

**Children's Church Grades 1 - 3
Year 3 Curriculum - September**

Theme: Attributes of God

Lesson 1 Omnipresence

Lesson 2 Mercy

Lesson 3 Compassion

Suggested songs related to the theme:

Lesson 1: Omnipresence

*Awesome God
He's the Lord of All
Mighty is our God
We Bow Down
We Will Glorify*

Lesson 2: Mercy

*Amazing Grace
For God So Loved the World
God is so Good
I Will Sing of the Mercies
Lamb of God*

Lesson 3: Compassion

*Behold What Manner of Love
Don't You Know
Step by Step
Thy Lovingkindness
You are the King of Glory*

Also choose assorted general worship songs.

**Children's Church Grades 1-3
Year 3 Curriculum - September**

Lesson 1

Title: Attributes of God - Omnipresence

Text: Jonah 1-2

Theme: It is impossible to flee from the presence of God's might and mercy.

Teaching Objectives: By God's grace, each child will

1. Be able to give a simple definition of God's omnipresence.
2. Be able to give examples from the Bible story of God's control of all things.
3. Be comforted knowing that God's presence (thus His mercy and power) is always available.
4. Be warned knowing that God sees all and will bring him to account.

Memory Verse: *Jeremiah 23:24* Can anyone hide in secret places so that I cannot see him?" declares the LORD. "Do not I fill heaven and earth?" declares the LORD.

Teacher Direction:

1. During this month we shall use the account from the prophet Jonah to teach several attributes of God, namely omnipresence, mercy and compassion. It should be noted that though God cannot be defined by one or even the sum of these attributes, it is still helpful to look at each characteristic and see how we should respond to it. It is indeed true that each aspect of God's character speaks volumes as to how we ought to live as His creatures.

In this lesson we shall look at God's omnipresence. By omnipresence we mean that God is everywhere present, that there is no place where we might go where God is not there or where His attributes cannot be seen. In the opening chapters of Jonah we shall see that God is indeed present in all places, seen specifically through His might and mercy.

2. Introduction

To begin this lesson choose 2-3 students and play a quick game of hide and seek instructing the children that they can only hide in the room. Obviously the game will end quickly because there are not many spaces to hide in a single room. After finding the children who were hiding, ask the children how difficult it might be to find someone if they were given two rooms to hide in. Hopefully the children will see that it would be more difficult. Then ask the children how difficult it would be to find someone if they could hide anywhere on the church property? Anywhere in the city? Anywhere in the state? Anywhere in the country? Anywhere in the world? Again it is hoped that the children will see that the larger the area there is to hide in, the harder it would be to find the hiding person. Next tell the children that in today's story our main character tries to play a game of hide and seek with God. The main character, however, learns that it is impossible to hide from God because He has a special quality about Him that

makes it impossible for anyone to hide from Him. Encourage the children to listen and to try and find out what this special quality is and how our main character learned about it.

3. Bible Story

As you share the story found in Jonah 1-2 bring out the following points as they relate to the omnipresence of God.

A. A definition of omnipresence – (Note: you might want to ask the children what they think this word means before giving them an explanation.) Omnipresence comes from a Latin word that begins with the word “omni” which means all or universally. Thus omnipresence, when referring to God, means that He is universally present in all places at all times. In other words there is no place where we might go where God is not present. Jonah had hoped that He could flee from God’s presence. Instead of going to Nineveh he traveled to Tarshish. Yet God made His presence known to Jonah. It may also be that Jonah sought to flee God’s presence when he told his companions to throw him overboard. Yet again God’s was there, making His presence felt.

B. Omnipresence shown by might – God often shows His presence by displaying one or more of His other attributes. In this story God shows His presence by manifesting His power. He creates a big wind to get the attention of all. He controls the casting of a lot to show that this display of power is in response to Jonah’s disobedience. He brings immediate calm to the waters when His prophet is cast in the sea. God also controls a fish who serves His purposes of swallowing and later vomiting out Jonah. As Jonah stated to the men, the Lord is truly the God of heaven, maker of the sea and land. He is all-powerful and the sovereign ruler of all. Such a One cannot be hidden from.

C. Omnipresence shown by mercy – When Jonah was thrown overboard he was in great difficulty. He was swallowed by the turbulent sea; tossed here and there, seaweed wrapping around his head, most certainly sensing his weakness and perhaps his nearness to death. Yet in such difficulty Jonah called on the Lord and found the Lord to be a near presence to him. Truly there is not a place where the omnipresent Lord of the universe cannot be found.

4. Application

A. Warning – As Hebrews 4:13 suggests, there is no place we can go where our Lord does not see all that goes on. This knowledge should convince us that God is aware of all that we do, good and bad, and that we will one day give account for the way we lived. God’s omnipresence should encourage us, by God’s grace, to live obediently to the One who made us.

B. Comfort – Not only is God’s omnipresence a warning for us, but it is a source of great comfort. Jonah found that in the midst of overwhelming difficulty, he could call on God and be heard. Such should be the comfort of everyone who knows the Lord. In every place God is very present to help those who call upon Him. Let this knowledge encourage us all to call upon the Lord at all times, not just when we are in need.

C. Salvation – All of us like Jonah have gone our own way. Our sin has overwhelmed us, leaving us helpless to save our soul. But like Jonah, we must

call upon the Lord. He is able to save us from our waywardness and resurrect us to new life.

5. Review Questions

What does it mean that God is omnipresent? (God is everywhere at all times. There is nowhere we can go where He is not present.)

How did Jonah try to flee the presence of God? (Instead of going to Nineveh he went in the opposite direction. He also may have assumed that by being pitched in the sea he could hide from God.)

In what ways did God show His omnipresence through His power? (He controlled the wind, the fish, and the lot all for His purposes.)

In what way did God show His omnipresence through His mercy? (He heard the cry of Jonah when Jonah was fighting for his life. He showed Himself a very near presence.)

What difference should knowing God is present everywhere at all times make in your life? (It should encourage me to live obediently and to call on God often. God's presence is our comfort in tough times and a motivator to a holy life.)

Have you been running from God? Call on God today to raise you up from your bondage to sin.

Jonah's Hide & Seek

Tips for Teachers

- ◆ Make a model, so that you know how it goes together, but lead the children one step at a time. Give them only what they are working on in each step.

Materials

- ◆ Black line masters
- ◆ White photocopy paper
- ◆ Scissors, glue, markers or crayons

Instructions

1. Photocopy the whale masters onto photocopy paper.
2. Give the children a copy of the whale and ship and also a copy of the two pictures of Jonah.
3. Have them color the two pictures of Jonah (do not take a great deal of time on this, for they can finish later).
4. Have the children cut out along solid lines (*on three sides only*) of the windows of both the ship and the whale.
5. Then have them glue around outside edge of Jonah pictures and also edge of entire paper where directed.
6. Now have them set the ship and whale picture on top of the Jonah pictures.
7. Have them open the windows to see Jonah. (If there is time they can finish coloring the Jonah pictures.)

Faith Connections

Jeremiah 23:24... "can anyone hide in secret places so that I cannot see him?" declares the LORD. 'Do not I fill heaven and earth?' declares the LORD."

Ask the children if they understand that no matter what we do or where we go, we cannot hide from God. Let the children also know the mighty power of God and His control of all things He has created.



← glue all along outer edges →



Lesson 2

Title: Attributes of God - Mercy

Text: Jonah 3 (also review Jonah 2)

Theme: God's mercies are available to those who would call upon Him in repentance.

Teaching Objectives: By God's grace, each child will

1. Be able to give a simple definition of "mercy".
2. Be able to give a simple definition of "repentance".
3. Be able to share how God showed His mercy to Jonah and the people of Nineveh.
4. Recognize their own need for repentance and calling on the mercies of God.

Memory Verse: *Psalm 51:1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.*

Teacher Direction:

1. Every attribute of God teaches us not only about the nature of God, but also how we ought to live. In our last lesson we looked at the omnipresence of God. We saw how God demonstrated His presence by displaying His might and His mercy to Jonah. As we looked at this account we also learned how we must respond to God's omnipresence: A. When confronted with our weakness we can receive comfort knowing that God is always near. B. God's presence also reminds us to live holy lives knowing that all we do is in plain sight of the One who created us and to whom we will give account.

In this lesson we shall continue the story of Jonah. This time, however, we shall focus on God's mercy, that characteristic of God whereby He treats sinners far more kindly than they deserve. To illustrate this trait we shall look back at God's mercies to Jonah (which we saw last week) and look anew to His mercies to the people of Nineveh. Again we shall try to make application from what we learn of the nature of God.

2. Introduction

As you begin this lesson ask one child to come forward to challenge you to a hand-wrestling match. To hand-wrestle face the child and interlace the fingers of your right hand with those of the child's left hand. Do the same with the other hand. Then on the count of three each of you is to try and bend back the hands of the other person until he cries out for "mercy".

After this demonstration ask the children to give you a definition of mercy. Give them opportunity to respond, then tell them that mercy involves, according to Webster, "a refraining from harming or punishing offenders, enemies, or persons in your power, as well as showing kindness or patience in excess of what may be demanded by fairness." Ask children to give you any examples from their life where someone exhibited mercy. (Perhaps a child disobeyed his parents and deserved great punishment, but was extended mercy.) Tell the children that in

today's story we shall see two examples of God's mercy. Encourage them to listen well as you share.

3. Bible Story

As you share the story found in Jonah 2-3, be sure to emphasize the following points as they relate to the mercy of God.

A. God's mercy to Jonah – Jonah had run from God. He had a sense that God was about to show mercy to one of Israel's dreaded enemies, and he didn't want to have anything to do with that. But in running away from God, he found himself in great need of God's mercy. Cast overboard by the crew, Jonah's life was in peril. Tossed about by the waves and sea, surely he did not know how long he might live. Then a fish swallowed him. In this new environment, with weeds wrapped around his head, and death imminent, Jonah called on the mercies of God. He was helpless and in great need of a deliverer, though he had been disobedient and was only getting what he deserved. But God, in His mercy, heard Jonah's cry for help, and delivered him. God did not give Jonah what he deserved; instead He extended him great kindness.

B. God's mercy to Nineveh – Nineveh was the capital of the Assyrian Empire. It was a great city numbering perhaps 120,000 people. The people of this city and their rulers believed that they were a powerful people who had the right to dominate those who were not as strong. In fact, the arrogant leaders in Nineveh were known for their cruel treatment of their enemies. (It has been said that the Assyrians put a hook in the nose of their captives and led them into exile.) But the people of Nineveh made a fatal mistake. They ignored the God who created them, and now via the word of Jonah, they only had 40 days to repent or see the end of their civilization. Now it must be noted that God, in no way, needed to grant this opportunity. The Assyrians deserved judgment, but in His mercy, God chose to extend this kindness to them. Thus, we see that God's mercy extends beyond His covenant people.

C. Mercy and repentance – When the people of Nineveh and their King heard from the lips of Jonah the message of coming judgment, they responded in the perfect way. They proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth (a very coarse material worn by the poor, slaves, prisoners and those in mourning). These were both ways of humbling themselves before God. They also cried out to God for His mercies and sought as a people to turn away from evil and violence. Though they knew they deserved judgment, they called on God's kindness beyond what they deserved. Fortunately for them, they found God's ear open to their cry.

4. Application

A. Our need to repent – like the people of Nineveh we all have been arrogant and have neglected our Creator. We, too, are deservedly under the judgment of God, though often we are unaware. Yet, through the voice of His prophet, the Lord makes us sensibly to our dangerous position. He gives us a heart to repent and call on the mercies of God. We all, like those in Nineveh, need to acknowledge our sin, come to repentance, calling on the Lord.

B. Our need to extend mercy – since we have a God who is merciful and who has extended a great mercy to us, we must also be merciful in our dealings with

others. Though others may deserve our wrath, we must extend mercy to them in the same measure our Lord has extend it to us.

5. Review Questions

How would you define the word 'mercy'? (It is extending greater kindness to a person that they might deserve. It may include not giving them the punishment that they deserve as well.)

How would you define the word 'repentance'? (It is turning from sin to God in obedience.)

How did God show mercy to Jonah? (He saved Jonah from the perils of the sea and the belly of a fish even though Jonah had run away from Him.)

How did God show mercy to the people of Nineveh? (Though they deserved judgment for their arrogance and cruelty, God gave them an opportunity to repent.)

How did the people of Nineveh respond to Jonah's message? (They called for a fast, put on sackcloth, cried out to God, and sought to depart from evil in hopes of God staying His judgment.)

Are you in need of God's mercy? (We all are in need of God's mercy for we all have gone astray and are deserving of judgment.)

How can you show mercy to others? (Though others may wrong you, you can treat them more kindly than their behavior suggests. You do this to show others what God is like.)

God's Hand Of Mercy

Tips for Teachers

- ◆ Make a model, so that you know how it goes together, but lead the children one step at a time. Give them only what they are working on in each step.

Materials

- ◆ Black line masters
- ◆ Flesh colored and brown or tan cardstock paper
- ◆ Burlap
- ◆ Scissors and white glue and glue sticks
- ◆ Markers and or crayons

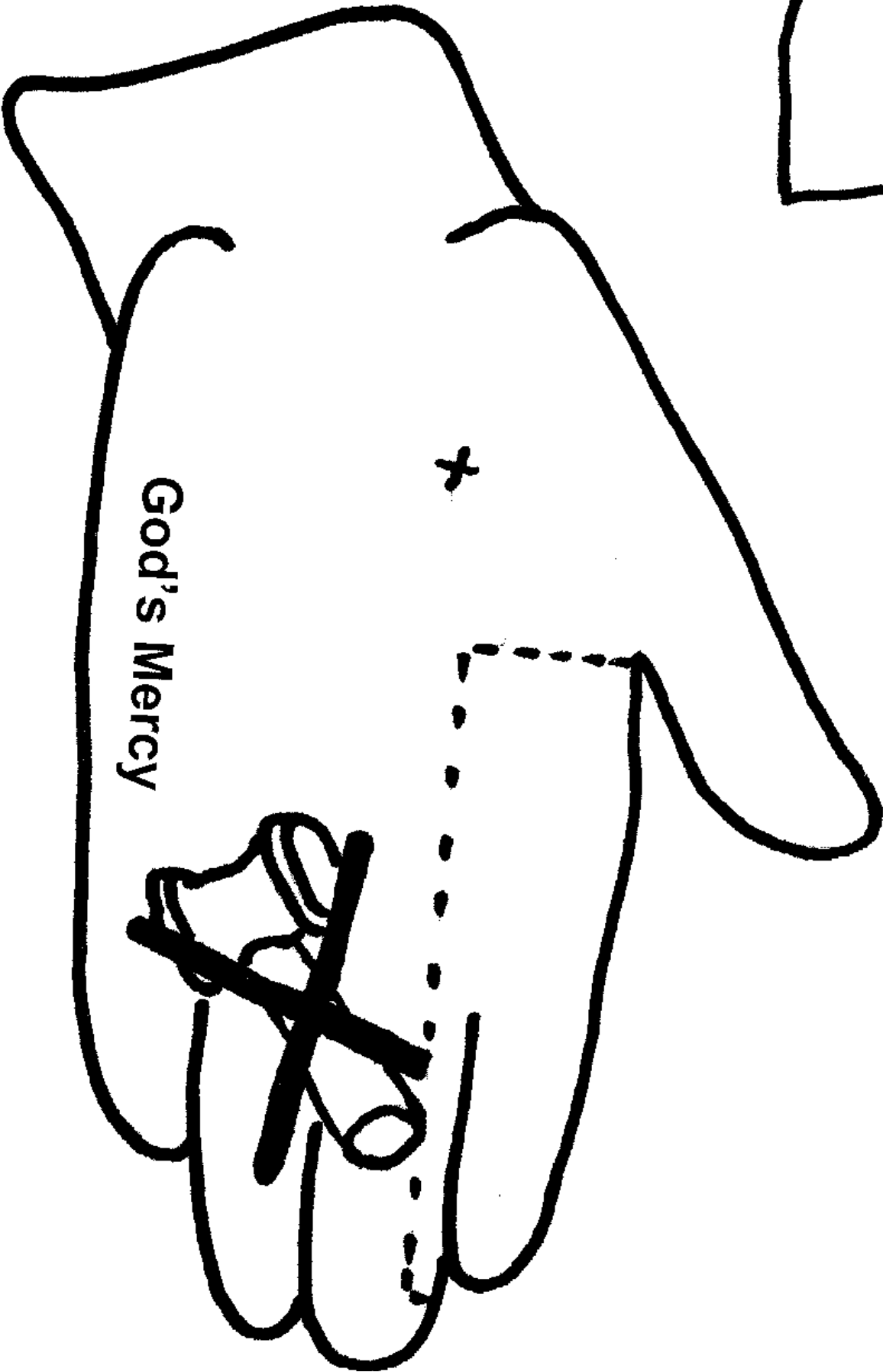
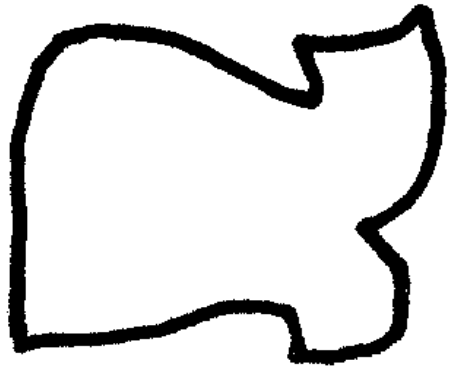
Instructions

1. Photocopy hand onto flesh colored card stock.
2. Photocopy the picture of Nineveh (one for each child).
3. Cut out enough 1 ½" x 2" squares of burlap for each child (if you want to be creative you can cut them to look like a tunic).
4. Have child cut out hand and city of Nineveh.
5. Glue within dotted lines of hand only and then glue city onto hand. Thumb should be in front of city. This can be glued to city.
6. Glue burlap piece to X on the hand.
7. Color mallet and X that are on fingers.

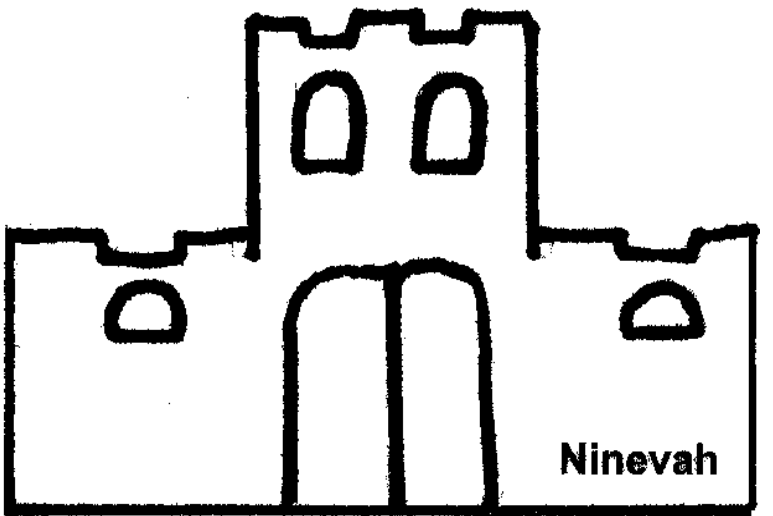
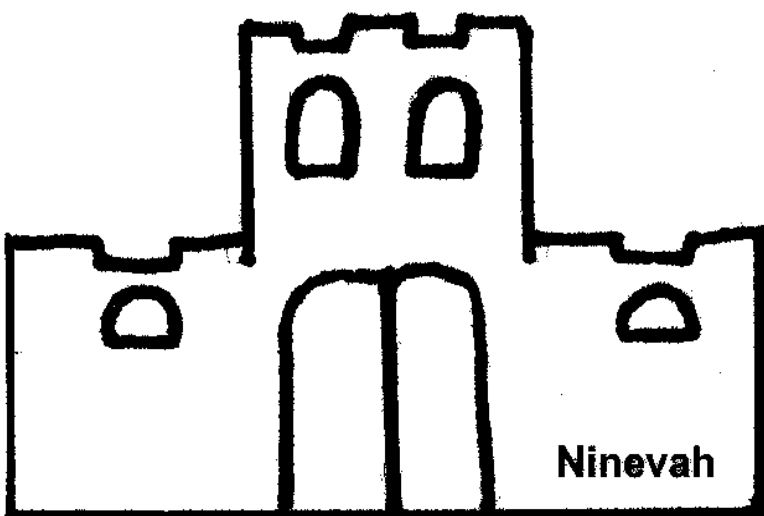
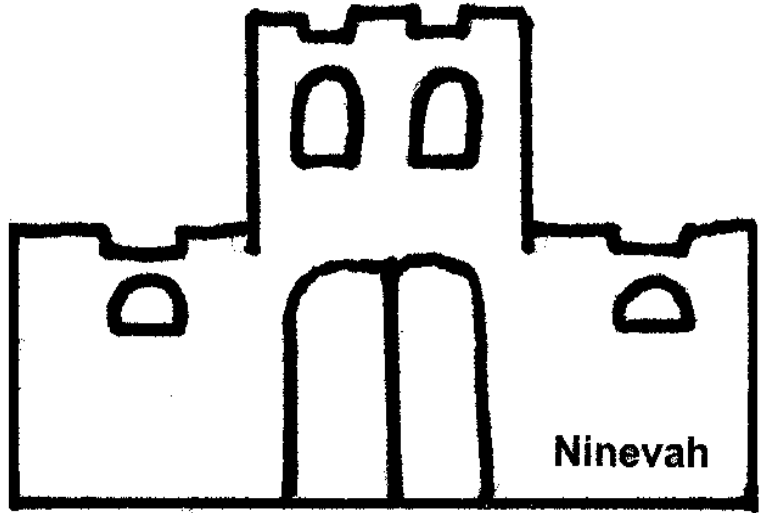
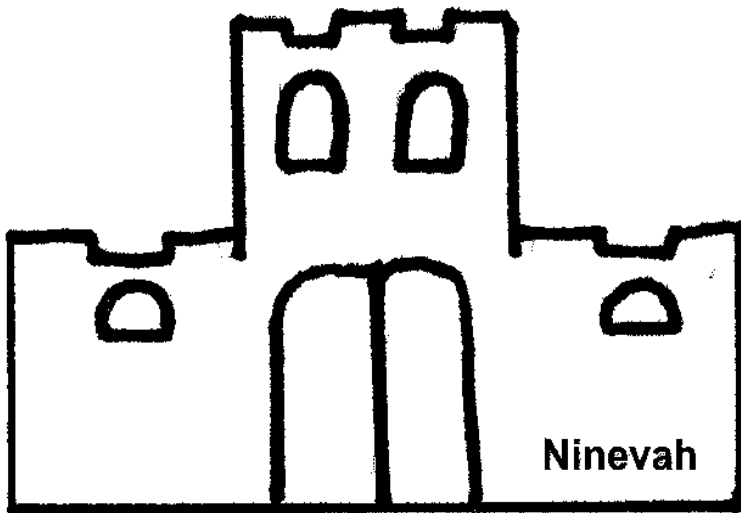
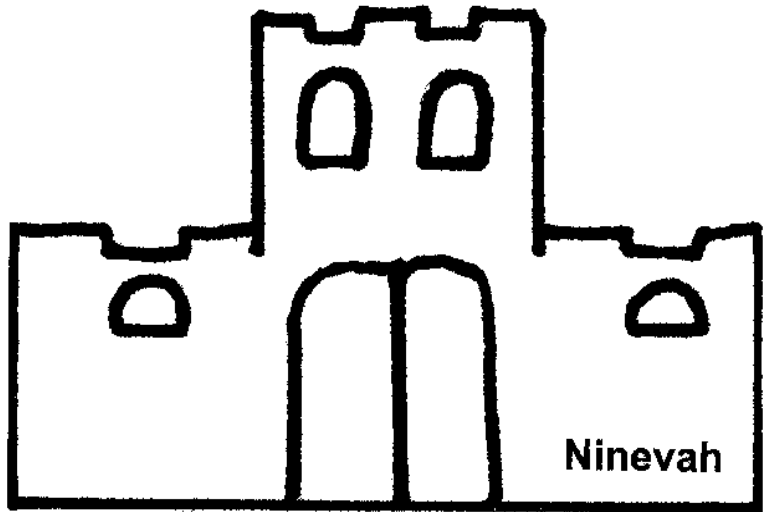
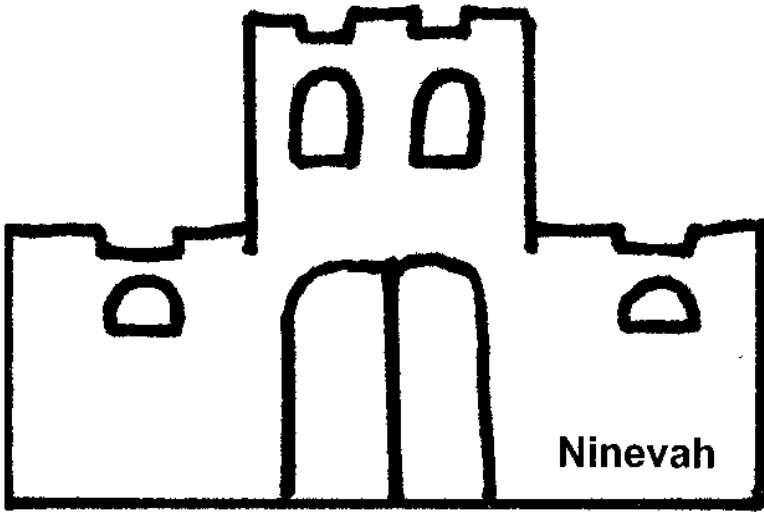
Faith Connections

Psalm 51:1 "Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions."

Discuss with the children how God's great hand of mercy reaches out to all mankind who will be obedient to Him. He is merciful even when we do not deserve mercy.



God's Mercy



Lesson 3

Title: Attributes of God - Compassion

Text: Jonah 4

Theme: God's compassion is seen in the concern He shows and the relief He brings to His creatures.

Teaching Objectives: By God's grace, each child will

1. Be able to tell the difference between pity and compassion.
2. Be able to tell how God showed His compassion to the people of Nineveh (and Jonah).
3. Be able to evaluate in what way Jonah's behavior did not reflect God's character.
4. Commit to showing compassion to all of God's creatures.

Memory Verse: *Psalm 103:8 The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. OR 2 Corinthians 5:19 that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation.*

Teacher Direction:

1. In this series of lessons we have been talking about the attributes of God. In our first lesson we looked at God's omnipresence, gaining comfort and a warning from our study. In our second lesson we looked at God's mercy noting our need to call on God's mercy as well as to extend mercy to those around us. In today's lesson we shall look at the attribute of God's compassion, a characteristic of God very similar in its meaning and outworking to mercy.

As we said in previous lessons we want to look at God's attributes not only to try and understand who God is, but also to know how we ought respond. Each characteristic of God speaks to a way of living that is to be consistent with that attribute. In this lesson we shall try to focus on how our understanding of God's compassion must affect the way we look at all of God's creatures, and how we must reflect God's compassion in our dealings with others.

2. Introduction

Note: Since these lessons have centered on the continuing story of Jonah, you may want to review the first three chapters of the book to refresh the student's memories of what you have talked about in the past two lessons. The questions at the end of each lesson may well be used for this purpose.

To begin this lesson, ask the children what they think the word 'pity' means. As you allow several children to respond, seek to help the children understand that pity focuses mainly on having sympathetic sorrow for the suffering, distress or troubles of others. The main thrust is on the inner sorrow one has for the plight of others.

Next ask the children what they think the word 'compassion' means. As they give their answers ask them to tell also how compassion might be different from pity.

After some discussion tell the children that compassion focuses not only on having sorrow for another's suffering, but it also includes the desire to do something to alleviate the misery. The thrust is on the alleviation of suffering. As you transition to the conclusion of Jonah's prophecy, encourage the children to listen to find out how God showed his compassion, and what Jonah needed to learn about his Creator's compassion.

3. Bible Story

As you share the story found in Jonah 4 be sure to emphasize the following concepts.

A. Jonah's lack of compassion – Toward the end of the third chapter we see God having compassion on the people of Nineveh (3:10) in response to their repentance and call for mercy (3:7-9). One would have expected God's prophet to rejoice over such repentance and over the mercies of God. (Not many prophets were fortunate enough to gain such a response.) But Jonah was not happy. In fact he was angry with God, most likely because he did not wish to see Israel's cruel enemy saved. He wished only for their annihilation. So distressed was he over this incomprehensible compassion, that he wished to die.

B. Jonah's self-serving compassion – Jonah's sadness seen in 4:3 turned to happiness in 4:6 when God provided a vine to shade his head from the elements. But this happiness was short lived, for very soon a worm ate the vine and God caused a scorching wind to bring Jonah to despair of his life again (4:8). (Note: there is an east wind known as sirocco, which is known to bring devastating heat and dryness to a region.) Jonah was also angered by the loss of the vine. In fact, God suggests that Jonah was concerned for or had pity and compassion for a vine that he neither labored for nor caused to grow. In essence, Jonah's compassion here seems to be a bit self-serving, not at all like that of his God.

C. God's display of compassion – This whole story is replete with examples of God's compassion. He saw the suffering of Jonah in the belly of a fish and was moved to deliver him. He saw the misery of the people of Nineveh, who were not His covenant people and who had rejected the one, true God, and was moved to send His prophet to call for their repentance. Again God saw the discomfort of His prophet sitting under a make shift shelter, and He was moved to provide a comforting vine. (Note that in all of these cases God showed His sovereign control of all things. He used His limitless power and might to relieve the suffering He saw before Him.) Through each of these events we learn that the scope of God's compassion extends to all of His creatures that He has made and caused to grow. This was a lesson Jonah needed to learn.

4. Application

Today our world is full of people who are in distress or misery, or who have very difficult problems. Some of these people are even antagonistic to our God and may cause us much discomfort. Yet God's compassion extends to all His created beings, including our 'enemies', and God expects His followers to exhibit His compassion to these needy people. Our lives should be living testimony that God is willing to receive repentant sinners into His family. Instead of desiring their destruction, we should actively work to bring the message of God's compassion to all those who need to be reconciled to their Creator.

5. Review Questions

What is the difference between pity and compassion? (Pity displays great sorrow for the suffering of others. Compassion does the same, but also seeks to alleviate the suffering.)

Why is God greatly qualified to be compassionate? (He is very aware of all our human problems, and He is also very able to alleviate our suffering according to His will.)

Why was Jonah angry at the beginning of this lesson? (He was upset because God had had compassion on the people of Nineveh.)

Why was Jonah upset that God had been compassionate with the people of Nineveh? (He did not want his enemies to receive the compassion of God.)

Why did God grant mercy to the people of Nineveh? (They were repentant, but also because He had made them and caused them to grow. They were His creatures.)

How far should our compassion extend? (We should extend the compassion of Christ to all of God's creatures. Even our enemies need to come to their senses and come to the Lord. Our compassion may encourage them to return to God.)

How did God show His ability to control all things for His purposes? (He caused the plant to grow, the worm to eat the plant, and the scorching wind to blow upon Jonah.)

To whom do you need to bring the compassion of God?

Bookmark of Compassion

Tips for Teachers

- ◆ Make a model so that you will know how to put it together with the children.
- ◆ Cut out contact papers ahead of time (one for each child).

Materials

- ◆ Black line master
- ◆ 110# pastel card stock
- ◆ Hole punch
- ◆ Yarn or ribbon (5" long-enough for each child)
- ◆ Markers (thin ones preferably)
- ◆ Clear contact paper

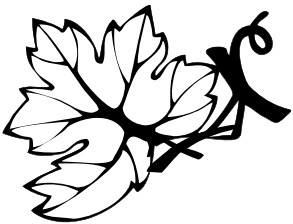
Instructions

1. Photocopy master onto pastel card stock.
2. Have child print-to-fit their name on the line at the bottom.
3. Color with care the pictures on the bookmark.
4. Cover bookmark with contact paper and fold under any uneven edges.
5. Punch hole in top of bookmark.
6. Fold yarn or ribbon in half and put loop through the hole. Bring free ends through the loop and pull to tighten.

Faith Connections

Psalm 103:8 "The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love." OR 2 Corinthians 5:19 "that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation."

Have the children review: 1. Jonah's *lack* of compassion. 2. Jonah's *self-serving* compassion. 3. God's *display* of compassion. Do we see Jonah's compassion or God's compassion in our own lives?



**“The LORD is
compassionate
and gracious,
slow to anger,
abounding in
love.”**

Psalm 103:8



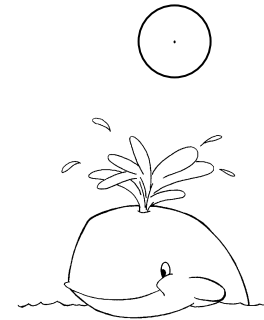
**“The LORD is
compassionate
and gracious,
slow to anger,
abounding in
love.”**

Psalm 103:8



**“The LORD is
compassionate
and gracious,
slow to anger,
abounding in
love.”**

Psalm 103:8



**“The LORD is
compassionate
and gracious,
slow to anger,
abounding in
love.”**

Psalm 103:8



**“The LORD is
compassionate
and gracious,
slow to anger,
abounding in
love.”**

Psalm 103:8

Children's Church Grades 1-3
Year 3 Curriculum - October

Theme: Worship

- Lesson 1 Why Do We Worship?**
- Lesson 2 Worship Through Praise**
- Lesson 3 Worship Through the Word**

Suggested songs related to the theme:

Lesson 1: Why Do We Worship?

Clap Your Hands (all ye people)
Hallelu Hallelu
He Is Exalted
He's the Lord of All
Make a Joyful Noise
Mighty is Our God
We Bow Down

Lesson 2: Worship Through Praise

Awesome God
Clap Your Hands (and sing to the Lord)
God is So Good
Great is the Lord
How Majestic is Your Name
King of Kings
Thy Loving-kindness
You are the King of Glory

Lesson 3: Worship Through the Word

I Will Sing of the Mercies
Lord, Be Glorified
Rejoice in the Lord Always
Say to the Lord, "I Love You"
Step by Step
Take My Life
The Lord is My Shepherd
You Shall Love the Lord Your God

**Children's Church Grades 1-3
Year 3 Curriculum - October**

Lesson 1

Title: Worship - Why do we worship?

Text: 2 Chronicles 20:1-30

Theme: We worship in order to show our respect and love for God as our Creator, Sustainer, and Deliverer.

Teaching Objectives: By God's grace, each child will

1. Be able to give a simple definition for worship.
2. Be able to tell why Jehoshaphat and the people worshipped the Lord.
3. Be able to tell how Jehoshaphat and the people worshipped God.
4. Participate in planned worship experiences expressing his love and respect for God.

Memory Verse: *Psalm 95:6* *Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.*

Teacher Direction:

1. In the first unit of this year we focused on the character of God. We looked at God's omnipresence, mercy and compassion. We looked at these attributes of God as an introduction to this unit of study focused on worship. We did this because we believe when we gain a view of God's character; we will be moved to respond in worship. We believe that a glimpse of God's person often moves us in the direction of worship.

In this unit we shall look at three aspects of worship. The first lesson will explore why we worship. In many ways this lesson will help us understand the motive behind our acts of devotion. The subsequent two lessons will focus on the how of worship, that is that we worship through praising God and reading His Word.

2. Introduction

As you begin this lesson ask the children what they think the word worship means. After discussion, inform them that Webster defines worship as "to regard with great or extravagant respect, honor, or devotion". Help the children understand that to worship is to show our respect, honor, and devotion (love) to someone (usually a divine being) who is worthy. By worshipping we show the worth of that being.

Next ask the children to respond to the question, "Why do we worship?". Allow them to express their ideas without comment. Then encourage the children to listen carefully to the story and to try and find out why the people in this story worshipped God.

3. Bible Story

As you share the story from 2 Chronicles 20 be sure to emphasize the following points related to the worship of God.

A. The Occasion for Worship – The people of Israel were being threatened by three neighboring nations. These were nations that had previously been recipients of Israel’s grace, but time had caused them to forget. Now they were marching toward the land of Israel to conquer.

Confronted by such a vast army, King Jehoshaphat and the people did not know what to do. They knew they had not the strength to fight this foe, nor did they have a plan as to how they might escape certain death. The closing words of Jehoshaphat’s prayer sums up well the posture they took – “We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you.”

B. The Expression of Worship – During this time of tension for the nation their worship took many forms.

- ◆ The people gathered together to seek help from the Lord (20:4).
- ◆ Jehoshaphat’s prayer (20:6-12) was an expression of worship. In this prayer we see God’s character extolled, His works lifted up, and His covenant referenced and embraced.
- ◆ Jehoshaphat and the people bowed with their faces to the ground (20:18).
- ◆ The priests stood and praised the Lord with a loud voice (20:19).
- ◆ Appointed men led the army praising God for the splendor of His holiness (20:21).
- ◆ The King and his men entered Jerusalem and the temple rejoicing and playing harps, lutes and trumpets to the Lord (20:27-28).

C. The Motive of Worship – What was behind these expressions of worship? Why were they coming to God in worship? The people responded with worship to express their dependence on God and their need for help; to lift up the person and work of God and to call upon the promises of His covenant; to show their overwhelming sense of gratitude for God’s deliverance; and to express their great joy for His deliverance. In short the people were responding to God in worship in order to show their love for God and to express their respect for Him as their Maker, Deliverer, and Sustainer.

4. Application

God is still the Maker, Deliverer and Sustainer of our lives. He has made us and as Creator is worthy of our praise, even our all. He has also delivered us from sin through the precious sacrifice of His Son and continues daily to support us in this life. Such a One is worthy of every expression of worship. A bowed knee or a hand raised in praise are expressions proper for our worthy God. Let us take advantage of every opportunity we have to express our love and respect for our great God.

5. Review Questions

What problem confronted Jehoshaphat and the people of Israel? (Three nations had united and were moving to attack and conquer them.)

How did the people feel before this vast army? How do you know? (They felt helpless. The King’s prayer stated that they were without power and plan to confront this army. They could only trust in their God.)

In what ways did Jehoshaphat show His worship of God? (He prayed, he bowed himself low, he led the men rejoicing to the temple,...)

What were others ways the people showed their worship? (They gathered together to seek the Lord's help, they praised God with a loud voice, ...)

Why did the people worship God in these ways? (They wanted to express their love and respect for their God who had been so faithful in the past and had showed them again of His love for them.)

Why do we gather for worship each Sunday? (Answers include: to show the Lord our need of Him, to extol His character and works, to express our love for God, to bow our hearts before the God who is worthy of all respect.)

Hands in Prayer

Tips for Teachers

- ◆ Make a model so that you know how to help children put it together.
- ◆ You may want them to use a buddy to help them trace the hand that they normally draw with if it is difficult for them. (For instance, if they are right handed they may have difficulty drawing with their left hand and vice-a-versa)

Materials

- ◆ Black line master
- ◆ White copy paper
- ◆ Red, yellow or green construction paper
- ◆ Glue sticks
- ◆ Scissors
- ◆ Pencils or markers

Instructions

1. Photocopy the master on to white copy paper.
2. Cut colored construction paper $\frac{1}{4}$ " larger than the white paper
3. Fold both papers in half.
4. Glue along fold line on construction paper and place white paper on fold line.
5. Place left hand palm side up on right side of white paper and trace hand from fold line. Do the same with right hand on left side of paper. If this is difficult have another child help you trace your hand.
6. Fold paper in half along fold line again.
7. They should write their name and the words WORSHIPS IN PRAYER (Example: JANE WORSHIPS IN PRAYER).
8. If they have time they can decorate the front of the cover with musical symbols or other various forms of worship.

Faith Connections

Psalm 95:6 "Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our maker."

Have the class share what they think this verse really means. There are the words *bow down* and *kneel*, how do they relate these to their own prayer life in worshipping the LORD.

..Worship in Prayer



“Come, let us bow down in worship, let up kneel before the LORD our maker.” Psalm 95:6

Lesson 2

Title: Worship – worship through praise

Text: Luke 17:11-19, Psalm 145

Theme: God is worshipped as His people praise Him for not only His works on their behalf, but also for who He is.

Teaching Objectives: By God's grace, each child will

1. Demonstrate his understanding of praise by offering praise in a class activity.
2. Tell why the leper in the story gave praise to God.
3. Tell why the Psalmist gave praise to God.
4. Participate in a time of worship through praise.

Memory Verse: *Psalm 145:3 Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom.*

Teacher Direction:

1. In the first lesson of this unit we spoke of why we worship. In that lesson we mentioned that we worship in order to show our respect and love for God as our Creator, Sustainer, and Deliverer. As we looked at the story of Jehoshaphat and the people of Israel we saw how their worship ushered forth from God's providential care of them. We also noted the many forms this worship took. In this lesson we shall focus on one of those forms of worship, mainly praise. As we look at worship through praise we want to show that we praise God not only for what God does for us, but also for whom He is. Some call this latter form "high praise". It is a praise that comes from acknowledging God for the greatness of His character apart from any human benefit. Both forms, nonetheless, are valid and will be part of the worship of those truly affected by God's grace in their lives.

Note: For this lesson you may want to do most of your singing after the lesson as a response to what was presented.

2. Introduction

As you begin this lesson ask the children if they know what the word "praise" means. After hearing some of their ideas tell the children that praise includes an expression of approval. It is stating to another, often before others, the positive deeds or qualities of the person being praised. To solidify this concept, have children offer praise for someone in the room. Encourage them to speak of the good abilities or qualities of those they know who are present in the room. After hearing numerous praises offered, encourage the children to listen to the story to find out why a certain person offered praise to Jesus.

3. Bible Story

As you share the story found in Luke 17 and Psalm 145, be sure to convey the following points:

A. A Show of Worth – When praise is offered it is designed to show the worth of the person to whom it is given. In this short account Jesus shows Himself very worthy of praise. First, He shows Himself exceedingly loving and merciful. He travels near Samaria, the home of a people despised by the Jews. When confronted by 10 lepers, whom everyone shunned, (one being a Samaritan as well) He freely received them. When called on for His mercy, He granted it, though those who asked for it were in no way deserving of it. Secondly, He shows His power. In a moment He turned a group of lepers, usually condemned to a sad existence, into a group of whole people, able to enjoy life fully. Even without a touch He was able to transfer His healing power to this needy group. Truly Jesus is the loving bread of life.

B. An Offering of Praise – After Jesus granted the request of these lepers He sent them away to be examined by the priest. This was a requirement of the law in order for these persons to be able to re-enter society without restriction. As they were going away only one of these lepers realized His ingratitude. He turned around and went back to Jesus offering Him great praise before the crowd. Note that his praise was in response for what the Lord had done for him.

Note: In a sense all people are like this leper. We all have an incurable disease – sin. On our own we can do nothing except live out the consequences of our condition. Those consequences include watching death envelope us (this was true on a physical level with the leper), as well as experiencing alienation in our relationships with others. Yet there is one hope for us in this world. It is for us to cry out for mercy to our Lord. When that cry is heard by our Lord, and He grants mercy, we indeed have great reason to praise our God.

C. A Psalm of Praise – Not only should we praise God for the things He has done for us, but we should praise Him simply for who He is. Psalm 145 offers praise both for the deeds and character of God. Read through this Psalm (using an easy reading version) with the children and have them pick out reasons to praise God. You may want to categorize them according to “what God has done” and “who He is”. A few examples are provided below.

What God has done	Who God is
- Been good to all	- The King
- Has had compassion on all	- He is great, His greatness beyond measure
- He keeps all His promises to us	- He is gracious, compassionate, rich in Love
- Lifts up those who fall	- He is majestic
- The Lord provides food	- He is righteous

4. Application

God continues to be the same great God whose deeds on our behalf are marvelous. It would be an apt application of this lesson to enter into praise of the Lord. Take time to sing praise to the Lord, noting why God is being praised in each song. Take time as well to offer words of praise to God. Tell why God is worthy. Declare what He has done for your soul. Finally take time to praise God in prayer. Prayers can be as simple as completing this sentence: Lord, I thank

you for _____ (fill in with a word or phrase that speaks of God's deeds or person).

5. Review Questions

What does it mean to "praise" God? (It means to acknowledge His worth before God and His people.)

For what are we to praise God? (We are to praise God for His deeds and His person.)

Why did the leper praise Jesus? (Jesus heard his cry for mercy and healed him of his leprosy.)

How are we like the leper? (We all have a disease, sin, which we are unable to conquer without the mercy of God.)

Why was Jesus worthy of the leper's praise? (He had shown great love, mercy and power.)

What has the Lord done for you that is worthy of praise? (Answers vary)

What about our Lord is worthy of praise? (Answers vary but should focus on the character of God.)

“9” Praises

Tips for Teachers

- ◆ Some children will need help because they cannot spell. Be very sensitive to these children. Write it for them or help them with their spelling.
- ◆ These can be very simple words of praise.
- ◆ Make your own list of praise so you will be ready to give help

Materials

- ◆ Black line master
- ◆ Pencils, markers or crayons

Instructions

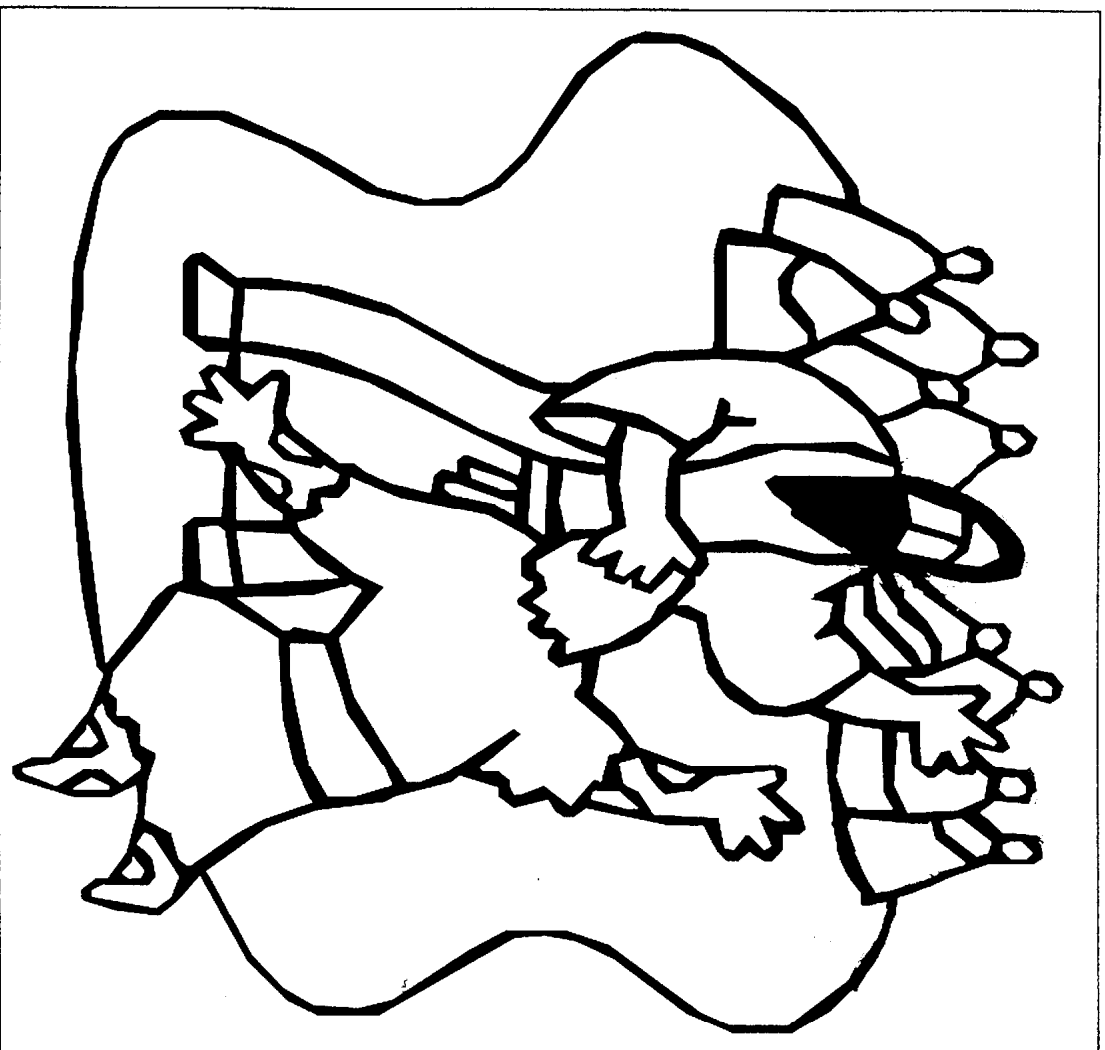
1. Photocopy the black line master onto white photocopy paper.
2. Have the children write 9 things they can praise God for.
3. When they are finished let the children share what they have written.
4. If there is time they can color their pictures.

Faith Connections

Psalm 145:3 “Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; His greatness no one can fathom.”

Ask some of the children who are finished with their praises why they think the 9 lepers didn't praise God. When God answers our prayers do we remember to thank and praise Him?

Jesus heals the lepers



Psalm 145:3 "Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; His greatness no one can fathom."

There were "10" lepers healed but only "1" came back to thank Jesus and give Him Praise.

Can you list "9" things you can praise the LORD for?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____

Lesson 3

Title: Worship – worship through the Word

Text: Exodus 23:20-24:11

Theme: God's people worship their Lord when they give their attention to and then submit to His Word.

Teaching Objectives: By God's grace, each child will

1. Tell how Israel expressed their worship in this story.
2. Share what consequences would follow Israel's obedient worship.
3. List ways he can give attention to God's Word.
4. Worship God by giving attention to God's Word and submitting in obedience.

Memory Verse: *Exodus 24:7* *Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it to the people. They responded, "We will do everything the LORD has said; we will obey." (Note: you may only want to have the children memorize the response of the people.)*

Teacher Direction:

1. In this unit we have been exploring worship. In the first lesson we looked at why we worship. We said that we worship in order to show our respect and love for God as our Creator, Sustainer, and Deliverer. We also mentioned that there are many ways of expressing that worship.

In the second lesson we looked at one way we can express our worship; that was through praise. We mentioned that we are to praise God not only for the works He has done on our behalf, but also simply for whom He is. When we lift up God's name and recount the wonders of His ways and person, we are worshipping through praise.

In the final lesson of this unit we shall look at another way we worship God, namely, through giving our attention and obedience to God's Word. When we give ear to the Word of God and follow this with our submission, then we are expressing worship to the true God.

2. Introduction

As you begin ask the children to imagine that they lived long ago in a land ruled by a king. Tell them that this king was a good king. He cared well for his people. When they were troubled by others, he would rise up to their defense. He seemed always to have their best interest in mind and seemed to be very wise in all his ways. Suggest to the children that one day the king gathered all his people in order to speak to them. Ask the children how they would respond if they truly loved and respected this king. After some discussion, be sure to point out that true respect and love would result in the people listening attentively and obediently to what the king had to say.

Tell the children that today's Bible story speaks of a King who spoke some very important words to His people. Encourage children to listen well to find out who this king was and to see how the people responded to the words of this King. Did they show respect and love for this King? If so, how did they show it?

3. Bible Story

As you share the story found in Exodus 23-24 be sure to emphasize the following concepts:

A. Background – God had made a covenant with a man named Abraham. He promised Abraham to make him a great nation, give him a special land, and cause him to be a blessing to all nations. This promise was passed on to Isaac and Jacob, descendants of Abraham.

Through God's providence Israel was brought down to Egypt where they became a great nation. They were now the special people of the one true God. After 400 years of bondage God raised up Moses to free the people from their bondage and bring them to the Promised land. After freeing the people, God met with them at Mt. Sinai because He desired to speak with them. This story takes place immediately after God has spoken, giving the people the Ten Commandments and giving to Moses the remainder of the Book of the Covenant.

B. Motivation for obedience (23:20-33) – God was interested in a close relationship with His people. This could only be if the people showed their love and respect (worship) for God through obedience to His word. Thus, God urged the people to listen carefully to His angel. He urged them to stay away from idols and not to make covenant with any of the peoples in the land, for this would result in their doom. If the people were obedient they would be assured of the blessings of God's presence. Their enemies would be demolished in a timely fashion. God would also provide for His people's need of food, drink, health, protection, land and more. All of this, it must be reiterated, could only be theirs as they showed their worship through obedience to God's word.

C. A promised obedience (24:1-11) – After giving Israel this instruction and the promise of blessing, God then sought to enter into covenant with them. He gathered together Moses, Aaron and sons, and the elders for a covenant ceremony. Moses told the people what God had told him and they promised their obedience (an expression of their worship to God). The next morning Moses read the words of the Lord (the Book of the Covenant) to the people and they again affirmed their desire to live according to it. Then Moses sprinkled the altar and the people with the blood of their sacrifices as a sign of cleansing and consecration. They had entered into covenant with their God. Then Moses and the leaders went up the mountain where God revealed himself to them and where they enjoyed fellowship with the Lord.

4. Application

The people of Israel were to show their worship of God through their attention and obedience to the Word of God. Such attention and obedience would ensure God's continued presence and blessing with the people. Likewise God calls His

people today to worship Him through their attention and obedience to His word. Whenever God's people have a chance they should give attention to the Word of God and then, by His grace, submit their lives to its demands.

5. Review Questions

Why do we worship God? (We worship God to show Him our love and respect.)

What are some ways we might show our worship of God? (We may worship God through praise, through obeying God's Word, through presenting our lives as a sacrifice to God,...)

Where were the people of Israel when God gave them the Ten Commandments and the Book of the Covenant? (Mt. Sinai)

How did the people in this story show their worship of God? (They listened to the word of God through Moses and then committed to following it.)

How is the Word of God a very important part of our worship service? (We read it together, the Pastor explains it to us in the sermon, many songs contain Bible portions or at least Bible truths,...)

In what ways can we give attention to the Bible? (We can read the Bible on our own or with God's people. We can take time to study the Word, or memorize it, or meditate upon it, or even sing it.)

Are you giving your attention to the Bible and are you, with God's help, learning to be more and more obedient to it? (Answers vary)

God's Word

Tips for Teachers

- ◆ Do craft ahead of time so you can instruct the children well.
- ◆ Use tacky glue, for it holds faster and stronger.
- ◆ Let the glue dry before folding the scrolls.
- ◆ There will be two scrolls on each page so cut page in half.
- ◆ Hand out supplies as you use them in each step.

Materials

- ◆ Black line master
- ◆ Parchment paper or parchment colored photocopy paper.
- ◆ Scissors
- ◆ Tacky glue
- ◆ Thin Craft sticks (pop sickle type – 2 for each child)
- ◆ Ribbon or yarn 10-12" long

Instructions

1. Copy black line master onto parchment paper.
2. Have children cut scrolls out along solid black lines.
3. Hand out the craft sticks and then have them glue in glue lines of each end of scroll.
4. They will then press the craft sticks on the glue (one for each side).
5. When the glue is fairly dry have the children roll their scrolls, starting from one end and roll half way to the middle. Do the same on the other side.
6. Hand out the ribbons or yarn and have them tie it around the scroll to keep it closed.

Faith Connections

Exodus 24:7 "Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it to the people. They responded, 'We will do everything the LORD has said; we will obey.'"

While the children are finishing their scrolls, you may want to ask them to share with the class why they think the WORD is important in their lives in worshipping the Lord.

*“Then he took the Book of the Covenant
and read it to the people. They responded,
“We will do everything the LORD has said;
we will obey.”*

Exodus 24:7

*“Then he took the Book of the Covenant
and read it to the people. They responded,
“We will do everything the LORD has said;
we will obey.”*

Exodus 24:7

Children's Church Grades 1 - 3
Year 3 Curriculum - November

Theme: Psalms

- Lesson 1** **Psalm 1 -- The Ways and Ends of the Wise and the Fool**
Lesson 2 **Psalm 8 -- A Song of Creation Praise**
Lesson 3 **Psalm 19 -- The Revelation of God**

Suggested songs related to the theme:

Lesson 1: Psalm 1 -- The Ways and Ends of the Wise and the Fool

Abba Father
Follow Jesus
The Wise Man
Sandyland
Walk Like Jesus

Lesson 2: Psalm 8 -- A Song of Creation Praise

He is Exalted
He's the Lord of All
How Majestic is Your Name
The Trees of the Field
We Bow Down
Your are the King of Glory

Lesson 3: Psalm 19 -- The Revelation of God

Awesome God
Clap Your Hands (all you people)
Mighty is our God
Sing, Shout, Clap
This is the Day

Also choose assorted general worship songs

Children's Church Grades 1-3
Year 3 Curriculum - November

Lesson 1

Title: Psalms – The Ways and Ends of the Wise and the Fool

Text: Psalm 1

Theme: The man who keeps himself from the wicked, and gives himself to the Lord's ways, will be greatly blessed of the Lord.

Teaching Objectives: By God's grace, each child will

1. Be able to state the two ways of life being contrasted in this Psalm.
2. Be able to state what a righteous man avoids as well as delights in.
3. Be able to contrast the reward of the righteous and the wicked.
4. Choose the way of wisdom.

Memory Verse: *Psalm 1:6 For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.*

Teacher Direction:

1. In this unit we will introduce the children to several well loved Psalms. Over the years the Psalms have been a great source of wisdom, comfort and strength to many, and it would be important for the children to become acquainted with the source of this help and encouragement.

In this lesson we shall look at the first psalm. By some it has been called the "entryway into the Psalms". It has been called this because it provides some very important insight into the way of life that God has ordained for us. In essence it has provided "wisdom for living".

As we deal with this psalm we shall try to contrast the way of the fool with the way of the wise. We shall try to show especially what characterizes the way of the wise, and then show the reward that God brings to both the fool and the wise man.

2. Introduction

If you are able bring two plants to class: one full of life having many green leaves, one full of death, all dried up. (Note: if you cannot bring in two plants, bring in two pictures that represent the same contrast.) As you show the children your two plants ask them what would make one so full of life and the other so full of death. After some discussion you might suggest that the dead plant did not receive good care, nor was it able to drink up adequate amounts of water, sun and other nutrients.

Suggest to the children that the Bible talks about two kinds of people who can be as different as these two plants. Encourage the children to listen as they try to find out what the two kinds of people are, why they are different, and what their reward from God will be.

3. Bible Story

As you work through the psalm, be sure to emphasize the following points:

A. Introduction to the Psalms – The Psalms are a group of songs, designed to be used by God’s people in their worship, which were composed in response to situations experienced by an individual or community. The Psalms are poems, meant to be sung at times with accompaniment, that offer great encouragement to the people of God, concerning a wide range of experiences and emotions common to man. This first psalm is known as a wisdom psalm because it tells all who read it how God says man should live.

B. Two ways described – There are two ways to live. There is the way of the wise and the way of the wicked. The way of the wise has both a negative and positive aspect. Negatively, the wise do not associate themselves with the ungodly. They do not walk according to their counsel or plans. They do not stand in their godless way of life, nor do they sit among those who mock at God. They are careful to not allow a godless way of life to affect them. Positively, the wise delight themselves in God’s Word and His ways. They seek the mind of God continually as they meditate day on night on God’s Word. They cannot spend enough time pondering God’s instruction because they know it to be very satisfying. The wicked, on the other hand, have nothing to do with the Word. Some (the ungodly) merely neglect it. Others (sinners) show their contempt for the Word through their wayward behavior. Still others (scoffers) manifest their thorough rejection of God and His ways.

C. Two rewards received – As there are two ways to live, there are also two rewards received. For the wise there is great blessing. The blessing is preeminently the presence of God in their life. God knows or watches over or commits to loving care for the righteous. In good times or in difficult the righteous flourish and are fruitful because God is their strength, and in the end the wise will stand before God with the congregation of the righteous.

The wicked, on the other hand, will be like chaff. Their lives will in many ways be worthless and they will be easily driven by the judgment of God. In the end they will be condemned and they will not have part in God’s holy congregation.

4. Application

There is great reward to those who will keep themselves from the negative influence of community of the wicked. We should all, with God’s help, exercise care in choosing our friends. There is also great reward to those who will delight themselves in God’s Word. Again, with God’s help, we should feed on God’s Word seeking to incorporate in our lifestyle all that it says we should.

5. Review Questions

What is a psalm? (It is a song composed in response to a situation experienced by a group or an individual. It is meant to be used by God's people in their worship.)

What are the two ways to live? (There is the way of the wise and the way of the wicked.)

Describe the way of the wise. (Negatively, they disassociated themselves from the wicked. Positively, they delight in the Word.)

Describe the way of the wicked. (Some neglect the Word; others show that neglect in their behavior; still others are blatant in their rejection of God and His ways.)

What is the reward of the wise? (God's presence will abide with them until God takes them to be with Him and to join the congregation of all the righteous.)

What is the reward of the wicked? (They will be unstable in this life. God will judge them and forbid their participation with the congregation of the righteous.)

Why is it important to choose your friends wisely? (Those who don't love the Lord can lead us in ways that could be harmful to us.)

How are you feeding on God's Word? (Answers vary.)

Life's Paths

Tips for Teachers

- ◆ You will want to make a copy and do this puzzle ahead of time to guide the children to make the right choices.
- ◆ The children should use two different colored markers for the paths. They can be any two different colors.

Materials

- ◆ Black master copy
- ◆ White or pastel colored copy paper
- ◆ Colored markers or crayons (two different colors for each child).

Instructions

1. Have the children start at the "Path of Righteousness" and see where it leads. Then start at the "Path of Wickedness" and see where it leads.
2. They can color the paper if they would like to.

Faith Connections

Psalm 1:6 "For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish."

As the children are working on these two paths, have them relate their ideas of what these two paths mean to them and if they know what path they are on.

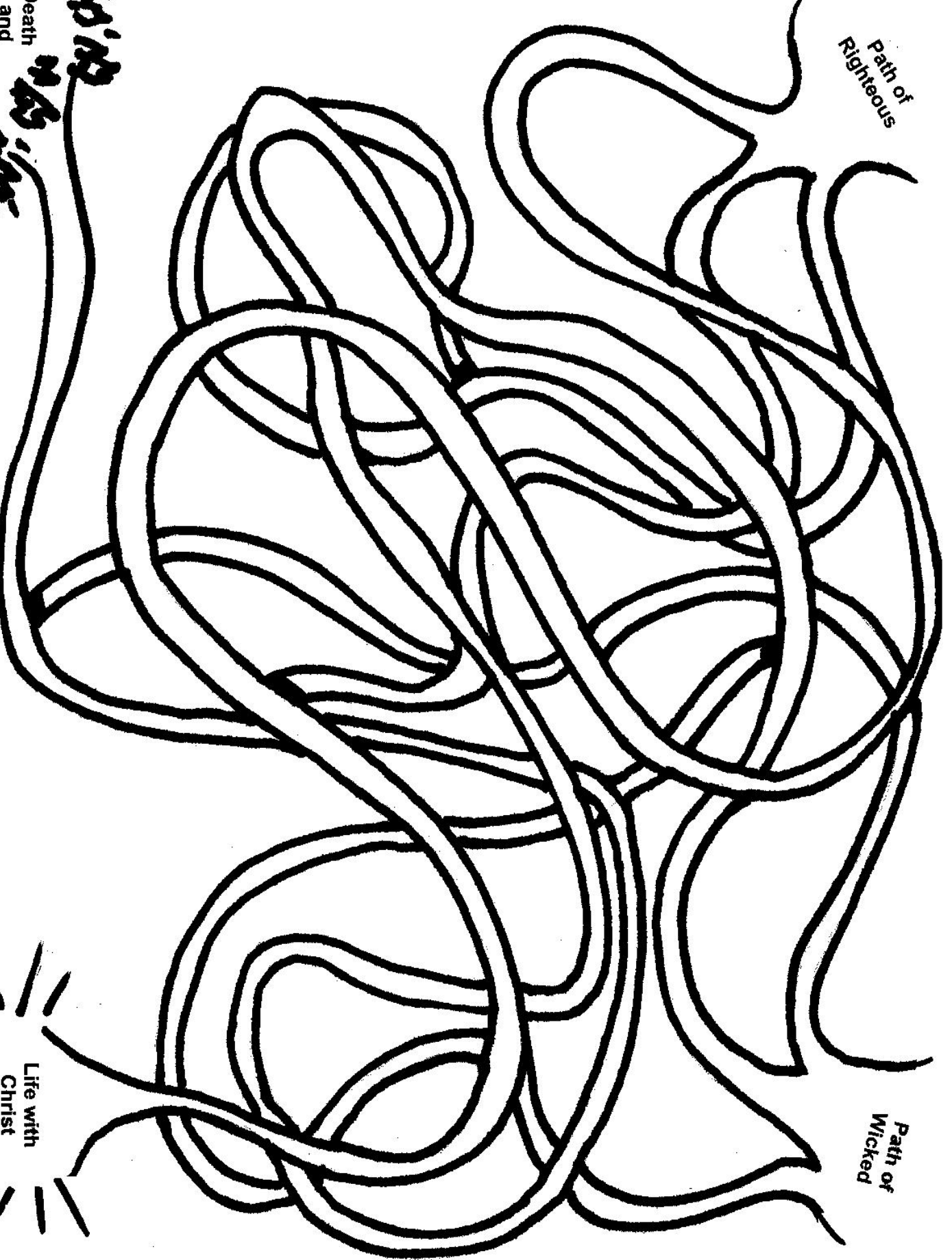
Path of
Righteous

Path of
Wicked

Wicked's
Death
and
Destruction

Life with
Christ

"For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish." Psalm 1:6



Lesson 2

Title: Psalms – A Song of Creation Praise

Text: Psalm 8, Genesis 1:1-28

Theme: God is to be greatly praised for the wonder of His creation and His unmerited favor to man.

Teaching Objectives: By God's grace, each child will

1. Grow in His appreciation for God's creative power.
2. Be able to tell how God has bestowed honor upon man.
3. Share ways man could honor God in his care of creation.
4. Participate in a time of praise focused on God's creative activity and His goodness to men.

Memory Verse: *Psalm 8:9 O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!*

Teacher Direction:

1. In this unit we will be exposing the children to some of the better known Psalms. In our first lesson we looked at Psalm 1, a wisdom Psalm, and learned about how God wants us to live. In this Psalm the writer contrasted the lifestyle of the wise with that of the foolish, and the reward that accompanies each way of life.

In this lesson we shall look at a Psalm of creation praise. It is not a Psalm that praises the creation, but rather that praises the Creator. When the Psalmist observed what God had placed into existence, He marveled at this God. He also was struck with amazement that this awesome God so wonderfully exalted men with a unique position among all creatures. It is hoped that a look at God's creation and His unmerited favor to man will cause the children to enter into true praise of their Lord.

2. Introduction

To begin this lesson, ask the children what they think of when confronted with a beautiful flower? When they stand looking over the edge of a cliff at a valley below? When they see the sun setting as they look out over the ocean? When they observe the purple hue of a mountain range in the distance? When they stand in silence viewing the night sky boasting a myriad of stars? Allow the children to freely share their thoughts and feelings. Encourage them to share other illustrations of how God's creation has impacted them from time to time.

Next, encourage the children to listen well as you share with them how the Psalmist was affected by such an experience. Tell them that you will allow them to eavesdrop on the Psalmist's thoughts as he took in the wonder of the night

sky. Challenge them to see what they can learn from the Psalmist's response to God's creation.

3. Bible Story

As you work through this Psalm be sure to emphasize the following points:

A. The creative work of God – The Psalmist was in awe as he took in with his senses the creation of God. (Note: He may well have been looking out at the night sky since he only mentions the moon and stars.) As he gazed at what God had made he was moved to praise, not the creation, but the One responsible for putting it into existence. The creation reflects, albeit imperfectly, the power and wisdom of God whose glory is far above the heavens. Any praise should be directed to the Creator who stands above His creation and who is only reflected in it.

B. The unmerited favor of God to man – When man looks at God's marvelous creation, he must reckon with his own "smallness" in comparison to it. Looking out at a star-filled sky makes one understand how small man really is. He is but a speck in this infinite cosmos. At the same time, man must also reckon with the God whose fingers manipulated the creation into existence. Such a God is far greater than His creation, and thus so much more awesome than man. (Help the children catch a glimpse of the greatness of our God.) When the Psalmist realized this he had to exclaim, "Oh Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth."

But not only did the Psalmist revel in God's creative activity, he also reveled in the fact that such a great God had bestowed much honor on man, though he was but a speck in the created order. God had made man in His own image (see Genesis 1) and had commissioned him to rule over creation. God had called man to reflect his glory by lovingly ruling over what He had made. Such an honor was almost too much for the Psalmist to take in. He could only break out in praise to this God, knowing that he was personally related to and cared for by Him.

4. Application

A. Instead of using the created order to satisfy our human desires, we should, as God's governors, lovingly care for God's creation. Our treatment of creation should bring glory and honor to the Creator who has called us to rule it well.

B. Praise is befitting our Lord. The creation shows the might and power of God, and our privileged position shows His goodness and mercy. We ought to take time often to observe what God has made and done, and to respond in praise.

5. Review Questions

What experience may have led the Psalmist to pen the words of Psalm 8? (He may have been gazing into a star-filled night sky.)

How did the Psalmist feel when he looked out at God's creation? (He realized how small he was, that he was only a speck in the grand cosmos.) What must he have realized when he was struck with the grandness of creation? (That the God who made this was even greater.)

What else was the Psalmist amazed about? (He wondered why God cared so much for man and why He had bestowed such honor on him.)

What honor had God given to man? (To reflect God in His governing of creation.)

In what ways should man rule over creation in order to honor God? (Man must lovingly rule over the created order. He must not selfishly use things, but instead exercise stewardship in a way that would reflect his devotion to the Creator. Man should so utilize creation so that it continues to reflect the beauty and glory of the Creator.)

Creation Praise Picture

Tips for Teachers

- ◆ Make model ahead of class to help children put it together.
- ◆ Hand out to each child only what they will be working on at each step of the craft.
- ◆ Allow just so much time to each step. If some children are not done coloring, have them move to gluing and come back to coloring when they are finished gluing.

Materials

- ◆ Black line masters
- ◆ Dark green or dark blue sheets of cardstock or heavy construction paper.
- ◆ White cardstock
- ◆ Scissors and crayons or markers
- ◆ Glue sticks
- ◆ Self adhesive stars (optional instead of cutting out stars)

Instructions

1. Use full sheet of green or blue cardstock or heavy construction paper for background of picture.
2. Photocopy black line masters of world, moon, sun, stars and man onto White cardstock paper.
3. Have children color the world (blue water and green land), sun and stars yellow, and leave the moon white. They can color the man brown or whatever color they like.
4. Cut out the world, sun, moon, stars and man with verse and glue to the dark sheet of plain paper.

Faith Connections

Psalm 8:9 “O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth.”

As the children are taking time to put this craft together have them think about how God in His great power created all of this by speaking it into being. We can only take what God has already created and make it into something. He created each of us uniquely different for His great purpose.



"O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is Your Name in all the earth."

Psalm 8:9



Lesson 3

Title: Psalms – The Revelation of God

Text: Psalm 19

Theme: God's creation and law reveal His character and bring blessings to those who respond well.

Teaching Objectives: By God's grace, each child will

1. Be able to tell what the creation tells about the character of God.
2. Be able to tell what the law tells about the character of God.
3. Be able to tell what benefits man may receive from God's creation and law.
4. Respond as the psalmist did by seeking God's forgiveness and help against sin.

Memory Verse: *Psalm 19:14* *May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.*

Teacher Direction:

1. In this unit we have been looking at some of the better-known psalms. In the first lesson we looked at Psalm 1 and saw the ways and ends of life of both the wise man and the fool. From our observation of this wisdom psalm, we learned how God wants us to live. In the second lesson we looked at Psalm 8, a psalm of creation praise. In this psalm we saw how the author was struck with the immensity of what God had made, and how God had given man such an exalted position in this creation. With the psalmist we were moved to offer praise and thanks to our great God.

In this lesson we shall look at a third beloved psalm, the 19th. In this psalm the writer points to the communication of God to man through the creation and through God's law. We will focus on what creation and the law tell us about God, how they benefit man, and how we should respond in light of God's revelation. Whereas the 8th psalm led us to praise when confronted with creation, this psalm's observation of creation and the law leads us to repentance and to look in faith to God's final communication in Christ.

2. Introduction

To introduce this lesson, bring in a painting to show to the children. If one is not available a picture may do. As you show the children what you have brought, ask them what they can learn about the artist from looking at what he has created. You may need to prompt them with a few questions such as "Was the artist skillful?" or "Was the artist wise in the way he used color?" or "How old do you think the artist was?" To add contrast you may next want to show the children a painting or picture that was done by a child. Again ask them what they can learn

about the artist from looking at the painting. After the children have had a chance to discuss this, tell them that we can often tell much about a person by looking at the work of their hands.

Finally, advise the children that in today's lesson we are going to look at the work of the greatest Artist, God. Encourage the children to see what the psalmist learned about God from looking at what He created, and how he responded to what he saw.

3. Bible Story

As you share Psalm 19 with the children be sure to emphasize the concepts that follow.

A. The Revelation of God in creation – This psalm teaches us that God is communicating every day to every creature on earth. He communicates to them through His creation. The psalmist mentions especially the heavens, that is, the sun, moon, and stars. Each day, through these means, God is unveiling His glory, majesty, wisdom, infinitude, power, and faithfulness (seen in the order of the planets, season, and more). God also is showing each day that He is a caring Father by causing the sun to rise and shine upon the earth providing what many living things need to live and grow. Note: it would be good to have children tell you what they learn about God as they look at His creation before you share some of these ideas.

B. The Revelation of God in the law – This psalm also teaches us that God is communicating to us through His law and all its facets. In fact, the law communicates to us in a way that is clearer to understand. It presents God as a covenant-keeping God who is perfect, trustworthy, righteous, radiant, pure and sure. Further it displays God as a caring Father, who not only cares for our physical needs, but also our spiritual needs. Those who follow God's law will be blessed with a revived soul (life in the soul), wisdom, joy in the heart, light in the eyes, and many other blessings. Note: Help the children see that the laws of a land show the character of the lawmakers. The fact that our laws do not reflect God's will shows that our lawmakers do not fear God.

C. The Revelation of God in His Son – When the psalmist pondered God's creation and law he found himself struck with his own sin. Through creation he saw the greatness of God compared to his smallness. Through the law he found the perfect will of God to which he had not perfectly submitted his will. This revelation moved him to seek the forgiveness of sins and help against willful transgressions. It moved him to pray that his words and thoughts would be pleasing to God. Ultimately, though, God's revelation showed him the need of God's final revelation in Jesus Christ. In Jesus Christ, God revealed Himself and His plan for the salvation of man in the fullest way ever. In Jesus Christ, God communicated the message that would eventually bring to man the blessing he had lost at the Fall.

4. Application

A. In light of God's creation and law, we must all lift up praise to our God for revealing Himself to us and for caring for us as a Father.

B. Following the example of the Psalmist, we must come before God confessing our sin and seeking help against temptation. We also ought to pray the prayer at the end of the psalm, asking God for grace to be pleasing to Him in all we say, do, and think.

5. Review Question

What can we learn about God from looking at the heavens? (He is infinite, powerful, wise, orderly,...)

In what way does the creation show God's fatherly care of us? (Each day God directs the sun to rise and shine upon men to provide the warmth and nutrients needed for life and growth.)

What can we learn about God from His law? (He is a covenant God who is perfect, trustworthy, righteous, pure,... just like the law He ordained.)

What benefits come to man as he follows God's law? (He is blessed with life in his soul, wisdom, joy and light.)

How did the psalmist respond to what he learned about God from the creation and the law? (He confessed his sin and sought help from God.)

Where do we find the clearest communication of God to man? (We find it in Jesus Christ who reveals God and His plan for salvation most perfectly.)

Reveal God's Creation & Law

Tips for Teachers

- ◆ Do this puzzle ahead of time; so that you have a master to help the children find all of the words.
- ◆ Encourage the older children to help the younger ones to find some of the answers.
- ◆ It is not important that they find them all in class time, they can finish this at home.

Materials

- ◆ Black line master
- ◆ White or light color copy paper
- ◆ Pencils

Instructions

1. Photocopy the black line master onto white copy paper.
2. Circle the words that reveal God's character through His creation and law from Psalm 19.
3. There is a list of words on the right side of the paper. They can cross these out as they find them.
4. If they finish ahead of time they can color their paper or help others that are not finished.

Faith Connections

Psalm 19:14 " May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer."

Have the children look at these words as they are circling them and discuss which of the words describe God's creation and which talk about the Law. How does God reveal Himself through each of these?

Circle the words that reveal God's character through His creation and law from Psalm 19

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

Cross out each word below as you find it in the puzzle.

- COMMANDMENT
- DAY
- EARTH
- EXPANSE
- FEAR
- GOLD
- ~~HEAVENS~~
- HONEY
- JUDGEMENTS
- MOON
- NIGHT
- PERFECT
- PRECEPTS
- PURE
- REWARD
- RIGHTEOUSNESS
- STARS
- SUN
- TRANSGRESSION
- TRUE
- WISE
- WORLD