

Year **2**

Quarter 4

God Protects & Restores

Family Devotional

Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven.
Your faithfulness endures to all generations; You
established the earth, and it abides.—Psalm 119:89–90



Answers
BIBLE CURRICULUM

GOD'S WORD FOR ALL GENERATIONS

Answers Bible Curriculum

Year 2 • Quarter 4 • Family Devotional

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Introduction

Welcome to the *Answers Bible Curriculum* family devotional. We pray God will use this guide as a tool to help you as parents to train and disciple your children. We encourage you to take time in the evening (or morning) during the week to have an intentional time of family Bible study, worship, and Scripture memory. You could do this every night or a couple nights each week. Make it a habit, and don't let the to-dos and pressures of our busy lives rob you of this precious time together.

While it's true that the church has a God-given responsibility to teach God's Word and lead in worship, God gives the primary responsibility for a child's spiritual development to his or her parents. Below are just a few of the Scriptures that admonish parents to be actively involved in training and teaching their children the things of the Lord:

Only take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. And teach them to your children and your grandchildren, especially concerning the day you stood before the Lord your God in Horeb, when the Lord said to me, "Gather the people to Me, and I will let them hear My words, that they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children." (Deuteronomy 4:9–10)

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. (Deuteronomy 6:4–9)

Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it. (Proverbs 22:6)

And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord. (Ephesians 6:4)

To use this guide, we suggest you read the lesson summary out loud, and then read each of the Scriptures and discuss the answers among yourselves. Of course, you'll want to adjust the questions based on the ages of your children. If you plan on having a family devotional time each night of the week, you will want to read ahead and split up each lesson into five or six smaller sections.

We have included space for family prayer requests. It is important to spend time in prayer, worshipping the Lord and lifting up the needs of each family member and praying for each one's spiritual growth. You can also use this time to pray for the needs in your church and of the missionaries you support. Record the prayer requests, and then review them from time to time to be encouraged and thankful about how God has answered.

As parents, God has given you a great responsibility and privilege to train the next generation. You may not feel up to the task, but remember, our sufficiency is from God (2 Corinthians 3:4–6), and He delights in using the weak and foolish things of the world so that His wisdom and power are manifest (1 Corinthians 1:26–31).

Lesson Summary

This week we saw how Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah refused to eat the king's food, but instead obeyed the laws of God. Nebuchadnezzar was set on brainwashing these bright young Jewish men to forget their godly heritage, and so he commanded that they learn the language and customs of the land and eat the king's delicacies.

As a result of the young men's obedience and faithfulness, "God gave them knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams" (Daniel 1:17).

Next, in Daniel chapter 2, Nebuchadnezzar had a dream, which Daniel interpreted. For that, Daniel was promoted to ruler over the province of Babylon and as chief administrator of the wise men (Daniel 2:48). Nebuchadnezzar acknowledged that Daniel's "God is the God of gods, the Lord of kings" (Daniel 2:47). But it seems he was not yet humbled, nor did he acknowledge that the Lord God is the one true God.

Daniel 3 gives us the account of the fiery furnace and the faithfulness of the three men who refused to bow down to Nebuchadnezzar's statue (the study of our next lesson). After their rescue, Nebuchadnezzar made a proclamation that "any people, nation, or language which speaks anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made an ash heap; because there is no other God who can deliver like this" (Daniel 3:29). To Nebuchadnezzar, the Lord God was still "their" God.

And this brings us to chapter 4 of Daniel. Let's examine another dream that King Nebuchadnezzar had, what it meant, and how this great king finally bowed the knee to the one true God.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

Daniel 4:1–18

1. How does King Nebuchadnezzar begin his letter? When was this written in relation to the events of chapter 4?
2. Why could Daniel interpret the king's dream?
3. What was the content of the king's dream?

Daniel 4:19–27

4. Why was Daniel astonished and troubled?
5. What was Daniel's interpretation of the dream?

6. What was going to happen to Nebuchadnezzar? For what purpose?
7. What was Daniel's appeal to the king?

Daniel 4:28–37

8. What did Nebuchadnezzar do that caused the dream to come true?
9. What was the king's response at the end of the seven years?
10. What did Nebuchadnezzar say about God? What attributes of God did he extol?
11. Do you think Nebuchadnezzar became a believer in the true God? Why or why not?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Proverbs 21:1 The king’s heart is in the hand of the Lord, like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.

Prayer

Thank God for the godly examples of men like Daniel. Praise God because He is the mighty, sovereign Ruler who, like Nebuchadnezzar said, “does according to His will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth” (Daniel 4:35). Ask Him to give you a humble heart, willing to accept His will no matter what.

FAMILY PRAYER REQUESTS:



2

God Is Awesome

Lesson Summary

This week we looked at three men—Isaiah, Ezekiel, and John—who were given a glimpse of God’s glory. All three of these men were humbled, strengthened, blessed, and equipped by God to give His message to His people.

Another passage of Scripture that gives us a glimpse into heaven to see God’s glory and the worship around His throne is Revelation 4–5. Let’s read those chapters and join in praise and worship of our holy God.

Read and Discuss

Read Revelation 4–5 and discuss the questions together.

Revelation 4:1–11

1. Describe the throne room of heaven that John saw.
2. Who did John see in his vision?
3. Describe the four living creatures that John saw.
4. What do the living creatures say? How often?
5. Why do the 24 elders worship God? Why is God worthy to receive glory, honor, and power?

6. What did God have in His right hand?
7. What was John's response when no one was found worthy to open the scroll?
8. What titles are used for Jesus? Why are these significant?
9. Why did the four living creatures and the 24 elders worship the Lamb? Why was He considered worthy?
10. Have you take time to worship Jesus in this way? Why not do it now.

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Proverbs 21:1 The king’s heart is in the hand of the Lord, like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.

Prayer

Praise God that He is both Creator and Redeemer. Thank Jesus for His sacrifice on the Cross, when the Lamb of God shed His blood for your redemption. Ask God for a fresh vision of Him—one that will move you to greater depths of worship and praise.

FAMILY PRAYER REQUESTS:



3

God's New Covenant

Lesson Summary

God had a plan for the redemption of mankind from before the foundation of the world. That plan included the Mosaic Covenant (Old Covenant), which God made with the Israelites after they departed Egypt. This was to show His people their sinfulness and their need for a Savior (see Galatians 3:23–25). His plan also included the replacement of that old sacrificial system with a perfect sacrifice that would be offered once for all—the New Covenant. There would be no more Tabernacle or Temple where the high priest would act on behalf of the people, ministering daily in the Temple. Jesus completed His work, and His sacrifice initiated the New Covenant. The blood of bulls and goats is no longer needed, but we can be partakers in the New Covenant because Jesus shed His blood for the remission of our sins.

In the Old Testament, both Jeremiah and Ezekiel spoke of a New Covenant that God would make with His people. In the New Testament, the most complete discussion of this is in the book of Hebrews. This week we'll read through chapter 9 of Hebrews and see the superiority of the New Covenant.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

Hebrews 9:1–10

1. What were the elements of the earthly sanctuary under the Old Covenant?
2. What did the high priest do once each year? Can these sacrifices make one perfect?

Hebrews 9:11–15

3. How is Christ as High Priest different from the high priests under the Old Covenant?
4. What does Christ's blood do for the believer?

5. What promise do we get from the New Covenant that was missing from the Old Covenant?

Hebrews 9:16–22

6. Why did Moses sprinkle the people and the items with blood?
7. What does the shedding of blood signify? Is the shedding of blood enough, or did Jesus need to die?

Hebrews 9:23–28

8. How often did Jesus need to suffer death? What was the sacrifice He offered to put away sin?

9. What comes after a man dies? Will those who have trusted in Christ—who eagerly wait for Him—have to face judgment for their sin? Why or why not?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Proverbs 21:1 The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.

Prayer

Thank God for Jesus— our High Priest who has offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for sin. Ask God to help you truly understand the great love He has for you, which He demonstrated by sending His Son to take your sin upon Himself and die in your place.

FAMILY PRAYER REQUESTS:

Lesson Summary

The Apostle Paul told his young disciple Timothy that “all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution” (2 Timothy 3:12). As we saw this week in our lesson, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah are living examples of that verse. God’s people have always been persecuted for their faith in God and for obeying His commands.

We see the apostles in the book of Acts responding in a way similar to Daniel and his friends. When commanded not to preach in the name of Jesus, they refused because God’s authority and commands trump the commands of men: “We ought to obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29). This is the same refrain, in different words, that Daniel and the other three men proclaimed.

The Apostle Peter, writing to scattered believers of the first century who were undergoing persecution, had much to say on how we are to respond to persecution.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

1 Peter 1:3–9

1. What is it that Peter says we should “greatly rejoice” in (v. 6)?
2. What is the outcome of responding in faith to the trials in our lives (vv. 6–7)?

1 Peter 2:13–25

3. What is God’s will for us in regard to human authority?
4. What kind of response to suffering is “commendable before God” (vv. 18–20)?
5. What example of Christ are we to follow when we suffer (vv. 21–24)?

6. What do we get if we suffer for righteousness' sake? (Also see Matthew 5:11–12.)
7. How should we prepare ourselves for those who revile us (vv. 15–16)?
8. Is it ever God's will for us to suffer for doing good (v. 17)?

9. How are we to respond when we encounter “fiery trials”?
10. Why should we rejoice when we are reproached for the name of Christ?
11. Have you ever suffered for being a Christian? Do you know anyone who has? What should our response be when this happens (v. 19)?

12. How are we to respond to the devil's temptations?

13. What is our ultimate hope in the midst of suffering?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Proverbs 21:1 The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.

Prayer

Praise God that He is in control of our lives—even when we experience trials and persecution. Thank Him for those who have been faithful in the midst of persecution—both in the past and today. Ask Him for faith to believe His promises and for perseverance in the midst of trials.

FAMILY PRAYER REQUESTS:



5

Restoring Worship

Lesson Summary

God stirred the heart of Cyrus to allow the Jews to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the Temple, which Nebuchadnezzar had destroyed many years earlier. Zerubbabel led the people as thousands returned to their homeland. The altar was rebuilt and sacrifices were made. Later, the foundations of the Temple were laid, and the people rejoiced. And then . . . 16 years later—after much opposition and delay—the Temple was completed and worship was restored.

Today, we don't worship in ornate temples or tabernacles. And we don't offer animal sacrifices or any of the other prescribed sacrifices of the Old Testament. But that doesn't mean we don't worship God! As New Covenant believers, our worship looks different, but is no less important.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss what they say about sacrifices and worship for New Testament believers.

- Matthew 15:3–9 –
- 1 Peter 2:1–5 –
- Romans 12:1–2 –
- Hebrews 13:15–17 –
- 2 Corinthians 8:1–5 –
- Philippians 4:14–20 –

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

Revelation 7:9–12

1. Who did John see in his vision? Where was this great multitude from?
2. What did they cry out?
3. What did the angels, the elders, and the four living creatures ascribe to God?
4. In light of these passages, how can you better worship God?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Proverbs 21:1 The king’s heart is in the hand of the Lord, like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.

Prayer

Take time to worship God for who He is and what He has done. Thank Him for the sacrifice of Jesus, which allows us access directly to God. Ask God to show you how to worship Him in spirit and truth.

FAMILY PRAYER REQUESTS:

Lesson Summary

As you read Esther, you might notice that something is missing . . . God! Nowhere in the account is God mentioned. Nor is this book alluded to in the New Testament. Though God is unmentioned by name, His sovereign hand is evident throughout these events. There can be no doubt that God was just as involved in protecting the Jews at this point as He was involved in leading them out of Egypt and as He was in the crucifixion of Christ on the Cross. Even though His name is not mentioned, we dare not deny that God was accomplishing His plans through each of the people in the book of Esther.

God is involved in the “normal” events of our lives too. He rarely uses miracles or supernatural means to accomplish His plans, but instead He works out His will through the decisions and actions of people—ordinary people like you and me.

What does the Bible say about God’s plans? Should we fear and fret when we think His plans are going awry?

Read and Discuss

1. Read the following passages and discuss what they tell us about God's plans and His sovereignty.

- Isaiah 43:10–13 –

- Psalm 33:10–11 –

- Psalm 115:3 –

- Psalm 135:5–6 –

- Job 42:1–2 –

- Isaiah 46:8–11 –

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

Genesis 50:19–20

2. What did Joseph know about God and His plans?

3. What did Nebuchadnezzar learn about God and His plans?

4. What did Peter know about God and His plans?

5. What did Paul tell us about God and His plans?
6. Can we trust that God knows what He is doing, even if it may not look like it to us?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Proverbs 21:1 The king’s heart is in the hand of the Lord, like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.

Prayer

Praise God for His sovereignty—that what He has purposed will be accomplished. Thank Him for the peace and security that brings. Ask Him for more faith to trust Him, especially when things look bleak from our perspective.

FAMILY PRAYER REQUESTS:



Lesson Summary

While the younger grades had a review week, the older grades examined some of the visions that God gave to King Nebuchadnezzar and the prophet Daniel. Daniel 2 records the king's dream of a great statue of gold, silver, bronze, iron, and clay. Daniel 7 records a vision given to Daniel of four beasts. And Daniel 8 records a vision of a ram and a goat. All of these visions related to the future—to kings and kingdoms that would rise and fall.

This week we want to explore chapter 9 of Daniel. In the first year of King Darius the Mede, Daniel was reading the prophet Jeremiah and noted that the 70 years of captivity and desolation of Jerusalem was coming to an end (Daniel 9:1–2). The captivity began in 607 BC and, according to Archbishop Ussher, the first year of King Darius the Mede was 539 BC. He would reign just two years and be followed by Cyrus, who would issue the decree allowing the Jews to return home—exactly 70 years after their captivity began.

No doubt as Daniel was reading these words, he was contemplating the reasons for Jerusalem's destruction and the future of His people, the Jews. The first thing Daniel did was pray. Daniel 9 records one of the great prayers of the Bible from one of the great heroes of the faith. We'll examine Daniel's prayer this week.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

Daniel 9:1–19

1. What prompted Daniel to pray for God's people and His holy city?
2. How did Daniel show the serious nature of his prayer?
3. What attributes of God does Daniel extol in this prayer (see vv. 4, 7, 9, 14, 15, 16, 18)?
4. How many times does Daniel say that they have sinned or committed iniquity, rebelled or done wickedly?

5. Daniel mentions that “the curse and the oath written in the Law of Moses the servant of God have been poured out on us” (v. 11). Read Deuteronomy 28:27–44. Which of these curses and promises from God came upon the people? Why did God send them to be destroyed and taken into captivity?

 6. What was Daniel’s petition in verses 16–17?

 7. Was Daniel asking for mercy based on the righteousness of God’s people? To what did Daniel appeal when He asked God to take action (vv. 18–19)?

 8. Have you ever spent time confessing your sin like Daniel? Do you ever appeal to God’s character and His reputation when you pray? How might that change your prayer life?
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Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Proverbs 21:1 The king’s heart is in the hand of the Lord, like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.

Prayer

Praise God for His great attributes, such as mercy, grace, faithfulness, and love. Spend time confessing to Him your sins—both those wrong things you have done and those good things you have left undone. Thank Him for the forgiveness of sin you have in Christ, and ask Him to give you a heart of obedience.

FAMILY PRAYER REQUESTS:

Lesson Summary

Ezra was a direct descendant of the priestly family that included Aaron, Eleazar, Phinehas, and Zadok (Ezra 7:1–5). We are told that he was “a skilled scribe in the Law of Moses” (7:6) and an “expert in the words of the commandments of the Lord, and of His statutes to Israel” (7:11). In a testimony to his convictions, we read that “Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel” (7:10). So Ezra dedicated himself to carefully studying God's Word, and he intended to apply and obey personally the commands he discovered there. He was also committed to teaching others both God's Word and its application to life.

God has called all believers to know His Word and teach it to others. While God has given the church pastors and teachers to equip us for works of service (Ephesians 4:11–12), we don't have priests, as in the Old Testament. Rather, we are all priests (1 Peter 2:9) with equal access to the Father. We all have God's Word to study, understand, obey, and teach. Are we as committed to learning, obeying, and teaching God's Word as Ezra was?

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

2 Timothy 3:15–17

1. What did Timothy know that was able to give him wisdom for salvation?
2. What is Scripture profitable for? List the ways here and define each one.
3. What is the outcome for those who study, learn, and apply Scripture?

Matthew 28:18–20

4. What did Jesus command His disciples to do? What were they to teach to others?
5. How do we know that this command applies to us?

2 Timothy 2:15, 2:23–26

6. What does Paul command Timothy to do in verse 15?
7. What does it mean to rightly divide the word of truth?
8. What are the qualities of a servant of the Lord?

Colossians 3:16

9. How can we let the word of Christ dwell in us? What does that require of us?
10. What are we to be doing in the church with the word? What does it mean to admonish? To teach?

2 Timothy 2:1–3

11. Where does our strength come from?

12. What did Paul command Timothy to do? Would it be easy?

Deuteronomy 6:4–7; Ephesians 6:4

13. What are parents charged to do in these passages?

14. Are you equipped to carry out these commands? If not, what can you do about it?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Nehemiah 9:6 You alone are the Lord; You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and everything on it, the seas and all that is in them, and You preserve them all. The host of heaven worships You.

Prayer

Thank God for His Word. Ask Him to give you a hunger to study His Word and to teach it accurately to others.

FAMILY PRAYER REQUESTS:



Lesson Summary

Just as the captivity of Judah came in three stages, the return to and restoration of Jerusalem was also in three phases. We have already learned about the first return in 538 BC as King Cyrus sent a group of Jews back to Jerusalem and the Temple was rebuilt. Then last week, we learned about the second return of Ezra in 467 BC at the direction of King Artaxerxes. In this lesson, we will see how Artaxerxes sent Nehemiah to Jerusalem in 454 BC to finalize the restoration of Jerusalem.

Nehemiah has often been held up as a great example of a leader—his trust in God, his vision, his tenacity, and his example. We are going to look at a number of passages from the life of Nehemiah to see what made this man tick and how he was used to fulfill God's purposes.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

Nehemiah 1:1–4

1. What did Nehemiah learn about Jerusalem?
2. How did he react to this news? What does that tell us about Nehemiah?

Nehemiah 1:5–11

3. How did Nehemiah begin his prayer to God? What can we learn about prayer from this?
4. What do you learn about who God is from Nehemiah's prayer?
5. What was needed before Nehemiah could effectively intercede for the needs of his people (vv. 6–7)?
6. What did Nehemiah "remind" God about in this prayer?

Nehemiah 2:1–10

7. What happened when Nehemiah appeared before the king? How did the king respond?

8. How does Nehemiah's response to the king show his trust in God?

Nehemiah 2:11–20

9. What did Nehemiah do when he arrived in Jerusalem? Why?
10. Did Nehemiah tell anyone why he had come to Jerusalem (vv. 12, 16)? Why do you think he acted this way?
11. Once he told the people, how did Nehemiah plant faith in them (v. 18)? How did the people respond?
12. How did Nehemiah respond to those opposed to the rebuilding (vv. 19–20)?
13. What leadership qualities did Nehemiah exhibit in this account?

Nehemiah 6:1–14

14. Why did Sanballat and Geshem want to meet with Nehemiah?
15. How did Nehemiah respond to them?

16. How did Nehemiah show his dependence on God during this difficult time?
17. What leadership qualities did Nehemiah demonstrate in this account? (See vv. 3, 8, 9, 11, 14.)

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Nehemiah 9:6 You alone are the Lord; You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and everything on it, the seas and all that is in them, and You preserve them all. The host of heaven worships You.

Prayer

Praise God that He is the omnipotent, sovereign Ruler of the universe and that nothing can thwart His plans. Thank Him for examples of faith and leadership such as Nehemiah. Ask Him to increase your faith and to give you opportunities to put your faith and trust into action as you serve Him.

FAMILY PRAYER REQUESTS:



10

God's Word Proclaimed

Lesson Summary

Last week we looked at Nehemiah—how he trusted in God and led the people as they rebuilt the wall of Jerusalem.

This week we studied how Ezra had read from the Book of the Law of Moses to the people from morning until noon (Nehemiah 8:1–6). Many teachers shared in the responsibility of explaining what the words recorded meant for the people. These teachers took the words recorded by Moses and broke them down to explain what they meant. With this help, the people were able to recognize their sinfulness and how they fell short of what God required of them. They wept and mourned over their sin.

Since the beginning of the world, God has called His creatures to obey His commands. In the garden, Adam and Eve were to tend to the plants and avoid eating the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. They failed to keep that command and introduced sin into the world. Since that time, God has revealed His commands to the people of the earth. However, there is a clear pattern—people constantly fail to obey God's commands. That disobedience is rooted in the sin nature that passed to all mankind from Adam (Romans 5:12).

But to those who have received the forgiveness available through Christ for sins, past and present, there is no condemnation for disobedience and no fear of punishment. Christ has paid the penalty for those sins in full, and we are justified in Him. Now unshackled from our old natures, we are free to obey Him and keep His commandments. Let's explore this a bit more as we look to God's Word.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss what they teach us about the believer's source of righteousness and the relationship between faith and works.

- Romans 3:21–31 –
- Romans 4:1–8 –
- Romans 5:1–21 –
- Romans 8:28–39 –
- 1 Corinthians 1:30 –
- 2 Corinthians 5:20–21 –

- Galatians 2:16, 2:21, 3:6–14 –

- Ephesians 2:1–10 –

- Philippians 3:8–9 –

- 2 Timothy 1:8–10 –

- Titus 3:4–7 –

- James 2:14–26 –

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Nehemiah 9:6 You alone are the Lord; You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and everything on it, the seas and all that is in them, and You preserve them all. The host of heaven worships You.

Prayer

Thank God that we have been freely justified through faith in Christ. Ask God to work in you the fruits of that salvation—the good works that God has prepared in advance for us to walk in. Ask Him to work His works through you so that others may see your good works and glorify God.

FAMILY PRAYER REQUESTS:



11

Worshipping God

Lesson Summary

This week we saw how the priests of Malachi's day were not worshipping God in the way He had commanded—they were offering blind, sick, and lame animals. And the people were not giving God the tithes and offerings He commanded of them. They were not honoring God in their service of Him.

We, too, can bring God worship and offerings that are not pleasing to God. While we don't bring him animal sacrifices and other offerings of the Old Covenant, we do worship God, and He has told us the kind of worship that delights Him.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

Romans 1:18–25

1. What has mankind done with the knowledge of God in creation?
2. Instead of worshipping the Creator, what does man worship?
3. What does this passage reveal about the hearts of unregenerate man?

John 4:19–24

4. What did the woman say to Jesus about worship? What aspect of worship was she focused on (v. 20)?
5. What did Jesus focus on in His reply (vv. 23–24)?

6. What is it that God seeks?

Isaiah 29:13–14

7. What were the people doing in their worship of God?

8. What did God say was deficient in their worship of Him?

Amos 5:21–24

9. What did God say that He hated and rejected? Why?

10. What did God desire of His people more than ceremony and offerings?

11. Read through this psalm of David, worshipping the Lord from your heart for who He is and what He has done.

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Nehemiah 9:6 You alone are the Lord; You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and everything on it, the seas and all that is in them, and You preserve them all. The host of heaven worships You.

Prayer

Ask God to search your heart and reveal any area that is not completely yielded to Him. Spend time worshipping God for who He is and what He has done.

FAMILY PRAYER REQUESTS:



12

A Message of Hope

Lesson Summary

In the last chapter of the book of Malachi, God proclaimed the coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. It is He who “takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29).

Before God created the world, He planned to redeem mankind from its fall into sin. From the promise in Genesis 3:15 of the Seed of the woman who would crush the head of Satan, God’s Word points forward to Jesus.

This scarlet thread—the plan of mankind’s redemption—is one that God has woven into the fabric of history. It is a reminder throughout Scripture that Jesus Christ, the Savior and Lord, would come to pay the penalty for sin.

As we conclude our study of the Old Testament and look forward to the New Testament, let’s look at many of the Old Testament passages that are part of God’s great redemptive plan of salvation.

Read and Discuss

Read the following pairs of passages and discuss what they reveal about God's eternal plan to save sinners through the sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross.

- Ephesians 1:4; 1 Peter 1:20 –
- Genesis 3:15; 1 John 3:8 –
- Genesis 2:15–17, 3:1–7; Romans 5:12–21 –
- Genesis 7:13–16; John 10:9 –
- Genesis 22:13–14; Romans 8:31–33 –
- Genesis 22:15–18; Galatians 3:6–9 –
- Genesis 49:9–10; Revelation 5:5 –

- Exodus 12:21–23; John 1:29; 1 Corinthians 5:7 –
- Deuteronomy 4:13; Galatians 3:22–26 –
- Leviticus 9:7; Hebrews 7:26–27 –
- Numbers 21:4–9; John 3:14–15 –
- Judges 2:16; Colossians 1:13–14 –
- 1 Kings 8:27–30; Ephesians 2:19–22 –
- Isaiah 53:11–12; 2 Corinthians 5:21 –
- Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:22–25 –

- Isaiah 9:6–7; Luke 1:31–33 –
- Ruth 4:4–6; 1 Peter 1:17–19 –
- Micah 5:2–4; Matthew 2:1–11 –

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Nehemiah 9:6 You alone are the Lord; You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and everything on it, the seas and all that is in them, and You preserve them all. The host of heaven worships You.

Prayer

Praise God for the great salvation you have in Christ. Thank Him for His eternal plan to redeem sinners. Ask Him to show you the greatness of your salvation and to restore to you the joy of your salvation. Ask Him for opportunities to share the gospel with others this week.

FAMILY PRAYER REQUESTS:



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Review

Lesson Summary

This week is a review week. We have covered so much this past quarter! We looked at the faithfulness of Daniel and his friends while living in the land of Babylon. We read about how God used Esther—and many others—to save God’s people from death. We saw how Zerubbabel, Nehemiah, and Ezra led the return of the Jews to Jerusalem and restored the Temple, the city, and the worship of God. And we looked forward to the coming of Jesus—the long-awaited Messiah.

This week we want to bask in a psalm of praise, penned by David.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passage and discuss the questions together.

Psalm 145:1–21

1. How long will David bless God's name? How often will he bless God (vv. 1–2)?
2. Which characteristics of God does David praise in verses 1–7?
3. What descriptive words and phrases are used about God in this prayer?
4. What phrases suggest that God is reliable?
5. How does David describe God's kingdom (vv.11–13)?

6. How does God help those who are in need (vv. 14–20)?

7. How does the picture of God here compare or contrast with your image of God's reliability?

8. Why is it important for you to know that God is reliable?

9. Which line from verses 17–21 is most precious to you and why? How does this psalm draw you nearer to God?

10. What attribute of God comes through to you most clearly from this psalm?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Nehemiah 9:6 You alone are the Lord; You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and everything on it, the seas and all that is in them, and You preserve them all. The host of heaven worships You.

Prayer

Praise God for who He is—for His greatness, righteousness, mercy, compassion, glory, and power. Thank Him for His mighty acts through all of the people we have studied and in your life too. Ask Him to give you a heart of praise like David.

FAMILY PRAYER REQUESTS:
