

*The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky above proclaims his
handiwork. Day to day pours out
speech, and night to night reveals
knowledge. There is no speech, nor are
there words, when his voice is not heard.
Their voice goes out through all the
earth, and their words to the end of the
world. In them he has set a tent for the
sun, which comes out like a bridegroom
leaving his chamber, and, like a strong
man, runs its course with joy.*

Psalms

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A DEVOTIONAL RESOURCE for FAMILIES



Psalms

A DEVOTIONAL RESOURCE *for* FAMILIES

Psalms

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How to Use This Book

The book you now have in your hands has been a labor of love. It began with a realization that no matter how excellent and effective our teaching may be, it cannot compete with the influence of you as parents. God has called you specifically and gifted you uniquely to lead your kids “in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” Plainly said, you are the greatest spiritual influence in the lives of your kids. To some of you that is a very intimidating and overwhelming thought (I know I feel that way).

Therefore, we as the church want to help encourage and equip you in your role as the primary discipler of your children, and that is why this book exists. Our goal is to set you up in the best way that we can to have spiritual conversations as a family. Our hope is that you will have opportunities on Sundays, perhaps at lunch after Sunday school, as well as a couple of times a week with the Family Devotionals provided, to talk about God and His importance in our everyday lives.

To help accomplish this, we have standardized the Sunday school curriculum so that everyone from JK-12th grade will be learning the same things each week (age appropriately, of course). This allows you as parents to know exactly what all of your kids are learning without having to keep track of multiple e-mails or schedules. Below you will find exactly what is included and how best to use it.

Outline

We provide you with the main points that your students will be learning each week. We do this so you can be best prepared to discuss what they learned and answer any questions that might come up. We also have included a lengthy section of context for each lesson. We believe it is important for all of us to see how each story in the Bible does not stand alone, but instead fits into the larger drama that God has unfolded.

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

The point of these questions is to be conversation starters for you as a family. They are not exhaustive as to the content of what your children have learned that Sunday, but should just get things started for your family. Our hope is that your children will come to expect a conversation about what they learned in Sunday school for two main reasons. First, we want them to see spiritual conversations as a normal and important part of life and second, we hope this expectation will make them more attentive to what they are learning.

FAMILY DEVOS

We have provided two days worth of Family Devotionals for you to do as a family at home. We chose this number so as to not overwhelm families or discourage them for not being able to live up to expectations. Our hope is that the two provided will be a springboard for even more times of family worship during the

week. The two we have included will help build a foundation for the Bible character that they will study on Sunday. You will also see a page on "How to Do Family Devotions" which is there only as a resource for you and not a concrete model that must be followed. In the end, the most important thing is for families to spend time together focused on God's Word and prayer; how that is accomplished is secondary.

Andrew Keasling

Teaching Schedule

This curriculum was originally derived as a 12-week summer devotional Bible study for families. The following dates apply to summer of 2016, but please study as you like.

WEEK	TITLE	FOCUS
May 22	Psalm 8	His Name
May 29	Psalm 19	His Law
June 5	Psalm 23	Shepherd
June 12	Psalm 24	God of Jacob
June 19	Psalm 36	His Steadfast Love
June 26	Psalm 62	Rock
July 3	Psalm 73	He is Enough
July 10	Psalm 84	His Presence
July 17	Psalm 103	His Mercy
July 24	Psalm 111	His Works
July 31	Psalm 121	Helper
Aug. 7	Psalm 139	He Knows Us

How To Do Family Devotions

When discussing family devotions, the first thing you must know is that there is not just one correct way to do them. Each family is made up of distinct individuals, each with a different personality. Therefore, trying to create a “one-size-fits-all” approach to family devotions is foolish. Below are some helpful hints and guidelines as you lead your devotions. Some of them will be very helpful, while some you will realize do not work for your family. In the end, the point is for you as a family to take time together, reading God’s Word and praying together. However you accomplish this is truly a secondary concern.

PLACE MATTERS

- It will be important to find a consistent place where you always do family devotions. Changing the location can drastically change the dynamics.
- Everyone should be at the same eye level. You don’t want some on the floor and some in chairs or on the couch. This will encourage participation by all members because they will feel as if they are a part of the group.
- Minimize the distractions. Honestly, doing family devotions is hard enough! Only you know what might distract your kids so be sure you eliminate as many interruptions as possible.

PRAYER MATTERS

- It is important for your children to see the importance of prayer. Therefore, be sure that you pray to begin and end your time together. Often it works best to choose one family member to open the time in prayer (which also helps settle busy hearts). At the end is an opportunity to let everyone pray.
- Give your children a role in prayer. One of the things that my family does that has been successful is that we have four prayer categories: 1- Zachary’s class, 2- Bryson’s Class, 3- Our extended family and friends, and 4- Missions. Each time we give someone in the house one of these prayer categories. To minimize the “I want...” of our children, we rotate who assigns who to prayer. That way, everyone gets a chance to decide who prays for what. It has saved a lot of disagreements. For our missions category, we alternate between a Mission Memphis partner and a World Missions partner and it has been such a blessing to watch and hear our kids pick up on and pray for those ministries. We also switch it up some nights and just have a time of confession or adoration or thanksgiving so they don’t think of God as just someone from whom you ask things.

THE WORD MATTERS

- God’s Word is the only thing He promises will bear fruit. It is so important to not only expose them to God’s Word but also to teach them how to think about it. One of the best ways to start doing this is to continually remind them that these stories are REAL - Isaiah 55:11.
- Get them to interact with the Bible for themselves. It is a huge temptation to just provide the answers for them (since we know everything) but they will get so much more out of it if they think

about it for themselves. The hardest part for me in this is that I lose the control. I have to constantly remind myself that I want them to get something out of God's Word and not get frustrated when they don't get out what I want them to.

- Encourage every little step. It will be very important to encourage every interaction they have with God's Word. They will be more willing to share when they know it is a safe place for them to come with their thoughts. At times, that will mean you are going to go down some rabbit trails, but it will be worth the journey. As a part of that, you need to make sure that they get the truth; this means gently correcting when their theology gets out of whack.

TIME MATTERS

- One of the most important things you are teaching your children is that being together is very important. Just the simple act of carving out time every week that does not involve the TV or a meal out will bear fruit. The intentional act of studying the Word and prayer together will bear fruit even if it is down the line.
- Have fun! I know it sounds silly but if your kids have fun doing family devotions, they will want to keep doing them. For us, that is a short game or a role playing moment at the beginning but for you, it can be whatever. Sometimes I think we are afraid that we will be irreverent when we attempt to have fun, but we must remember that God created fun and laughter, so participating in those activities pleases Him.

Andrew Keasling

D6 Driving Values

At Second, we believe in three guiding principles, known as the D6 Driving Values. We hope that as you and your family go through these devotions together, you will be further encouraged in your relationship with the Lord, your church community, and in your Kingdom mission.

The Lord is My Primary Devotion

- Confronted by the holiness of Christ, I seek Him in daily worship, prayer, and repentance. *Isaiah 6:1-8*
- Compelled by the love of Christ, I strive to be obedient to Him in my thoughts, words, and deeds. *II Corinthians 5:14*
- Created new in Christ, my identity is no longer in the things of this world. *II Corinthians 5:17*
- Confident of the eternity secured for me in Christ, I have peace in the midst of the troubles of this life. *Phillipians 4:6-7*

The Church is My Primary Community

- Knowing that the Gospel liberates me from idols, I cannot imagine not joyfully worshipping God every week with my brothers and sisters in Christ. *Thessalonians 1:9b*
- Knowing that the Church is called to be a holy nation, set apart from the things of the world, I will embrace this calling by seeking to be Christ-like in all aspects of my life. *I Peter 2:9-12*
- Knowing that I am a steward of my resources and not an owner, I cheerfully release my resources to build His Kingdom and not my own. *Matthew 25:14-30*
- Knowing that the Body of Christ is essential to my sanctification, I actively seek relationship and accountability within the church in order to grow in Christ. *Ephesians 4:11-16*
- Knowing that God has given me spiritual gifts to use in the church, I willingly serve. *I Corinthians 12:4-7*
- Knowing that Jesus is present where two or more are gathered in His name, I happily pray with and for my brothers and sisters in Christ. *Matthew 18:20*

Building Christ's Kingdom is My Primary Mission

- Belonging to Christ's Kingdom causes us to live as a distinct people who are called to be about applying Christ's work of redemption as far as the curse is found as we eagerly await His imminent return and the renewal of all things. *Romans 8:19-21*
- Building Christ's Kingdom in all of life is an act of worship, and the reason I am alive is to multiply worshippers and redeem culture. *II Corinthians 5:16-21*
- Building Christ's Kingdom begins in multiplying worshippers of Christ in my own household. *Joshua 24:15*
- Building Christ's Kingdom is the lens through which I filter every decision as I further the work of redemption. *Romans 12:1-2*
- Building Christ's Kingdom prioritizes Christ's work of redemption to the extent of intentionally sacrificing our time, money, and talents in furthering the application of the redemption of Christ. *I Corinthians 10:31-33*

Psalms

The book of Psalms has long been a favored book among Christians. You can't go far today without seeing a verse from the Psalms plastered on a coffee mug or attached to a social media post. The Psalms were always meant to be more than just an uplifting thought for the day. Instead their purpose was to speak deeply into our hearts. Whereas much of the Old Testament books recounted the lives of God's people out in the world, the book of Psalms reflected what their lives should be about in the Temple as they worshipped God.

The book of Psalms is a collection of poems written by at least four different authors (Moses, David, Solomon and Asaph) and a group of authors (Sons of Korah) written from the time of the Passover all the way through the exile. Although there was variety in authors and contexts, the purpose remained the same: the worship of the One, True and Living God. One of the distinctive elements of the Psalms, which makes them so beloved and accessible, is the transparency and vulnerability of the authors. The Lord used people such as David and the circumstances of their lives to benefit His people thousands of years later. We get the unique privilege of seeing into the private thoughts that were deep in David's heart as if we were reading his diary or journal. His honesty with and before the Lord in good times and bad encourages us all to approach our prayers in the same way. He challenges us to prove whether we think we can truly be honest with God and still be loved and accepted by Him as His people.

Overall, the Psalms are a book of praises. Most of the prayers and poems found in the Psalms have either musical terms included with them (most of which we are unable to fully translate) or are prefaced with instructions for the choirmaster, thus revealing that they were meant to be sung by the congregation (and in the early church that is exactly how the Psalms were used). As you read through the Psalms, you will see how they have been the literary inspiration for so many of the hymns and worship songs we use today. God is making plain that His Word is not to be read as just an intellectual exercise but is meant to penetrate to the deepest core of who we are and be used to express the cries of our heart back to the Lord.

This summer, we will focus on the Psalms that reveal who God is and what He has done. Next summer, we will focus more on our response to the Lord. However, each Psalm includes both parts: God's revelation and our response. In family devotions, I will encourage the singing of Psalms as a way to express our worship and also reinforce God's design for His Word. For each lesson I have included a song based on the Psalm we are studying with a YouTube clip so you can sing it at home. My prayer is that this summer you will get a foretaste of what is to come for us as believers and that you will gladly begin to do that for which you were created: to praise the Lord. May God use His Word to engage your heart in a new way, that you will be encouraged to raise your voice in thanksgiving and praise your Lord and God.

Ultimately, what I want us to do is see Jesus for who He truly is (the embodiment of God the Father) and once we do to find Him ultimately fulfilling and beautiful. Based on those assumptions, my hope and goal is to answer these fundamental questions with each account of Jesus we study:

- What does this account tell me about Jesus?
- Why is it important that Jesus is this or does this for me?
- How should I live differently because of who Jesus is?

Andrew Keasling

WEEK

1

His Name

PURPOSE

To see who God is and what He has done for us
so that we might praise Him

WEEKLY FOCUS

What benefit exists for us because of God's Name

His Name

Psalm 8

Context

- A psalm written by David to be sung by the congregation to remember the power of God and His Name that He gave to His people

Outline

- I. **God's Name is in all the Earth**
 - A. Lord
 1. Covenantal Name
 2. Given to Israel
 - B. Known by all people even if they don't acknowledge it
- II. **His Name shows He is powerful**
 - A. God's creation as a display of His strength
 1. Made the moon and the stars
 - a. The work of His fingers
 - b. Like us making Legos or finger painting
 2. Humans
 - a. His special creation—made in His image- Genesis 1:26-27
 - b. Called us very good—Genesis 1:31
 - B. Name is majestic
 1. Has qualities of a king
 - C. Speaks even through weak vessels
 1. Babies and infants
 2. Can use anything for His praise and glory

- a. Luke 19:40

III. His name shows He is personal

- A. Regards people
 - 1. Thinks about them
 - 2. They are important to Him
- B. Cares for people
 - 1. Gives us what we need
- C. He is OUR Lord
 - 1. There is one God
 - 2. He is our God—belongs to us
 - a. Wants to be personally involved with us

IV. His Name shows He is purposeful

- A. Given us a job to do
 - 1. Dominion
 - a. Genesis 1:28-30
 - 2. His representative to the world—crowned us with honor and glory
 - a. Matthew 28:16-20
 - b. 2 Corinthians 5:20
- B. Ultimately Christ will fulfill this

V. So What??!!

- A. God tells us His Name so we will know Him
- B. God gives us His Name so that we can have His authority and power
 - 1. Philippians 2:10
- C. We are to spread His Name wherever we go for His glory

Song of the Week

- O Lord, our Lord How Majestic is your Name
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6h56LamYqyE>

Follow-Up Questions for Parents

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What did you learn about God's name from the lesson?
- Why does God give us His Name?
- Who are people who need to hear about Jesus?

Small Group Discussion Questions

- What stuck out to you from the lesson this morning?
- What difference does God's Name make for you on a daily basis? What difference should it make?
- What does God call us to do with His Name? How do we do that?
- Where are some places where you need to spread His Name?

His Name

OPEN IN PRAYER (Choose one person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- If you could change your name to any other name, what would it be and why?

READ EXODUS 3:1-18

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- How did God appear to Moses?
- What was Moses doing?
- Who called out to Moses? What did He say?
- What names do you know God by?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (In addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What did Moses do when he saw the burning bush?
- What name did God give Moses in verse 6?
- What did the Lord say He would have Moses do? Why?
- What was Moses' concern in verse 13?
- What name does God give Moses in verse 14?
- What does God say about this name in verse 15?
- Notice He doesn't say "He was" or "He will" but I AM. That means He is a help for us now.
- How has God been I AM to you?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (In addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- What was Moses' response to God's call?
- What excuses do you make when God calls you to do something?
- What difference does it make that God calls Himself I AM?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

SONG: O Lord, our Lord How Majestic is your Name

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6h56LamYqyE>

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

His Name

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose one person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- Go to this website and type in the first and last names of everyone in your family into the search bar on the right labeled "Search for the Perfect Baby Name." See what everyone's name means and discuss:
<http://babynames.net/all/starts-with/a>

READ PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What kind of mind should we have?
- What kinds of things does Jesus think about?
- What form did Jesus take?
- What does a servant do?
- What are we told about Jesus' name in verse 9?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What does it mean that Jesus didn't hold on to His equality with God?
- How did Jesus serve others while on Earth?
- What are ways you should also serve others?
- How will all people eventually respond to Jesus' name? (verse 10)
- How are you doing that now?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- What does the cross represent about Jesus in verse 8?
- What are areas in which you are being humble like Jesus?
- What are areas in which you are obeying like Jesus?
- What keeps you from truly obeying?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

SONG: O Lord, our Lord How Majestic is your Name

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6h56LamYqyE>

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

WEEK

2

His Law

PURPOSE

To see who God is and what He has done for us
so that we might praise Him

WEEKLY FOCUS

What benefit exists for us because of the Law of the Lord

His Law

Psalm 19

Context

- A psalm written by David to be sung by the congregation
- Written to celebrate the Law of God (the Torah) as God's supreme revelation of Himself
- C.S. Lewis called it "one of the greatest lyrics in the world"
- Church lectionary has it set apart to be read on Christmas Day—shows its importance

Outline

- I. God shows His Glory through His Creation
 - A. Heavens
 1. Were not to be worshipped in themselves
 2. Point to God's power
 3. There may be as many as 100 octillion stars in the universe
 - a. 100,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000
 - b. 1 with 29 zeroes
 - B. Sun
 1. Gives us warmth and light so we can survive
 - C. Points to God
 1. Speaks in all languages to all people
 - a. Romans 1:20
- II. God works in His people through His Law
 - A. To make Him known even more clearly than creation
 - B. Law—Torah: "instruction, direction and teaching"
 - C. Testimony: How the 10 Commandments were known
 1. All Scripture witnesses to Jesus

SUNDAY TEACHING

2. John 5:39
- D. Precepts—applied the Law more specifically
 1. Matthew 5:21-48
- E. Commandment: Call to obey, “that which is appointed”
 1. Mark 12:29-30
- F. Effects of God’s Word and Law
 1. Reviving the soul
 - a. Gives new life
 - b. 1 Peter 1:23
 2. Making the wise simple
 - a. Helping us to understand the complicated things
 - b. 2 Timothy 3:15
 3. Enlightening eyes
 - a. Helping us to see clearly
 4. Gladdening the heart
 - a. 1 John 5:2-3
- G. Value of God’s Word and Law
 1. How we treat the Word is often how we treat God
 2. To be desired
 - a. We are made to want God and His Word
 3. Better than gold
 - a. Has great value for us
 4. Sweeter than honey
 - a. Better than the best food
 - b. Isaiah 55:1-2
 5. Reward in obedience
 - a. Deuteronomy 10:12-13
 - b. Deuteronomy 30:19-21

III. Prayer for the Law

- A. Let our words be acceptable
 - 1. Luke 6:45
- B. Let our thoughts be acceptable
 - 1. Psalm 139:2

IV. SO WHAT??!!

- A. God has given us His Word to know Him
- B. We are to desire God's Word
 - 1. Spend time reading it and studying it
- C. God's Word will change us

Song of the Week

- God of Wonders
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JrWoCbt5f14>

Follow-Up Questions for Parents

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What did you learn about God's Law?
- What did you learn about God's power in creation? What is your favorite thing that God created? Why?
- What gets in the way of you obeying God's Word?

Small Group Discussion Questions

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- What in this psalm makes you want to worship God more?
- What role does God's Law play in your life? What role should it play?
- What keeps you from obeying God's Word fully?

His Law

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose one person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- If you could make some laws around your house that everyone HAD to obey, what would they be and why?

READ DEUTERONOMY 6:1-9

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What is God giving them in verse 1?
- What are they for?
- What happens if we obey them? (verse 3)
- How are we supposed to love God?
- How do we do this?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are we called to do with God's commandments? (verse 2)
- What are things that you know God is calling you to do that are hard for you to obey? Why?
- What is the promise that comes from verse 3?
- How does obeying God show we love Him?
- How are you putting God's commands on your heart?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- How are you putting God's commands on your heart?
- What are we supposed to do with God's commands besides obey them? (verses 6-9)
- What are ways that you are sharing God's Word with others? How should you?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

SONG: O Lord, our Lord How Majestic is your Name
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6h56LamYqyE>

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

His Law

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose one person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What are your favorite stories that your parents have either told you or read to you? Why?

READ 2 TIMOTHY 3:14-17

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does verse 14 tell us to do?
- What things have you learned that you need to keep doing?
- How can you be sure to remember those things?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are the sacred writings he is talking about here?
- How are you getting to know them better?—The Bible
- What does it say about Scripture in verse 16? What does that mean?
- What is the end result for the person of God according to verse 17?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- What does it say that knowing more of God's Word can make you wise for?
- What does it say Scripture is useful for? How are you using it for these purposes?
- How are you allowing God's Word to equip you for good work?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

SONG: God of Wonders

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JrWoCbt5f14>

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

WEEK

3

Shepherd

PURPOSE

To see who God is and what He has done for us
so that we might praise Him

WEEKLY FOCUS

What benefit exists for us because God is our Shepherd

Shepherd

Psalm 23

Context

- A psalm written by David
- Unlike many other of the psalms, we get no instructions as to whether this is to be sung or not
- Therefore we can see it as a prayer of David's heart

Outline

- I. What does God do as Shepherd?
 - A. Common way for the people to see God- Genesis 48:15
 - B. He takes care of my needs
 1. I shall not want
 - a. Will take care of our needs
 2. Makes me lie down in green pastures
 - a. Gives us rest in good places
 - b. Provides us food
 3. Leads me beside still waters
 - a. Gives us what we need—water
 - b. Gives us place of safety
 - i. Rapids could cause sheep to drown
 - c. Does so gently
 4. Leads me towards righteousness
 - a. Helps me to know and do what is right
 - b. Helps me to obey His Word
 5. Does it for His glory

SUNDAY TEACHING

- a. For His Name's sake
 - b. Brings Him glory to take care of us
- C. He is with me
- 1. In scary places—valley of the shadow of death
 - 2. Changes pronouns from "He" to "You"
 - a. In the hard places we can speak to God
 - b. Difference between knowing about God and knowing Him personally
 - 3. Keeps us from fear
 - a. His presence gives us strength
 - b. His love gives us hope
 - i. 1 John 4:18
 - 4. Comforts us with His rod and staff
 - a. Rod—weapon to fight predators
 - b. Staff—would be used to gently lead the sheep when they started to stray
 - c. We are protected and guided by Him which gives us comfort
- D. He secures my place
- 1. "You" instead of "He"
 - 2. Prepares a table for me
 - a. God is the One who does the work
 - b. He is the One who secures our place through His work
 - i. Jesus' death on the cross
 - 3. Gives me goodness and mercy
 - a. Takes away my sin and replaces it with His goodness
 - 4. Allows me to dwell with Him forever
 - a. Prepares a place for us
 - i. John 14:2-3
 - b. Will be our shepherd forever
 - i. Revelation 7:17

II. So What??!!

- A. God promises to take care of you
- B. God promises He will be with you
- C. God promises He is securing a place for you
- D. We are called to respond with thankfulness and obedience

Song of the Week

- All the way, My Savior leads me
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IttW3GRRGXl>

Follow-Up Questions for Parents

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What did you learn about God as shepherd this morning?
- What are some ways that God has been taking care of you lately? Be specific.
- How has God been with you lately?
- How should you respond to God as your shepherd?

Small Group Discussion Questions

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- How does this psalm make you want to worship God more?
- How have you seen God taking care of you? How have you seen God being with you?
- What are specific ways in which you can show your gratitude to God for all He has done?

Shepherd

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose one person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- If you could have any animal as a pet, what would it be and why?

READ JOHN 10:10-16

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What are we told about the thief in verse 10? Who do you think that is for us as Christians?
- Why does Jesus say that He came?
- What does Jesus call Himself here?
- What does verse 14 tell us?
- How does it make you feel that God really knows you?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What does the Good Shepherd do for His sheep?
- How did Jesus do that for us?
- What does Jesus mean by "I know my own and my own know me"?
- How does it show us the relationship between God and Jesus?
- What are ways that you are growing in your knowledge and understanding of Jesus?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- How does the shepherd respond when the sheep are in trouble? How does the hired hand respond?
- How do you respond when you see people in spiritual trouble?
- What are ways that you are growing in your knowledge and understanding of Jesus?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

SONG: All the way, My Savior leads me

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IltW3GRRGXl>

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

Shepherd

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose one person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- If everyone in your family became sick one day, what would you do to take care of them? What would you do around the house?

READ EZEKIEL 34:11-16

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does God say that He will do in verse 11?
- Why does God do that Himself?
- What does a shepherd do for His sheep?
- How does it make you feel that God promises to do that for you?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What does God say He will do for His sheep when He finds them in verse 12?
- How else will He take care of them?
- What does verse 16 say that God will do for His sheep?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- What are ways that you are caring for others as God says He cares for us?
- Who are some people in your life who need you to show them who their true Shepherd is?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

SONG: All the way, My Savior leads me

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IltW3GRRGXl>

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

WEEK

4

God of Jacob

PURPOSE

To see who God is and what He has done for us
so that we might praise Him

WEEKLY FOCUS

What benefit exists for us because God is the God of Jacob

God of Jacob

Psalm 24

Context

- A psalm written by David
- Unlike many other of the psalms, we get no instructions as to whether this is to be sung or not
- This psalm is often connected to David bringing the ark into Jerusalem (2 Samuel 6; 1 Chronicles 15:1-16:3)

Outline

- I. Who owns the world?
 - A. God chose Earth over all else He made as special and set apart
 - B. All that's in the world
 1. He created all things
 2. John 1:3, Colossians 1:16
 - C. All who dwell in it
 1. We are made in His image
- II. How do we get to God?
 - A. Clean hands and a pure heart
 1. Not covered in sin
 2. Doing what is right with perfect motives
 - B. Not lift soul to what is false
 1. Not worshipping the things of this world
 2. Getting rid of the idols in my life
 - C. Seeking His face
 1. Approaching God
 2. Wanting His will

- D. How do we do that??? – His grace
 - 1. Not because we earn or deserve it
 - 2. God identifies Himself as God of Jacob
 - a. Jacob was a schemer and deceiver
 - i. Tricked Esau out of birthright and blessing
 - b. God still claims him as His
 - c. Doesn't use the name Israel but Jacob
 - i. God changed Jacob's name to Israel
 - ii. Purposefully identified Himself with Jacob
 - 1. Encourages us in His love
 - 2. Don't have to have it all together
 - 3. God was the one who went to Jacob: pursues us
 - 3. Jesus died for us while we were still sinners
 - a. Romans 5:8
 - 4. Jesus makes us clean before God so we can approach Him

III. Who is the King of Glory?

- A. The Lord
 - 1. Strong and mighty in battle
- B. The Lord of Hosts
 - 1. Word "hosts" also means armies
 - 2. Can refer to angels–Psalm 103:20-21
 - 3. Can refer to all believers–2 Timothy 2:3-4
 - a. We are therefore God's army to do His will
- C. Points to what is to come–His glory
 - 1. Will deliver Jerusalem from their enemies
 - a. Zechariah 14:9
 - 2. Heaven
 - a. Jesus sitting on the throne to reign as king

b. Revelation 21:1-8

IV. So What??!!

- A. God owns the world and everything in it
 - 1. That means us!!
 - 2. All that we do is for God's glory
 - 3. We are to live for Him and not ourselves
- B. God makes a way that we can get to Him
 - 1. Through His Son Jesus
- C. We are called to live as His blood-bought and forgiven people
 - 1. Reflecting Jesus everywhere we go
 - 2. 2 Corinthians 5:20

Song of the Week

- Give us Clean Hands

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fm1L3wDfPKQ>

Follow-Up Questions for Parents

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What did you learn about God being God of Jacob?
- What does it mean that you belong to God?
- How do we get clean hands and a pure heart?
- How do we seek His face?

Small Group Discussion Questions

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- How did this psalm encourage you to worship God more?
- How does this psalm show you your sin? How does it show you God's grace?
- What does it mean that God is the God of Jacob? How does that encourage you?
- How should we live in response to this?

God of Jacob

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose one person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- Who is your favorite person from the Bible (not Jesus or God)? Why?

READ GENESIS 27:1-41

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does Isaac tell Esau to do?
- Who brought the food into Isaac?
- How did he disguise himself? Why did he do that?
- Who actually got the blessing from Isaac?
- How did Esau react to this?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Why was the blessing so important? Who was the blessing supposed to be for?
- What did Rebekah tell Jacob to do? Why?
- How did Jacob respond?
- What did Isaac say when Jacob returned with food?
- What did Esau say about Jacob in verse 36?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- What are some ways that you have tried to get what you don't deserve?
- How have you tried to hide who you really are?
- When is a time you felt cheated? How did you respond?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

SONG: Give us Clean hands

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fm1L3wDfPKQ>

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

God of Jacob

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose one person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- Who in your family (including extended family) would you most like to wrestle with? Who would be the one you would least want to wrestle with?

READ GENESIS 32:22-32

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- Who is there alone?
- What happens to him?
- What does Jacob do?
- What does Jacob want?
- What happens to Jacob in verse 28?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What does it mean that this person wrestled with Jacob?
- How long did they wrestle?
- Would Jacob give up? Why not?
- What did the person do to Jacob?
- What does the person do about Jacob's name? Why is that important?
- Who does Jacob think was wrestling with him?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- When is a time that you have continued to "hold on to God" even when things were hard?
- What do you think God would change your name to based on this last year? Why?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

SONG: Give us Clean hands

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fm1L3wDfPKQ>

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

WEEK

4

WEEK

5

His Steadfast Love

PURPOSE

To see who God is and what He has done for us
so that we might praise Him

WEEKLY FOCUS

What benefit exists for us because of God's steadfast love for us

His Steadfast Love

Psalm 36

Context

- A psalm written by David to be sung by the congregation
- This psalm is a lament in regards to how the wicked treat the faithful
- It shows that we can go to God confidently with our frustrations

Outline

- I. Actions of the wicked
 - A. Listens to his sin
 1. Sin deceives - Romans 7:11
 2. Sin flatters - Genesis 3:4-5
 - B. Doesn't fear the Lord
 1. Lack of worship
 2. Doesn't see God rightly
 - a. Thinks they are in control
 - b. Don't believe that God will actually punish sin
 - i. No reason to stop sinning
 - C. Flatters himself in his own eyes
 1. Think they are better than others and God
 - D. Words of mouth are trouble and deceit and ceases to act wisely and do good
 1. Full of lies and speak to hurt others
 - E. Plots trouble and doesn't reject evil
 1. Is proactive in sin

2. Seeks ways to do evil to others

II. Actions of the Lord

- A. His ways are higher than our ways
 1. Isaiah 55:9
 2. We must look up to see them
- B. Steadfast love as high as the heavens
 1. God can forgive all our sins, even the wicked
 2. His love is greater than all of our sins
- C. Faithfulness as high as the clouds
 1. God is faithful even when we aren't faithful
 - a. 2 Timothy 2:13
 2. Faithfulness is higher than our doubts
- D. Righteousness as high as the mountains
 1. His perfection towers over our faults
- E. All these He freely gives to us
 1. Not because we deserve it but because He loves us

III. Response of the people

- A. Take refuge in God's Love
 1. Shadow of his wings
 - a. Matthew 23:37
 2. His love will protect us even from ourselves
- B. Feast on God's abundance
 1. Drink from river of delights
 2. Fountain of life
 3. He gives us light
- C. Asking God for more

1. Acknowledging that we need more of Him
2. To continue what He is doing
 - a. Steadfast love
 - b. Righteousness

IV. So What??!!

- A. God provides us with steadfast love
 1. Never giving up, always love for us
- B. God's love is enough to conquer all our sins
 1. He gives us love, faithfulness and righteousness
- C. We are to continually ask God for more
 1. Love--so we can love others
 2. Righteousness--so we can obey Him

Song of the Week

- Your Love, O Lord
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0OBRvxrzhqs>

Follow-Up Questions for Parents

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What did you learn about God's steadfast love?
- How should the actions of God's people be different from the actions of the wicked?
- How should you respond to the greatness of God's love and its power over your sin?

Small Group Discussion Questions

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- How did this psalm make you want to worship God more?
- When you look at the list of things the wicked do and then the response to God, which is more like what you do?
- How should you respond to the greatness of God's love and its power over your sin?

His Steadfast Love

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose one person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- Who is your favorite superhero and why? How do they use their powers to save people?

READ JOHN 3:16-21

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does verse 16 say that God did for us?
- Why does it say He did that?
- How did Jesus save the world?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What does it say about God's love that He would give us Jesus?
- Why did God send Jesus into the world?
- What does John say here about light and dark?
- Who are people in your life that you condemn with your words or actions?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- Are there times that you think that God sent Jesus to condemn the world or you? When and how do you deal with that?
- What are ways in which you live in the dark?
- What are ways in which you live in the light?
- Who in your life needs to hear this truth?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

SONG: Your Love, O Lord

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0OBRvxrzhqs>

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

His Steadfast Love

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose one person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- Who are the people that love you most in your life? Make a list of 10 and say something about each of them.

READ 1 JOHN 4:7-12

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What are we supposed to do according to verse 7?
- Where does love come from?
- How did God show His love for us?
- Who loved first, us or God?
- What does it say happens when we love one another?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are we called in verse 7? What does that word mean?
- What does it say in verse 8 about people who do not love?
- Who are people in your life who are hard to love? Why?
- How does our loving others show God's love?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- What does it mean to live through Jesus?
- Would people say you know God based on the way you love others? Why or why not?
- What does propitiation mean?
- How are you showing God through your love?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

SONG: Your Love, O Lord

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0OBRvxrzhqs>

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

WEEK

5

WEEK

6

Rock

PURPOSE

To see who God is and what He has done for us
so that we might praise Him

WEEKLY FOCUS

What benefit exists for us because God is our rock

Rock

Psalm 62

Context

- A psalm written by David to be sung by the congregation
- May have been when Absalom was trying to take the throne or when David was ruling over Judah in Hebron (2 Samuel 1-4)
- Was directed to Jeduthun – one of three musicians that David put in charge of worship (1 Chronicles 16:37-43, 2 Chronicles 5:12; 35:15)

Outline

- I. **God ALONE saves us—verses 1-4**
 - A. Word for alone is also translated “indeed or verily”
 1. Conveys meaning of absolute certainty
 - B. Brings our salvation
 - C. He is our Rock
 1. We will not be greatly shaken
 2. He is a fortress—place of safety
 - D. Our soul is to wait in Him in silence
 1. Trusting Him
- II. **God ALONE is our hope—verses 5-10**
 - A. Repeats that He is our rock, salvation and fortress
 1. Shows how important it is to remember
 - a. Like chorus of a song
 2. I will not be shaken—greatly disappears from verse 2
 - a. More confidence in the Lord
 - b. Even in hard times He is steady for us
 - c. The more we see God as our Rock the greater the calmness in our heart

- B. We are to trust in Him at all times
 - 1. Pour our hearts out before Him
 - 2. Repeated that our souls should wait in silence
 - a. The verb is a command in this verse
- C. What not to hope in
 - 1. Things of this world
 - a. All people are but a breath
 - i. James 4:14
 - b. Riches do not last or satisfy
 - i. Job 1:21

III. God ALONE rewards us—verses 11-12

- A. God speaks so it is sure
- B. God ALONE has the power to give
 - 1. Steadfast love
 - 2. Give a man what his work deserves
 - a. God sees and knows what we do

IV. So What??!!

- A. God ALONE has the power to help us
- B. He is the only Rock we can rely on
- C. The more we see Him as our Rock the more we can trust Him

Song of the Week

- Made Me Glad

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ytE8um04l24>

Follow-Up Questions for Parents

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What did you learn about God being our Rock?
- What are ways that God has been your Rock? Be specific.
- What are some ways that you can trust God more?

Small Group Discussion Questions

- What stuck out to you about the talk this morning?
- How does this psalm make you want to worship God more?
- How have you seen God be your Rock this year?
- What are specific ways in which you have been trusting Him this year?

Rock

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose one person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- If a strong storm came, where would be the most secure place in your house to hide? Why?

READ 2 SAMUEL 22:29-33

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does verse 29 call God?
- What does a lamp do? How is God like that?
- What does it say about the word of the Lord in verse 31?
- What does it call God in verse 32?
- How is He like a rock?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What does it say about God's way in verse 31?
- How is His way perfect?
- How is God a shield to you?
- What does a rock do?
- Who is THE rock for us?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- What are you trusting in to protect you from the world?
- What is the rock that you are anchored to in the tough times?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

SONG: Made Me Glad

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ytE8um04l24>

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

Rock

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose one person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- If you could have a second house anywhere in the world, where would you want it to be? Why?

READ MATTHEW 7:24-27

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does Jesus call someone who obeys His words?
- What does the wise man build his house on? Why is that important?
- What does the foolish man build his house upon? What happened?
- How do we make Jesus our rock that we build on?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What was the outcome for the wise man?
- What was the outcome for the foolish man?
- Why was the rock so important?
- What should we be building our lives on?
- What is the rock that keeps everything on pace in your life?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What sticks out to you from this passage?
- What is the foundation that you are building your life on?
- What are ways in which you are allowing Jesus to be your rock?
- When is a time that you have seen the effects of trying to build your life on something other than Jesus?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

SONG: Made Me Glad

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ytE8um04l24>

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

WEEK

7

He is Enough

PURPOSE

To see who God is and what He has done for us
so that we might praise Him

WEEKLY FOCUS

What benefit exists for us because God is enough

He is Enough

Psalm 73

Context

- A psalm written by Asaph
- We are given no instructions as to music so it may not have been a song
- Asaph freely confesses his frustration with the world and with God
- We too can openly share our heart and concerns to the Lord

Outline

- I. What we know is true—verse 1
 - A. God is good to His people
 1. Loves them
 2. Takes care of them
 - B. When we take our eyes off God we forget truth
 1. Causes us to slip
- II. What feels true—verses 3-15
 - A. The wicked seem to prosper
 1. No hunger or physical problems
 2. Don't have to deal with troubles
 - B. The wicked sin with no consequences
 1. Pride—verses 6-7
 2. Slander and scoffing—verses 8-11
 - a. Towards people
 - b. Towards God
 - i. Against Heaven
 - ii. How can God know?

3. They increase in ease and riches—verse 12
- C. The righteous are forgotten—verses 13-15
 1. Keeping heart and hands clean for nothing—verse 13
 2. Constantly stricken and rebuked—verse 14

III. God reveals the truth—verses 16-26

- A. To those who seek Him
 1. In the Sanctuary
 2. In worship
- B. The truth about the wicked
 1. They are in slippery places and will fall
 2. Will be destroyed in a moment
- C. The truth about the righteous
 1. He is with them
 2. He will guide them
 3. He will bring them to glory
 4. They have nothing apart from Him
 5. He is their strength and portion forever

IV. God reminds them of truth—verses 27-28

- A. Those far from Him shall perish
 1. It is good to be near God
- B. They are called to tell of His works

V. So What??!!

- A. It is easy to believe that the wicked prosper and the righteous suffer
 1. God sees all that happens
 2. God will give the people what they deserve
- B. When we forget to trust God and remember His deeds, this only gets worse
 1. We must go to Him in worship and remember how He has blessed us
 - a. His grace and forgiveness for us
- C. We are called to share what God has done for us

Song of the Week

- Praise You in this Storm

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vCpP0mFD9F0>

Follow-Up Questions for Parents

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What did you learn about God being enough for you?
- When have you felt like God has forgotten you? Why?
- What are ways that you can share what God has done for you?

Small Group Discussion Questions

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- How did this psalm make you want to worship God more?
- Have you ever believed that God has forgotten the righteous and blessed the wicked? When?
- What are things God has done for you that you can share with others?

He is Enough

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose one person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What is one thing you are really wanting right now that you think will make you happier?

READ LAMENTATIONS 3:22-25

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does it tell us about God's love?
- What does it say about God's mercies?
- What does faithfulness mean? What does it say here about God's faithfulness?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What does it mean that God's mercies are new every morning?
- How have you seen God's faithfulness to you?
- What does it mean that the Lord is our "portion"?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- What are ways in which you are trusting God in new ways each day?
- What are ways in which you are trusting in God to be enough for you?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

SONG: Praise You in this Storm

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vCpP0mFD9F0>

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

He is Enough

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose one person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is the last time you remember being completely happy? What made it like that?

READ PHILIPPIANS 4:10-20

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What did Paul say about being provided for?
- What does it mean to be content?
- How can we be content in every situation?
- What does it say about God taking care of our needs?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are situations in which you have a hard time being content?
- What does it mean to you that God will supply all of your needs?
- How does God meet all your needs?
- Why would God supply all our needs?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What sticks out to you from this passage?
- What needs do you think that God hasn't met?
- What are your main obstacles to being content? Why?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

SONG: Praise You in this Storm

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vCpP0mFD9F0>

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

WEEK

8

His Presence

PURPOSE

To see who God is and what He has done for us
so that we might praise Him

WEEKLY FOCUS

What benefit exists for us because of God's Presence

His Presence

Psalm 84

Context

- A psalm written by sons of Korah
 - They were Levites assigned to guard the threshold of Sanctuary- 1 Chronicles 9:19
 - Korah rebelled against Moses (Numbers 16) and was slain by the Lord but his sons did not die for his sin (Numbers 26:11)
- Celebrating the pilgrimage to temple in Jerusalem

Outline

- I. **We are blessed in His Presence—verses 1-4**
 - A. Lovely is His dwelling place
 - B. Our souls long to be with Him
 1. We were made for communion with Him
 2. Living God and Lord of Hosts
 - C. Being with Him is our home
 1. Like birds in nests
 - D. We worship Him in His house
 1. We can worship God anywhere
 2. God has set apart the church for people to worship Him together
 - a. Called to join together as God's people in worship
 - b. Psalm 149:1
 3. God blesses us in our worship—verse 4
- II. **We are blessed by His strength—verses 5-9**
 - A. Our strength comes from Him
 1. Even in difficult places

- 2. Valley of Baca was dry and barren
- B. Strengthened as we are with Him
 - 1. Appearing before Him
- C. We are strengthened because He hears our prayers
 - 1. He is our shield

III. We are blessed in trusting Him—verses 10-12

- A. One day with God is better than thousands elsewhere
 - 1. "Our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you" –Augustine
 - 2. God is infinitely better than what we can understand
- B. Better to serve the Lord than live with the world
 - 1. Doorkeeper was one of lowest servants at the temple
 - 2. Being at the door meant you only got a small taste of the temple
 - a. Still better than fully living in tents of the world
- C. He is our sun and shield
 - 1. Provides for us—like the sun
 - a. Doesn't withhold good from us
 - b. Not one good thing
 - 2. Protects us—like a shield

IV. So What??!!

- A. We are to seek to be in God's Presence
 - 1. Daily in His Word
 - 2. Often with His people in corporate worship
- B. We need to live in God's strength
 - 1. See ourselves as needy sinners like Jacob
 - 2. Believe that He is with us daily
- C. We need to trust Him
 - 1. Find our value in God's Presence
 - 2. Seek to serve Him rather than ourselves

Song of the Week

- Better is One Day

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0VdUiKagWjU>

Follow-Up Questions for Parents

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What did you learn about God's Presence this morning?
- How is being in God's Presence better than being in the world?
- How are you seeking to be in God's Presence?

Small Group Discussion Questions

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- How does it encourage you to worship God more?
- Do you believe that being with God is better than being in the world?
- Why is God's Presence so important?
- How do you seek to be in God's Presence? What keeps you from it?

His Presence

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose one person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is a time that you remember being very scared? Who did you want to be with you?

READ DEUT. 31:1-8

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- Who is speaking to Israel?
- What does Moses say to the people?
- Who does Moses say will be with them since he won't be?
- What does he tell the people to do in verse 6?
- Why shouldn't we be afraid?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What does Moses say about God being with them in verses 3-4?
- What will the Lord do in verse 5?
- What are ways in which you are strong and courageous?
- How does it make you feel that God promises not to leave or forsake you?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- What are things that cause you to fear and not trust the Lord?
- What does it mean that He will not leave you or forsake you?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

SONG: Better is One Day

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0VdUiKagWjU>

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

His Presence

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose one person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- Who are the people you enjoy being with the most? Why?

READ MATTHEW 28:16-20

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- Where do we find Jesus' disciples here? Why were they there?
- What did they do?
- What does Jesus tell them?
- What promise does Jesus give them at the end?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- What does it mean to have the authority of Jesus?
- What are we to go and do?
- How do we make disciples?
- What are we supposed to teach them?
- How does knowing that Jesus will always be with you encourage you?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage?
- Based on Jesus' definition of a disciple, how do you measure up?
- When are the times you feel like Jesus isn't with you? Why do you think you feel that way?
- How should we live differently because Jesus is always with us?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

SONG: Better is One Day

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0VdUiKagWjU>

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

WEEK

9

His Mercy

PURPOSE

To see who God is and what He has done for us so that we might praise Him

WEEKLY FOCUS

What benefit exists for us because of God's mercy

His Mercy

Psalm 103

Context

- A psalm written by David
- Musical instructions are not expressly given so could be a song or a prayer

Outline

- I. The benefits of God to His people
 - A. Forgives ALL our iniquity and heals ALL our diseases
 1. Hebrew word for forgive is only used for God's action towards sinners
 2. Word for iniquity is picture of something twisted and distorted
 3. Slow to anger—verse 8
 - a. Doesn't keep His anger forever
 - b. Even though He has a right to
 4. Doesn't treat us as our sins deserve—verse 10
 - a. Mercy—not getting what we deserve
 - b. Our sins deserve death
 5. Separates us from our sin
 - a. Takes it away from us
 - b. As far as the east is from the west—verse 12
 - c. Picture of the scapegoat—Leviticus 16:6-10
 - i. Sin of the people was placed on the goat
 - ii. Goat was sent away from the people
 - iii. Their "sin" was separated from them

6. Took our sins upon Himself at the cross
 - B. Redeems our life from the pit
 1. Picture of God getting His people out of Egypt
 2. The Pit is pointing to Sheol
 - a. Psalm 6:5, 16:10, 28:1
 - b. Idea of destruction
 3. Gives us righteousness and justice—verse 6
 4. Knows that man's days are fleeting—verses 14-16
 - C. Crowns us with steadfast love and mercy
 1. As king—verse 19
 - a. Gives us His crown
 2. Abounding in steadfast love
 - a. As high as the heavens are above the Earth—verse 11
 - b. Everlasting to those who fear Him—verse 17
 - D. Satisfies us with good
 1. Has compassion on us like a father
 2. Only He can truly satisfy us
 - a. Isaiah 55:1-2
- II. Our response to His benefits**
- A. Worship
 1. Bless the Lord
 - a. "Delight His heart by expressing love and gratitude for all He is and all He does"
 2. Comes from our soul
 - B. Let our whole lives be worship to Him
 1. All that is within us
 - a. Word "all" is used 9 times in this psalm
 - b. Idea is total devotion to the Lord
 2. Heart, soul, mind and strength—Mark 12:28-31

- a. Not just worship but obedience to Him

III. So What??!!

- A. We need to constantly remember what God has done for us
 1. Pours out His grace and mercy
 2. Forgives and takes away our sin
 3. Saves our lives from the destruction we deserve
- B. We need to worship Him in response to all He has done
 1. With singing AND obedience
 2. With all that is in us

Song of the Week

- 10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord, O my Soul)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DXDGE_IRI0E

Follow-Up Questions for Parents

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What did you learn about God's mercy this morning?
- How much of your sin does God forgive? Why is that important?
- How can you bless God with "all that is within you"?
- What is a new way that you can worship God?

Small Group Discussion Questions

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- How did this psalm encourage you to worship God more?
- Do you have a hard time believing that God can or actually does forgive? Why?
- How often do you think God is angry with you? Why?
- What things keep you from blessing God with "all that is within you"?

His Mercy

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose one person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is a time that you were punished for something someone else did? How did you feel?

READ ISAIAH 53:5-10A

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does it say about Jesus in verses 4-5?
- What does it mean to be punished?
- Why was Jesus punished? Does that seem fair?
- How should you respond to Jesus for taking your punishment?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What does verse 6 say about us?
- How have you turned away from God?
- How did Jesus take our punishment for us?
- How did Jesus respond to what happened to Him?
- Who allowed this to happen to Jesus?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- What are specific ways in which you have turned away from the Lord's ways and followed your own?
- How have you thanked God lately for sending Jesus in your place?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

SONG: 10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord, O my Soul)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DXDGE_IRI0E

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

His Mercy

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose one person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is a time you deserved to be punished but weren't? What happened?

READ EXODUS 34:1-10

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does God tell Moses to do?
- What was he to do with the tablets?
- What does it mean that God is merciful?
- What does it mean that God is gracious?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What happened once Moses did what God asked him to do?
- What was the name that the Lord proclaimed to Moses in verses 6-7?
- What does steadfast love mean?
- Who does He have steadfast love for?
- What does Moses ask of God in verse 9?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What sticks out to you from this passage?
- How have you seen God's grace and mercy in your life?
- How have you responded to His grace and mercy?
- Who in your life do you need to pray for like Moses did?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

SONG: 10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord, O my Soul)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DXDGE_IRI0E

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

WEEK

10

His Works

PURPOSE

To see who God is and what He has done for us so that we might praise Him

WEEKLY FOCUS

What benefit exists for us because of God's works

His Works

Psalm 111

Context

- A psalm which tradition tells us was part of the Greater Hallel
 - Songs that were sung when celebrating Passover
 - From Psalm 111-118
 - Has an acrostic pattern to make it easier to memorize
 - Each line started with a different letter of the Hebrew alphabet

Outline

- I. God's works
 - A. Are great
 1. Deeds in creation
 2. Deeds for salvation
 3. Are to be studied
 - B. Full of splendor and majesty
 - C. God wants them to be remembered
 1. Why we celebrate special days
 - a. Christmas, Easter, etc.
 2. So we don't forget all God has done for us
 - a. Memorial stones and ebezers
 - i. Joshua 4:1-7
 - b. Parents were to teach their children the meaning of the feasts and celebrations
 - i. Exodus 13:3-10, Deuteronomy 6:4-9, Joshua 4:4-7
 - D. For His people
 1. Provides food for those who fear Him

- a. Manna and quail in the wilderness
- 2. Remember His covenant forever
 - a. Mercy in the midst of their grumbling
 - i. Wanting to return to Egypt
 - ii. Complaining about the Lord and His provision
- 3. Show them His power
 - a. Gave them nations as an inheritance
 - i. Conquering the people of the Promised Land
- 4. Sent them redemption
 - a. Brought them up out of Egypt
 - i. Pillar of fire and smoke
- E. Established forever and ever
 - 1. Can't be stopped
- F. Show God's character
 - 1. He is great—verse 2
 - 2. He is glorious, majestic and righteous—verse 3
 - 3. He is wonderful, gracious and compassionate—verse 4
 - 4. He is powerful—verse 6
 - 5. He is faithful, just and trustworthy—verse 7
 - 6. He is holy and awesome—verse 9
- II. Our response to His works
 - A. Praise the Lord—verse 1
 - 1. Thanks with our whole heart
 - 2. With God's people

- a. With the congregation
- b. All of us have the tasks of worship and thanksgiving
- B. Studying His works
 - 1. Seeking to understand God more
 - 2. Looking for His heart in all that He does for us
- C. Fear of the Lord
 - 1. Seeing God rightly
 - 2. Leads us to wisdom
 - a. Can't see the world rightly if we don't first see God for who He is
 - 3. Leads us to obedience
 - a. The only proper response to truly knowing who God is
 - b. Our obedience gives us better understanding

III. So What??!!

- A. We need to be a people who remember what God has done for us
 - 1. Write down how He has shown Himself to you or answered your prayers
 - 2. Remember what He has done for those in the Bible
- B. Seeing God for who He is should lead us to worship
 - 1. Not just singing but obedience to His commands

Song of the Week

- Great is thy Faithfulness

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0k1WhFtVp0o>

Follow-Up Questions for Parents

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What did you learn about what God has done for you?
- What are ways you remember what God has done for you?
- What is something you would like for God to be doing for you right now? Why?

Small Group Discussion Questions

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- How did this psalm encourage you to worship God more?
- What are a couple of things you know God has done for you lately?
- How have you responded to God for what He has done?
- When was the last time you simply thanked God?

His Works

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose one person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is a time that someone broke a promise they made you? How did you feel then?

READ EXODUS 12:1-32

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does God tell Moses to tell the people to do in verses 1-6?
- What were they to do with the blood of the lamb? Why?
- What will God do when He sees the blood?
- Did the people obey God?
- What did God do?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Why was the condition of the lamb so important?
- What did the lamb's blood represent?
- Why did God want them to remember what He was going to do?
- What did God do? What was Pharaoh's response?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- What are some ways in which you remind yourself of all that God has done for you?
- How has God shown His faithfulness to you lately?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

SONG: Great is thy Faithfulness

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0k1WhFtVp0o>

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

His Works

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose one person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is a time that someone made fun of you? How did you feel?

READ LUKE 23:32-43

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- Who was with Jesus as He was on His way to be crucified?
- Where did they take Jesus?
- What did Jesus say once He was on the cross?
- What did they tell Jesus to do?
- What did the criminals do and say?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What did the crowd say to Jesus on the cross?
- Why is it so amazing that Jesus prayed for those who were hurting Him?
- How is it ironic that they were calling Jesus the King of the Jews?
- What did the second criminal do?
- What promise did Jesus give the second criminal? Why was that important?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What sticks out to you from this passage?
- How are you doing at forgiving those who have sinned against you?
- Who are people you think are too far gone for Jesus to forgive?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

SONG: Great is thy Faithfulness

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0k1WhFtVp0o>

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

WEEK

11

Helper

PURPOSE

To see who God is and what He has done for us so that we might praise Him

WEEKLY FOCUS

What benefit exists for us because God is our Helper

Helper

Psalm 121

Context

- Song for those going to the temple to worship
- Part of the Song of Ascents that was sung as they approached the city and the temple
- People were called to go to Jerusalem three times a year—Passover, Pentecost and Feast of Tabernacles

Outline

- I. **The source of our help**
 - A. Lift our eyes up
 1. Looking to God
 2. Creator of heaven and Earth
 - a. Shows His power
 - b. If the creator of the universe is for us then who can be against us
 3. People on their journey would look up to Jerusalem in the mountains and know that God was there
 - B. We also lift our hearts up to Him
 1. Lamentations 3:41
 - C. We can't do it on our own
 1. Can't save ourselves
- II. **The substance of our help**
 - A. He will not let us be moved
 1. Not let us slip
 - a. 1 Samuel 2:9
 2. Protection as we walk the narrow path

- B. He is keeper
 - 1. Word “keep” is used 6 times—shamar
 - a. Means to keep guard and watch over
 - 2. Keeps His people as a nation—Israel
 - 3. Keeps His people as individuals
 - a. The Lord is YOUR Keeper
 - b. Takes care of us personally
 - 4. He keeps us from all evil
 - a. Keeps our life
 - b. Keeps our coming and going
 - i. Means our daily life
 - ii. God is with us every day
- C. He shades us from the elements
 - 1. Many people died in the overwhelming heat of the sun
 - 2. Many people died because they could not see in the dark
 - 3. God is with us through it all, protecting us
- D. Forevermore
 - 1. God will keep us until heaven
 - 2. Will finish what He has started
 - a. Philippians 1:6

III. So What??!!

- A. We must look to God for help
 - 1. Lift our eyes and hearts to Him
- B. We must trust that God can and will help
 - 1. For our good
 - 2. He is our Keeper

Song of the Week

- I will lift my eyes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qa1hABLMzDE>

Follow-Up Questions for Parents

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What did you learn about God as our helper?
- How are you trying to take care of yourself instead of trusting God?
- What are ways that God is keeping you?

Small Group Discussion Questions

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- How did this psalm encourage you to worship God more?
- What are ways that you are trying to do things for yourself instead of trusting God?
- What are some ways that you have seen God keeping you?

Helper

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose one person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What is something you have to do regularly that you need a lot of help with?

READ HEBREWS 13:5-6

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does it say to keep our lives free from?
- Why do you think it says that?
- What does God say He will never do?
- What do you think that means?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How do we keep our lives free from love of money?
- Why is money so easy to love?
- What does the Lord being our helper have to do with loving money?
- How have you seen God as your helper?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- What things in your life distract you from loving God?
- Do you truly believe that man can't do anything to you with God on your side?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

SONG: I will lift my eyes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qa1hABLMzDE>

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

Helper

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose one person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is a time you helped someone else and how did they thank you?

READ 1 SAMUEL 7:3-14

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What did Samuel call the people to do?
- What did the Philistines do once they heard that all Israel was gathered?
- How did the people respond?
- What did the Lord do?
- What did Samuel do in verse 12? Why?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What did the people do once at Mizpah?
- What did Samuel do for the people?
- How did God defeat the Philistines?
- What did Samuel call the stone? What was its purpose?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What sticks out to you from this passage?
- What idols do you need to put away in order to serve the Lord only?
- Do you pray to the Lord when things get hard or do you try and do it yourself?
- What do you have set up so you will remember what God has done for you?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

SONG: I will lift my eyes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qa1hABLMzDE>

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

WEEK

12

He Knows Us

PURPOSE

To see who God is and what He has done for us so that we might praise Him

WEEKLY FOCUS

What benefit exists for us because God knows us

He Knows Us

Psalm 139

Context

- A psalm written by David
- Was to be sung by the people in worship
- What we believe about God will influence what we think about everything and everyone else

Outline

- I. The Lord knows us—verses 1-4
 - A. Our location
 1. When we sit or rise
 2. Where we are at all times
 3. We cannot hide from God
 - a. Genesis 3:8-9
 - B. Our thoughts
 1. Knows them even when we seem far away from Him
 - C. Our actions
 1. Acquainted with ALL that we do
 2. God sees all that we do at all times
 - D. Our words
 1. Even before we speak them
 2. Before it is on our tongues
- II. The Lord is with us—verses 5-12
 - A. Cares for us
 1. Hems us in
 - a. Word means to guard a valuable object

- b. Provides a fence of protection for us to keep us from danger and evil
- 2. Hand is upon us
 - a. Leads us
 - i. Like leading a child by the hand across the street
 - b. Holds us
 - i. Like comforting a child when he is hurt
- B. Can't escape Him
 - 1. From highest heaven to deepest depths
 - a. Up to heaven
 - b. Down to Sheol
 - 2. From East to West
 - i. Wings of the morning—far East
 - 1. Where the sun rises each day
 - ii. Uttermost parts of the sea
 - 1. Mediterranean Sea was the far west border of Israel
 - 3. From day to night
 - a. Darkness is as light to God
 - b. Can see us even when we can't see ourselves

III. The Lord made us—verses 13-18

- A. Knitted us in mother's womb
 - 1. Wove us together
- B. Saw our frame from the beginning
 - 1. Even before we were born we could not hide from God
- C. Numbered our days
 - 1. God has a plan for your entire life
 - i. Knew it all even before you were born
 - ii. Job 14:5
- D. Made us wonderfully
 - 1. Nothing was by accident

2. Made us as He intended for His purpose
 - i. Set us apart
3. God doesn't make mistakes in creating us
- E. Thinks about us
 1. We are constantly on God's mind
 2. His thoughts are precious to us because we are precious to Him

IV. The Lord judges us—verses 19-24

- A. God will deal with those against Him
 1. We can trust Him
- B. God wants us to be concerned more with our own hearts
 1. We quickly look to sins of others but not at our own
 - i. Matthew 7:3-5
 2. We are called to ask God to examine our hearts
 - i. Not just what we do but why we do it
 - ii. We want God to reveal our sins
 1. So we can confess them to Him who graciously forgives
 2. So we can recognize it as sin and turn away from it

V. SO WHAT??!!

- A. God knows us better than anyone else
 1. Knows absolutely everything about us
 2. And yet He still loves us and sent Jesus to die for us
 - i. Can be confident in His love
 3. Therefore we can't deceive Him
- B. God is with us constantly
 1. Sees all that we say and do
 2. Therefore, we cannot escape Him
- C. God made us wonderfully

1. Intentionally and purposefully
2. Therefore, we cannot ignore Him

Song of the Week

- Wonderfully Made
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=igYWIzrC9Ko>

Follow-Up Questions for Parents

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What did you learn about how God knows you?
- How does it make you feel that God knows you that much?
- How does it make you feel that God is with you all the time?
- How does it make you feel that God made you just as you are for a purpose?

Small Group Discussion Questions

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- How did this psalm encourage you to worship God more?
- How does it make you feel that God knows you that much?
- What are ways that you try to “hide from God”?
- What are some ways in which you can see how God has made you for His purposes?

He Knows Us

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose one person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- Who knows the most about you? What is something they don't know about you?

READ GENESIS 3:8-13

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What had just happened with Adam and Eve?
- What did they hear and how did they respond?
- What did God ask them?
- What did God know about them?
- What does God know about you?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How do you respond when you are caught in your sin?
- What does God do?
- What does He ask? Do you think He really didn't know?
- What are things you think God doesn't know about you?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- What are ways you attempt to hide from God?
- How do you act as if God doesn't know you?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

SONG: Wonderfully Made

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=igYWlzc9Ko>

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)

He Knows Us

OPEN IN PRAYER (choose one person to pray)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is a time you forgot something really important? What happened?

ISAIAH 49:14-16

QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What did the people think about God in verse 14?
- How did God respond to that?
- What does God say about forgetting us?
- What has God done to show that He remembers us? (verse 16)
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- Why did God mention a mom and her child?
- Can you imagine a mom forgetting she had a baby?
- How do you remember to do things?
- How do you feel that God has carved your name into His hands?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage?
- Do you ever believe that God has forgotten you? How do you respond during those times?
- Who is someone you have forgotten that God is now bringing to your mind?
- How does this passage help us to worship God?

SONG: Wonderfully Made

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=igYWlZrC9Ko>

CLOSE IN PRAYER (everyone participates)