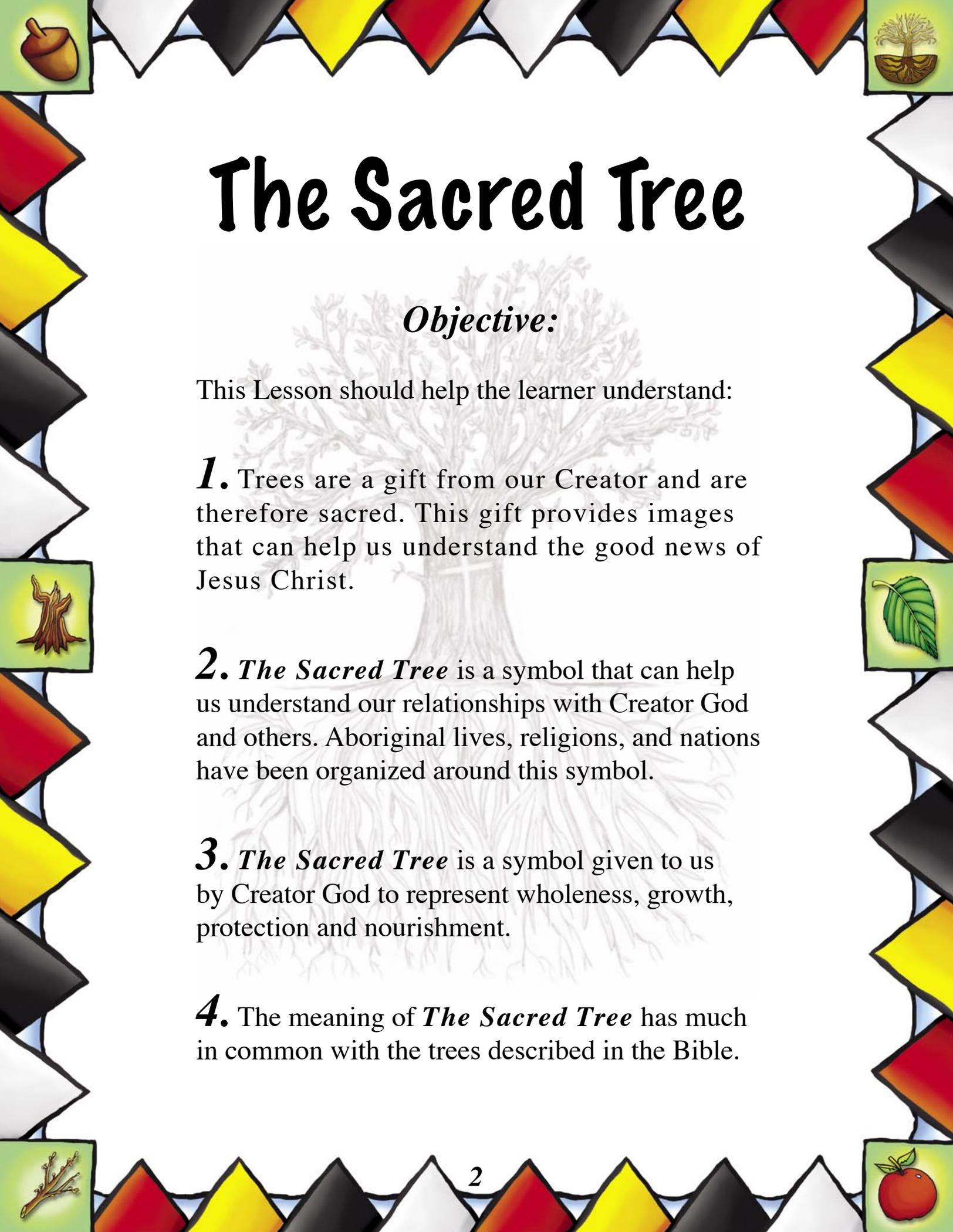


Teachings Of The Sacred Tree

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The Sacred Tree

Objective:

This Lesson should help the learner understand:

- 1.** Trees are a gift from our Creator and are therefore sacred. This gift provides images that can help us understand the good news of Jesus Christ.
- 2.** *The Sacred Tree* is a symbol that can help us understand our relationships with Creator God and others. Aboriginal lives, religions, and nations have been organized around this symbol.
- 3.** *The Sacred Tree* is a symbol given to us by Creator God to represent wholeness, growth, protection and nourishment.
- 4.** The meaning of *The Sacred Tree* has much in common with the trees described in the Bible.



Traditional Beliefs about the Sacred Tree:

Creator God planted a Sacred Tree under which all people; red, black, white and yellow may gather and find healing, power, wisdom and security.

Its roots spread deeply into the body of Mother Earth while its branches reach upward like praying hands to Creator God.

The fruits of this tree are the many good things Creator God has given to his people; such as the teachings of love, honesty, humility, wisdom, patience, respect and bravery.

The Elders teach us that the life of the tree, or the tree of life, is the life of the people. (The Sacred Tree, 7)



The Elders say:

The inner growth of the Sacred Tree is hidden, but we can see the result of this growth on the exterior of the tree. Thus, our outer life can be seen as a reflection of the development of our inner being. Therefore, stand firm and raise your arms to the sky like a tree.

Man is like the **trunk** of a tree, with roots deep in the breast of Mother Earth, and a soul that ascends toward the bright stars of Creator God's sky. The roots of the tree are like angels of Mother Earth and the branches are like Angels of Creator God. This is the meaning of the Sacred Tree of

life that stands in eternity.
(The Sacred Tree, 23 and <http://web.mala.bc.ca/firstnations/doris/tsacred.htm>)

The Apostle John recorded:

Jesus answered him, "I am the true **vine**, and my Father is the vine grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit... Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit unless it abides in the **vine**, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine. You are the branches... My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. John 15: 1-2, 4-5a, 8.

