



The ABCs of God Overview for Parents



THE ROLE OF PARENTS

Under God, parents are the most important teachers in a child's life. God has given parents the following command for teaching their children:

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.

*⁵You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart
and with all your soul and with all your might.*

⁶And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.

*⁷You shall teach them diligently to your children,
and shall talk of them when you sit in your house,
and when you walk by the way,
and when you lie down, and when you rise.*

*⁸You shall bind them as a sign on your hand,
and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.*

⁹You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

—Deuteronomy 6:4-9

For this reason, we have prepared a Growing in Faith Together page for every lesson in this curriculum. These pages are to assist you in nurturing the faith of your child.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

The ABCs of God was written to present children with the beauty and awesome grandeur of the incomparable greatness and worth of God. Toward this end, this curriculum uses the framework of the alphabet to teach children key attributes of God and other words that define His character. These are deep doctrinal truths that answer the most important questions for each of us, namely:

Who is God?

What is God like?

How should I act toward God?

Furthermore, there is a strategic design and flow to the study that slowly and carefully leads to a clear presentation of the Gospel. In doing so, the children will better see and understand the essence, means, and goal of salvation within the larger context of God's character.

How are the Growing in Faith Together pages used?

Each Growing in Faith Together page will include the following information to help you initiate meaningful discussions with your child:

LESSON TITLE

The lesson titles reflect the key attribute or theme of the lesson. The attributes encompass the alphabet from A to Z, but they are not introduced in alphabetical order. Rather, they reflect a thematic order and, in many cases, they build on previous attributes and themes.

MAIN IDEAS

These are the key concepts that are taught in the lesson. Each reflects a simple definition of the attribute or theme that was introduced. Discuss these with your child and help him or her to memorize each definition.

MEMORY VERSE

Every lesson has one or two memory verses. These verses have been chosen to be both child-friendly and to give your child a strong, Bible-based foundation for understanding who God is and what He is like. All verses are taken from the English Standard Version (ESV) of Scripture. We cannot overemphasize the significance of memorized Scripture in the walk of faith.

SCRIPTURE

The Scripture references listed in this section are used in the lesson to reveal the Main Ideas. If possible, read these Bible stories and texts at home, and ask your child questions about the truths revealed in these texts. This will serve to reinforce the biblical truths taught. Challenge your child to embrace and grow in faith.

LESSON SUMMARY

This section is meant to not only give you an overview of the main theological themes that were taught in the lesson, but also to inspire and build up your own faith.

PRAYER POINTS

This section offers a few suggestions of how you might pray for your child as you seek to instruct his or her mind and heart in light of the character of God.

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

Heart application is a vital part of each lesson. We do not want to just teach toward the goal of intellectual understanding, but also toward the goal of spiritual understanding so that God—who He is and what He is like—is fully embraced and treasured in the heart. Although teachers and parents cannot create saving faith in a child (this is the work of the Holy Spirit), we can challenge and encourage a child to rightly respond to biblical truth in his or her own life. To assist you in this endeavor, we have included several possible discussion starters to use with your child. Hopefully, these will lead to further spiritual conversation between you and your child.

ACTION STEP

Action Steps are simple activities to help your child understand that he or she must act in response to the Word, not just passively listen to it.

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Because Bible memory is so important, all the memory verses are included with an activity at the end of the page. Help your child memorize these verses and discuss what they mean as he or she completes the activity. Pray with your child about his or her response to the Word of God.



Scope and Sequence

Lesson 1: Questions

Memory Verse: Isaiah 46:9b

The most important questions are: Who is God? What is God like? How should I act toward God?
The Bible gives us the true answers to the most important questions.

Lesson 2: Incomprehensible

Memory Verse: Job 37:5

God is more than we can fully understand.

Lesson 3: YHWH (Yahweh)

Memory Verses: Isaiah 42:8a; Psalm 9:10a

Yahweh is God's personal name. God desires to make His name known.

Lesson 4: Eternal

Memory Verse: Psalm 90:2

God has no beginning or end.

Lesson 5: Creator

Memory Verse: Isaiah 44:24b

God made everything.

Lesson 6: Glorious

Memory Verses: Psalm 19:1; Psalm 72:19a

God shows His greatness and worth.

Lesson 7: Wise

Memory Verse: Psalm 104:24a

God causes everything to work out perfectly.

Lesson 8: Almighty

Memory Verse: Jeremiah 32:17

God is all-powerful.

Lesson 9: Sovereign

Memory Verse: Psalm 115:3

God has the right and wisdom and power to do all He pleases.

Lesson 10: Provider

Memory Verse: Acts 17:25b

God meets the needs of His creation.

Lesson 11: Self-Sufficient

Memory Verse: Acts 17:25

God does not need anything.

Lesson 12: Understanding

Memory Verses: Psalm 103:13-14

God remembers that we are weak.

Lesson 13: Attentive

Memory Verse: Psalm 34:15

God constantly sees, hears, and acts in the world.

Lesson 14: Faithful

Memory Verse: 1 Thessalonians 5:24

God always does what He says he will do.

Lesson 15: Trinity

Memory Verses: Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19

God is three persons in one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Lesson 16: Happy

Memory Verse: 1 Timothy 6:15b

God delights in being God.

Lesson 17: Love

Memory Verse: John 3:16

God gives of Himself for the joy of others.

Lesson 18: Omnipresent

Memory Verse: Jeremiah 23:24

God is everywhere all the time.

Lesson 19: Refuge

Memory Verses: Proverbs 18:10; Psalm 46:1

God is a place of safety for His people.

Lesson 20: Unchanging God never changes.	<i>Memory Verses: Malachi 3:6a; Hebrews 13:8</i>
Lesson 21: Omniscient God knows everything.	<i>Memory Verse: 1 John 3:20b</i>
Lesson 22: Good God is good in all He is and does.	<i>Memory Verse: Psalm 145:9</i>
Lesson 23: Jealous God will not share His glory, or the honor and praise He deserves.	<i>Memory Verses: Isaiah 42:8; Exodus 34:14</i>
Lesson 24: Righteous Everything that God thinks, says, and does is right.	<i>Memory Verse: Psalm 119:137</i>
Lesson 25: Wrathful God is very angry at sin, and is right to punish sinners.	<i>Memory Verse: Romans 1:18a</i>
Lesson 26: Patient God is slow to anger and slow to punish.	<i>Memory Verse: 2 Peter 3:9</i>
Lesson 27: Merciful God is kind to undeserving sinners.	<i>Memory Verse: Psalm 145:8</i>
Lesson 28: Zealous God acts with His whole heart.	<i>Memory Verse: Isaiah 42:13</i>
Lesson 29: Deliverer God saves His sinful people from the punishment they deserve.	<i>Memory Verse: 1 Timothy 1:15a</i>
Lesson 30: Victorious God always wins, even over Satan, sin, and death.	<i>Memory Verse: 1 Chronicles 29:11a</i>
Lesson 31: King God rules over everyone.	<i>Memory Verses: Psalm 47:7a, 8</i>
Lesson 32: eXalted God ranks far above everything else. He is the Most High.	<i>Memory Verse: Psalm 97:9</i>
Lesson 33: Holy God is like nothing else. He is perfect and is separate from sin.	<i>Memory Verse: Isaiah 40:25</i>
Lesson 34: Worthy God is most valuable and deserves our greatest love, obedience, and worship.	<i>Memory Verse: Philippians 3:8a</i>
Lesson 35: Bountiful God is more than enough to satisfy all our desires.	<i>Memory Verse: Psalm 13:6</i>
Lesson 36: Never-Tiring God never gets tired and never sleeps.	<i>Memory Verses: Isaiah 40:28b; Psalm 121:3b</i>
Lesson 37: Seeking God Seeking God means experiencing a desperate need for God's forgiveness and calling out to Jesus to save you.	<i>Memory Verses: Jeremiah 29:13; Romans 10:13</i>
Lesson 38: Loving God Loving God is knowing, feeling, and treating God as your greatest treasure.	<i>Memory Verse: Psalm 73:25</i>
Lesson 39: Trusting and Obeying God Trusting and obeying God means following and obeying God because you know Him to be trustworthy.	<i>Memory Verse: John 10:27</i>
Lesson 40: Enjoying God Those who trust in Jesus can experience the great and lasting joy of being God's children and enjoying Him forever.	<i>Memory Verse: Psalm 16:11</i>



Questions

MAIN IDEAS

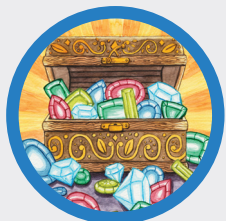
- **The most important questions are:
Who is God?
What is God like?
How should I act toward God?**
- **The Bible gives us the true answers to the most important questions.**

MEMORY VERSE

...for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me,—Isaiah 46:9b

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Deuteronomy 6:4-5
- 2) Isaiah 46:9b



LESSON SUMMARY

Children are full of questions. They have a God-given curiosity to know the “how” and the “why” of everything around them. In this lesson, we directed the children to the most crucial questions of all: Who is God? What is He like? How should I act toward Him? We then emphasized the necessity of God’s Word. The Bible provides us with absolute and unchanging truth regarding every essential question about who God is and what God is like and how we are to respond to Him.

This lesson also introduced the children to something called the “Blessing Box”—a visual aid that will be used throughout the curriculum. The Blessing Box is a large beautiful gift box that will contain special visuals revealed during the lesson to help children discover important truths about God.

PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...



- *that your child will “taste and see” the greatness and worth of God as you acquaint him or her with His character through the study of His Word.*
- *that God, in His sovereign grace, would make your child wise for salvation.*

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Show your child a Bible. Ask if he or she can recall why the Bible is so special. [The Bible is God’s Word—2 Peter 1:20-21; it tells the truth—Psalm 119:160 and John 17:17; and it answers the most important questions.]

What would be more important to read and know—a make-believe fun story, or God’s true words? Why is it more important to read and know the Bible?

- Review today’s memory verse from Isaiah 46:9b. Because God says that He alone is God, it means there are no other gods. Because this answer is from the Bible, it is the truth.

What does it mean to be “God”? What kind of job is it? Is there anyone or anything more important than God? Is there anything better than being God? Because God alone is God, how should we act toward Him?

Read and discuss Deuteronomy 6:4-5.

- Write the statement “I think God is...” on a piece of paper. Give your child a few moments to describe what God is like (His character) in his or her own words. Write down the answers.

How could we be sure if your answers about God are true or not true? If possible, help your child to measure each characteristic with Scripture. Keep this list and use it throughout the rest of the study to help your child expand/correct his or her answers.

ACTION STEP

This week, read Psalm 19:7-11 to your child. These verses describe characteristics of God’s Word and the effects it brings about. Read and talk about one verse each day (five days total).

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Look up the verse in your Bible and fill in the blanks. Then, color the picture as you memorize the verse.

**...for I am _____, and there is
no other; I am _____, and there
is none like _____, –Isaiah 46:9b**





Incomprehensible

MAIN IDEA

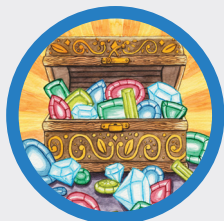
- **God is more than we can fully understand.**

MEMORY VERSE

God thunders wondrously with his voice; he does great things that we cannot comprehend.—Job 37:5

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Job 37:5
- 2) Job 38:4-5a, 18a, 19, 35-36
- 3) Job 39:1, 19, 26
- 4) Job 42:3b
- 5) Psalm 145:2-3
- 6) Isaiah 46:9b
- 7) John 20:31



LESSON SUMMARY

In the first lesson, we introduced the most important questions in all of life, namely: Who is God? What is He like? And how should we act toward God? We also taught the children that the true answers to these questions are found in the Bible. Yet we must also acknowledge from the beginning of our study of God's character our finite human ability to completely understand God. We can truly know something about God's character, but we can never fully know Him. Yes, He reveals all essential truths so that we might come to truly know, love, and trust in Him, but we cannot comprehend the full depths of His infinite greatness.

This lesson presented children with a summary of the life of Job to help children understand that God is more than we can fully understand, and a right response to Him is humble and awe-filled worship.

PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...



- *that God would work in the heart of your child so that he or she might grow in understanding of the true nature of God's "unsearchability."*
- *that God would use this lesson as a means for your child to long to know Him more and trust Him more, especially when His ways are more than we can fully understand.*

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- **In what ways does God help us to learn more about who He is?** Talk about ways in which you can specifically learn more about God: reading the Bible, listening carefully during Bible teaching time in Sunday school, paying attention to the pastor as he preaches, parents' teaching, etc.
- **Can any of us be considered a "know-it-all" about God? Does that include adults and older people, even Sunday school teachers or pastors? Why is it a good thing that God is incomprehensible, and what should that encourage us to do?** [e.g., God is greater and more wonderful than we could ever imagine. Every day we can learn new things about God. God will never get "old or boring." We do not need to feel frustrated or give up because we cannot understand everything about God, etc.]

- Quickly review the "bad" things that happened in Job's life—he lost his property, children, and health. **When God allows things to happen to us that are hard to understand, even things that hurt us or cause us to feel sad, is it right to think that we will always be able to understand why God is allowing those things to happen? What did Job find out from God?** Read Job 42:3b.

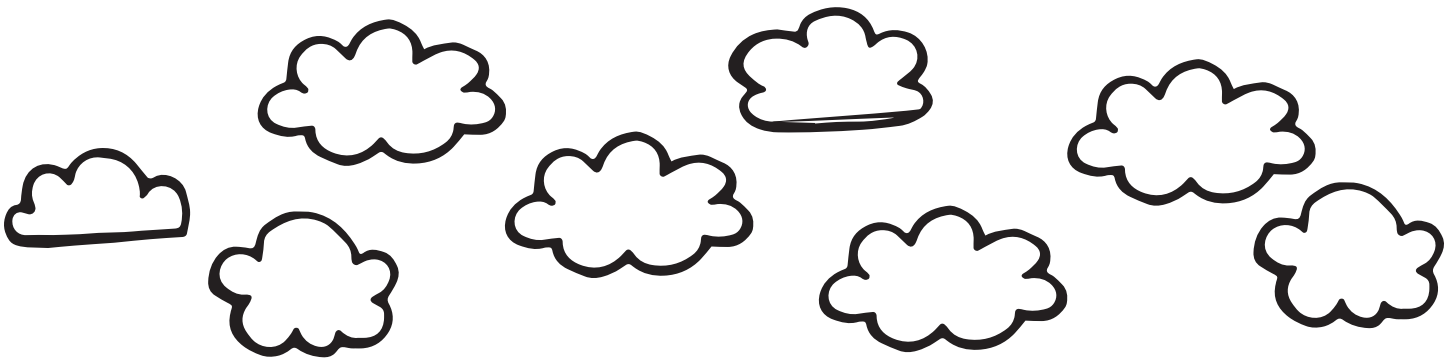
How can we trust God when sad things happen? Would it be easier to trust God by knowing Him more, or less? Why would it be easier to trust Him more when we know more about what He is like? [e.g., If we know that a man is a trained fireman, we can be more confident in his ability to help us if there is a fire in our home.]

ACTION STEP

This week, look through a nature picture book together. Next, read through some questions from Job chapters 38-41. Talk about the greatness of God in being able to create and sustain His creation. Now read Psalm 145:2-5. Decide on some ways that you can praise God as a family this week.

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Add lightening bolts and rain drops to the clouds as a reminder of the greatness of God. Then, look up the verse in your Bible and fill in the missing words below.



_____ thunders wondrously
with his voice; he does
great things that we cannot

—Job 37:5



YHWH (Yahweh)

MAIN IDEAS

- **Yahweh is God's personal name.**
- **God desires to make His name known.**

MEMORY VERSES

(Choose one)

I am the LORD; that is my name.

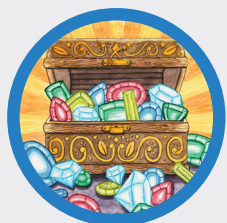
—Isaiah 42:8a

And those who know your name put their trust in you.

—Psalm 9:10

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Exodus 3:4b-6a, 13, 15
- 2) Psalm 9:10a
- 3) Isaiah 42:8



LESSON SUMMARY

This lesson presented the biblical account of God's revelation of His name, YHWH (there are no vowels given in our Hebrew texts), to Moses and the people of Israel. Of all the revealed names of God, it is the one most often used in the Bible that is considered His proper personal name. Many non-Jewish English speakers usually pronounce it as *Yahweh*, and it is translated as "LORD" in many English versions of the Bible. God's unique name reveals that He alone defines and explains Himself: "I will be who I will be." He is the self-existent One, independent from all other things.

This lesson also explained the importance of God revealing His personal name: God wants people to know Him as a specific and unique Person, not just one of the common "gods" proclaimed among other nations and peoples. Furthermore, in revealing His personal name, God binds the greatness and worth of His character with that specific name, and not simply with the generic title "God"—*Yahweh* is the one true, eternal God. And though *Yahweh* is more than we can fully understand, He makes Himself known so that we may embrace *Yahweh* as our God, Ruler, Friend, Savior, and Treasure. In this way, He draws His people into an intimate and loving relationship with Himself.

PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *that your child will, by His grace, embrace Yahweh as his or her God and Savior.*
- *that, as your child becomes more and more acquainted with Yahweh's character, his or her confidence in God would increase.*



AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- **Why is it important for someone to tell us his name? How can knowing that God has a personal name that He shares with us help us to better understand that He is "real," and that He cares for us and wants us to love Him? Is it sometimes hard for you to feel that *Yahweh* is real? In what ways does *Yahweh* show us that He is real and cares for us?**

- When you say a friend's name, do certain things about your friend come to mind? Give your child an example of this. Explain that *Yahweh* wants us to have certain things come to mind when we think of Him.

What kinds of things should come to mind when we think of *Yahweh*? What kind of things describe what He is like?

- Read the memory verse from Psalm 9:10a. Explain that the "know" in the verse means to

know and understand a person's character—what makes him special. People who really "know" what *Yahweh* is like—the things that go along with His name: incomprehensible, loving, great, powerful, etc.—will understand that He is trustworthy. You can trust *Yahweh* to always keep His word.

Is there something that you have a hard time trusting God for? What could help you to become more trusting?

ACTION STEP

Over the course of the week, read Psalm 33 together as your child looks on. Look for God's personal name in the text: "LORD." How many times is it used? Talk about what these verses are telling us about the LORD—*Yahweh*.

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Look up the verses in your Bible and fill in the blanks. Then, color the picture as you memorize the verses.

I am the
 _____;
 that is my
 _____.
 —*Isaiah 42:8a*

And those who
 know your

 put their
 trust in you.
 —*Psalm 9:10*





Eternal

MAIN IDEA

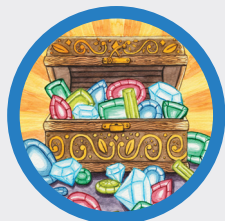
- **God has no beginning or end.**

MEMORY VERSE

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.—Psalm 90:2

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Deuteronomy 33:27a
- 2) Psalm 90:1-2
- 3) Psalm 93:2
- 4) Isaiah 26:4
- 5) Isaiah 46:9b
- 6) Jeremiah 10:10a



LESSON SUMMARY

God alone is eternal and totally self-existing. It simply boggles the mind, as there is no way to liken it to anything in our own experience. In and of itself, this attribute of God should cause us to fall down and worship Him! He is the same God who created the world thousands of years ago. He is the same God who called out to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He is the same God who acts today. Because He is eternal, He can be depended to keep every promise for all eternity!

Because “eternal” is an abstract concept for children to understand, the lesson first introduced the concept of age and how it is determined, and then used this as a means to contrast all other things with the agelessness of God.

PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...



- *that the truths taught in this lesson be used by God to help your child be in awe of God.*
- *that your child will realize that the eternal God is alive and real today, not only in the world but in his or her own life as well, and find in Him an everlasting hope for the future.*

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Read Deuteronomy 33:27a and Psalm 90:1-2. Discuss the importance of the eternal God being a dwelling place for His people. If possible show your child a picture of an old, unstable house or building. **Would this place be a safe dwelling? Why do human structures get old and worn out?** Pray together and praise God that He is an eternal dwelling place for His people. Thank Him for His goodness, and ask that He would give us hearts that would trust in His everlasting protection.
- Point out a time in which your child was disappointed by something that didn't last. Read and discuss Isaiah 26:4. **What should the words "the LORD" remind us of in this verse?** [God's name, *Yahweh*] **Why can we trust in the LORD forever? What does it say God is like? How is God like an everlasting rock? Because God is like an everlasting rock, will He ever grow weak or stop being God, or die? How should we respond to Him? Are there things you have a hard time trusting God for? How can we pray to God about this?**

- Read and discuss Jeremiah 10:10a. Why is it important to understand that God is alive right now? Do you act like God is alive? In what ways? Why is important to know that God is the everlasting King? Who is in charge of the

world right now? Who will be in charge of the world next week, and next year, and even when we are old? How should we act toward God to show that we understand that He really is the everlasting King?

ACTION STEP

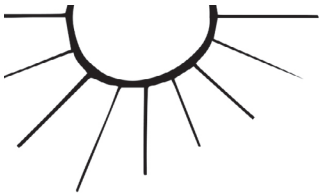
This week, begin using The ABCs of God Game Cards (cards for the whole year are included on the following pages) to review the words, meanings, and verses for the letters Q, I, Y, and E.

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Look up the verse in your Bible and fill in the blank. Then, draw tall mountains in the picture below.

Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth, and the world from

to everlasting you are God.—*Psalm 90:2*





ALMIGHTY

Ah, Lord God, it is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you.

—*Jeremiah 32:17*

ATTENTIVE

The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous and his ears toward their cry.

—*Psalms 34:15*

BOUNTIFUL

I will sing to the LORD, because he has dealt bountifully with me.

—*Psalms 13:6*

CREATOR

I am the LORD, who has made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens who spread out

the earth by myself,

—*Isaiah 44:24b*

DELIVERER

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to

save sinners,

—*1 Timothy 1:15a*

ETERNAL

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

—*Psalms 90:2*

FAITHFUL

He who calls you faithful; he will surely do it.

—*1 Thessalonians 5:24*

GLORIOUS

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.—*Psalms 19:1*

Blessed by his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with His glory!

—*Psalms 72:19a*

GOOD

The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.

—*Psalms 145:9*



HAPPY

[He] is the blessed
and only Sovereign,
the King of kings
and Lord of lords.

—1 Timothy 6:15b

HOLY

To whom then will you
compare me, that I
should be like him? says
the Holy One.

—Isaiah 40:25

INCOMPREHENSIBLE

God thunders wondrously
with his voice; he does
great things that we
cannot comprehend.

—Job 37:5

JEALOUS

I am the LORD; that is my name;
my glory I give to no other, nor my
praise to carved idols.—Isaiah 42:8

...for you shall worship no other god,
for the LORD, whose name
is Jealous, is a jealous God,
—Exodus 34:14

KING

For God is the King of all
the earth...⁸God reigns
over the nations; God
sits on his holy throne.

—Psalm 47:7a, 8

LOVE

For God so loved the world,
that he gave his only Son,
that whoever believes in him
should not perish but have
eternal life.

—John 3:16

MERCIFUL

The LORD is gracious
and merciful, slow to
anger and abounding
in steadfast love.

—Psalm 145:8

NEVER-TIRING

...The LORD is the everlasting
God, the Creator of the ends of
the earth. He does not faint or
grow weary;...—Isaiah 40:28b

...he who keeps you will not
slumber.—Psalm 121:3b

OMNIPRESENT

Can a man hide himself in
secret places so that I cannot
see him? declares the LORD.
Do I not fill heaven and earth?

declares the LORD.
—Jeremiah 23:24



OMNISCIENT

...he knows everything.

—1 John 3:20b

PATIENT

The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

—2 Peter 3:9

PROVIDER

...he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.

—Acts 17:25b

QUESTIONS

...for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there

is none like me,

—Isaiah 46:9b

REFUGE

The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe.

—Proverbs 18:10

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

—Psalm 46:1

RIGHTEOUS

Righteous are you, O LORD, and right are your rules.

—Psalm 119:137

SELF-SUFFICIENT

...nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.

—Acts 17:25

SOVEREIGN

Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.

—Psalm 115:3

TRINITY

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.—Deuteronomy 6:4
Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

—Matthew 28:191



UNCHANGING

For I the LORD do not change;—*Malachi 3:6a*
 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.—*Hebrews 13:8*

UNDERSTANDING

As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him. ¹⁴For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.—*Psalms 103:13-14*

VICTORIOUS

Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory...
 —*1 Chronicles 29:11a*

WISE

O LORD, how manifold are your works!
 In wisdom have you made them all;
 —*Psalms 104:24a*

WORTHY

Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.
 —*Philippians 3:8a*

WRATHFUL

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men,
 —*Romans 1:18a*

EXALTED

For you, O LORD, are most high over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods.
 —*Psalms 97:9*

YHWH (Yahweh)

I am the LORD; that is my name;
 —*Isaiah 42:8a*
 And those who know your name put their trust in you,
 —*Psalms 9:10a*

ZEALOUS

The LORD goes out like a mighty man, like a man of war he stirs up his zeal: he cries out, he shouts aloud, he shows himself mighty against his foes.
 —*Isaiah 42:13*



God is
all-powerful.

God constantly
sees, hears,
and acts in
the world.

God is more
than enough
to satisfy all
our desires.

God
made
everything.

God saves His
sinful people
from the
punishment
they deserve.

God has no
beginning
or end.

God always
does what
He says He
will do.

God
shows His
greatness
and worth.

God is good
in all He is
and does.



God
delights in
being God.

God will not
share His glory,
or the honor
and praise
He deserves.

God is
kind to
undeserving
sinners.

God is like
nothing else.
He is perfect and
is separate from
sin.

God rules
over
everyone.

God never
gets tired and
never sleeps.

God is more
than we
can fully
understand.

God gives of
Himself for
the joy
of others.

God is
everywhere
all the time.



God knows everything.

The most important questions are: Who is God? What is God like? How should I act toward God?

God does not need anything.

God is slow to anger and slow to punish.

God is a place of safety for His people.

God has the right and wisdom and power to do all He pleases.

God meets the needs of His creation.

Everything that God thinks, says, and does is right.

God is three persons in one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



**God never
changes.**

**God
remembers
that we
are weak.**

**God always
wins, even
over Satan,
sin, and death.**

**God causes
everything
to work out
perfectly.**

**God is most
valuable and
deserves our
greatest love,
obedience,
and worship.**

**God is very
angry at sin,
and is right to
punish sinners.**

**God ranks
far above
everything else.
He is the
Most High.**

**Yahweh is God's
personal name.
God desires
to make His
name known.**

**God acts
with His
whole heart.**



Creator

MAIN IDEA

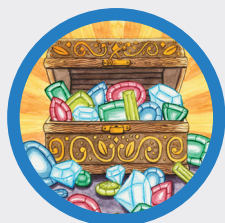
- **God made everything.**

MEMORY VERSE

I am the LORD, who made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by myself,—Isaiah 44:24b

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Genesis 1
(selected portions)
- 2) Psalm 8:1, 3-8
- 3) Psalm 10:3-4
- 4) Psalm 24:1-2
- 5) Psalm 90:2
- 6) Psalm 139:13-14
- 7) Isaiah 44:24b
- 8) Romans 1:21



LESSON SUMMARY

God alone is eternal, so it follows that everything else, whether angels, atoms, birds, or man, all have their source in the eternal God. Furthermore, creation is an amazing "show and tell" of God's eternal power and divine nature, made evident to all people (Romans 1:20). God's creation reflects the infinite wisdom of its Creator as He crafted everything with divine order and purpose (Jeremiah 10:12).

Unfortunately, in our day, the simple and absolute truth that God is the Creator of all things has been replaced by sinful and futile human reasoning, such as Darwinism. Even some Christians have been deceived into adopting naturalism by misguided theories such as "theistic evolution."¹

PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...



- *that God would instill in your child a bedrock confidence in the reliability of the Scriptures. May your child never be shaken by the world's reasoning concerning the origin of all created things.*
- *that your child would see God's creative works with increasing awe, and respond to Him with awe, praise, and thanksgiving.*

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Read and talk about Psalm 24:1-2. **Why does everything rightly belong to God, and not to us or someone else? Because everything belongs to God, including you, how should that change the way we think about ourselves, our families and friends, our homes and toys, our pets and other things? Do you thank God for all that He has made? Do you act as if a toy or game ultimately belongs to God, and not to you? Do you treat God as your Creator, or do you act as if you are independent of Him? How can you respond to God this week in a way that shows you understand what it means that He is your Creator?**
- Review Genesis 1:27. People—both male and female—are the only creatures created in God's image and likeness. Think of specific

1. For a more in-depth study of why Christians should reject theistic evolution, see Wayne Grudem's *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine* (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan Publishing, 1994), chapter 15 "Creation," Section E 2.b.

ways in which we are different from an animal, such as a dog. For example, ask your child if a dog could do the following: Read a book; build a Lego™ set; pray for a sick friend; take piano lessons; trust in Jesus; etc. Emphasize that these are things that set us apart from rocks, trees, animals, etc. Read Psalm 139:13-14 and make a list of some of the ways in which we have been "wonderfully made" by God. Then have a time of prayer praising God.

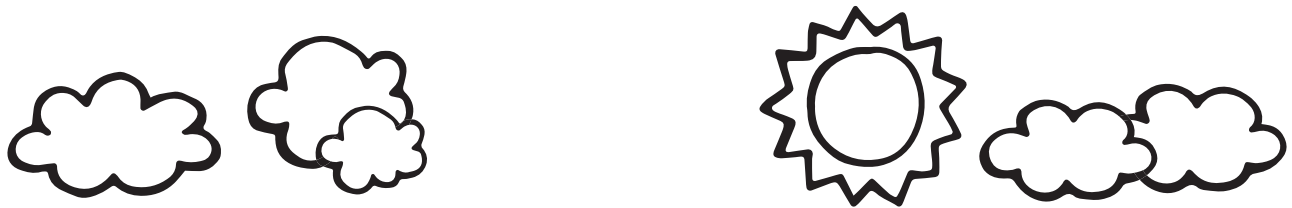
- Read David's words from Psalm 8:1. Explain what the word "majestic" means (e.g. great and powerful; royal as with a king; etc.) Next, summarize verses 3-8 to show why David was praising God in this way. Help your child list of some of the amazing things that God has created. Try to include a wide variety of things. **Do you praise God when you consider what He has created? What does creation show us about what God is like?**

ACTION STEP

This week make a "God created..." poster using a large piece of paper placed in a prominent place in your home. During the week, encourage your child to add pictures/stickers/words of things that God has created. Challenge your child to have the page completely filled in by the end of the week.

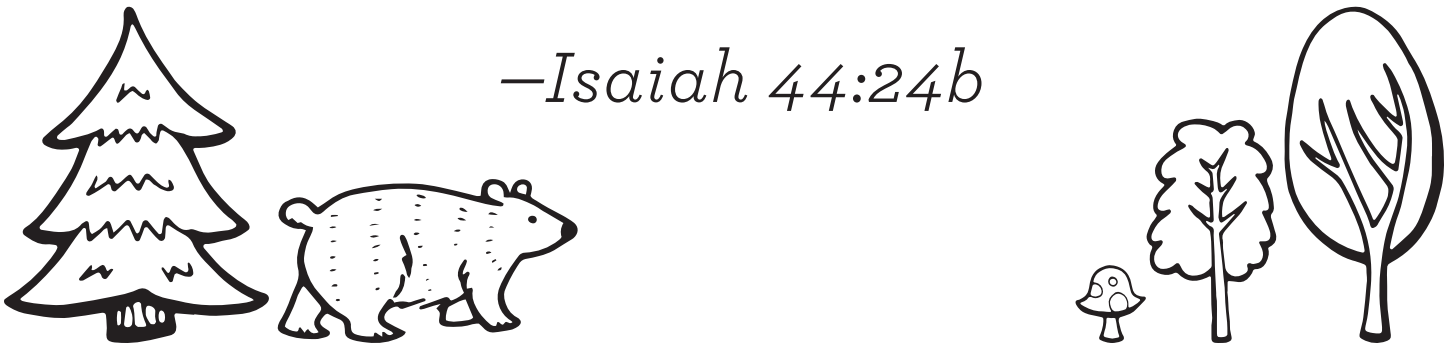
MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

In the memory verse below, underline God's personal name [hint: YHWH]. Then, draw a rectangle around the words that tell us that God made everything. Circle the words that tell us that God did not need any helpers to create everything.



I am the LORD, who made all things,
 who alone stretched out the heavens,
 who spread out the earth by myself,

—Isaiah 44:24b





Glorious

MAIN IDEA

- **God shows His greatness and worth.**

MEMORY VERSES

(Choose one)

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

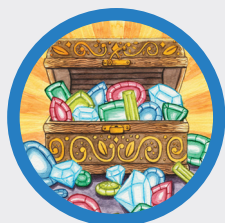
—Psalm 19:1

Blessed be his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with His glory!

—Psalm 72:19a

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Exodus 15:1, 6-7, 10-11
- 2) Psalm 19:1-4a
- 3) Psalm 72:19a
- 4) Psalm 78:4b
- 5) Psalm 145:1-6
- 6) Romans 1:20a



LESSON SUMMARY

What is the glory of God? One way to understand God's glory that is particularly helpful for children is to observe His creation. It is God's own show and tell of His "invisible attributes...his eternal power and divine nature" (Romans 1:20). Here is a helpful insight from Pastor John Piper:

God's glory is the beauty of His manifold perfections. It can refer to the bright and awesome radiance that sometimes breaks forth in visible manifestations. Or it can refer to the infinite moral excellence of His character. In either case, it signifies a reality of infinite greatness and worth... God's ultimate goal therefore is to preserve and display His infinite and awesome greatness and worth, that is, His glory.¹

God's glory is no small matter. Therefore, it is crucial to lay a foundation of this truth for our children. In this lesson, God's glory was likened to a "show and tell" jewelry box, filled with beautiful, sparkling, valuable jewels—the jewels representing God's divine attributes, which He reveals through His creation and by all of His deeds.

PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *that your child would have a humble heart that acknowledges God at the center of the universe, and not us.*
- *for God to make His glories known in very practical ways in the life of your child this week.*



AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Read and discuss Psalm 19:1-4a. (You may want to show some pictures illustrating the diversity of God's creation as you do this.) **How does God show us His glory through what He has made? Did you see His glory this week? Where? Do you see His glory in this room? Where? How do these things show you how great God is?**
- Review Exodus 15:1-11. **What glorious deeds had God done? What other deeds has God done (from the Bible and from real-life experience) that show His greatness and worth? Have a**

1. Piper, John. *Desiring God: Meditations of a Christian Hedonist*. (Colorado Springs, Colo.: Multnomah Press, 1996), 31-32.

time of prayer, thanking and praising God that He is glorious.

- Read Psalm 145:1-6. **When God shows us His greatness and worth (His glory), how should we act toward Him? What does this psalm say?** Explain that the psalmist uses words, such as "extol God; bless Him; praise


Him." The psalmist says that we should praise God and tell others about God and what He has done. We should think about His glorious deeds. **What can you do this week to praise God when you have seen that He is glorious? How could you tell someone about a glorious thing that God has done? How could you study a wondrous work of God?**

ACTION STEP


This week, every night before going to bed, recall three glorious deeds of God that you observed or experienced.


MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY









Use the special code to discover what words are missing in the memory verses.

The heavens declare the _____


of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.—*Psalm 19:1*

Blessed be his _____


name forever; may the whole earth be filled with His _____!—*Psalm 72:19a*


G	I	L	O	R	S	U	Y
							



Wise

MAIN IDEA

- **God causes everything to work out perfectly.**

MEMORY VERSE

*O LORD, how manifold
are your works!
In wisdom have you
made them all;
—Psalm 104:24a*

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Genesis 28, 37, 39-46
(selected portions)
- 2) Genesis 50:20
- 4) Psalm 104
(selected portions)
- 4) Proverbs 2:6
- 5) James 1:5



LESSON SUMMARY

In commenting on Psalm 104:24, the famous 19th century preacher Charles Spurgeon said the following:

They (creation) are all his works...they all display his wisdom... They are wisely made—each one fits its place, fills it, and is happy so doing. As a whole, the “all” of creation is a wise achievement, and however it may be chequered with mysteries, and clouded with terrors, it all works together for good, and as one harmonious piece of workmanship it answers the great Worker’s end.¹

Spurgeon’s comment evokes the image of God as a master puzzle-maker, creating and fitting together diverse pieces in order to reveal His perfect plan in creation. But His wisdom does not end there. And, as He does in creation, God displays His perfect wisdom in all of history and in each person’s life. In this lesson, through the familiar story of Joseph, we helped the children recognize and understand this wonderful attribute of God.

PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *that the Lord would use this lesson to help your child increasingly to “lean not on his or her own understanding,” but look to the Lord in His perfect wisdom.*
- *for God to grant a growing measure of wisdom in our lives as we seek to walk in His ways, trusting Him in all circumstances.*



AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Carefully look at an interesting natural object, such as an agate, flower, pinecone, animal, etc. Point to the complex design of the object. **How does the object reflect the wisdom of its Creator?** Read portions of Psalm 104 together, and then sing a song of praise, such as the hymn, *This is My Father’s World*.
- Review some key events from the life of Joseph found in Genesis 37-41. **Did some of the things that happened to him seem**

1. Spurgeon, Charles. *The Treasury of David: Spurgeon’s Classic Work on the Psalms, Vol. V* (Funk & Wagnalls, 1885), 10.

"bad"? Which ones? How did the end of the story prove that God caused everything to work out just as He planned?

Read Joseph's words to his brothers from Genesis 50:20. Why was it important for Joseph to trust God in every circumstance of his life, especially when "bad" things happened? Is there something that has happened to you that does not seem as if it will work out right? How can you trust God this week with that situation? How can knowing that He is wise help you to trust Him more?

- Explain that God has some characteristics that He shares with no one else. No one else but God had no beginning and is eternal. But God has some characteristics that He chooses to give to people. Read Proverbs 2:6 and James 1:5. How can a person become wise? (e.g., Psalm 19:7; Matthew 7:24; Proverbs 3:7) Explain that the wisdom that God gives will result in a person trusting God's plans and doing things God's way.

ACTION STEP

This week, use The ABCs of God Game Cards to review the words, meanings, and verses for Questions, Incomprehensible, Yahweh, Eternal, Creator, Glorious, and Wise.

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

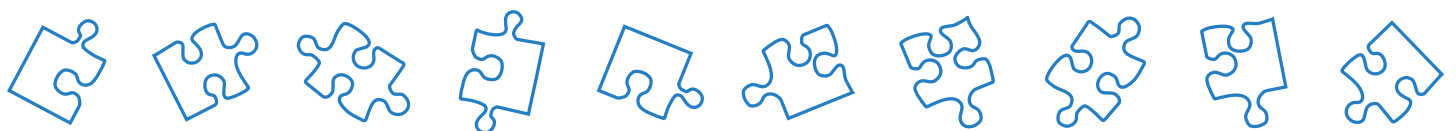
Starting with the "L", circle every other letter in the list to find the missing letters to complete the verses. Then, match the numbers to reveal the secret message.

L M O F R W D T Y I O G U S R K W E O Y R N K J S C
W Z I R S I D H O K M A M B A V D M E Q A S L O L Y

O , how manifold are

 ! In have you

 them ;—*Psalm 104:24a*



Secret Message:

T T G !



Almighty

MAIN IDEA

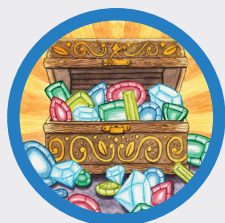
- God is all-powerful.

MEMORY VERSE

Ah, Lord GOD! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you.—Jeremiah 32:17

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Genesis 17:1b
- 2) Exodus 3:9-10
- 3) Exodus 5:1-2
- 4) Exodus 7:5
- 5) Exodus 8-12
(selected portions)
- 6) Exodus 9:15-16
- 7) 2 Kings 17:36
- 8) Psalm 96:3-4
- 9) Psalm 145:4-6
- 10) Isaiah 40:26
- 11) Jeremiah 32:17



LESSON SUMMARY

In this lesson, we had the children consider this text:

Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name, by the greatness of his might, and because he is strong in power not one is missing.—Isaiah 40:26

Have you ever looked up at the starry night and considered the number of the stars—billions and billions—each more enormous than the earth? What keeps each in its place? Or consider the weight of a gallon of water, and then ponder the weight of the seas. Think of carrying a large rock, and then consider a mountain. The Creator of all these is the Almighty God.

But not only is He almighty in the sense of His "physical" abilities; He is also all-powerful in His rule over all things, even the human will. Therefore, He is able to accomplish all of His purposes. No one can contend against the Almighty. To demonstrate this from Scripture, we presented the events of God sending the 10 plagues on Egypt and asserting His will over Pharaoh.

PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...



- *that both you and your child will feel the weight of God's omnipotence and be truly amazed, humbly bowing down in submission to His almighty strength and will.*
- *that God will be seen and worshipped as the one, true, almighty God—One in whom His people can be completely confident.*

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Read Exodus 9:15-16. In the end, who got his way, Pharaoh or God? (Exodus 12:31-32) Can anyone win against the almighty God? Why is this important for you and me to know? For people who are loving and trusting in God, why is it good news that God is almighty? (e.g., Psalm 27:1-2; John 10:27-29; Romans 8:31, 38-39) What if a person is more like Pharaoh and is disobeying God or fighting against Him, will that person win?

- Because God is almighty, how should we act toward Him? Read 2 Kings 17:36. What attitude do we have when we fear God? [a healthy reverence and respect for Him, feeling His overwhelming greatness and strength] What attitude do we have when we bow down to God? [We have a sense of being humble. We are small and weak in comparison to Him. We submit to Him and do things His way, and not our own way.]

What are some things you could do to show an attitude of fearing God and bowing down to Him this week? Why is it sometimes hard for

us to obey and do what God wants? How can we pray about this?

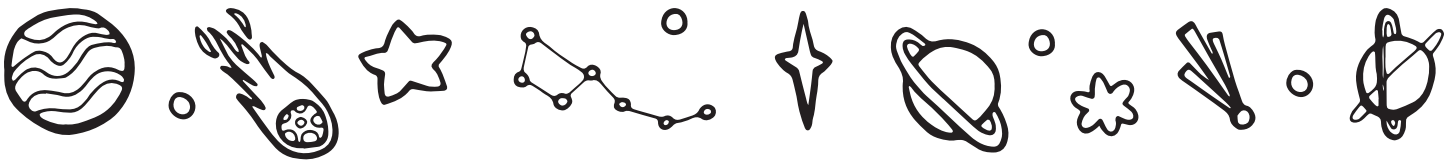
- Think of other biblical examples in which God demonstrated His almighty power. Does God still show us His power today? What is one way you saw the power of God this week? When you saw it, what did you do? When we see God displaying His power through something He has made—like a loud thunderstorm—or through an answer to a prayer, should we keep it a secret? What should we do when we see God’s great power? Read and discuss Psalm 145:4-6. Who can you tell about God’s great power this week?

ACTION STEP

This week, be on the lookout for things that God has done through His almighty power—whether in a Bible story, or by seeing stars in the sky. When you see something, call out, “I spy God almighty!”

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Fill in the blanks to complete your memory verse. Then, use those letters to fill in the matching numbered blocks below to reveal the special word.



Ah, ₁ord God! It ₂s you who have ₃ade
 the he ₄vens and the earth by your ₅reat
 power and by your outstretc ₆ed arm!
 No ₇hing is too hard for ₈ou.—*Jeremiah 32:17*

The special word is:

4	1	3	2	5	6	7	8



Sovereign

MAIN IDEA

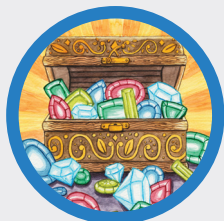
- **God has the right and wisdom and power to do all He pleases.**

MEMORY VERSE

Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.
—Psalm 115:3

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Exodus 13:17a, 18a, 21
- 2) Exodus 14:10, 21b-22
- 3) Psalm 115:3
- 4) Romans 8:28



LESSON SUMMARY

That God is sovereign means He has the right, wisdom, and power to accomplish all that He pleases.¹ He is totally free and His will cannot be thwarted. God's sovereign purpose is to display His glory—the beauty of His manifold perfections.

In a world absorbed with self-determination (doing whatever one pleases) and rebellion against authority, the truth of a totally sovereign God is not a welcome thought. But to those who by faith believe in its truth, it becomes the foundation for our lasting hope. It puts all of our life experiences, whether good or bad, and all of history under the great and marvelous purposes of God, who will bring glory to His name in all things.

In this lesson, we continued the story of God delivering His people from slavery in Egypt from the conclusion of the plagues, Pharaoh's stubborn heart, God parting the sea for the people of Israel, and God's defeat of Pharaoh and the Egyptian armies.

PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...



- *that this lesson would be a means through which your child would more fully understand the nature and extent of God's good and sovereign rule.*
- *for hearts that humbly and gladly bow to the wonderful purposes of our King.*

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Explain that another way to define "sovereign" is to say that God is the greatest authority of all. He is in charge. **Why is it right that God is in charge of everything and everyone? Does God take orders from powerful kings like Pharaoh? Why not? Why is it good that God will always do what He pleases and not what someone else pleases?** [His plans are always the best. He is always able to finish His plans, etc.] **Was Pharaoh able to change or stop God from doing what He had planned? Why was this good news for God's people? Do you see God's being sovereign over everything and everyone as good news?**

1. Piper, John. *Desiring God: Meditations of a Christian Hedonist*. (Colorado Springs, Colo.: Multnomah Books, 1996), 24-25).

- What happened when Pharaoh tried to use all of his powerful armies to win against God? Are there times when we are something like Pharaoh, times when we try to fight against God instead of recognizing and submitting to His sovereign authority? For example: God tells children to honor and obey their parents (Ephesians 6:1-2). Should a child question or rebel against God's command? Should a child question whether God really knows what He's doing in deciding to give this command?

Should a child trust God and gladly obey? How could you show that you want to obey God's sovereign rule in your life this week? How can we pray for one another and ask God for His help in this?

- When you start to feel afraid about something, what do you do? Do you think about who God is and what He has done, or do you only see how strong your circumstances appear? Are there any Bible verses that could help you to trust in the sovereign power of God?

ACTION STEP

This week ask your parents to help you make a list of some things that worry you—things you are anxious about. Write these things down on the bottom half of a piece of paper. At the top of the paper write “God is Sovereign Over...” in big, colorful letters to remind you that God is sovereign over all things.

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Look up the verse in your Bible and fill in the blanks. Then, color the picture as you memorize the verse.

Our God is in the _____;

he does all that he _____.

—Psalm 115:3





Provider

MAIN IDEA

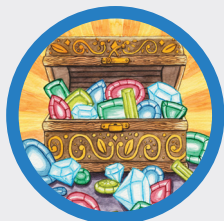
- **God meets the needs of His creation.**

MEMORY VERSE

...he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.
—Acts 17:25b

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Genesis 3:7, 21
- 2) Genesis 6
- 3) Exodus 16:13-15
- 4) Exodus 17:5-6
- 5) 2 Kings 4:1-7
- 6) Psalm 103:1-5
- 7) Luke 16:19-24
- 8) Acts 10:43b
- 9) Acts 17:25b



LESSON SUMMARY

All of creation is totally dependent on God for every moment of its existence and all of its daily needs. And God, in His bountiful goodness, graciously provides for His creatures. Every breath and every heartbeat is a wonderful provision from God.

In this lesson, we helped the children to understand that God alone ultimately meets all of our needs—whether material, emotional, or spiritual. We began by focusing on material provision, since it is most concrete in the minds of children, and then expanded this to help them see that our needs go far beyond food, clothing, shelter, and family. Life is about needing God Himself and His provision of a Savior, Jesus.

PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *that God would give understanding for your child to truly comprehend his or her utter dependency on God, and then humbly and thankfully call out to Him for every need.*
- *for a heart response increasingly characterized by genuine thanksgiving for all of God's provision*



AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Explain the difference between true needs and wants. (e.g., We need food in order to stay alive. We may want that food to be ice cream. We do not need the food to be ice cream.) **What kinds of things do you usually ask God for? Does God always provide us with the kinds of things we want, when we want them? Why not? Why is it a good thing to trust God in deciding what it is we really need?** Recall that God is also sovereign. He has the right (authority) and perfect wisdom to decide what we truly need and what is best to provide for us. We sometimes want things that are not best for us.
- Review Acts 17:25b and make a list of some examples of the "everything" that God has provided. Quickly write these on a large piece of paper. **Because God is such a wonderful provider, how should we act toward Him?** Read and discuss Psalm 103:1-5. Have a time of prayer, encouraging your child to give thanks to God for the many things He has provided.

- In the lesson, we learned that some needs are more important than others. **Why would forgiveness of sin be our greatest need?** [We need forgiveness in order to be given eternal life in heaven with God. That is the only provision that will bring us true and lasting

happiness. If a Christian were to starve to death and breathe his last breath, he would go to heaven and live with Jesus. You may briefly want to share the story from Luke 16:19-24 to illustrate this concept.]








ACTION STEP

Write out a simple "Thank You" note to God. On the card, include pictures and/or write out examples of the many things that God has provided for you.





MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Use the special code to find the missing words in the memory verse.


...he _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ gives to





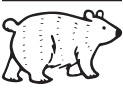





all mankind _____ _____ _____ _____ and
















_____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ and

_____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____

-Acts 17:25b

A	B	E	F	G	H				
									
I	L	M	N	R	S	T	V	Y	
									



Self-Sufficient

MAIN IDEA

- **God does not need anything.**

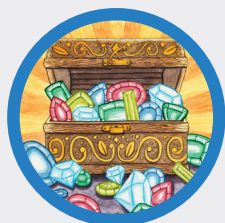
MEMORY VERSE

...nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.

—Acts 17:25

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Isaiah 44:24b
- 2) Acts 17:24-25



LESSON SUMMARY

In the previous lesson, the children learned that we need many things in order to exist. Ultimately, it is God who provides for these needs, giving us life and breath and everything else (Acts 17:25b). What then does God need? Absolutely nothing! He alone existed from all eternity, fully complete in Himself. When God revealed His name, Yahweh—"I AM WHO I AM"—it conveyed His self-sufficiency.

This lesson went deeper into the meaning of Acts 17:25 by emphasizing the first portion of the verse, "nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything," in order to emphasize God's self-sufficiency. The children were led to observe the following examples: God created all things by Himself—He didn't need helpers. God did not create people because He was lonely and needed our love. God does not need others in order to fulfill His purposes.

In this truth, there is great freedom. For those who trust in Christ, we can freely receive all of the benefits that flow from the self-sufficiency of God. We need not toil as if we need to "fill up" any deficiencies in God. His is an everlasting, never-exhausting fountain of life, who delights in supplying us life and breath and everything else.

PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *that God would use the truths in this lesson to help your child see his or her own insufficiency, and then humbly run to the One who has no needs.*
- *that the Lord would protect us from hearts that feel we need to "work for" God. Pray that we would find perfect rest in Him.*



AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Take a minute and quickly make list of things God does not need. **Should people be on that list? Would it be true that God does not need people? Did God exist before He created people? Yes.** He didn't need people in order to exist. **If God does not need anything, including us, why did He create everything?** [for His glory, to show His greatness and worth; to share the wonders of Himself with His creatures; especially people; etc.]

Note: If your child expresses the idea that God was lonely before He created people, explain that God is not like us—He is a Trinity.

Within the Trinity there was triune fellowship between God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit from all eternity.

- Do you think that some people feel like they must help God because He has needs? What might this look like in someone's life? Why is it good that God is self-sufficient? Will He ever "run out" and not be able to provide for His people? Will He ever need our strength in order to defeat His enemies? Will we ever need to comfort Him because He is sick or lonely? Lead your child in a time of prayers of praise and thanksgiving to God for His sufficiency.
- Recall some biblical examples in which God demonstrated His self-sufficiency in

accomplishing His plans. For example: taking down the walls of Jericho; defeating Pharaoh and parting the Red Sea; providing food and water for Israel in the wilderness; etc. **But are there also examples in which God accomplished His plans by commanding His people to do some special job?** [Noah built an ark; David went to battle against Goliath; etc.] **Did God need this help?** No. He is self-sufficient. **Then why does God command His people to do certain jobs?** [God has decided to accomplish many of His plans through the jobs that He gives people. This is for our good, not because of any need in God has.]

ACTION STEP

This week use The ABCs of God Game Cards to review the words, meanings, and verses for Creator, Almighty, Sovereign, Provider, and Self-Sufficient.

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

This verse needs some more letters. Fill in the missing letters. Then complete the statement below.

...nor is he ser__ed by __uman hand__,
 as th__ugh he __eeded any__hing,
 sin__e he him__elf giv__s to all
 ma__kind l__fe and b__eath and
 everythin___. — Acts 17:25

“What does God need? God needs

_____ !”
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7



Understanding

MAIN IDEA

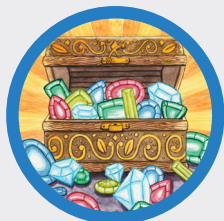
- **God remembers that we are weak.**

MEMORY VERSES

*As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.
¹⁴For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.
—Psalm 103:13-14*

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Genesis 2:7-9a, 15-17
- 2) Genesis 3:17-19
- 3) Psalm 103:9-10a, 13-14



LESSON SUMMARY

In this lesson, we emphasized the reality of human weakness and the compassionate nature of God. For both adults and children alike, there are things that we cannot do no matter how hard we try. This is true of us physically but also, and more importantly, we are weak and fail to love, trust, and obey God as we should. Why is this so? We recalled the story of Adam and Eve and their sin against God and how we, as their descendants, are born with a sin nature. We are helpless sinners and are deserving of God's rightful punishment. Yes, God is angered by sin. But anger is not all He feels. God is also understanding.

We carefully explored the meaning of Psalm 103:13-14, where God likens Himself to a compassionate father. He knows that we are weak and needy creatures. We are not God. He knows that no matter how hard we might try, we cannot perfectly obey Him. He remembers that we are like dust. This is wonderful news for His children!

PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *that this lesson will go deep into the heart of your child.*
- *that your child would be rightly amazed at God's compassionate nature, prompting him or her to want to repent of sin and run to Jesus for forgiveness.*



AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Review Psalm 103:13-14. **Can you give me some examples of how you and I are weak like dust?** [Possible responses: We are physically weak, get sick, forget things, do not always keep our promises, do not always obey our parents or God, etc.] **Can you tell me how [Daddy] has treated you with understanding when you were weak? How is God's understanding even better than that? In what ways has God been understanding with our weaknesses—especially our failure to love and obey Him as we should?**
- **Since God is understanding, does that mean that it really does not matter if people disobey Him and sin?** Explain that God is angered by sin. Even though He is understanding and knows that we are weak, He has the right to punish sin. His understanding nature does not ignore sin.

- Explain Psalm 103:13, especially the phrase "to those who fear him." **What does it mean to "fear" God? Think about your own daddy: Is there a right kind of fear that children should have toward their parents? What does**

this kind of fear look like? [honor, respect for his authority, trusting his decisions, a desire to please and obey him, etc.] **How could you show this kind of fear toward God this week?**

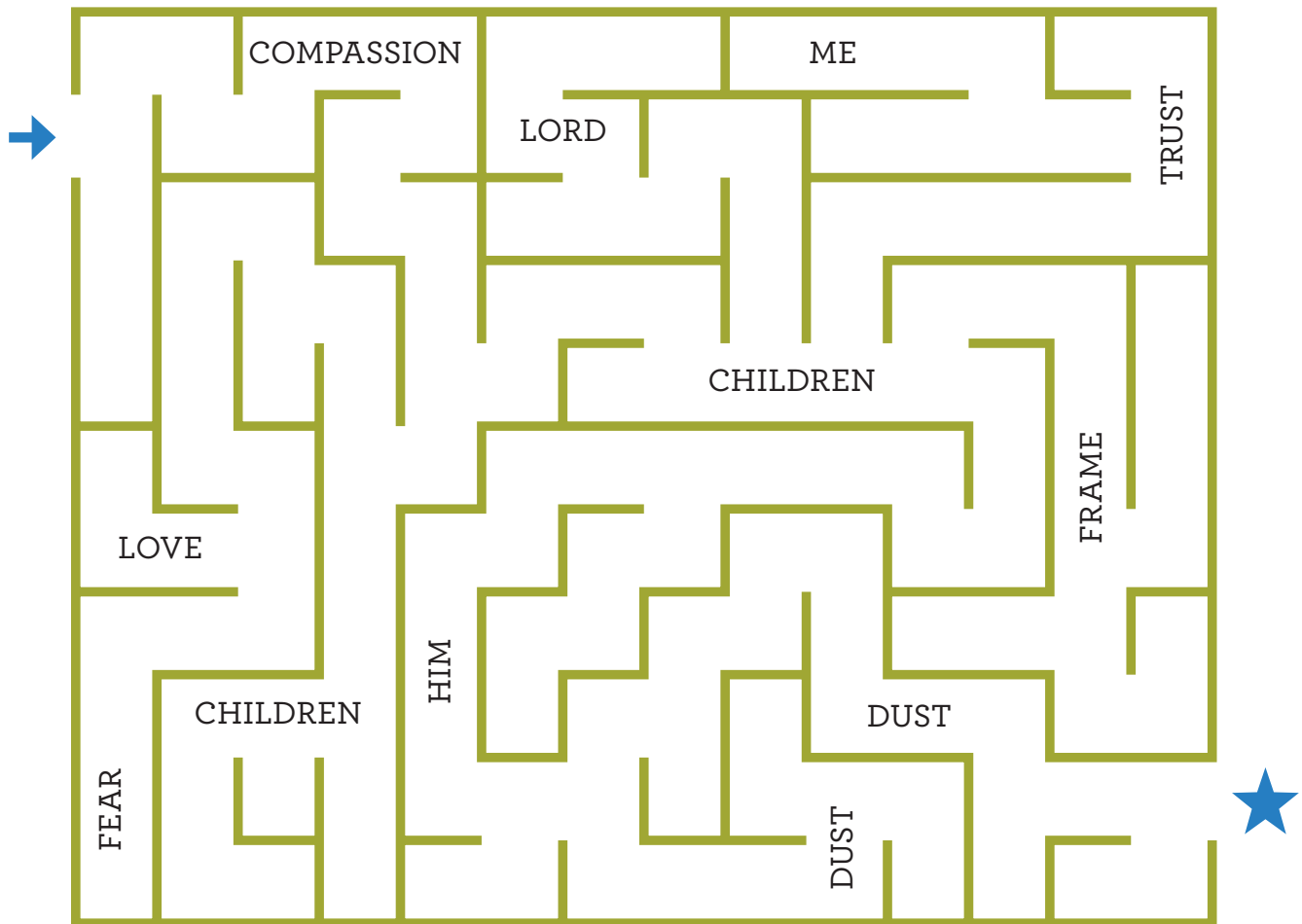
ACTION STEP

This week, with your parents or an older sibling's help, read all of Psalm 103. As you read the verses, look for answers to these questions: What is God like? What are we like? How should we respond to God?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Follow the maze to find the correct words to complete the verses.

As a father shows _____ to his _____, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear _____. ¹⁴For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are _____.—*Psalm 103:13-14*





Attentive

MAIN IDEA

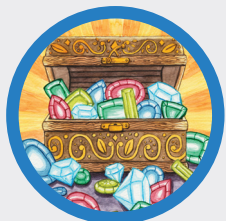
- **God constantly sees, hears, and acts in the world.**

MEMORY VERSE

The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous and his ears toward their cry.
—Psalm 34:15

SCRIPTURE

- 1) 1 Kings 18:26a-27, 29b, 36b-39
- 2) Psalm 3:5
- 3) Psalm 34:15
- 4) Proverbs 15:3
- 5) Matthew 6:9-13
- 6) Hebrews 1:3b



LESSON SUMMARY

God's attentiveness—His providence—is truly deep and rich in meaning, not easily grasped for even the adult mind, let alone a child's mind. Nevertheless, it is important that children begin to understand what it is and its implications at a basic level. For one thing, we can teach children that God does not regard His creation as some toy that He made a long time ago, but now finds boring. God is actively involved in every aspect of His creation and communicates with His creatures. He is attentive to the galaxies, as well as to the sleeping child.

In this lesson, we also emphasized God's attentiveness being shown as He interacts with those who trust in Him, as was demonstrated in the story of Elijah and the prophets of Baal. The prophets of Baal could not be heard by their false god. But when Elijah called out to the one true God, *Yahweh*, God heard and acted. He is an attentive God who watches over us, hears His people's prayers, intercedes and acts on our behalf, all in the context of His wise and sovereign rule. God's people are truly blessed to enjoy the special privilege of His constant care.

PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...



- *that your child would truly experience the amazing strength and comfort that God gives to His children through His always seeing eyes and listening ears.*
- *that this lesson would increase your child's desire to call out to Him in every circumstance.*

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Read Psalm 34:15. Explain that the word "toward" means "attentive." "The righteous" are people who trust in God—Christians. **Why is it good to know that God sees what is happening and is paying attention?**

Can you think of a time that you were especially glad that God was attentive? Is there a time that you cried out to God? How did He answer? Do you think that someone might not like it that God is always attentive? Why not? Read Proverbs 15:3.

- Do you ever worry about what might be happening when you go to sleep at night? While you sleep, can you control anything? Can Daddy or Mommy control anything while they sleep?

No, we cannot even control our breathing! **Do we need to worry about this?** Discuss Hebrews 1:3b and Psalm 3:5. **What can you do the next time you are worried? Does God see that you are worried? Can you cry out to Him? Will He ignore anyone who trusts in Jesus? Why not?**

- Explain that just because God is attentive, it does not mean that God will act how we want

Him to act in a certain situation. God is still sovereign and has the right, wisdom, and power to do all that He pleases. God's actions are always best. When we cry out to God, we should understand this, and our prayers should seek to desire things that God would desire.

Read and discuss the Lord's Prayer from Matthew 6:9-13.

ACTION STEP

This week, with your parents' help, start a simple prayer journal. At the top of a sheet of paper, write out Psalm 34:15. Write down a one or more prayer requests every day. Pray and ask God to see, hear, and act on these requests.

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Use secret code to fill in the missing words below. If needed, ask a parent or older sibling for help.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
▲	E	L	R	G	U	D	Y
●	H	T	C	A	I	O	S

The _____ of the _____

1:▲ 7:▲ 1:▲ 7:●

_____ are toward the _____

2:▲ 6:● 3:▲ 6:▲

_____ and his _____ toward their _____

3:▲ 5:● 4:▲ 1:● 2:● 1:▲ 6:● 5:▲ 7:●

_____ toward their _____

1:▲ 4:● 3:▲ 7:●

_____ .—*Psalm 34:15*

3:● 3:▲ 7:▲



Faithful

MAIN IDEA

- **God always does what He says He will do.**

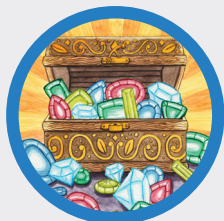
MEMORY VERSE

*He who calls you
is faithful; he will
surely do it.*

—1 Thessalonians 5:24

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Joshua 23:14
- 2) Matthew 1:21



LESSON SUMMARY

In this lesson, we reviewed the amazing testimony of God's faithfulness to all His promises: sending a flood and saving Noah and his family, giving Abraham and Sarah a son in their old age, delivering Israel from slavery in Egypt, the defeat at Jericho so Israel might enter the land... every promise fulfilled. But one promise, given before all these, had remained unfulfilled—the promise of a Savior for God's sinful, and often faithless, people.

Amazingly, God had made this wonderful promise in the midst of Adam and Eve's failure—a promise to send a perfect Deliverer to crush the power of Satan, sin, and death. And throughout the Old Testament we see the extraordinary faithfulness of God as He keeps promise after promise, pointing forward and culminating in the long-awaited arrival of the Deliverer—Jesus, the Holy Son of God. God always keeps His promises!

PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *that your child sees God's perfect faithfulness revealed, he or she may experience God as a bedrock of certainty. He is trustworthy in all His words and deeds.*
- *that your child will grow to have an unshakeable confidence in God in every situation.*



AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Review the meaning of "God is faithful." **Can you think of a time when trusting in one of God's promises helped you in a difficult situation? Is there a certain promise that you are having a hard time believing that God can keep? Are there examples of God's faithfulness in the Bible that could help give you more confidence? Is God able to keep a promise even when it seems impossible to us? (For example: God keeping His promise to give Abraham and Sarah a baby even though they were too old.)**
- **Does God only make "nice" promises, the kinds of promises people like to hear? When God promised to send a flood to destroy the world, including all the wicked people, did God keep that promise too? Can you think of any other promises that people might not want God to keep? (Example: Psalm 1:6 and Mark 16:16.)**

Will God stop being faithful just because people do not like a certain promise? Because God is always faithful, how should we act toward Him? Should we pay attention to His warning promises?

- Read and discuss the promise that God made to Joseph from Matthew 1:21. How did God

keep His promise to save His people through Jesus? What did Jesus do to save His people? Why was Jesus the best promise of all? How could we show God we really believe that Jesus is the best promise of all? How could we show this to other people, too?

ACTION STEP

This week, look up the following verses in your Bible: Deuteronomy 7:9; Psalm 34:15; Isaiah 41:13; John 3:16; 1 Corinthians 10:13; 2 Thessalonians 3:3; Hebrews 13:5; and 1 John 1:9. What does God promise to do in each verse? Make a list. Are there other Bible promises you can add to the list?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Look up the verse in your Bible and fill in the blanks. Then, color the picture as you memorize the verse.



He who calls you is _____;
he will surely do it.—1 Thessalonians 5:24



Trinity

MAIN IDEA

- **God is three persons in one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

MEMORY VERSES

(Choose one)

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.

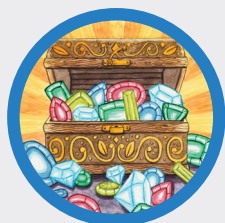
—Deuteronomy 6:4

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

—Matthew 28:19

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Deuteronomy 6:4-5
- 2) Matthew 28:18-19
- 3) Luke 1:35b
- 4) John 14:6, 15-17
- 5) Colossians 1:15a, 19
- 6) Hebrews 1:3a



LESSON SUMMARY

Why introduce young children to a difficult doctrine, such as God's triune nature? Because it is the foundation on which biblical Christianity rests. All of God's attributes should be understood in the context of His "three-in-oneness."

Because we unveiled Jesus in the previous lesson, and because He is the easiest person of the Trinity for children to relate to, we use His relationship to the Father and His deity to explain the three-in-oneness of the one true God. Using the Scripture texts listed, we presented and explained these as simply as possible to the children, and also emphasized our inability to fully comprehend the glorious truth of God being three Persons in one God.

PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *that the Holy Spirit would give you clarity and wisdom as you help your child understand the meaning and importance of the Trinity.*
- *that God would plant seeds of truth deep in the heart and mind of your child so that he or she might, by faith, come to embrace what is beyond our full comprehension.*



AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Review the following main ideas with your child: There is only one true God. There are three persons in the one true God. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are each fully God. There is only one true God.
- **Because there is only one true God, how should we act toward Him?** Read and discuss Deuteronomy 6:5. **Because Jesus is fully God, how should we act toward Him? Do people sometimes treat Jesus as if He were just an ordinary person and not really God? Why is it important to know that Jesus is fully God? Can you give some examples from the Bible of how Jesus showed His "God-ness"?**
- **Why is it important to know that there is only one true God?** Explain that many people in the world believe that there are many gods. But only the Bible is true and right. The Bible says that there is only one true God. Only loving, trusting, and worshipping the one

true God will make us happy. **How will we know if we are loving and worshipping the one true**

God? What will it look like? Read and discuss John 14:6 and/or John 14:15-17.

ACTION STEP

This week use The ABCs of God Game Cards to review the words, meanings, and verses for the words Incomprehensible, Sovereign, Self-Sufficient, Understanding, Attentive, Faithful, and Trinity.

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Starting with the "L", circle every other letter in the list to find the missing letters to complete the verses. Then, match the numbers to reveal the secret message below.

① W O P R C D M I F S L O N N D E J N R A K M G E M
 F V A H T M H E E A R W S Z O M N P H T O K L S Y C

Hear, O Israel: The ___ ___ ₃ ___ our
 God the LORD ₆ ___ ___ ___ ₅ .

—*Deuteronomy 6:4*

Go therefore and make disciples of all
 nations, baptizing them in the

₇ ___ ___ ₄ of the ___ ___ ₁ ₂ ₁₀ ___

and of the ___ ___ ₉ and of the

₈ ___ ___ Spirit. — *Matthew 28:19*

Secret Message:

_____ !
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10



Happy

MAIN IDEA

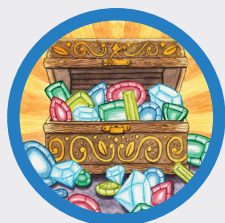
- **God delights in being God.**

MEMORY VERSE

[He] is the blessed
and only Sovereign,
the King of kings
and Lord of lords.
—1 Timothy 6:15b

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Psalm 16:11
- 2) Psalm 104:31
- 3) Psalm 115:3
- 4) Zephaniah 3:17
- 5) 1 Timothy 6:15b



LESSON SUMMARY

Ponder for a moment the beautiful perfections of God: His self-sufficiency, eternal and triune nature, almighty power, wisdom, sovereign rule, righteous character, etc. It makes perfect sense that God would delight in all that He is and does. He is the happiest being in the universe! And, to our utter amazement, He has chosen to share the overflow of His own happiness with His creation, especially with His chosen people. He does not love or do good out of grudging duty—like some kind of grumpy, spiteful old man—but out of the joyful freedom He has in being the *"happy" and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords.*

In this lesson, we taught the children various ways in which God demonstrates His happiness. We ended the lesson by emphasizing that God wants us to be happy, too. And He is happy to show us that He alone can make us truly happy forever!

PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *that your child would be drawn to the incomparable treasure of God's happiness.*
- *for the Holy Spirit to be at work, so that your child would "taste and see" what it means to find satisfaction in this blessed and only Sovereign.*



AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- **Have you ever thought of God as being happy, the happiest Person in the whole universe? Why is it good news to know the truth that God is happy?**

Read and discuss Psalm 16:11. **What is the "path of life" that God has shown to us? What is the only way that a person could enjoy the happiness of God forever?** [trusting in Jesus for eternal life so that we can enjoy God forever, John 14:6]

- **Recall a special treat or food that makes your child happy. After eating it, how long did the happiness it brought last? What does this show us about what we think will make us happy? Why would God be the only One able to make us happy—truly happy—forever? Do you have a hard time believing this? What makes it**

hard? [Possible responses: God does not seem real compared to other things; other things seem more fun than God; etc.] Have a time of prayer together asking God to increase our heart's desire for true, lasting happiness, and not the temporary fun of the world.

- **Can you think of ways in which you have seen the happiness of God?** Maybe as you watched a puppy playing with a ball. Or, you have felt God's "smile" upon you as you were singing praise to Him. **However, are there things that**

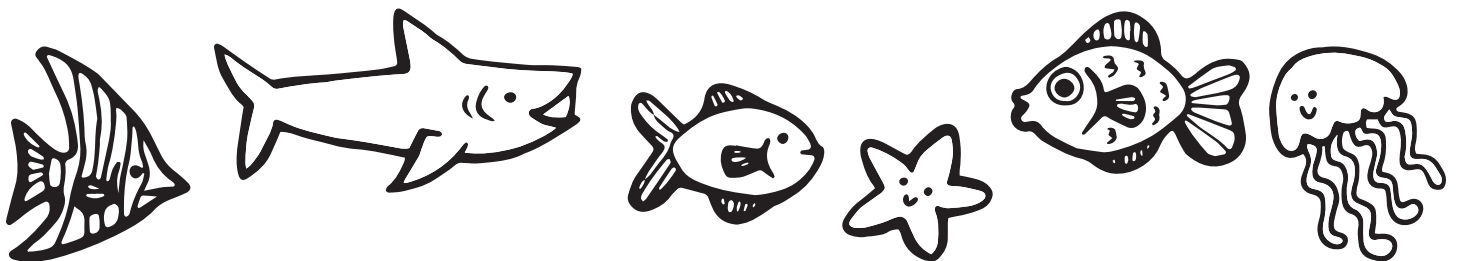
God gets angry about? Are there things that God is saddened by? [man's sin and rebellion and the pain we suffer as a result of living in a fallen world] Explain that God is not happy about those things, just as a man who enjoys being a daddy will rightly be angered and saddened by his child's disobedience. But God is still always happy being God, even though He is angered and saddened by man's sin. He is still sovereign over His world. His perfect plans are still being accomplished.

ACTION STEP

This week, read and talk about the words of the hymn, *This is My Father's World*. What examples does the hymn writer give of God's happiness? What other things has God created that especially show His happiness? How could you respond to God, showing your happiness in Him? Sing the hymn together.

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Fill in the blanks to complete your memory verse. Then, use those letters to fill in the matching spaces below to reveal the secret message.



[He] is the bles1ed 2nd onl3
 Soverei4n, the K5ng of kings and
 Lor6 of l7rds.—1 Timot8y 6:15b

Secret Message:

4 7 6 5 1 8 2 P P 3 !



Love

MAIN IDEA

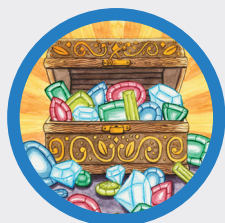
- **God gives of Himself for the joy of others.**

MEMORY VERSE

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.—John 3:16

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Psalm 103:1-14
- 2) Isaiah 40:11
- 3) Luke 19:1-10
- 4) John 3:16
- 5) John 10:11
- 6) John 15:9, 11
- 7) Romans 5:8
- 8) 1 John 4:11



LESSON SUMMARY

God is love. Maybe more than any other statement, this one has been used to identify God's basic essence. But if we consider God's love apart of the totality of God's nature, our understanding of God will be dangerously skewed. So what does God mean when He says that He is love? Pastor John Piper offers a helpful definition:

Biblical love is the overflow of joy that God has in Himself, spilling out on unworthy people to draw them into the greatest experience in the world, namely knowing, tasting, enjoying, praising, being swept up into the glory of God.¹

This definition may sound unusual to many because it places God, not people, at the center of God's affections. It almost seems prideful or selfish of God. And it would be if God were not truly worthy of all honor and praise. But He is glorious beyond measure, and our happiness can only be realized through Him! Hence, the "God-centeredness" of God becomes an everlasting fountain by which He can freely and continually give of Himself to His people.

In this lesson, we used the illustration of the teacher blowing bubbles for the class to enjoy to help the children comprehend this important distinction of the essence and nature of God's love. We then presented biblical examples in which God demonstrates His love: His beautiful creation, care of the world, provision for our needs, befriending sinners, and most importantly through giving us Jesus. For it is through Jesus alone, freely giving up His life on the cross, that we are able experience God's joyous fullness forever and ever.

PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *that your child would grow in his or her understanding of the scope and depth of God's love.*
- *that the Holy Spirit may make your child's heart tender to receiving the gift of Jesus.*



AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Read and talk about the memory verse from John 3:16. **Why is this the most loving thing God could do for us? Does everybody**

1. Piper, John. "The Pleasure of God in Election." Sermon preached on February 22, 1989, at Bethlehem Baptist Church in Minneapolis.

"receive" the joy of eternal life? What does God say that you must do to receive this joy? Are you believing in Jesus? In what ways has Jesus shown you His love?

- Give your child an example of how two people can respond to the same offer in very different ways. Do all people respond the same way to God's love? Can you give an example of someone responding joyfully to God's love? What about someone who rejects or ignores God's love? Why might someone choose to reject the lasting happiness that God's love gives? Do you have a heart that gladly receives God's love? Do you know of someone who is ignoring

God's love? How can we pray for them?

- Read Isaiah 40:11 and John 10:11. Talk about how an image of a shepherd caring for his sheep can help us to better understand the special love that God has for His children. **Has there been a time when it felt as if Jesus was holding you in His arms? Are there ways in which you can better experience the love that God has for you? What could you do this week to prepare your heart to be a better "receiver" of God's love?** Be on the look-out for God's love so you will recognize it and thank Him, read the Bible to hear His words of love communicated to you, pray to Him, etc.

ACTION STEP

If you have received God's love, do you think God wants you to be selfish with the joy He has given you? Read and discuss 1 John 4:11. In what ways could you love other people this week? With your parents' help, think a something special you could do this week to show God's love to someone else.

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Find your way through the heart to the cross. Then, look up the verse in your Bible and fill in the blanks.

For God so

_____ the world, that he

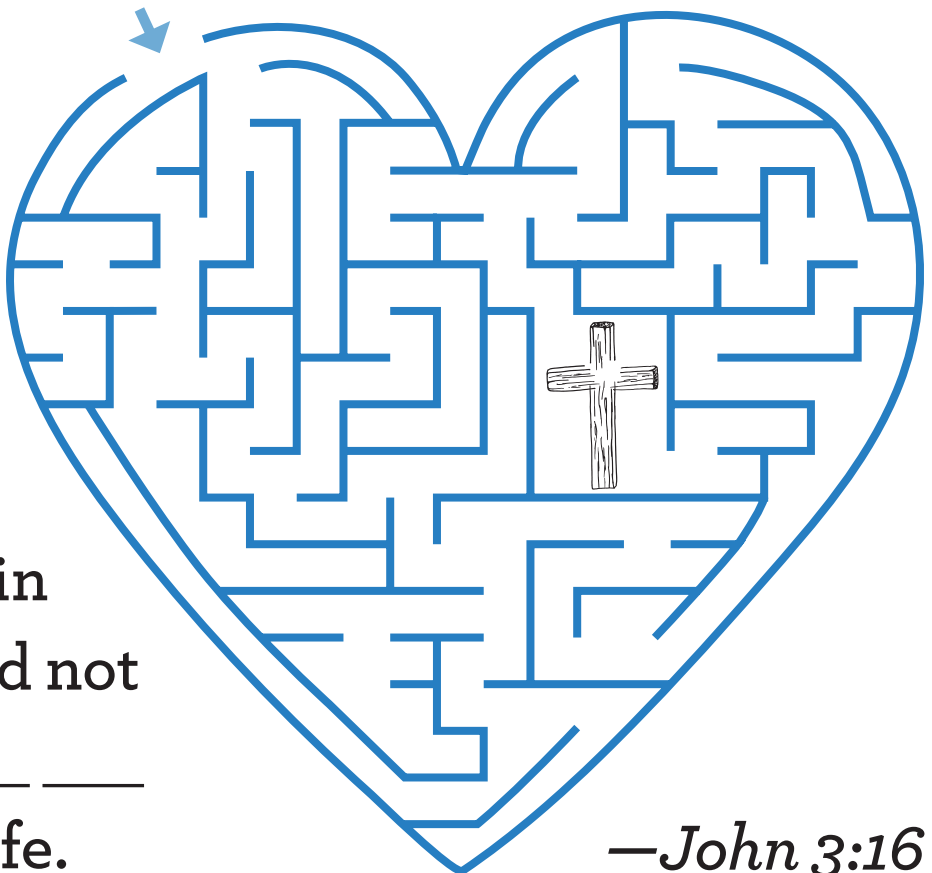
_____ his only

_____, that

_____ whoever believes in

_____ should not

_____ but have eternal life.



—John 3:16



Omnipresent

MAIN IDEA

- **God is everywhere all the time.**

MEMORY VERSE

Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the LORD.
—Jeremiah 23:24

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Psalm 139:7-10
- 2) Jeremiah 23:24
- 3) Matthew 28:20b
- 4) John 14:15-17



LESSON SUMMARY

For creatures that are body-bound, this quality of God is truly hard to fathom. But the implications concerning God's omnipresence in our own lives are within our grasp to understand and embrace. For He is not a God that resides in a certain location—there is no pilgrimage on which we must travel. He is always there no matter where we are. Nor must He bounce back and forth across the world trying to care for the various needs of His people. His abiding presence is available in all places at all times. What a great comfort and means of confidence this is for God's people! It is also true that no one can hide from His presence and sovereign authority. And this should cause all to tremble. For no sin is truly secret, no matter how well hidden from the world or others.

In this lesson, we used portions of Psalm 139 and the story of Jonah to help the children understand the meaning and implications—especially the personal implications—of God's omnipresence.

PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *that your children will increasingly live in the reality of God's continuous presence.*
- *that he or she may grow in knowledge and love of this precious truth.*



AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Talk with your child about some of things that characterize infants. **Do babies like to be left alone? What happens when their moms leave them? Why do they usually cry?** Babies want their mother's presence as much as possible. Even as children get older, they still like to have their parents near them, especially if they are afraid. **But can your parents be with you all of the time? Why not? But is God limited? Why can He be with you all of the time? Does His presence comfort you? How? Have there ever been times when you have wished that He wasn't present everywhere all the time? Why?**
- Read Jesus' promise to His disciples: "I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20). **Do we see Jesus bodily here with us today? No. So what did He mean by this**

promise? Explain that while Jesus is bodily in heaven (in his human nature), he is also omnipresent and with us always in his divine nature. He is both in heaven and with us here on earth.

Read and/or discuss John 14:15-17. **Have you felt helped by these promises? How?** Pray with your child that God would make His presence real in his or her life.

- Review one or two promises from Scripture that address God's abiding presence for His people, such as Matthew 28:20b and John 14:15-16. Talk about ways in which God often makes His presence increasingly real to us: through the reading of His words in the Bible, going to Him in prayer, fellowship with other Christians, etc.

ACTION STEP

This week, make a plan to intentionally seek out God's presence by having a time of daily Bible reading and prayer.

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Search for the hidden letters in the picture and use them to complete the verse.



Can a ___an hide himself in se___ret places so t___at I can ___ot see h___m? dec___ares the LO___D. Do I not ___ill hea___en and ear___h? decl___res the LOR___.—___eremiah 23:24



Refuge

MAIN IDEA

- **God is a place of safety for His people.**

MEMORY VERSES

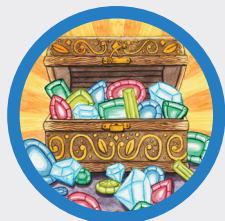
(Choose one)

The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe.
—Proverbs 18:10

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
—Psalm 46:1

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Psalm 18:2a
- 2) Psalm 34:22
- 3) Psalm 46:1
- 4) Psalm 59:16b
- 5) Psalm 61:3
- 6) Psalm 62:7
- 7) Proverbs 18:10
- 8) John 10:9a
- 9) John 14:1-3
- 10) 1 Peter 5:8b



LESSON SUMMARY

When we think of a place of safety and shelter, we often think only in terms of physical protection from "natural" forces and events. But the more significant need for safety concerns our very souls. A deadly enemy is at work seeking to devour us—Satan and his spiritual forces of evil. Where can we find safety and protection from such a strong foe? The almighty God! He describes Himself as a rock, shield, fortress, shelter, strong tower, and mighty refuge for His people. Truly, for all those trusting in Jesus, we can confidently say that God is our refuge.

In this lesson, we focused on the life of David to see how this great warrior and king needed to depend on a safety and protection from his enemies that was beyond his limited abilities—he ran to God. Most of all, David needed a refuge from God's righteous anger because of his sinful heart. And in this too, there is only one place to run for safety—to God! By recalling some of David's words from the psalms, we showed that, time and time again, he ran to God as his perfect refuge.

PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *that God would use the truths in this lesson to increase your own confidence in God.*
- *that your child would understand the surpassing need for spiritual shelter over that of physical safety, and that he or she would run to Jesus as a sure refuge in every situation.*



AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Pose the following scenario: Suppose you were outside at the park and a huge storm suddenly came with high winds, lightning, and hailstones. **What would you try to do? Would standing under a tree be good? What about running to a car? A building? Can these things always keep you safe?**

Read and talk about Proverbs 18:10 and Psalm 46:1. **Why is the protection that God gives much better than anything else? Was there a time in which you "ran to" God for safety and protection? What happened? Have there been any Bible verses that have helped you to feel God's help in a time of trouble?**

- **Do you worry about physical harm? What makes it so scary? Do you ever worry about even more dangerous things, like Satan and**

evil and your own sin? Do you ever feel afraid of God? Why or why not?

Read Psalm 62:7. Do you think David was talking mainly about protection and safety for his body? What is "salvation"? [God saving someone from their sin; being saved from the right punishment we deserve from God because of our sin] How can a person receive this kind of refuge—being kept safe forever from God's anger at your sin? [through trusting in Jesus]

- Explain that God being a refuge means He will always keep safe what is most important. Even though God is able to keep our bodies from all harm, He is also wise and sovereign and may allow physical harm for our spiritual good. Even death is not harmful for a Christian, because it is the way in which God brings His people into the eternal refuge of heaven. Talk about some of the great promises found in John 14:1-3 or Romans 8:38-39 and have a time and prayer with your child.

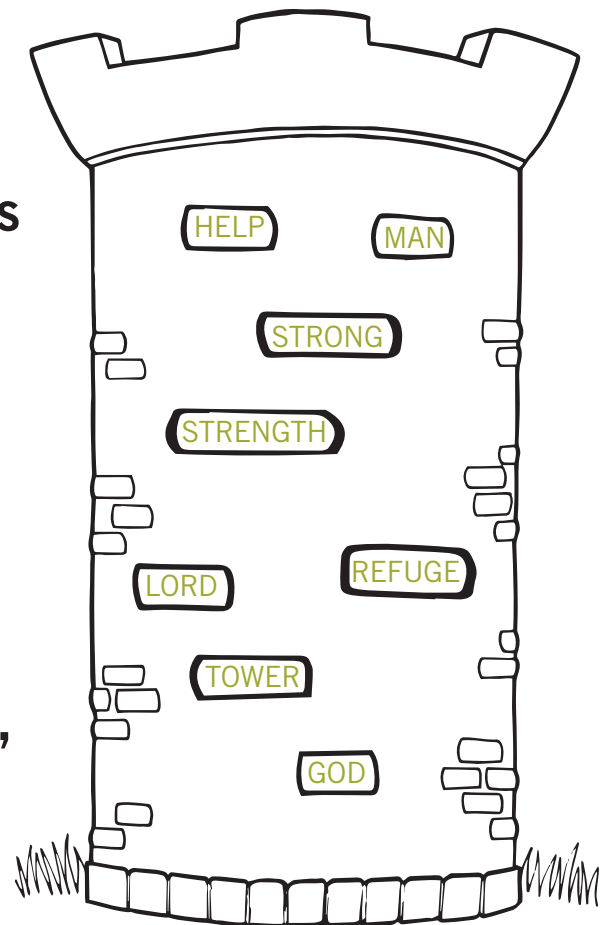
ACTION STEP

This week, draw a picture of a strong tower on a stiff sheet of paper. Write out Proverbs 18:10 or Psalm 46:1 at the top of the tower. When you start to feel afraid of something, write it down or draw a picture of it on a Post-it Note®. Tape this in the space outside the tower. Then take a moment a pray to Jesus. Ask Him to be your refuge from this fear.

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Complete the verses with the words on the tower.

The name of the _____
 is a _____
 _____; the righteous
 _____ runs into it and
 is safe.—*Proverbs 18:10*
 _____ is our
 _____ and
 _____,
 a very present _____
 in trouble.—*Psalm 46:1*





Unchanging

MAIN IDEA

- **God never changes.**

MEMORY VERSES

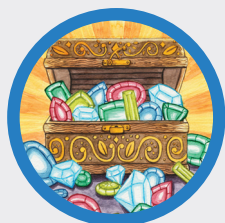
(Choose one)

For I the LORD do not change.—Malachi 3:6a

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.
—Hebrews 13:8

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Psalm 102:25-27
- 2) Proverbs 18:10
- 3) Malachi 3:6a
- 4) John 10:9a
- 5) Hebrews 13:8



LESSON SUMMARY

We live in an ever-changing world, a world filled with unpredictability. Whether it be relationships, the natural world, employment, health, technology, politics, or societal norms and values, everything seems to be in a state of flux. But over and above all, there is a God who is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow (Hebrews 13:8). This is bedrock assurance.

In this lesson, we pointed out the changes we experience during the natural aging process—some of these make us better and stronger, while some are to our detriment. We then contrasted this to God’s unchanging nature: Unlike everything else in creation, God does not change. He cannot change and become better because He is already perfect—He is the best. He cannot change and become weaker or worn. He will always remain perfect—He will always be the best. This is great news for God’s people, because will never change His mind about His promises or purposes either. We also used the “God is our refuge” tower illustration from the previous lesson to emphasize that because God is unchanging, His people can depend on Him both now and always. He is a strong tower that will never grow weak or crumble. Jesus will always be there for His people.

PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...



- *that your child’s heart would be gripped by the beautiful depth and riches of the unchanging nature of God.*
- *that your child would come to a greater understanding and appreciation of the perfection of God and His utter dependableness.*

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Talk about an older grandparent. **Are there things that he or she can no longer do?** Emphasize the changing nature of even the strongest people—we all physically change and eventually grow weaker.

Why is it good that God will never change and grow weak? Do you see God as a strong tower you can always depend upon? How can you remind yourself this week that God is unchanging?

- Pose the following scenario: Suppose you were playing a board game at a friend's house, but he or she kept changing the rules as you played the game. For example, instead of moving forward three spaces when you rolled the dice, you have to move back three spaces instead. Then it was decided that you need 50 points to win the game instead of 25. **Why would that be frustrating?**

Why is it a good thing that God does not change His mind like that? (Give the children an example of a promise of God, such as John 3:16,

and the surety of this promise for all time.)

- **When you get a new pet or toy, does it make you happy? But what happens when a pet dies or the toy breaks? And what if your best friend decides to get a new best friend? Or, what if the car stops working on the way to a vacation place? Can we really depend on these kinds of things to make us happy? Why not? Why is the unchanging God ALWAYS able to bring His people happiness? How could you trust in Him more this week, especially when other things and people change and disappoint you?**

ACTION STEP

This week use The ABCs of God Game Cards to review the words, meanings, and verses for Unchanging and the seven previous words of your choice.

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Add the missing first letters to some of the attributes you have learned. Then, use those letters to complete the memory verses.

___mniscient ___lmighty ___efuge ___overeign
 ___ise ___ood ___ove ___reator
 ___appy ___ternal ___aithful ___rinity



___or I t___e LO___D do not chan___e.

—Ma___achi 3:6a

Je___us ___hrist is the s___me yest___rday
 and ___oday and f___rever.—Hebre___s 13:8



Omniscient

MAIN IDEA

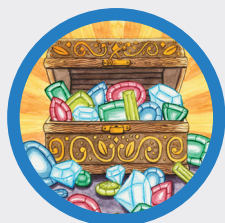
- God knows everything.

MEMORY VERSE

...he knows everything.
—1 John 3:20b

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Psalm 44:21b
- 2) Psalm 139:1-17
- 3) Proverbs 2:6
- 4) Isaiah 40:12
- 5) Isaiah 46:9b-10a
- 6) Matthew 10:30
- 7) 1 Corinthians 2:11b



LESSON SUMMARY

Consider the following description of God's omniscience:

...He knows everything about everybody all the time. He knows the future no less than the past and present, and possible events that never happen no less than actual events that do...Nor does He have to search for information about things, as a computer might retrieve a file; all His knowledge is immediately and directly before Him.¹

God's omniscience can also be brought down to a very personal level. For example, Psalm 139 and Jesus' words in Matthew 6:25-32 give us a beautiful picture of what it means to be known by God. And, for all those who are trusting in Jesus and are children of God, His knowing us and knowing all things now and in the future is a great source of confidence and hope. There are no surprises to God. No event is unforeseen.

Through revealing the contents of 10 bags one by one, we introduced the children to truths about God's omniscience and the importance of this truth as it applies to each of our lives.

PRAYER POINTS



As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- that the truths in this lesson would cause your child to be more in awe of God as you ponder the infinite scope of His knowledge.
- that your child would also feel the personal all-knowing "gaze" of God on his or her own thoughts and feelings, and be truly known by God as His redeemed child and therefore, find great comfort in His omniscience.

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Explain that there are many things people do not know, no matter how old they get or how much they study. People are limited in knowledge. **Does God ever have to study and learn new things like we do? Why not? Because God is omniscient and knows everything, how should we act toward Him?** [Be humble toward Him—we are not "know-it-alls" or smart compared to Him; trust Him with the future and all the things we

1. Sproul, R.C. *The Reformation Study Bible*. (Sanford, Fla.: Ligonier Ministries, 2005), 896.60.



Good

MAIN IDEA

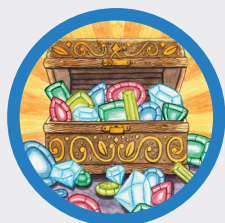
- **God is good in all He is and does.**

MEMORY VERSE

The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.—Psalm 145:9

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Psalm 118:1
- 2) Psalm 119:68a
- 3) Psalm 145:9
- 4) Romans 8:28, 35, 37



LESSON SUMMARY

"Good" is a simple word that children hear often. They may be told to "be good," for example. Or they may express their delight with a new food they have eaten by saying, "That cookie was really good." In either case, "good" is being used to denote approval of something—moral qualities, or more tangible physical qualities. But what is the biblical definition of good, and what does it mean that God is good? Dr. Wayne Grudem can help us:

The goodness of God means that God is the final standard of good, and that all that God is and does is worthy of approval.

...In one sense, we can say that anything that is truly good should be worthy of approval by us. But in a more ultimate sense, we are not free to decide by ourselves what is worthy of approval and what is not. Ultimately, therefore, God's being and actions are perfectly worthy of his own approval. He is therefore the final standard of good.¹

Therefore, all of life, including all of our personal experiences, must be examined in the context of true goodness: God Himself. In this lesson, we used the story of God's providence in the life of the Corrie ten Boom family as they experienced war, prison, sickness, and hunger to illustrate the goodness of God, even in the most difficult circumstances.

PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *that God would be at work in this lesson to help your child see God's goodness in new and amazing ways.*
- *that your child would be able to identify specific ways in which he or she has experienced God's goodness, and give Him thanks.*



AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Review Psalm 145:9. **According to this verse, is God good to only some people? Can you give an example of how God has been good, even to someone who is really bad? Have you ever heard someone complain that God has not been good or fair to them? Have you ever complained? Is that a right attitude to have toward God? Why**

1. Grudem, Wayne. *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*. (Nashville, Tenn.: Zondervan 1994), 197.

not? What should our response be toward the goodness of God?

- Have a timed contest (2-3 minutes) to write down specific ways in which God has been good to your family this week. **Suppose we had all day to think of ways in which God has been good to us, how many ways could we think of? What would be a good way to respond to God for His goodness?**

Read Psalm 118:1 and have a time of prayer to thank God for His specific goodness. Encourage your child to be on the lookout this week for specific ways in which God

demonstrates His goodness toward him or her and your family.

- Explain that even though God is good to all people, He is especially good to His own children. **If you are a child of God, in what special ways has God been good to you?** [e.g., forgiveness of sin, answered prayers, given you strength in hard times, etc.]

Has something bad ever happened to you—something that made it hard for you to say, “God is good”? Are there any Bible verses that can help us during those hard times? Read and talk about Romans 8:28.

ACTION STEP

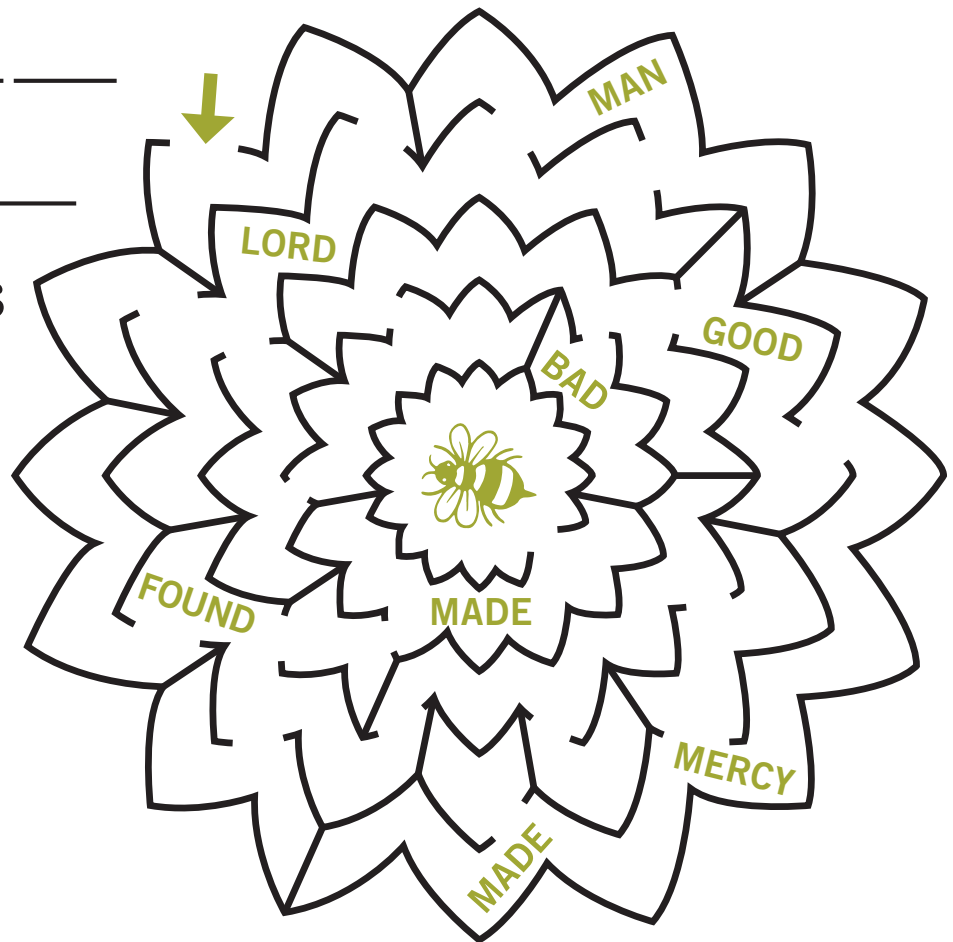
This week at daily prayer time, think of 10 ways God has been good to you each day. When you pray, thank God for each of these. Share your list with another member of your family.

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Make your way to the center of the maze to find the correct words to complete the verse.

The _____
 is _____
 to all, and his

 is over all
 that he has
 _____.
 —*Psalm 145:9*





Jealous

MAIN IDEA

- **God will not share His glory, or the honor and praise He deserves.**

MEMORY VERSES

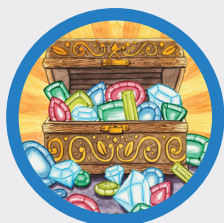
(Choose one)

I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols.
—Isaiah 42:8

...for you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God,—Exodus 34:14

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Exodus 34:14
- 2) 1 Samuel 5:2-5
- 3) Isaiah 42:8
- 4) Matthew 10:37



LESSON SUMMARY

In contemporary culture, the word “jealous” usually carries a negative connotation and is associated with envy. However, there is another way to define “jealous.” Jealousy can be defined as being intolerant of unfaithfulness and protecting one’s own honor. For example, God will not share His greatness and worth (His glory) or the praise that He deserves with anything or anyone else. Why? Because God is preeminent. He alone is worthy of our deepest devotion and highest praise. He will not settle for anything else.

To help the children grasp this important concept, we began the lesson by having a contest in which the teacher stole the first place prize from the rightful winner. This evoked displeasure from the children—“That’s not right! The winner should get the prize.” We then presented them with the story of the Ark of the Covenant in the temple of the idol Dagon. Why did the idol keep falling down in the presence of the Ark? Because God is jealous, He will protect and guard His glory so that no one can take first place from Him. It will never be okay for us to treat other things or people as if they are better or greater than God. And finally, because God is jealous, He will protect and guard all who worship and praise Him—His people.

PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *that the truths presented in this lesson will sink deeply into the mind and heart of your child.*
- *for the Holy Spirit to reveal any idols in the heart and bring true repentance. May God have “first place” in all things.*



AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Talk about how you might feel if you had won first place in a contest but someone else “stole” the prize and received the praise and cheering instead of you. Now think about God and how deserving He is to be seen and recognized as being millions and millions of times better and greater than anything or anyone else. **If you can feel the “wrongness” of someone stealing first place over a little contest, how much more should you feel it wrong for someone or something to be honored and praised more than God? Do you always honor and praise God as being greater than**

anyone or anything else? Is that okay with God? Why not? Review Exodus 34:14.

- Briefly explain that there are places in the world in which people still do worship physical idols. **Do you think that people sometimes worship other kinds of things more than they worship God?** [e.g., a sports team, friends, money, toys, etc.] **How would any of those things compare to how great and good God is? Will God share first place with those kinds of things? Why not? How could a person show that he worships**

the one true God? How could you worship God this week and show that He is the best and greatest?

- Read Jesus' words from Matthew 10:37. Explain that as good and right as it is for children to love their parents, and for parents to love their children, Jesus will not share first place in our hearts. Jesus is God, and He is a jealous God. We must love Jesus most of all and give Him the worship and praise He deserves.

ACTION STEP

This week, with your parents' help read Psalm 95:1-7 and 96:1-9. How does the psalmist respond to seeing God in "first place"? What types of special words and expressions does the psalmist use to say, "I think you are the best God!"? How could you follow the psalmist's example this week?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Look up the verses in your Bible and fill in the missing words. Then, write "GOD" in the center of the trophy.

...for you shall _____ no other
god, for the LORD, whose name

is _____,
is a jealous God,
—Exodus 34:14

I am the _____;
that is my name; my
glory I give to _____
other, nor my

_____ to carved idols.—Isaiah 42:8





Righteous

MAIN IDEA

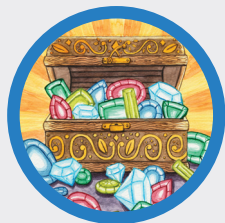
- **Everything that God thinks, says, and does is right.**

MEMORY VERSE

*Righteous are you,
O LORD, and right
are your rules.*
—Psalm 119:137

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Psalm 119:137
- 2) Psalm 145:17
- 3) Luke 4:1-13
- 4) Ephesians 6:1



LESSON SUMMARY

In his book *The Pleasures of God*, John Piper provides an excellent way to understand God's righteousness:

Is not the essence of righteousness to place supreme value on what is supremely valuable, with all the just actions that follow? And isn't the opposite of righteousness to set our highest affections on things of little or no worth, with all the unjust actions that follow? Thus the righteousness of God is the infinite zeal and joy and pleasure that he has in what is supremely valuable, namely, his own perfection and worth. And if he were ever to act contrary to this eternal passion for his own perfection he would be unrighteous...¹

In this lesson, we gave the children an example of something it would be wrong to value—a pail of garbage—and then led them to examples of things it would be right to value with increasing affection, ending with God Himself. Grounding God's righteousness in His valuing what is truly most valuable—His own greatness and worth—gives a sort of measurable starting point from which to understand that God righteousness is right, along with everything He does and all of His rules and commands. We then presented the story of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness to demonstrate His perfect righteousness, always obeying His Father, even when tempted by Satan.

PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *for your child to be gripped by the intensity of God's valuing of His own glory.*
- *that the Holy Spirit would begin to cause your child to see his or her own unrighteousness and the need for a perfectly righteous Savior.*



AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- **Read Psalm 119:137. Why are God's rules always right? Do you treat God's rules like they are always right? Do you always obey rules like Ephesians 6:1? Why do you think we fail to always do the right thing? Can you think of any Bible verses that explain this problem?**

1. Piper, John. *The Pleasures of God: Meditations on God's Delight in Being God*. (Colorado Springs, Colo.: Multnomah Books, 1991), 39.

[e.g., Romans 3:23] **Do parents care whether or not children obey their rules? Do you think a righteous God cares whether or not we obey His right rules?**

- Review the story of Jesus being tempted by Satan in the wilderness. **If you were really hungry, why might it seem like the right thing to turn stones into bread? But if it meant disobeying God, would it still be right? Did Jesus trust that His Father would take care of His needs another way—a way that would not require Jesus to disobey His Father? (See Matthew 4:11.)**

Explain that sometimes we disobey because we do not trust that God’s rules and ways are

really right and good. We only think about the immediate benefit (getting what I want, when I want it), and not about the benefit of trusting God and His right rules and ways. Give a concrete example of this using Ephesians 6:1 or something similar showing that obedience, while difficult, ultimately brings about more joy and contentment.

- Emphasize that when it comes to God’s right rules, Jesus is a perfect rule keeper. **Is that true of you or me? Is that true of dad and mom? How do you feel knowing that you do not always keep God’s right rules? Do you think that Jesus can help you? In what way?**

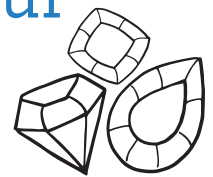
ACTION STEP

This week, talk with your parents about one of God’s righteous rules that you have a hard time obeying. Why is obedience to this rule difficult? Whose help must you depend upon? Daily pray and ask Jesus to help you. Thank Him that He obeyed all God’s rules perfectly.

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

This verse is not right. Put the words in the right order.

rules LORD you are O righteous your
right and are —*Psalm 119:137*





Wrathful

MAIN IDEA

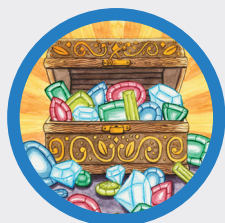
- **God is very angry at sin, and is right to punish sinners.**

MEMORY VERSE

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men.—Romans 1:18a

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Genesis 19:24-25, 27-28
- 2) Nahum 1:6b
- 3) Habakkuk 1:13a
- 4) John 2:13-16
- 5) John 3:36
- 6) Romans 1:18a
- 7) Romans 3:10b, 23



LESSON SUMMARY

If we are going to teach children the whole counsel of God, we must teach them about His wrath. Any vision of God devoid of this attribute will be dangerously skewed. Some would argue that children should be spared this teaching. But if we really desire our children to experience the depth and the riches of the love of God, they must also get a glimpse of His hatred of sin. For it is within this context that we see our desperate condition and need of a Savior. Consider these words from Jerry Bridges:

The love of God has no meaning apart from Calvary. And Calvary has no meaning apart from the holy and just wrath of God. Jesus did not die just to give us peace and a purpose in life; He died to save us from the wrath of God. He died to reconcile us to a holy God who was alienated from us because of our sin. He died to ransom us from the penalty of sin—the punishment of everlasting destruction, shut out from the presence of the Lord. He died that we, the just objects of God's wrath, should become, by His grace, heirs of God and co-heirs with Him.¹

In this lesson, we presented the story of Jesus cleansing the temple and God's judgment on Sodom, to show children a glimpse of God's anger at sin. We also brought this to a very personal level—we are all sinners and deserve the rightful wrath of God. This is why we desperately need Jesus.

PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...



- *for God to grant you the right words and demeanor as you present these hard but important truths to your child.*
- *that God would use this lesson to deepen your love for His amazing grace, and cause the heart of your child to take seriously the nature and consequences of his or her sin.*

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- **When you think about Jesus, what kinds of things come to mind? Does His fierce anger at sin ever come to mind? Read John 2:13-16. Why would someone want to pretend that Jesus isn't really angry at sin? Do you take Jesus' wrath seriously?**

1. Bridges, Jerry. *The Practice of Godliness*. (Colorado Springs, Colo.: NAVPRESS, 1983), 24.



Patient

MAIN IDEA

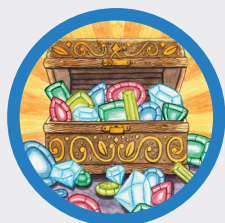
- **God is slow to anger and slow to punish.**

MEMORY VERSE

The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.
—2 Peter 3:9

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Genesis 6:5
- 2) Romans 1:18a
- 3) Romans 2:4-5
- 4) James 1:19-20
- 5) 2 Peter 3:9



LESSON SUMMARY

In his famous sermon, “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God,” Jonathan Edwards describes a dam holding back great floodwaters. The floodwaters represent God’s wrath on sinners. God’s hand is the floodgate. It is only by God’s good pleasure—and His patient forbearance—that He holds His hand in place for any length of time to keep back the floodwaters so that we are not destroyed. How good for us that God is slow to anger and slow to punish so that His chosen ones might come to repentance and find refuge from the deluge of His righteous wrath and judgment!

In this lesson, we recounted the story of God sending a worldwide flood during the time of Noah. In this account, we see the wrath of God being poured out on sinners—emphasizing the theme of the previous lesson. But we also see the amazing patience of God as He waited 100 years before sending the flood, giving sinners more than enough time to repent. We each have experienced this kind of patience, too. From the very day we are born, God is right to be angry at us and would be right to punish us in His wrath. But He is also very patient with us. He is slow to anger and slow to punish because He wants us to turn and trust in Him.

PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *for your child to truly understand and appreciate the serious predicament of sinners in the hands of righteously angry God, and then marvel at His long-suffering patience.*
- *that God’s kindness and patience toward sinners would motivate your children to run to Jesus.*



AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Read 2 Peter 3:9. Explain what is meant by “reach repentance.” [e.g., recognizing that you are a helpless sinner, hating your sin, and now wanting to turn to Jesus as the only One who can help and forgive you]

Have any of you sinned this week? Are you still able to enjoy family, friends, and other things? How does this show God’s patience toward you? Have you thanked Him for His patience? Do see His patience as a chance to ask His forgiveness and trust in Him? Or, do you act as if His patience is a something that allows you to “get away” with your sin, like it does not really matter?

- **Does God let us know exactly how long His patience will last toward sin? Does He set a kitchen timer for us? Do we hear Him counting? So what should we do?**

Summarize the meaning of Romans 2:4-5, “*Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God’s kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God’s righteous judgment will be revealed.*” God’s patience is not something we should play around with. He wants us to repent and trust in Him now.

- Imagine what the sinful and wicked people of Noah’s time might have thought about Noah building an ark. **Because God was so patient and waited 100 years before sending the flood, could they have thought that the warning about a flood was just a joke—that God really wasn’t going to punish them?** Review Romans 1:18a (memory verse from Lesson 25), “*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men,...*”





















ACTION STEP

Together with your parents, make a list of ways in which God has been patient toward you in the past week. Then spend some time in prayer thanking Him for His patience.

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Use the special code to find the missing words in the memory verse.

The _____ is _____ to
 _____ his _____
 as some count _____, but is
 _____ toward _____,
 not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.—2 Peter 3:9

A	B	C	D	E	F	H	I	L	M
									
N	O	P	R	S	T	U	V	W	Y
									



Merciful

MAIN IDEA

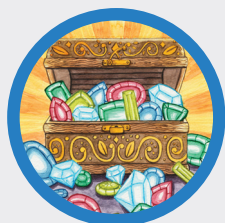
- **God is kind to undeserving sinners.**

MEMORY VERSE

The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
—Psalm 145:8

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Psalm 145:8-9
- 2) Luke 15:11-20
- 3) Romans 2:4-5
- 4) Titus 3:5a
- 5) 2 Peter 3:9



LESSON SUMMARY

That God is merciful to sinners who are, moment by moment, deserving of His wrath is truly amazing. More marvelous is His saving mercy extended to those whom He has called to be His people. It is a mercy that is a gift—unearned and unmerited by anything that we have done. How thankful we should be that we have a heavenly Father that seeks out wayward children, and then, in His great mercy, extends to us His steadfast love and forgiveness.

In this lesson, we examined the parable of the lost son in order to help children understand that, though we all deserve God's wrath because of our sin, God is merciful to sinners who come to Him with hearts that are truly sorry. Furthermore, we stressed that God's mercy is a gift—you cannot earn it or do enough good things to outweigh the bad things you have done. Finally, we pointed out that all people experience a measure of God's mercy. None of us deserve any good thing from God, yet He is kind to undeserving sinners. And the greatest mercy we need from God is forgiveness for our sin.

PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...



- *that your child would see his or her desperate need for God's mercy and forgiveness, and see God as a merciful Father, running toward wayward sinners with arms outstretched.*
- *that God would be at work, breaking down any notions of self-sufficiency and salvation by works.*

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Review the story of the lost son from Luke 15:11-20. **In what ways is God like the father in the story? In what ways are you and I like the son? Have you done anything this week that is sinful? Do you think that doing things your own way, like the son, will make you happy? What did he find out? What would Jesus want you to do? Review Luke 15:18-20. Have a time of prayer together.**
- **When you are really hungry, what do you constantly think about and crave? What do you go and look for? In the Bible story, what made the son want to go home to his father? Explain that, as much as being hungry makes us crave food, even more so, our sin should**

make us crave God's mercy. How might a person show that he really wants God's mercy and forgiveness?

- What is the right way to respond when someone is merciful to you? In what ways has God shown you mercy? Why is God's mercy even more important than the mercy we receive from

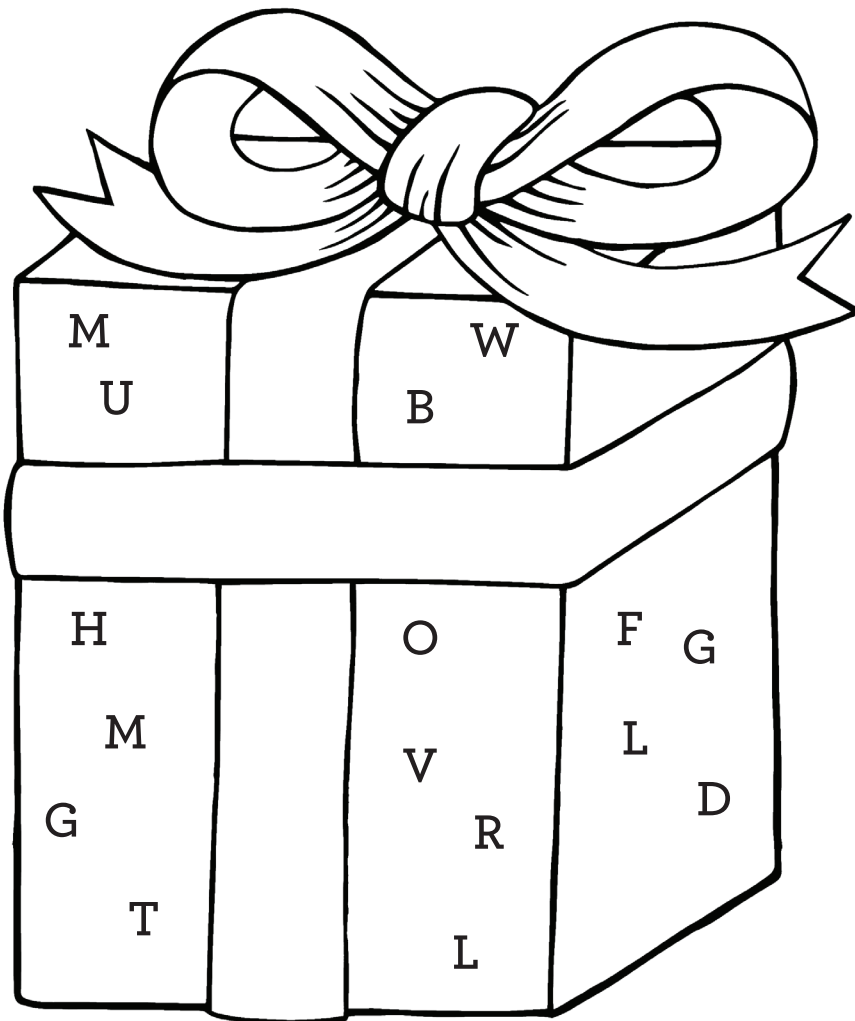
parents or from others? Have you thanked God for His mercy? How could you show God your thankfulness? If you are not thankful, what is keeping you from feeling thankful? Is there anything you could do to help change your attitude toward God's mercy so that you are more thankful?

ACTION STEP

This week, with help from a parent, wrap a box in special gift wrap. Add a bow and ribbon. Make a sign for the box: God is merciful. Place the box on the dinner table. Before every meal, encourage every family member to say one way that God has been merciful to them.

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

God's mercy is a special gift. Find the letters on the wrapping paper to complete the verse. Then color the gift with fancy colors to remind you of God's mercy.



T__e LO__D
 is __racio__s
 and __erciful,
 slo__ t__
 an__er and
 a__oun__ing
 in s__ead__ast
 __o__e.
 —Psa__m 145:8



Zealous

MAIN IDEA

- **God acts with His whole heart.**

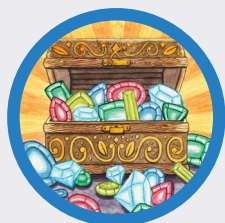
MEMORY VERSE

The LORD goes out like a mighty man, like a man of war he stirs up his zeal; he cries out, he shouts aloud, he shows himself mighty against his foes.

— Isaiah 42:13

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Isaiah 42:13
- 2) Luke 19:30, 35-38a
- 3) Hebrews 12:2b



LESSON SUMMARY

Imagine for a moment a soldier on a mission—he is prepared, focused, and ready. He does not go into battle lackadaisically. He’s all in. There is no thought of turning back until he reaches his goal. Zeal drives him on. It is in this vein of thought that God’s zeal needs to be understood.

In this lesson, we helped the children to see and understand God’s zeal by looking at Jesus’ passionate and intense pursuit of sinners. His zeal to save us took Him down a road of selfless humility and unimaginable pain and suffering. When King Jesus’ entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, He did not ride on to assume His place in the palace, but instead went to the cross. And knowing the humiliation and pain that awaited Him there, Jesus never wavered. Jesus would pursue His goal with His whole heart, until it had been accomplished! But even beyond His zeal for saving us is God’s zeal for His glory—it is ultimate. In this lesson and the next, we will be explaining as simply as possible, how God accomplished this ultimate goal through the act of loving and saving an unrighteous people.

PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...



- *that your child’s perceptions of Palm Sunday would go far beyond the traditional celebrations and songs.*
- *that he or she may come to realize the intense passion with which Jesus pursues sinners.*

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Review Isaiah 42:13. **Why do you think this verse gives us a picture of God being like a soldier going out to battle an enemy? Would a good soldier treat a battle in a “ho-hum, I really do not care” type of way? Why not? Why would it make sense that God acts with zeal—with His whole heart—and not just with boredom, saying, “Oh, well, maybe sometime I’ll get off the couch and rescue My people”?** What other things have you learned about God? Can you give other examples from the Bible where God showed His zeal in doing something?
- Give your child an example of something he or she is zealous about. **What kinds of things do you think God is zealous for? What kinds of things are most important to God? Do you think that He is zealous for you? Can you think of any Bible verses that show God’s**

determination and whole heart in seeking after you? [e.g., John 15:13]

- Review the events of Palm Sunday and remind your child that Jesus was entering Jerusalem in order to die on the cross. **What kinds of really hard things would Jesus experience? Why didn't Jesus just give up? Why was He so**

zealous to go and die on the cross? What was the "reward" for doing it? Read and talk about Hebrews 12:2b: **"...who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross,..."** Point out that because of the joy set before Him, He was demonstrating the greatness and worth of God by saving His sinful people.

ACTION STEP



This week, with your parent's help, read John 19:1-30. Note how many difficult and painful things Jesus experienced. How does this show the zeal of Jesus?


MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY



















Use the special code to find the missing words in the memory verse.

The _____ goes out like a mighty man,


like a man of war he stirs up his _____;


he cries out, he shouts aloud, he shows himself
 _____ against _____



_____ 42:13


A	D	E	F	G	H	I	K	L
								
M	N	O	R	S	T	U	Y	Z
								



Deliverer

MAIN IDEA

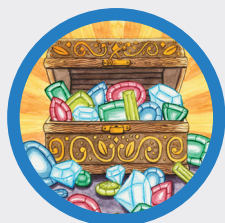
- **God saves His sinful people from the punishment they deserve.**

MEMORY VERSE

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners,
—1 Timothy 1:15a

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Psalm 6:4
- 2) Psalm 39:8a
- 3) Isaiah 1:4a
- 4) Luke 23:32-43
- 5) Romans 3:10b, 23
- 6) Romans 5:6-8
- 7) Romans 8:1
- 8) 1 Timothy 1:15
- 9) 1 Peter 2:24a
- 10) 1 John 2:2a



LESSON SUMMARY

Someday, we and our students will stand before King Jesus and hear Him say one of the following:

"Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom..."—Matthew 25:34b

"Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire..."—Matthew 25:41

If our students are to inherit the kingdom, they must embrace the Gospel and trust in Jesus. Therefore, we must give the greatest care to present the true essence of the Gospel.

Because children are concrete thinkers, this lesson attempted to clearly, yet simply, illustrate what Jesus' death on the cross accomplished for sinners who will put their trust in Him. We used a pile of trash to represent sin and used a large, clean, empty trash bag to represent Jesus taking the sin of His people upon Himself. We then demonstrated God pouring out His righteous anger at sin by punishing His own Son to death. On a larger level, and one that is more difficult to grasp, this lesson also pointed to God's ultimate love for His glory in saving unrighteous people like us.

PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *that the Holy Spirit would be mightily at work leading and guiding, giving your child a true understanding of redemption.*
- *for godly grief that brings about sincere repentance and that God would be pleased to bring about true saving faith.*



AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Read Romans 3:10b, 23; Psalm 6:4; and Psalm 39:8a. **Why do you and I need a Deliverer? Do you ever feel the "weight" of your sin?** [e.g., guilt, shame, a feeling of helplessness before God, etc.] **Why is Jesus the only One who can save us from God's wrath and the punishment we deserve? Have you called on Jesus and asked Him to deliver you?** Give your child a brief testimony of how God brought you to saving faith.

- Read 1 Timothy 1:15. Explain that something that is trustworthy is true. Something that is deserving of full acceptance means that you should trust and believe it with your whole heart. **What does this verse say we should believe with our whole heart? What word in the verse means the same thing as “deliver”?** [save] **How could a person show that he is trusting Jesus with his whole heart?** [e.g., by expressing love, praise, and thankfulness to Him, wanting to know more about Him through the Bible, longing to follow and obey Him, spending time in prayer talking to Him, showing a hatred of

sin and asking Jesus for forgiveness, wanting to tell other people about Him, etc.]

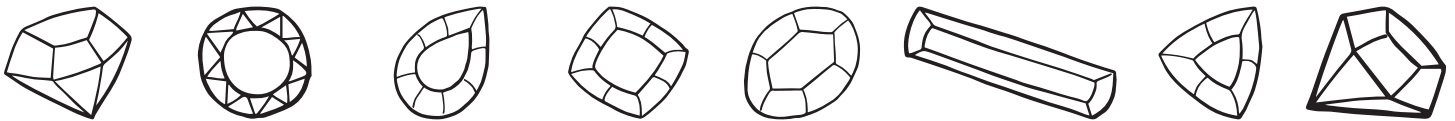
- Emphasize that there are two responses to Jesus’ death on the cross—belief or unbelief. **Do you think that you do not need a Deliverer—that you are good enough just the way you are? Or, do you believe that you are a sinner who is helpless to save yourself? Do you believe that Jesus is the one and only Deliverer?** Have a time of prayer with your child. Focus on the Person and work of Jesus and His call for us to come to Him with repentant and trusting hearts.

ACTION STEP

With your parents, read and talk about the words to the hymn, *The Power of the Cross* (Getty & Townend, available at www.gettymusic.com/hymns.aspx). Sing the hymn together.

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Fill in the blanks to complete your memory verse. Then, use those letters to fill in the matching numbered blocks below to reveal the special word.



The say₁ng is trustwo₂thy and
 ___₃eserving of full acc₄ptance, that
 Ch₅ist Jesus cam₆ into the wor₇d
 to sa₈e sinn₉rs,—1 *Timothy 1:15a*

The special word is:

3	4	7	1	8	6	2	9	5



Victorious

MAIN IDEA

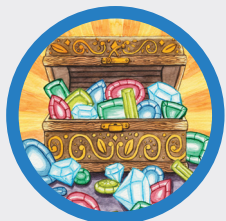
- **God always wins, even over Satan, sin, and death.**

MEMORY VERSE

Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory...
—1 Chronicles 29:11a

SCRIPTURE

- 1) 1 Chronicles 29:11a
- 2) Matthew 27:57-60
- 3) Matthew 28:2-9
- 4) John 6:40
- 5) Romans 5:12
- 6) 1 Corinthians 15:54b-57
- 7) 1 John 1:9



LESSON SUMMARY

At first glance, when reading through the accounts of Jesus' death on the cross, it hard to envision Him as a victorious Savior—even more so for those who witnessed this event firsthand. All seemed lost and hopeless. It appeared that His great and glorious mission had failed.

In this lesson, we vividly described the biblical account of the burial and resurrection of Jesus, and then explained the significance of His victory over Satan, sin, and death. Finally, we made the point that God is always victorious over all powers, people, circumstances, etc. He always has the final say.

PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *that your child will be newly awakened to the reality of the resurrection.*
- *that he or she will more fully see and understand the significance of Jesus' victory over death and embrace Him as the living Savior.*



AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Talk about a winning sports team or player. **Could the members of a winning team win against Satan, sin, or death?** No, of course not. **Why would winning against Satan, sin, and death be much more important than winning a sports game?** Could winning a sports game protect you from Satan? Could it remove God's wrath at your sin? Could it defeat death? **Who is the only One that was completely victorious over those things?** How can we be sure that **Jesus actually won?** [After He died on the cross, He came alive again. People really saw Him and met with Him afterward.]
- Ask your child what kinds of things make him or her afraid. Point out that even adults are afraid of things. One thing that many people fear most is death—they wonder what will happen when they die. **What should death remind us of?** [God's punishment for sin] **Why is it good news that Jesus was victorious over death?** **Does His victory help us in any way?** Read and talk about Jesus' words from John 6:40: **"For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."**

- Explain that because Jesus was victorious over Satan, sin, and death, He removed the penalty of sin from God’s people—everyone who is trusting in Him.

Would it be a good idea for God’s people to go and try to keep on sinning? Why not? What “tools” or help has Jesus given His people to fight against Satan and sin? [Possible

responses: His Word, the Holy Spirit, memorized Bible verses, prayer, the help of other Christians, etc.] **What can Christians do when we fail to win against a temptation and sin? Read and talk about 1 John 1:9: “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”**

ACTION STEP

This week, use The ABCs of God Game Cards to review the words, meanings, and verses for the words: Victorious, Deliverer, Zealous, Merciful, Wrathful, Righteous, Jealous, Good, Omniscient, Refuge, Love, and Understanding.

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Follow the maze to find the correct letters to complete the verse.

Yours, O LORD, is the and the
greatness

and the and the
victory..
—1 Chronicles 29:11a



King

MAIN IDEA

- **God rules over everyone.**

MEMORY VERSES

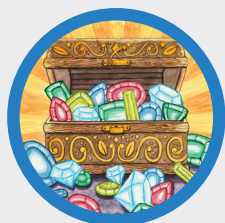
*For God is the King
of all the earth...*

*⁸God reigns over the
nations; God sits on
his holy throne.*

—Psalm 47:7a, 8

SCRIPTURE

- 1) 1 Samuel 8:5-22
- 2) Psalm 47:7-8
- 3) Psalm 146:10
- 4) Matthew 25:31
- 5) Ephesians 4:32



LESSON SUMMARY

God is King from all eternity, and He is even now seated on His throne. Whether men acknowledge God's sovereign rule or not, He reigns over the nations. He cannot be overthrown, nor will He ever resign. He holds absolute power, but it never corrupts. There is no hint of scandal in His courts. All God's ways are perfect and just. Moreover, since this King is self-sufficient, He is free to constantly be at work for the good of His people, providing us with life, breath, and everything else (Acts 17:25).

In this lesson, we recounted the folly of Israel demanding a human king like all the other nations, rejecting the one true King. We then looked at the reality of King Jesus' reign and His return when He will come "in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne" (Matthew 25:31). For the Christian, King Jesus' rule is a daily reality. Our lives should reflect that our highest allegiance belongs to Him, and that we joyfully submit to His authority.

PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *for your child to see how good it is that God rules over all.*
- *that your hearts would long for God's rule in your lives, and that your hearts would increasingly and joyfully submit to King Jesus.*



AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Read Psalm 47:7-8. **Why are we not able to see God's throne right now? Are there other things that you know are real but that you cannot see?** [e.g., air] **Does that mean people will never be able to see God sitting on His throne? What has Jesus promised will happen someday in the future?** Read and talk about Acts 1:6-11 and Matthew 25:31-32.
- Point out that we have many "authority figures" in our lives, people we should listen to and obey. [e.g., parents, teachers, policemen, a president, etc.] God puts people in authority over us for our good. They are to encourage us to act in the right ways and to protect us from harm. **But who is the highest authority? Could the president of our country tell God what He must do? Could the army of our country ever remove God from His throne? Why not? So, as much**

as God wants us to obey human authorities, who should we obey most of all?

- Explain that we often will agree that something is true until it effects us personally. It is easy to say, “God is King and rules over everyone.” But what happens when you are fighting with a sibling over a game and King Jesus reminds you,

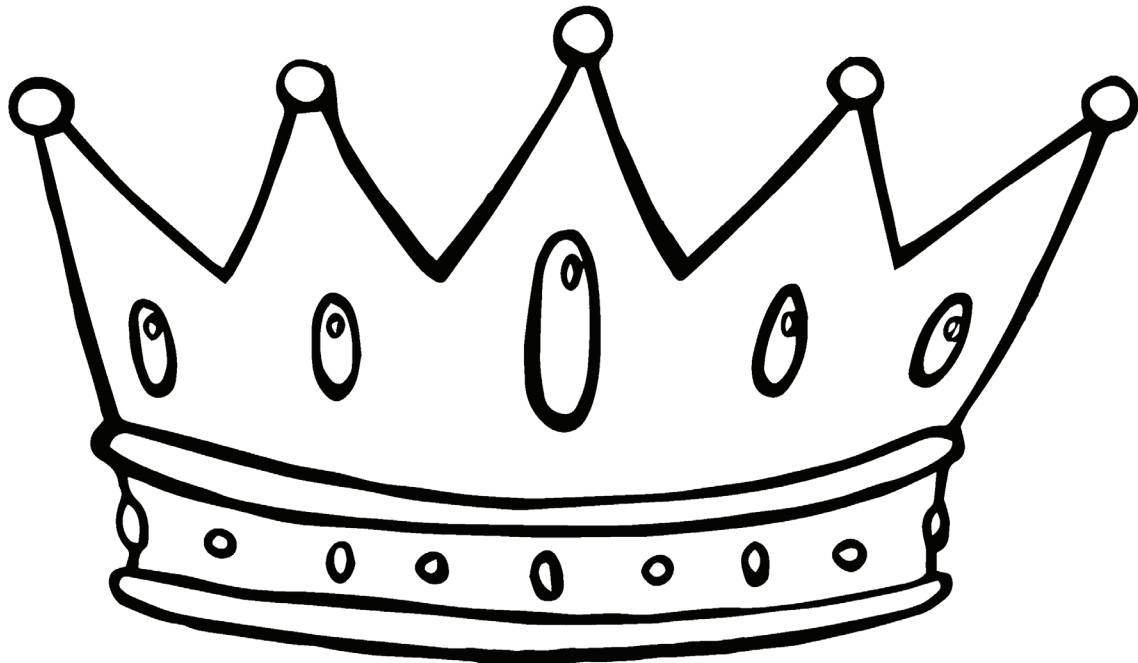
“Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.” (Ephesians 4:32)? Discuss what it means that Jesus is King over our lives—whether or not we recognize it. **Because He is King over our lives, how should we act toward His rule? How should we act toward others?**

ACTION STEP

This week, draw a crown in the top portion of a piece of paper. Use markers, shiny paper, sticker gems, etc., to make it look as special as possible. Right below the crown, write “God is King!” Below this, tape or glue a picture of yourself or your family. Use this completed picture as a reminder that God is your King.

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

There is a letter missing from the verse. Figure out which letter is missing, then write it in all of the blanks to finish the verse. Then, color the crown with royal colors to you remind you that God is King!



F__r G__d is the King __f all the
earth... ⁸G__d reigns __ver the nati__ns;
G__d sits __n his h__ly thr__ne.

—Psalm 47:7a, 8



eXalted

MAIN IDEA

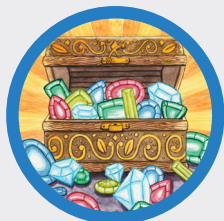
- **God ranks far above everything else. He is the Most High.**

MEMORY VERSE

For you, O LORD, are most high over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods.
—Psalm 97:9

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Genesis 11:1-5, 7-8
- 2) Job 37:23a (NASB)
- 3) Psalm 97:9
- 4) Psalm 99:2
- 5) Psalm 138:6a
- 6) Psalm 148:13b
- 7) Isaiah 33:5a
- 8) Isaiah 57:15a (NASB)
- 9) Daniel 4:28-34
- 10) Philippians 2:9-11
- 11) 1 Peter 5:6-7



LESSON SUMMARY

You do not have to look too far to see the people pursuing self-exaltation. It's everywhere: politics, sports, business, school, entertainment, social media, etc. There lurks in the sinful flesh a longing to make a name for ourselves.

In this lesson, we told the biblical account of people of Shinar in building the tower of Babel. They wanted to draw attention to themselves so that they could be seen as great. But God stopped them in their quest for self-exaltation. He alone is exalted and should be seen and worshipped as such. Why is it good and right that God be exalted? Here is a wonderful explanation by John Piper:

...unlike our self-exaltation, God's self-exaltation draws attention to what gives greatest and longest joy, namely, himself. When we exalt ourselves, we lure people away from the one thing that can satisfy their souls—the infinite beauty of God. When God exalts himself, he manifests the one thing that can satisfy our souls, namely, God.

Therefore, God is the one being in the universe for whom self-exaltation is the most loving act, since love labors and suffers to enthrall us with what is infinitely and eternally satisfying, namely, God. Therefore, when God exalts God and commands us to join him, he is pursuing our highest, deepest, longest happiness. This is love, not megalomania.¹

PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *that God would be “high and lifted up” in the mind and heart of your child.*
- *that the Holy Spirit bring about a godly humility that is pleasing to the Lord.*



AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Recall what happened when the people of Shinar tried to exalt and “make a name” for themselves. Point out that others have also tried to exalt themselves above God. Quickly relate the story

1. “Why God Is Not a Megalomaniac in Demanding to Be Worshipped,” sermon delivered by John Piper, ©2014 Desiring God Foundation, desiringGod.org

of King Nebuchadnezzar from Daniel 4:28-34. In the end, what happens when someone tries to exalt himself over God? Do you ever talk and act in boastful ways about yourself? How does God see your boasting? What kind of attitude should you have toward the Most High God? Read and talk about Psalm 138:6a and Isaiah 57:15.

- Point out that most people in the world do not celebrate that Jesus is exalted far above anything and anyone else. Many of these people do not even know who Jesus is or what He has done. **What should those of us who know and love Jesus do so that others will see how great and exalted Jesus is? For example, if you score the winning goal for your soccer**

team, is there a way that you could point to Jesus as being great and not yourself? What about people who have heard about Jesus but do not like it that He is exalted above all? Is there a way we can help them? [e.g., pray for them and keep pointing them to Jesus]

- Explain that at one time or another, all of us try to exalt ourselves above God. Sometimes it is as simple as thinking that we know a better way to do something than God does. **What can we do when we are tempted to exalt ourselves? What should we remember? Are there some verses that can help us fight against wanting to be the center of attention?** Read and talk about 1 Peter 5:6-7.

ACTION STEP

This week, write out the memory verse from Psalm 97:9 in places where it will be the “center of attention.” Perhaps use erasable markers and write it on the bathroom or bedroom mirrors, the refrigerator, etc. Every time you see it, pause and read the verse and remember that God is the Most High.

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

This verse is not right! Some of the words are very wrong! Completely cross out and cover the wrong words and write the with the correct words above them.



SOMETIMES HIGH OVER MOST OF THE EARTH;

YOU ARE RANKED A LITTLE ABOVE MOST GODS.

—Psalm 97:9



Holy

MAIN IDEA

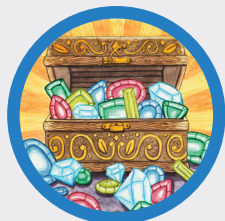
- **God is like nothing else. He is perfect and is separate from sin.**

MEMORY VERSE

To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One.
—Isaiah 40:25

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Isaiah 6:1-5
- 2) Isaiah 40:25a
- 3) Isaiah 46:9b
- 4) Colossians 1:21-22
- 5) 1 Peter 1:15-16
- 6) 1 John 1:7b



LESSON SUMMARY

Here is a helpful summary of what it means that God is holy:

...the word signifies everything about God that sets Him apart from us and makes Him an object of awe, adoration, and dread to us. It covers all aspects of His transcendent greatness and moral perfection, and is characteristic of all His attributes, pointing to the “God-ness” of God at every point. The core of this truth, however, is God’s purity that cannot tolerate any form of sin (Habakkuk 1:13), and calls sinners to constant self-abasement in His presence (Isaiah 6:5).¹

In this lesson, we looked at Isaiah’s encounter with the holy God in order to understand and feel some of the weight of God’s holiness. We then examined some of the implications of God’s holiness for our lives:

- Because God is holy, we should treat Him and His Word with great respect and honor. He deserves our worship. We should be in “awe” of Him more than anything else.
- Because God is holy, we should tremble before Him and have a healthy kind of fear of Him; He is great, and we are small and weak.
- Because God is holy, He will not tolerate our sin. We must have our sin forgiven through trusting in Jesus in order to be accepted by a holy God.

PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *that you and your child will both be gripped in your minds and hearts by the sheer magnitude of the God-ness of God.*
- *that your child will more fully comprehend the weight and seriousness of God’s holiness, and respond in awe and worship.*



AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Help your child to recall something amazing that he or she has experienced—something that left your child awestruck. **How would this experience compare to what Isaiah experienced? What kinds**

1. Sproul, R.C., general editor. *The Reformation Study Bible* (Sanford, Fla., Ligonier Ministries, 2005).

of things can we “look” at or do that will help us see and understand what God’s holiness is really like? [e.g., read about His mighty deeds in the Bible, look at the amazing things He has created, hear testimonies from other Christians about what God has done, etc.]

How should we respond to the holy God? Should we be more awestruck by Him than anything else? What might this look like—what kinds of things could you say or do to show that you are in awe of God?

- Ask your child if he or she has ever dreaded you finding out about something wrong he or she has done. **Why was your child fearful?** Recall Isaiah’s response (from Isaiah 6:5) when he was in the presence of the holy God. **Why is that a right response for a sinner? Have you ever felt that way toward God because of your sin? What should that kind of dread and fear make us want to do? What’s the only thing that**

can make us “clean” before a holy God? Talk about 1 John 1:7 and how this verse is true for everyone who runs to Jesus and trusts in Him alone for the forgiveness of their sins.

- Talk about a valuable object in your home that is kept separate for special use. Read and talk about 1 Peter 1:15-16. God wants His people to be holy and “set apart.” One thing that means is that we should want to separate ourselves from sinful conduct and want to obey God’s holy commands.

What kinds of things has God given His people to help them be holy? [e.g., His Holy Word and commands, the Holy Spirit, prayer, the encouragement and guidance of parents and other Christians, etc.] **What is one thing that you could do this week to use the help that God offers His people? How could you use the Bible and the instruction of your parents to help you live a more holy life?**

ACTION STEP

This week, with your parents' help, read through and talk about the hymn *Holy, Holy, Holy*. Sing together two or more verses of the hymn.

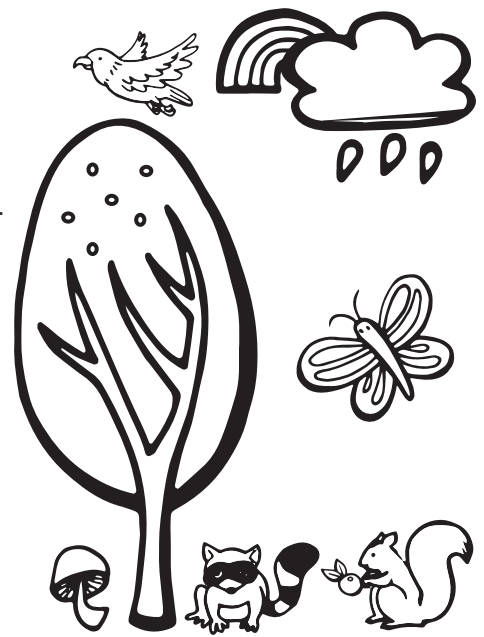
MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Look up the verse in your Bible and fill in the blanks. Then, compare the picture on the left with the picture on the right and circle the 8 differences.



To whom then
will you
_____ me, that I should be
_____ him?
says the
_____ one.

—Isaiah 40:25





Worthy

MAIN IDEA

- **God is most valuable and deserves our greatest love, obedience, and worship.**

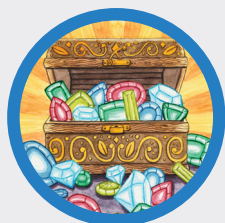
MEMORY VERSE

Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.

—Philippians 3:8a

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Matthew 4:18-22
- 2) Matthew 13:45-46
- 3) Luke 5:27-28
- 4) Philippians 3:8a



LESSON SUMMARY

Consciously or unconsciously, we continuously assign value to things. Whether homes, cars, baseball players, or a candy bar, we make decisions based on what we value, weighing how much something is “worth” to us. But the sinful heart’s measure of what is truly worthy of our time, attention, and admiration is desperately skewed. Therefore, it is no wonder that society readily gives high praise and devotion to entertainers and sports figures, but openly scorns the King of the universe. Oh that we might see, with increasing measure, the incomparable worth of Jesus! May we, like Paul, be able to say with our whole being, “Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord” (Philippians 3:8a). And may that reality fuel our love, obedience, and worship of Him.

In this lesson, we looked at the parable of the Pearl of Great Price to help children understand the surpassing worth of Jesus. We then recounted the responses of Peter, Andrew, James, John, and Levi when Jesus called them to be His disciples.

PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *that your child would see and understand that Jesus is a treasure beyond anything else.*
- *that the Holy Spirit would be at work, bringing about genuine faith that results in true worship.*



AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- **Have you ever pretended to hunt for a hidden treasure chest? If you found a treasure chest full of gold and jewels and money, what would you do with the treasure? Could that kind of treasure make you happy forever? Why not? What might happen to your treasure? Do you see Jesus as a kind of valuable treasure? In what ways does Jesus show us that He is the most valuable treasure of all—even more valuable than people in your family?**
- Point out that our words and actions often show what we think is worthy of our time and attention. For example: If someone sits and watches television all day long, day in and day out, that person is saying that the television deserves his time and attention—it is “worthy.”

Do you ever act in ways that show that something is more worthy of your love, obedience, and worship than God? Give children a concrete example of this from your own life. What can help us to always remember that God is most valuable and deserves our greatest love, obedience, and worship?

- Explain that the word “worship” goes together with the word “worthy.” We are to worship God because He is worthy. Worship is recognizing true things about God, and then having a right heart response to Him.

On a piece of paper, make a list of some attributes of God. This is recognizing true things about God. But worship also means a right heart response to these true things. **What would a right heart response be to recognizing that God is loving? Almighty? Provider? Deliverer? etc.?** [e.g., loving Him most, being in awe of Him, thanking Him, trusting Him, etc.] Point out that true worship can be expressed in many ways: clapping, singing, praying, being quiet, etc.

ACTION STEP

With your parents' help, gather slips of paper or index cards. Place the paper in a pile on a table. During the week, think about things or activities that you sometimes count as more valuable than Jesus. Write each of these things down on a slip of paper. Then review the memory verse from Philippians 3:8a and throw the slips of paper in a trash can.

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

The words you have learned in class are good reminders that show us why God is worthy. Add the first letter to each of the words, then use those letters to complete the memory verse.

___eliverer ___lmighty ___mnipresent ___ternal
 ___reator ___overeign ___ise ___erciful
 ___ictorious ___nchanging ___oly ___ove
 ___lorious ___ighteous ___efuge ___atient



In ___eed, I ___ount e___erythin___s
 lo___s beca___se of the su___passing
 w___rth of kno___ing C___ist
 J___sus ___y ___ord.—___hilippians 3:8a



Bountiful

MAIN IDEA

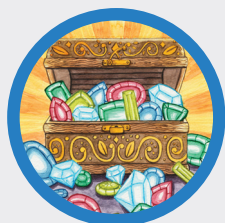
- **God is more than enough to satisfy all our desires.**

MEMORY VERSE

*I will sing to the LORD,
because he has dealt
bountifully with me.*
—Psalm 13:6

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Psalm 13:6
- 2) Psalm 130:7
- 3) Jeremiah 2:13
- 4) Mark 8:1-8
- 5) John 4:14
- 6) John 6:35



LESSON SUMMARY

The fact that God is bountiful describes the infinite nature of God and His ability to meet all of His people's deepest needs and desires. He is the Bread of Life, abundantly sustaining His people forever. He is an overflowing Spring of Life that never runs dry, always more than enough to quench every thirst we have. He is never depleted, never used up. There is never any reason to turn to anything less satisfying. God created us to be satisfied in His glorious bounty. Nothing else will satisfy. God alone brings lasting joy, and He is able to do it "far more abundantly than all that we ask or think,...to Him be glory" (Ephesians 3:20-21).

In this lesson, we read the accounts of Jesus feeding crowds of 4,000 and then 5,000 people. He did not simply provide them with just enough food, but more than enough—an abundance, evidenced by leftover food. More importantly, Jesus is more than enough to satisfy every spiritual need. The lesson ended by explaining Jesus' words describing "a spring of water welling up to eternal life" (John 4:14). Just like a spring of water keeps flowing and flowing, Jesus is more than enough to make His people happy forever by giving them eternal life.

PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *that your child will be joyfully overwhelmed by such a bountiful God.*
- *may your child "taste and see" all that God is for him or her in Christ, and have a heart that drawn to Him to meet every need.*



AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- **Why might we sometimes feel like God is stingy?** [We do not get what we want or expect. We want more of the wrong kind of things.] Suppose I gave you five pieces of candy to eat, but you felt that was not enough. You wanted more and more. **Do you think it might be a good thing for me to not give you more candy? What might I know that you do not know? Does the fact that God is bountiful mean He will always give us more of everything we want? What kinds of things do we need most?** Review Psalm 130:7.
- Ask your child to describe what it feels like when he or she is full after eating a favorite food. Explain that kind of feeling can help us better understand the contentment that comes from trusting

in Jesus. If you are trusting in Him, you experience a satisfaction that is even better than having a full tummy. It is the satisfaction of knowing that you are His child and your sin is completely forgiven, no matter what happens. It is a joyful satisfaction in knowing that you will live with Him forever.

- Explain the illustration pictured in Jeremiah 2:13 where God is described as “the fountain of living waters.” **How is God like a fountain?** But then God says Israel chose to












make “broken cisterns (cups)” to drink from instead of God. **Could a broken cup hold much water or satisfy your thirst for very long?** Many times people look to other things to satisfy them—TV, friends, games, sports, books, etc. **Even though those things can be really fun, and are even gifts from God, can they really make you happy forever? Why not? Is there anything that seems more satisfying to you than God? What could you do that will help you to remember that it cannot make you as happy as God can?**

ACTION STEP

This week, use all of The ABCs of God Game Cards to review all the words, meanings, and verses your child has learned. Divide the cards into two groups. The first group of cards should include the ABC words describing God. Place these cards face up on a table. The parent or an older child should hold the cards that state the word meaning and verse/s. Read the meaning on a card, and then have your child search the pile of cards on the table for the word that matches the meaning. Repeat until all the cards are matched.

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Break the code to find the missing words in the verse.

											
1	N	B	Z	E	R	C	H	I	T	P	M
2	F	Y	G	K	O	D	U	L	A	Q	S

I will _____ to the _____,

2: 
1: 
1: 
2: 
2: 
2: 
1: 
2: 

because _____ has dealt

1: 
1: 

1: 
2: 
2: 
1: 
1: 
1: 
2: 
2: 
2: 
2: 
2: 

with _____ 13:6

1: 
1: 
1: 
2: 
2: 
2: 
1: 



Never-Tiring

MAIN IDEA

- **God never gets tired and never sleeps.**

MEMORY VERSES

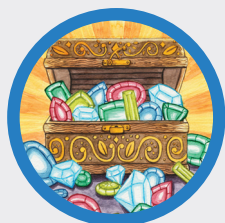
(Choose One)

...The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary;...
—Isaiah 40:28b

... he who keeps you will not slumber.
—Psalm 121:3b

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Psalm 3:5
- 2) Psalm 121:3b-4
- 3) Isaiah 40:28-31
- 4) Matthew 11:28-29



LESSON SUMMARY

As finite human beings, we live within a day-to-day cycle bound by God-given physical limitations. Our need for sleep is one of these. Sleep is a daily reminder that we are not God. No person can escape sleep's grasp. We lose stamina and simply "run out of steam." The weakest newborn and the strongest athlete grow tired and weary, and need sleep. But weariness is not only apparent in our physical bodies. We also experience mental and emotional weariness. We get tired of the daily grind, and sometimes in response we tune out the world in order to spare our weary souls: "I just cannot deal with this right now."

In this lesson, we used the above examples and contrasted these with how different God is! He has boundless energy—never sleeping, not even for a 20-minute power nap. He never tires of sustaining the entire universe from all eternity, into all eternity. Furthermore, He never wearies of working out His good and perfect purposes. And, most precious of all for God's people, He will never grow tired of loving us, nor of being merciful toward us. He is a never-tiring God, who promises this for His people,

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.—Matthew 11:28

PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *that your child would see that even ordinary things like sleeping exist to point us to the greatness of God.*
- *may his or her heart be drawn to God, seeking the kind of rest that only Jesus can provide.*



AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Read Isaiah 40:28. According to this verse, what work has God already done? Was this a little job or a huge job? How long will God continue to be busy? But will He ever get tired out? Review Psalm 121:3b-4. What does it mean that God will "keep" you? Why is it good that God will not slumber or sleep? Do you ever worry about what might happen when you go to sleep at night? How can these verses help you?
- Show your child a flashlight and imagine the flashlight saying, "I do not need those silly batteries. I can shine all by myself."

What would you say to the flashlight? Point out that sometimes people can think in a similar way, saying, “I do not need God. I can do things all by myself.” **Would that be true? How can a simple thing like getting tired and needing to sleep remind us that we need God? Will we ever need to worry that God will not be able to give us the energy we need?**

- Explain that there are different kinds of tiredness. You can get tired of doing homework. Or, you can feel tired of being alone, or be bored. **Would God ever be tired from having to**

think too much? Or would He get tired because He is lonely and bored? No. He is never-tiring in those ways, too.

What might be the worst kind of tiredness a person could have? Read Matthew 11:28-29. What would make your soul tired? [being weighed down by sin, feeling guilty] What does Jesus promise you if you come to Him with this kind of tiredness? [rest—enjoying forgiveness] Will Jesus ever get tired of doing this for sinners who come to Him? No. He is a never-tiring Savior.

ACTION STEP

This week, read Isaiah 40:11-15 and 25-31. What things has God done? What things is He doing even now? Look at verses 29-31. What does it mean to “faint and be weary”? Who grows faint and weary? Who is able to renew our strength? Why is He able to do this?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Look up the verses in your Bible and fill in the blanks. Then, color the picture as you memorize the verses.

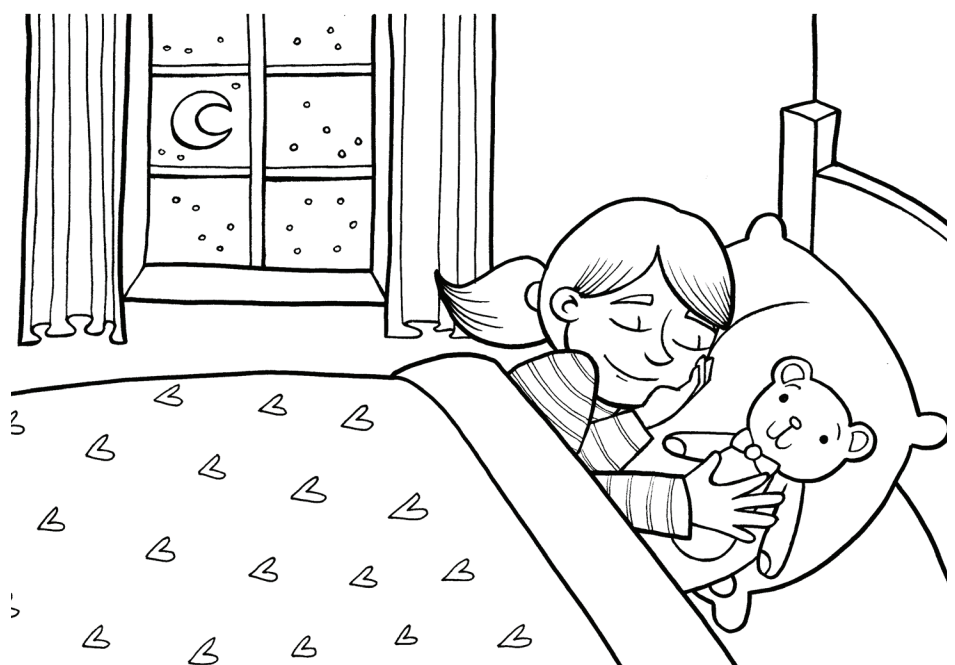
...he who keeps you will not

...The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not

— Psalm 121:3b

or grow

— Isaiah 40:28b





Seeking God

MAIN IDEA

- **Seeking God means experiencing a desperate need for God's forgiveness and calling out to Jesus to save you.**

MEMORY VERSES

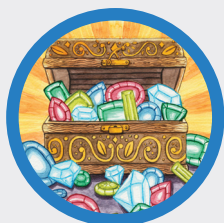
(Choose One)

You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.—Jeremiah 29:13

...everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.—Romans 10:13

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Isaiah 55:6
- 2) Jeremiah 29:13
- 3) Luke 18:10-14
- 4) Acts 4:12
- 5) Romans 6:23
- 6) Romans 10:13
- 7) Ephesians 2:8-9



LESSON SUMMARY

The Pharisees of Jesus' day were the perfect "church attenders." They were seemingly devoted to God, had a vast working knowledge of Scripture—especially the Law (whenever it suited them), and were fastidious about religious observances. Yet, many of Jesus' harshest words were aimed at these men. Why? Because their confidence was in their perceived self-righteousness. They were smug and arrogant. They did not see their desperate, sinful condition. Therefore, they did not seek out the one and only Savior. They knew something about God, but they did not really know Him. May this never be said of us or our children. In fact, let us make clear to them how desperate they truly are.

In this lesson, we looked at the story of the Pharisee and the tax-collector as they went to pray. The Pharisee did not recognize his own sin, so he was not desperate for help. He did not seek God's forgiveness. The tax collector, on the other hand, was desperate for help. He hated his sin and wanted to repent—to turn away from sin and turn to God. That is the kind of attitude and demeanor of someone who is truly seeking Jesus.

PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *that your child would see in the story of Pharisee and the tax collector our true heart condition before a holy God.*
- *may the Holy Spirit be at work convicting of sin and bringing about true repentance. May your child desperately long for Jesus the Savior.*



AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Have your child imagine that he or she is really, really hungry. **What would they go looking for? How eagerly would he or she look for food? What do you need Jesus even more than food? How would it look for someone to seek after Jesus with his whole heart? Other than the tax collector, can you give examples from the Bible of people who wanted Jesus more than anything else? [Peter, Levi, Paul, etc.] Talk about Jeremiah 29:13. How could you seek after Jesus with your whole heart this week?**
- Explain that sinners need to seek after the right help for our sin problem. Some people seek after doing more good things than bad

things to fix their sin problem. Some people seek after idols and false religions to help them. Some people seek after more money and possessions, thinking that will help them. **But can any of those things really help save us from our sin?** Talk about Acts 4:12 and Romans 10:13.

- Recall the attitude of the Pharisee in the story. Many people are like the Pharisee. They think they are okay just the way they are. “I’m a good person so God must love me.” They might even go to church, read their Bible, sing

in choir, and pray. But they do not see their desperate need for their sin to be forgiven. **Have you ever thought something like, “I go to church, read my Bible, memorize verses, and pray. God loves me, and I will go to heaven because I am usually good”?** Would that attitude be more like the Pharisee or the tax collector? **How would you describe the attitude of the tax collector? Did he give God a list of all the things he was good at? Why not? What is important about him saying, “God, be merciful to me, a sinner!”?**

ACTION STEP

Go on a treasure hunt! Have your parents hide several (10 or more) of the ABCs of God Game Cards (just the word cards) around the house. See how long it takes you to seek and find all the cards. After you have found the cards, review the meaning of each word.

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Starting with the "S", circle every other letter in the list to find the missing letters to complete the verses.

Ⓢ L E C E T K M F W I R N G D Q A N L C L S H J E L A Q
 R V T Z E M V I E A R R Y M O F N W E H C P A E L I L D
 S S N W A F M B E M L Q O C R S D Z S B A H V T E F D

You will _____ me and _____ me,
 when you seek me with _____
 your _____.—*Jeremiah 29:13*

... _____ who _____
 on the _____ of the _____ will be
 _____.—*Romans 10:13*



Loving God

MAIN IDEA

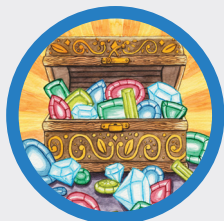
- **Loving God is knowing, feeling, and treating God as your greatest treasure.**

MEMORY VERSE

Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.
—Psalm 73:25

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Deuteronomy 6:5
- 2) Psalm 73:25
- 3) Ezekiel 36:26-27
- 4) Matthew 6:21
- 5) Matthew 22:37
- 6) Mark 12:30
- 7) Luke 10:27
- 8) 1 John 4:19-21



LESSON SUMMARY

Contemporary culture ascribes love to so many things. In the same conversation we state, “I love ice cream,” and “I love my spouse.” Yet we instinctively know that the latter “love” carries a weight and meaning far beyond the former. Therefore, it is important to clarify the meaning of love, especially in light of the greatest command:

And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.—Mark 12:30

Love for God is to be ultimate, and it should involve every aspect of our being—every thought, emotion, attitude, word, and action. As this study of God’s attributes has hopefully communicated, God indeed is worthy of our greatest affections. He is the priceless and matchless treasure, and loving Him most is the only thing that will ultimately satisfy the soul. But loving Him most is an impossible command apart from His first loving and redeeming us (1 John 4:19). Once redeemed, the Holy Spirit transforms and empowers us to grow in our love for God. And the result of loving God most will not be less love for others but more love, as we love them out of the overflow of love that God pours out on us.

In this lesson, we helped the children see these truths by first talking about the natural affection they have toward parents, family, and friends, and then pointing them toward the necessity, significance, and fruit of loving God most of all.

PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...



- that your child would see and understand with increasing measure what it means to love God with his or her whole heart.
- that he or she will see that loving God most will also result in loving others with a greater degree of God-honoring affection.

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- As descriptively as possible, talk about the love you have for your child and include some ways that you treat him or her specially. **If a person loves and treasures God most of all, what are some special ways that he would treat God?** [Give the children some

time to think about this and respond.] Think about all the things you want to do this week. **Are you also looking forward to doing things that show God He is most special to you? Why might it be hard for us to think of God first? Can you love God most, without Him first giving you a new heart? Where does this heart come from?** [See Ezekiel 36:26-27. Everyone who is trusting in Jesus for salvation has been given a new heart.]

- Point out that, even for someone who is trusting Jesus and is a child of God, there will be times when that person’s thoughts, feelings, words, and actions do not always show, “I love and treasure God most.” **Would this be right, to not show that they treasure God most?** No, it is sinful and wrong. **But would God be surprised by this?** Recall that God is understanding—He keeps in mind

that His children are weak, even people that have been Christians for many years. **But when we find ourselves not loving God most, should we just give up and say, “That’s just the way I am”?** **What would God want us to do?** [pray to Jesus and ask for help; talk to other Christians and ask them to pray, too; avoid things that draw your heart from God (if appropriate); etc.]

- Read and talk about 1 John 4:19-21. Explain that loving God with all your heart does not mean that you should not love your parents, brothers and sisters, and friends. When you love God with all your heart, He gives you even more love for other people. **Is there someone you are having a hard time loving? Why do you think it is hard to love this person? What would Jesus want you to do? Have you prayed about this? How can He help you become more loving?**

ACTION STEP

This week, use red paper to cut out a shape of a heart or draw an outline of a heart on a large piece of paper. Next, draw a picture of treasure chest. In the middle of the chest write the word “GOD.” Tape or glue the treasure chest within the heart. Use this visual to remind you that you are to know, feel, and treat God as your greatest treasure.

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

This verse does not look right. Practice memorizing your verse, and then see if you can put the words in the correct order on the lines below.



on besides I nothing desire have heaven you? Whom there
that in you but I And is earth—*Psalm 73:25*





Trusting and Obeying God

MAIN IDEA

- **Trusting and obeying God means following Him because you know Him to be trustworthy.**

MEMORY VERSE

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.
— John 10:27

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Genesis 12:1-2, 4a
- 2) John 10:14, 27
- 3) John 14:15-17
- 4) Ephesians 6:1-3a
- 5) Philippians 4:5b-6
- 6) Hebrews 11:1
- 7) Hebrews 13:5



LESSON SUMMARY

“Trusting in Jesus” is not simply a one time, mildly imposing decision. It is not akin to a life insurance policy, protecting us against eternal damnation with the thought, “I’ll tuck the policy away in a drawer until I need it.” True saving faith will always be evidenced by continuing daily trust in His mercy and strength. It will also be evidenced by a deep desire and commitment to obey Him. For the Christian, the truths that “Jesus is my Savior” and “Jesus is my Lord and Master” are inseparable. To the degree that God gives them understanding, even young ears and hearts must grasp these truths. Although not comprehensive or ultimately determinate, a child who does not see the need or the desire to daily follow Jesus and obey Him may not truly understand the essence of saving faith.

In this lesson, we first used the example of God’s command to Abraham to leave his country and home to see how true faith in God evidences itself in obedience to God. We then looked at Jesus’ words, “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me” to understand the importance of daily trust and obedience in the Christian life.

PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *that your child would see God as trustworthy in all of His promises.*
- *that the Holy Spirit might bring about true faith, and give your child a desire to daily follow Jesus and joyfully obey His commands.*



AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Pose the following scenario: Suppose one day you sat down on a chair and it broke. **What might you start doing before sitting on other chairs? Are things like chairs, or even parents, always trustworthy? Why not? Why can we be absolutely sure that God is always trustworthy? What are some things that you have a hard time trusting God for?** [e.g., safety during bad storms, a grandparent who is sick, etc.] **What does God want us to do when we are having a hard time trusting Him?** [e.g., recall true things about Him, recall His promises, Bible verses, etc.] Read and talk about Philippians 4:5b-6.

- Read Ephesians 6:1-3a. **What is God commanding you to do? What does He promise as a reward? But what about when you are told to do something that you think is unfair? What would it mean to trust Jesus in that situation?** Explain that trusting Jesus means that we obey His commands even when something is hard or seems unfair, because we trust His Word. Another example would be 1 Peter 5:6-7.
- Point out that even for a person who has been a Christian a long time, there are times when trusting Jesus and obeying His commands can be hard. Jesus knows this and has a special promise for His people: the Holy Spirit. **Do you remember who the Holy Spirit is?** [He is God. He is a member of the Trinity.] **Would there be anything too hard for the Holy Spirit to help you with?** Read and talk about John 14:15-17.

ACTION STEP

This week, with your parents' help, make a list of three or four things that you are having a hard time trusting God with, as evidenced by disobedience to specific commands of God. Each night before going to bed, pray and ask the Holy Spirit to change your heart and give you the desire and strength to do things Jesus' way, instead of your own way.

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Look up the verse in your Bible and fill in the blanks. Then, color the picture as you memorize the verse.



My

 _____ my
 _____,
 and I
 know them,
 and they

 me.
 — John 10:27



Enjoying God

MAIN IDEA

- **Those who trust in Jesus can experience the great and lasting joy of being God's children and enjoying Him forever.**

MEMORY VERSE

You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.
—Psalm 16:11

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Psalm 16:11
- 2) Psalm 34:8
- 3) Psalm 92:4
- 4) Psalm 126:3
- 5) Jeremiah 15:16
- 6) John 16:24
- 7) James 1:2-3
- 8) Revelation 21:3b-4



LESSON SUMMARY

Most of you know this ending to the familiar alphabet song, “Now I know my ABCs, tell me what you think of me.” This study of the ABCs of God is meant to have a very different response. It is not meant to puff up our students with their new and perhaps “superior” knowledge of who God is and what He is like. Hopefully, lesson by lesson and attribute by attribute, they have seen a glimpse of the glory of God—a glimpse so strong and attractive that they see Him as a treasure beyond compare, a treasure that delivers ultimate and lasting joy.

Many years ago, these thoughts from John Piper turned my theological thinking upside down:

...since God is the source of greatest happiness, and since he is the greatest treasure in the world, and since his glory is the most satisfying gift he could possibly give us, therefore it is the kindest, most loving thing he could possibly do—to reveal himself, and magnify himself and vindicate himself for our everlasting enjoyment. “In your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore” (Psalm 16:11).¹

In this lesson, we introduced children to tangible ways Christians can enjoy God right now: delighting in Him through reading His Word, going to Him in prayer, rejoicing in Him as see His works and deeds, and drawing nearer to Him in times of suffering. But the greatest joy awaits God's people in the future—the promise of heaven! The most special and happiest thing about heaven is that Jesus will be there to live with His children forever.

PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *that your child will “taste and see” the fullness of joy that God has for His children.*
- *may the Holy Spirit be at work giving spiritual “taste-buds and eyes” so that he or she will be participants in this joy, and not merely observers.*



1. From a John Piper sermon titled, “God Is Most Glorified in Us When We Are Most Satisfied in Him,” ©2014 Desiring God Foundation, www.desiringGod.org. Used by Permission.

