GOD, ANGELS, AND SATAN

JUNIOR 1 YEAR 3 BOOK 2

Teacher's Guide and Student Handouts

J1 YEAR 3 BOOK 2 GOD, ANGELS, AND SATAN USGA

Junior 1 Year 3 Book 2 Lesson 1

The Essence of God

Passages: Jn 4:24; Eph 4:6; 1 Tim 6:16; Heb 4:16; Ps 55:17; 1 Thess 5:16–18

Memory Verse

"God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and truth." (John 4:24)

Knowledge of God's Will [God's Word]	Knowledge of God [God's Divine Nature]	Good Works [Behavior]
1. God is a spiritual being. 2. God is immortal. 3. God is self-existing.	1. God is above all. 2. God is through all. 3. God is in all.	Build a real and lasting relationship with God.

Overview

Events and Spiritual Teachings

A. The Meaning of "Essence"
B. God Is Spirit
C. Understanding God's Essence

Life Application: Building Our Relationship with God

Memory Verse

Conclusion: By understanding God's essence, we have a better understanding of our own limitations and, in turn, of how thankful we should be for the blessings He has given us. When we recognize this and learn to worship Him in spirit and truth, we will be able to develop a true relationship with Him.

Events and Spiritual Teachings

A. The Meaning of "Essence"

How would you define "essence"? The Oxford Dictionary defines "essence" as "a property or group of properties of something without which it would not exist or be what it is."[1] Another dictionary describes it as "the most significant element, quality, or aspect of a thing or person."[2] For example, a book cannot exist without words, making the writing its most significant element. Let's try and think of a few more examples together.

Teachers: Draw the following chart on the board and encourage the students to consider what the essence of each example is. They may need some guidance with this activity.

The essence of …	a book	is…	*a collection of words.*
	food		*something edible.*
	drama		*conflict.*
	good social skills		*communication.*
	freedom		*the ability to choose.*

So, from our understanding of this word, the essence of God is His identity. We know the characteristics of God—He is holy, loving, and merciful. He hates sin, and He is all-powerful, all-knowing, and ever-present. But how is He able to be all of these things? The answer is in John 4:24. Jesus says, "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

B. God Is Spirit

First, what does it mean to be spirit? Let us begin by naming some things that are physical *(e.g., food, clothing, our planet, human beings)*. On the other hand, something that is spirit is not from the world that we live in. What are some things that are spirit? *(Allow students to answer. Possible answers: God, angels, Satan, the Holy Spirit.)* Using our lists, let us compare the characteristics of physical and spiritual things.

Characteristics of Physical Things	Characteristics of Spiritual Things
• Temporary • Limited by time and space • Can be experienced using the five senses	• Does not have a physical body, is invisible • Not limited by time or space, is eternal • Cannot be experienced using the five senses

In this world, even things we cannot see are of a physical material. For example, air is composed of nitrogen and oxygen. But as the Creator of the universe, God existed even before the creation of the physical, so He surpasses the world that we currently live in. He is truly a spiritual being. Since we are bound by the physical, how can we possibly understand the consequences and effects of existing spiritually? Paul addresses the essence of God in his many letters, writing that "God […] is above all, and through all, and in you all" (Eph 4:6). Let's unravel this description and try to understand God's essence.

1. God is above all

God is "above all" because He is above time and space. Time has no meaning for God; neither does

[1] *Oxford English Dictionary,* s.v. "Essence, *n.*," accessed March 20, 2019, https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/essence.

[2] *Merriam-Webster*, s.v. "Essence, *n.*," accessed March 20, 2019, https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/essence

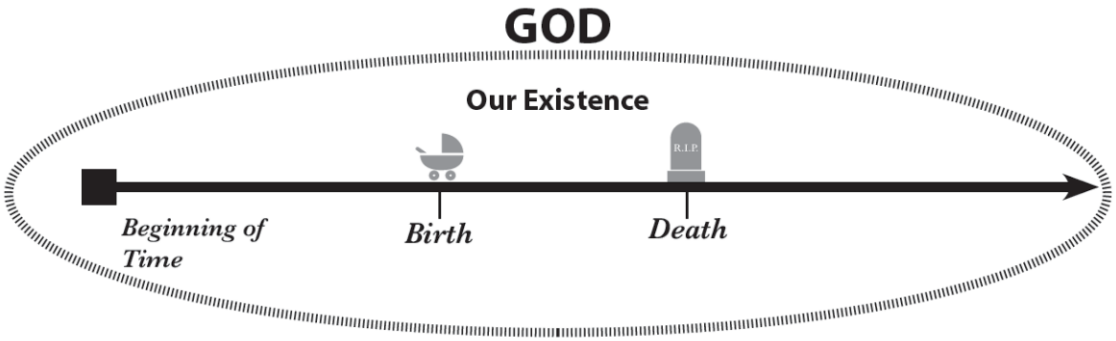
the physical world. He is above all because He is the Creator of all, and as our Creator, His power is limitless and beyond our comprehension. Physical limitations do not exist for Him. With this in mind, there are three key levels in which God is above all.

a. God rules over all

The Bible tells us that God reigns on high. He has established His throne in heaven (Ps 103:19), for "of Him and through Him and to Him are all things" (Rom 11:36). He is the one who created and sustains everything we see, and eventually, He will end this world as well. He has complete authority over all that He has made and created. God is above all, because all creatures owe their very existence to Him, including mankind.

b. God is self-existing and immortal

God once told Moses, "I AM WHO I AM" (Ex 3:14). God is "I AM" because He has always existed and will never stop existing. He simply *is*. Humans, on the other hand, have a beginning and an end. Our lives are temporary, but God has no beginning or end. It can be difficult to truly comprehend His timeless nature, but it is what makes God so different from us. Let us look at a diagram to help us better picture the difference between our existence and God's existence:



From this diagram, we can see that God is not limited by time, but actually surpasses time. Because God is Spirit, death does not exist for Him. As the only immortal being who exists, He is able to give the same eternity to us, who were once bound by death and sin.

c. God is an unapproachable light

God is also above all because we can neither approach nor truly see His glory. When Moses asked to see God's glory, God permitted him to see only a glimpse of His presence, "for no man shall see [God], and live" (Ex 33:20). As a result of this brief glimpse, "the skin of [Moses'] face shone while he talked with [God]" (Ex 34:29). No words can truly describe what occurred on the mountain between Moses and the Lord, but Paul describes that Jesus alone "has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see" (1 Tim 6:16). Let us read a testimony that will help us to understand what this means.

Testimony

A sister in Taiwan was praying diligently during a student spiritual convocation. There were many things in her heart and on her mind that were burdening her, and she wanted to pour out all of these things to the Lord. Suddenly, the Lord opened her eyes to see a vision. In the vision, she saw herself standing in front of a big red door, and her clothing was all muddy and wet. When she looked up to the sky, she saw that it was gloomy, and it was the falling rain that made her clothing wet and muddy.

> *As she was standing there before the door, she was in great despair over her situation. At this point, she knelt down before the door, and she suddenly saw the hands of God giving her a white robe. In that instant, she felt so warm, and then the door before her opened. She saw a glorious and bright light shining, but she was unable to enter into it. She knew right away that God was dwelling in the light. It was in this moment that she understood that God was comforting her and that He was always watching over her.*
>
> – Anonymous

As the sister realized in her vision, we cannot enter the light in which God dwells. But He nonetheless watches over us and cares for us, entering our time and space so that we can see and understand Him better. He is above us all, but He has lowered Himself for us, offering a glimpse into the glory of His salvation.

2. God is through all

Paul's second description of His essence is that God is "through all." His works pervade all of creation (*BSG: Ephesians*, 7.1:4). He uses this world to fulfill His purpose (cf. Rom 8:28).[3] From the moment He created it, everything in this world has existed and acted for His will. He is in every event that occurs, in every trial we encounter, and in every birth and death, including our own. God's decision to create you and me was a part of His plan from the very beginning, and God is within all that happens around us, enacting His will for our sakes.

Being "through all" means that God is able to dwell among His people and move among them. He is not only a God who is high above, but also a God who is able to enter into the physical world that He created. We might not be able to see Him, but God is always close by and present for His children. He dwells among those who worship Him. When we encounter danger, He is there to help us and watch over us as we live our lives.

God can manifest Himself

As we learned earlier, God dwells in unapproachable light. So how can we come near to God and "see" Him? God is able to manifest Himself, to make Himself known to us. For example, God appeared personally before both Abraham and Jacob as a man (Gen 18:1–2; 32:24) and called to Moses from a burning bush (Ex 3:4). He also manifested as a "small voice" to Elijah on Mount Horeb (1 Kgs 19:12–13), and as a light from heaven before Saul on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:3). There are many similar instances of God appearing to His people. However, the ultimate manifestation of God is Jesus Christ, whom we know as God in the flesh. Even today, God shows Himself to His believers, showing that He is truly through all, using us and the world around us to enact His purpose.

3. God is in all

Lastly, God is "in all" because He is able to dwell within us through the precious Holy Spirit. When we have the Holy Spirit, it is actually God dwelling within us, helping us to overcome the trials and temptations that we encounter in life. He also perceives our innermost hearts and minds. God sees us for who we really are, and there is nothing that we are able to hide from Him! Though we cannot know how God is able to be everywhere at the same time, we do know that He is the only one who

[3] TJC Literary Ministry, "Unity and Growth of the Church", *Bible Study Guide: Ephesians* (TJC: Malaysia, 2012), https://bsg.tjc.org/tjc_bsg_lesson/ephesians-5/?guide_id=510, 7.1: 4.

can do so. This is because He is God, and He is spirit. There is no one else like Him!

C. Understanding God's Essence

Now that we better understand the meaning of "God is Spirit," how is this knowledge important to us? Once we recognize the essence of God, we can come to Him faithfully in confidence, knowing that we can cast our cares upon Him. He will care for us because He is above all, through all, and in all. We know that we can fully rely on Him because He has complete authority over all things, is not bound by space or time, dwells among us, and understands our needs. By understanding God's essence, we have a better understanding of our own limitations and, in turn, how thankful we ought to be for the blessings He has given us.

Check for Understanding

1. **What are the differences between physical and spiritual things?**
   a. Characteristics of physical things: temporary; limited by time and space; can be experienced using the five senses.
   b. Characteristics of spirit: does not have a physical body, is invisible; not limited by time or space, is eternal; cannot be experienced using the five senses.
2. **What does it mean that God is immortal?** God is free from death. He is the only one that is truly immortal. As the only eternal being who exists, He is able to give the same eternity to us, who were once bound by death and sin.
3. **What does it mean that God is self-existing?** God has always existed and will always exist.
4. **How is God "through all" of creation?** He uses this world to fulfill His purpose. From the moment He created it, everything in this world has existed and acted for His will, including us.
5. **Why is it important to understand the essence of God?** Once we recognize the essence of God, we can come to Him faithfully in confidence, knowing that we can cast our cares upon Him, and that He will care for us because He is above all, through all, and in all. We know that we can fully rely on Him because He has complete authority over all things, is not bound by space or time, and is everywhere we are.

Life Application

Building Our Relationship with God

Because God is Spirit, we know that He is capable of doing things beyond our imagination. We will never be able to understand His power or His plans, yet we know that we can always turn to Him for all our needs. But our relationship with Him cannot be limited to our needs and requests. If we consider our many relationships with our family and friends, they take effort from both sides. For example, if we tell our best friend how bad our day was, they may respond with words of comfort or sympathy. It is a two-way relationship. Our relationship with God must be the same.

God wants us to have a meaningful relationship with Him that is not based on our needs, but on our love for Him. God is Spirit, so we must also worship Him in spirit – that means loving Him with our hearts, our minds, and our souls through communion with Him and submission to His truth. Our relationship with Him needs to be "REaL" – **R**ich, **E**verlasting, **a**nd **L**ife-changing. But what does a "real" relationship with God look like?

1. **A rich relationship**
   To have a rich relationship with God requires effort, just like any other. The Bible records: "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you" (Jas 4:8). When we communicate with Him on a daily

basis and actively seek to follow His word, then God will answer in kind. We know we have a rich relationship with God when we instinctively turn to Him in times of happiness or sadness, and when we make decisions based on what He wants of us, instead of what we want.

What was your solution when you were faced with a test you did not prepare for? When you got into an argument? When you wanted something you could not have? When you had to choose how to spend your free time? Those who turn to God first and choose to prioritize Him over the world are those who have a rich relationship with Him, because He is always foremost on their minds.

2. An everlasting relationship

We form many types of friendships during our lives, but few of these friendships are enduring. Many of the friends you make today will no longer be as close the next year, or the year after. It is natural to lose touch with people you knew well when you were younger, especially when you move on to high school or college. But God never moves on. He never loses touch, and He is always thinking of and taking care of us. He is always ready to listen to us and always waiting for us to listen to Him.

Discuss: Think of your best friend, either in the past or present. What made them such a good friend? What do you think are the qualities of a good friend? Now consider a few of God's qualities and write them down. Is He faithful? Is He always there for you? Have you experienced His comfort?

3. A life-changing relationship

To have a life-changing relationship with God means allowing the Spirit to touch our hearts and affect our everyday decisions and attitude, whether in times of peace or tribulation. God loves us so much, and He understands what we are going through. We can always come "boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need" (Heb 4:16). When we choose to turn to God for all of our problems, every aspect of our lives will change. We will become less anxious about problems at hand, feel at peace when faced with conflict, and face tribulations with confidence in God's power. When we allow our relationship with God to grow, we are letting Him enrich our hearts with His love and mercy. And just as Moses' face shone from his communion with God, we too can reflect His glory in our lives.

To develop a rich, everlasting, and life-changing relationship, we must learn to communicate with God better. Are your prayers focused, or are they aimless? Do you pour out your troubles in your prayers, or does your mind wander? One way to deepen our relationship with God is by having mindful prayers. This means having prayers that are focused on God and on increasing His presence in our lives. Here is a quick testimony from someone who learned the value of having mindful prayers.

Testimony

Growing up, I had visited various Catholic churches and services through friends of my parents and family, but nothing ever stuck. I was not a person of faith when I started going to high school. But one day, a friend showed up in class, and she had a Bible with her. She was late because she was at a Bible study. A few days later, she invited me to go to her church. Because of her sincerity and care, I started participating in the youth Bible study every week. During the next few months, I learned who Jesus Christ was. I had accepted the Bible to be true. However, something was still missing. I did not know how to let Jesus come into my heart. I did not understand what it meant to have a real relationship with God.

My life before Christ had no meaning. I feared many things, and I was very attached to this world.

But after my friend told me I had to invite Jesus to come into my heart, everything changed. I began talking to Jesus; I told Him about my fears, my worries, and my struggles. I treated Jesus as if He was my best friend, and I poured my heart out to Him. It felt really good knowing that there is a God out there caring for me. I held on to the promises in the Bible, and I began to see that my path and the decisions I made had God's guidance and blessings! He is real, and He is everything to me. Now, I have a hope and a future. He is my Lord and King! Thank you, Jesus!

– Anonymous

Try writing down two mindful prayers to God: one that you can use in times of peace, and another that you can use in times of tribulation. Here are two examples:

For times of peace:

Dear Father, thank You for blessing me with all that I need, and for giving me a smooth and trouble-free week. Help me to take this opportunity to draw closer to You and to meditate on Your word, so that I can know Your will. I'm no longer satisfied to know You from a distance. I want to know You intimately and deeply. Help me never to forget that all that I have is from You. Thank You, Lord!

For times of tribulation:

Dear Father, I know You're here with me when I pray. Please draw near to me so that I can feel Your presence. I am facing certain temptations in school this year, so I need to spend more time with You, hear Your words, and receive Your guidance and protection. Please reassure me in my prayers so that I know that You're with me wherever I go, and that You will help me resist temptation. Thank You, Lord!

God wants to be involved in everything we do. He wants us to have fellowship with Him, which means communicating with Him throughout the day by praying, reading the Bible, and meditating on His teachings. God has already shown His great love for us in opening a way for us to receive salvation through Jesus Christ. By loving Him in return, spending time with Him, and being thankful for what He has done, we can grow closer to God. Being a Christian is all about living a vibrant, spirit-filled life in Christ. Are you ready to build a "REaL" relationship with Him?

Memory Verse

"God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and truth." (John 4:24)

Meaning

1. As we have learned in the life application, worshipping God in spirit means developing a rich, everlasting, and life-changing relationship with God. But this is only possible if we are baptized in the Holy Spirit (Mt 3:11; Acts 2:33), receive new life in the Spirit, and quench our souls with the Spirit (Jn 4:14). Then, even though we are physical beings, we can learn how to worship God in spirit and draw closer to Him.
2. We can also find the truth in God (Jn 1:17), for He is the truth (Jn 14:6), and He desires that we become righteous and holy in His truth. To do so, we must meditate constantly on His word and draw closer to Him in order to receive wisdom of His knowledge. Then, we can be genuine worshippers from the heart and live a life that is in accordance with His will.

Conclusion

The essence of God is that He is Spirit, and this fact makes it possible for Him to do the impossible. We

know that we can fully rely on Him because He has complete authority over all things, is not bound by space or time, dwells among us, and understands our needs. By understanding God's essence, we have a better understanding of our own limitations and, in turn, of how thankful we should be for the blessings He has given us. When we recognize this and learn to worship Him in spirit and truth, we will be able to develop a true relationship with Him.

Lesson 1 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. What does it mean to worship God in spirit?
   It means to develop a rich, everlasting, and life-changing relationship with God. But this is only possible if we are baptized, receive new life, and quench our souls in the Spirit.

2. Paul wrote that there is "one God and Father of all, who is _____ all, and _____ all and _____ _____ all" (_____ 4:__).
   above, through, in, you, Ephesians, 6

3. In what way is God self-existing?
   He has always existed and will never stop existing. He simply is.

4. Explain in your own words how God is "through all."
   His works pervade all of creation, which means He uses this world to fulfill His purpose. From the moment He created it, everything in this world has existed and acted for His will. He dwells among His people and is there to help and watch over us.

5. How can you have a "mindful" prayer? Write down three specific things that you are going to talk to God about this week.
   By pouring out our troubles to God, and by having prayers that are focused on God and on increasing His presence in our lives.
   Personal answers.

Junior 1 Year 3 Book 2 Lesson 2
The Almightiness of God
Passages: As listed in the lesson.

Memory Verse

"Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable." (Isaiah 40:28)

Knowledge of God's Will [God's Word]	Knowledge of God [God's Divine Nature]	Good Works [Behavior]
1. God is omnipresent. 2. God is omnipotent. 3. God is omniscient.	1. God is omnipresent. 2. God is omnipotent. 3. God is omniscient.	1. Constantly feed our minds with the word of God. 2. Seek out and cultivate awareness of God's presence. 3. Walk with those who fear God.

Overview

Events and Spiritual Teachings
A. God Is Omnipresent
B. God Is Omnipotent
C. God Is Omniscient

Life Application: Be a God-Fearing Person

Memory Verse

Conclusion: When we are aware that we are in the presence of a holy, just, majestic and almighty God, we have the fear of God. When we fear God, we can then have sense of awe and respect for the majesty of God.

Events and Spiritual Teachings

Introduction

Write these five phrases on the board.

- God was present when...
- God knows...
- God helped me to…
- God is able to...

(Ask your students to reflect on how they would complete these statements using experiences from their lives. Invite them to share with the class.) God's presence in our lives is just a small example of God's almighty power. Today, we are going to look further into how God is present everywhere, how He knows everything, and how, with His power, He is able to do great works.

The Bible clearly describes God's many characteristics, such as His mercy, holiness, and love. However, today we will focus on God's almightiness and power. As a spiritual being, God knows everything, can do anything, and is everywhere. There are three words that refer to these three characteristics: omniscient, omnipotent, and omnipresent. The prefix "omni" means "all." God knows all, can do all, and exists in all. Let's study these three characteristics more closely.

A. God Is Omnipresent

We call God omnipresent because He is everywhere at the same time and is ever-present throughout all of creation. In the previous lesson, we learned that because God is Spirit, He is above all, through all, and in all (Eph 4:6). This is a perfect description of the ways God is present. Let's examine the ways He is omnipresent in more detail.

1. **God is above all**
   "'Am I a God near at hand,' says the LORD, 'and not a God afar off? Can anyone hide himself in secret places, so I shall not see him?' says the LORD; 'Do I not fill heaven and earth?' says the LORD." (Jer 23:23–24)

   We learned in the previous lesson that God is above all because He is above time and space. His omnipresence is even greater than we can imagine, because He exists even beyond all of creation itself. It is difficult to grasp the truth of His vast and timeless existence, but His presence exists far beyond the world that we live in.

2. **God is through all**
   "I will walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people." (Lev 26:12)

   We learned that this means God pervades all of creation. But more importantly for us, this means God dwells with His people and moves among them. He is not a God who reigns only from heaven, but a God who lives with His people. We may not be able to see Him, but God is always close by and present for His children, dwelling among those who worship Him. When we encounter danger, He is there to help us and watch over us as we live our lives.

3. **God is in all**
   "Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us." (1 Jn 3:24)

God is in all because He is able to dwell within us through the precious Holy Spirit. Through the Holy Spirit, God dwells within us and helps us overcome the trials and temptations that we encounter in life. In John 14:26, Jesus Christ described the Holy Spirit as a Helper who will teach us all things and help us to remember the word of God in our lives. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are able to receive comfort and strength in our life.

God is actively present in all things, as He is not limited by time or space. The omnipresence of God is a reminder that we cannot hide from God when we sin (Ps 139:11–12). At the same time, He is always right there when we are ready to return to Him in repentance, and He is always right by our side in our time of need. God will always be there to listen to all of our prayers.

B. God Is Omnipotent

God is omnipotent, meaning He is all-powerful. Jesus Christ stated, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible" (Mt 19:26). There is nothing too difficult for God because He is the source of all power. Jeremiah wrote, "Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You" (Jer 32:17). God's power is like Himself, infinite and incomparable. Let us study a few areas of God's omnipotence.

1. **In creation (Col 1:16)**
   God created the whole universe from nothing, using only His words. He is the maker of all matter and force. Since all things come from Him, He has the authority to do what He wishes to them. Apart from creating everything, God also sustains all of creation through His omnipotence. We can feel the warmth of the sun on our skin because God has designed gravity to allow the earth to orbit the sun. When we look at the animals that God created, we can see how they fit in the environment that God created for them. From the fish that swim in the sea to the birds that fly through the air, all were perfectly designed by the Lord. God is able to do all these great works in nature because of His unlimited power.

2. **In relation to man (Mt 19:26)**
   God is able to do the impossible in the lives of men. He is able to destroy entire armies and make indestructible walls fall before Him. He is able to heal people and even bring them back from death. God is able to give hope to those who are in despair. When Abraham was 100 years of age, God gave him a son. Normally, this would be unimaginable, but God allowed this impossibility to become a possibility. God's omnipotent works are not limited only to those recorded in the Bible, as they can also be experienced in our lives today. In the church, there are many testimonies of God's healing of illnesses that doctors were unable to cure, or of His saving power from life-threatening situations. He is a God who is able to help us when no one else can.

3. **Over angels (1 Pet 3:22; Ps 103:20)**
   As the one who created angels, God has complete authority over them. Angels serve Him and carry out His plans. In the Old Testament, Daniel was thrown into the den of lions, but God sent His angel to shut the mouths of the lions. In the New Testament, God sent the angel Gabriel to tell Mary that she will give birth to a son named Jesus. From these examples, we can see that angels follow the commands of the Lord and do the work that God has given to them. They are obedient to the word of the Lord.

4. **Over Satan (Rev 20:10)**
   God has power over Satan. Even though Satan is known as "the prince of the power of the air"

(Eph 2:2), the God that we worship is able to overcome and overpower him. Satan is afraid of even just the name of God. There are many examples in the Bible that demonstrate His authority and power over demons, such as when Jesus Christ commanded the evil spirit named Legion to come out of the man and go into a large herd of pigs (Mk 5). In the last days, God will ultimately bind Satan and have him thrown into the lake of fire forever, for there is no being or power that can stand before God.

God has power over all things at all times and in all ways. Aside from what has been mentioned already, God also has the power to atone and pay for our sins (Ps 49:7–8). Only God has the power to do that. There is one mediator, Jesus Christ, who gave Himself as a ransom for all (1 Tim 2:6), and God is the only one who has the power to bring the dead back to life (1 Cor 15:20–23).

C. God Is Omniscient

God is omniscient, which means He has complete knowledge of all things. As His creation, He knows everything about us, from the number of hairs on our head to our innermost thoughts, and even where and what we will be in the future, near and far.

Let's read Psalm 139:1–7. According to these verses, what does God know about us? *(Ask students to list their answers.) Example Answers:*

God knows what we are doing.
God knows our thoughts.
God knows what we are going to do.
God knows our ways (our habits).
God knows the words that we will speak.
God knows what is before us (our future) and what was behind us (our past).

In Psalm 139, David describes how God is able to know him completely. From the moment he sits to the moment he rises, God knows what he is doing and thinking. God even knows what David is going to say before he says it. There is nothing that we can hide from Him. However, throughout history, man has tried to hide things from God. Let us look at some examples.

1. **What happens when we try to hide our sins? (2 Sam 11–12)**
   King David committed a great sin when he killed Uriah and took his wife, Bathsheba, to be his wife. He had done all these things in secret but forgot that though he could hide his sins from men, he could not hide them from God. When God saw what King David had done, He was displeased and sent the prophet Nathan to rebuke David. No matter how we try to hide, "if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things" (1 Jn 3:20). God knows and is able to expose the sins that we try to hide.

2. **What happens when we try to deceive others? (Acts 5)**
   Ananias and Sapphira sold a piece of property so that they could offer the money to the apostles. However, out of their greed, they decided to keep a portion of the money earned from the sale without telling anyone. God knew of their deception and their impure motives. Through the Spirit of the Lord, the apostle Peter realized this and rebuked them for their deception. After his rebuke, God struck them, and they died. No matter what we try to show to others, God always knows our true motives for our actions.

Like David, Ananias, and Sapphira, we may have tried to hide our sins and attempted to deceive others.

But we need to remember that God not only knows what we do and say, but also what we think in our hearts. God knows all things, and everything that we do is open and laid bare before God. "The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good" (Prov 15:3).

The God that we worship is beyond our understanding. He is all-knowing, almighty, and present everywhere. These incredible characteristics make Him God. But the most amazing thing is that this almighty God is willing to care for and love His people that are so small (Ps 8:4).

Check for Understanding

1. **What does it mean that God is omniscient?** God is all-knowing.
2. **What does it mean that God is omnipotent?** God is all-powerful.
3. **What does it mean that God is omnipresent?** God is everywhere at all times.
4. **Look at the following examples and identify which characteristic of God is being illustrated in each example. There may be more than one answer.**
   - **Jonah ran from God and ended up in the belly of a great fish.** Omnipresence/Omniscience/Omnipotence
   - **The Lord created the heavens and the earth.** Omnipotence
   - **The angel Gabriel told Mary she would conceive a son by the Holy Spirit.** Omniscience/Omnipotence
   - **Jesus told the disciples He would rise from the dead in three days.** Omniscience
   - **When Nathanael met Jesus, Jesus told Nathanael He had seen him sitting under a fig tree before they met.** Omnipresence/Omniscience

Life Application

Be a God-fearing Person

The Bible uses the word "*fear*" at least 300 times in reference to God. We should not downplay this. Remember that God can be frightening. "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God" (Heb 10:31). However, to fear God is not to shrink back from Him in terror. To fear God is to have a deep reverence for Him because of His power and His love. His Son, Jesus Christ, died for us (1 Jn 4:10). Out of love, He set His heart upon us and saved us despite all the sins we have committed and will commit.

Due to our sinful natures, we do not naturally seek to fear and honor God. We must actively choose to walk in the fear of the Lord. But why should we become God-fearing? Let's look up several verses. For each, name the promises that God has given to those who fear Him. *(Teachers: Individually or in groups, ask students to look up the following verses and share each recorded promise with the class.)*

- Proverbs 16:6b – Strength to turn away from evil.
- Proverbs 22:4 – Riches and honor and life.
- Proverbs 9:10 – Beginning of wisdom.
- Proverbs 3:7–8 – Healing and refreshment.
- Psalm 111:5 – God's faithful provision.
- Proverbs 14:26 – Strong confidence and refuge.
- Psalm 24:7 – Deliverance from trouble.

1. **What does it really mean to fear God?**

The Scriptures are full of examples of how fearing God is a positive thing rather than a negative thing. Joseph was a God-fearing man (Gen 39:8–9). The Hebrew midwives feared God, so they obeyed Him (Ex 1:17). Mosaic Law cites the fear of God as a reason to treat people with disabilities and the elderly well

(Lev 19:14). Moses chose workers who feared God and would not take bribes (Ex 18:21). It is clear that fearing God is good because it saves us from falling into sin.

To fear God is to be aware that we are in the presence of a holy, just, and almighty God. It is a sense of awe, respect, and adoration for the majesty of God. It is seeing God in all His glory and humbling ourselves before Him. God delights in those who fear Him, because those who do trust Him more than their own abilities. Fearing God is learning to take refuge in Him and having hope in His steadfast love.

2. **How do we fear God?**
   a. **Constantly feed our minds with the word of God**
      The more we know God's word, the more we absorb it into our hearts and lives.
   b. **Constantly increase our understanding of the greatness of God**
      God is omnipresent, omnipotent, and omniscient. As we contemplate His greatness, it becomes natural for us to fear Him. If we truly know God, we cannot help but fear Him.
   c. **Seek out and cultivate an awareness of God's presence**
      If we fear God, we will remember that He is near and watching over us. When we recognize that He is always there and that everything is transparent before Him, we will think twice before we say or do anything that does not bring glory to Him. We cannot fear a distant God.
   d. **Walk with those who fear God**
      We should befriend those who are God-fearing like us. God warns us, "Do not be deceived: 'Evil company corrupts good habits' " (1 Cor 15:33). Do not be deceived and become evil like mankind. If we desire to grow in the fear of God, we need to walk with "those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart" (2 Tim 2:22).

Testimony: Lost at Sea

A brother, a Naval Officer serving in the Malaysian Navy, was traveling aboard a naval ship when he accidentally fell into the sea. It was around 11:00 p.m., so the ocean was all dark. And he had no life jacket! The water was cold, and it was raining. The wind was also very strong, and the waves were about three to four meters high. He could see the stern light of the ship sailing away, and he knew that the crew on board would not be able to hear his cry for help. Looking around, he saw a light from a beacon that was miles away on land. For the next two hours or so, he tried to swim toward the beacon, but made little progress because of the bad weather and strong side current. Also, he could feel all kinds of fish stinging him. The feeling was extremely scary, but he kept trying to swim towards the beacon.

After about two hours, he realized that he could never reach the mainland. The waves were much bigger now, and because he was already exhausted, he felt like sinking into the sea. He began to pray and cry to the Lord for help. He was very drowsy and exhausted by then and didn't know what he was doing. These feelings got worse as the temperature of the water began to drop. At one point, he even wanted to give up the struggle. He held his head down in the water hoping to faint and drown. But he knew that by doing so, he would be committing suicide, which is a mortal sin. He also thought of how his family and church members would be heartbroken if he died. So, he kept on shouting, "Hallelujah," and pressed on. Later on, he fell into a deep sleep from his exhaustion.

When he awoke, it was daybreak of the next day. There was no land in sight. Despite this, he felt very grateful to the Lord for delivering him from danger and keeping him safe throughout the night. He gathered his strength and kept on swimming. After about two or three hours, he saw an island very, very far away, but he did not think he could reach it because it was so far away, about fifteen

miles. Moreover, it was raining, and the early morning temperature was very cold. Still, he didn't have any choice but to keep swimming in order to keep himself warm. The journey took the whole day. He swam against the waves, into the waves, and over the waves, trying to stay alive. When he finally reached the island, he praised the Lord! As he walked on the beach, he saw a wooden house with three men outside. The men helped him by bringing him to another location on the island by motorboat to rest for the night.

After sleeping through the whole night, he was taken to a small clinic on the island early the next morning. Later, he went to the police station. After making a police report, he made a phone call to the naval authorities, and after about thirty minutes, a helicopter arrived to take him to a hospital. After about three hours in the hospital, he sneaked out and went to a close-by TJC church to thank the Lord. He knew that no one could have survived this whole ordeal at sea without divine help. In all, he was in the stormy sea for about twenty hours! It was impossible that he could swim the thirty miles to the island without God's help. It was undeniably the merciful and loving hand of the Lord that delivered him from the stormy sea and guided him to the island!

– Anonymous

Discussion Questions

- What are some lessons we can learn from the actions of this brother?
- How did this brother know that God was with him and helping him?
- What attributes of God can we see from this testimony?

Memory Verse

"Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable." (Isaiah 40:28)

Five characteristics of God are mentioned in this verse.

1. **God is everlasting**: Knowing God is everlasting helps us to see that we are only human and that we have limitations. In our life, He is the only one we can depend and rely on because He is the only one that lasts forever.
2. **God is Lord**: God is the ruler of all, and He is the one in control. Knowing this allows us to trust in Him and have faith that whatever happens in our life, happens for a reason.
3. **God is the Creator of the world**: We are only the created, not the creator. Since God is our Creator, He is the one that knows us best. No one else knows us like God does.
4. **God does not get tired:** We serve a great God that never gets tired. Even when we are feeling down or weak, God is still strong and will be there for us in our time of need.
5. **God's understanding is unsearchable:** His ways and thoughts are beyond our understanding, which means that we can trust Him and allow His wisdom to come into our lives and guide us. In Isaiah 55:8 teaches us that God's thoughts are not our thoughts, and that His ways are not our ways. His mind and His doings surpass our understanding because as human beings, we are limited in our knowledge and understanding.

Conclusion

To fear God is to be aware that we are in the presence of a holy, just, and almighty God. God delights in those who fear Him, because those who do trust in and obey Him rather than trust in their own abilities. Fearing God is learning to take refuge in His omnipotence, omniscience, and omnipresence, and having hope in His steadfast love.

Lesson 2 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. Why is it important to us that God neither faints nor is weary?
   Even when we are feeling down and weak, God is still strong and will be there for us in our time of need.

2. "For by Him all things were created that are in _____ and that are on _____, _____ and _____, whether thrones or dominions or _____ or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him." (Colossians 1:16)
   heaven, earth, visible, invisible, principalities

3. Why is it important to us that God is omnipresent?
   The omnipresence of God is a reminder that we cannot hide from God when we sin. But He is always right there when we are ready to return to Him in repentance, and He is always right by our side in our time of need. God will always be there to listen to our prayers.

4. What can we learn about God's omniscience from the examples of David, Ananias, and Sapphira?
   Like them, we may have tried to hide our sins and attempted to deceive others. But we need to remember that God not only knows what we do and say, but also what we think in our hearts.

5. Explain in your own words what it really means to fear God.
   It is to be aware that we are in the presence of a holy, just, and almighty God. The focus is on a sense of awe, respect, and adoration for the majesty of God. It is seeing God in all His glory and humbling ourselves before Him.

6. Pick one of the ways to fear God and explain how you can improve upon this in your daily life.
   Personal answers.

Junior 1 Year 3 Book 2 Lesson 3
The Attributes of God: Justice and Mercy
Passages: As listed in the lesson.

Memory Verse

"He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8)

Knowledge of God's Will [God's Word]	Knowledge of God [God's Divine Nature]	Good Works [Behavior]
True justice and mercy come from God.	1. God is just. 2. God is merciful.	Do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God.

Overview

Events and Spiritual Teachings
A. Justice
B. Mercy
C. How Do God's Justice and Mercy Work in Salvation?

Life Application
1. What Does the Lord Require of You?
2. Respond with the Word of God

Memory Verse

Conclusion: Our just and merciful God has shown us exactly what it means to be just and merciful. Thus, as children of God, we must strive to do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with Him in our daily actions.

Events and Spiritual Teachings

Introduction

Today, we are going to learn about God's justice and mercy. These two ideas may seem like opposites, but they are actually two sides of the same coin. On one side, we have God's justice and on the other side, His mercy. Just as we cannot separate one side of this coin from the other, we cannot separate God's justice and mercy from each other. God's justice and mercy work side by side, and today we will be learning more about these two attributes of God.

A. Justice

Dictionaries define "justice" as the process or result of using laws to fairly judge and punish crimes and criminals, the key word being "fairly." Why? We believe justice ensures that everyone receives the same treatment for the same wrongdoing. For example, at home, parents might scold their first child for neglecting to clean up, but simply clean up for their second child when they forget. In the classroom, a teacher might favor one student over another, and even our treatment of pets might differ. This is the type of justice we see in the world, and it is very different from the justice that we see in the Bible.

1. The justice of God

Let us begin by reading Genesis 18:16–33.

After visiting Abraham, God and the two angels departed for Sodom to judge it for its wickedness. While the angels went on ahead, God remained. Standing before God, Abraham asked if He would not spare the people if there were fifty righteous people. God responded by saying that He would. Abraham then lowered the number to forty-five, and God responded as before. Each time Abraham lowered the number, from forty, to thirty, to twenty, to ten, God said that He would spare the city. Once God had finished speaking with Abraham, He left, and Abraham returned to his place. Let us continue with Genesis 19:24–29.

The morning after God rescued Abraham's nephew Lot from the evil cities, He rained brimstone and fire upon Sodom and Gomorrah! In an instant, the cities were burned to the ground. Abraham went out early in the morning to the same place where he had spoken with God and looked towards the cities—the rising smoke was like smoke from a furnace. God had administered His justice.

From the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, we are able to see the justice God deals towards wickedness and sin. Let us discover more about God's justice.

2. How is God just?

The Bible testifies to God's character and illustrates very clearly that He is a just God. We can see this especially in His laws and His judgments.

God is just in His <u>laws</u> (Rom 7:12)

The laws of God are just because they testify to God's righteousness. When we learn about the laws of God and what He has commanded us, we are able to see sin more clearly. One example of the laws we must keep today is the Ten Commandments. Let's review the Ten Commandments (Ex 20:3–17). *(Have students recite the Ten Commandments in order.)*

1. You shall have no other gods before Me.
2. You shall not make for yourself a carved image.

3. You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
5. Honor your father and your mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
10. You shall not covet.

God gave us the Ten Commandments, His laws, to help us know what is holy, just, and good from His perspective. Without them, we would not have a true standard of justice.

God is just in His judgments (Ps 119:75)
God's judgments are just and always right. God judges all people for their actions, whether right or wrong! Psalm 89:14 records: "Righteousness and justice are the foundation of [God's] throne." So, God's judgments are based on these two concepts: His righteousness, which is what is right in His eyes, and His justice, that is, His fairness. God will always give a righteous judgment according to our deeds, and on the day of judgment, God will punish those who are wicked and reward those who are righteous. For example, on the day of judgment, the Lord will judge all the words that we have spoken, whether cursing or praising (Mt 12:36–37).

While God's justice is to be feared, He exercises His justice and mercy together. When we look at the interaction between Abraham and God, we can see that God was willing to spare the city if there were ten righteous people in the city. When giving judgment, God seeks justice, but also bestows mercy based on what He sees in the hearts of men. God wants to save people so that they will not perish. The key is that they must be willing to repent. However, we must also understand that even though God wants us to return to Him, there will be a day when our time to turn back is over. On that day, God's judgment will come upon those who are unwilling to repent, and they will be judged according to His justice and righteousness.

B. Mercy
Mercy is the "kind or forgiving treatment of someone who could be treated harshly." The justice and mercy of God are not opposites; rather, they go hand in hand. We have already discussed the example of God's justice towards a city that was wicked, but now, let us look at an example of God's mercy towards another city that was wicked. Let us turn to Jonah 3:1–10.

1. **The mercy of God**
   God sent the prophet Jonah to the city of Nineveh to proclaim a message of destruction from God. After hearing the message, the people repented. The king of Nineveh even sent out a proclamation for all people and animals to fast, be covered in sackcloth, and cry out to the Lord! From the greatest to the least, they all fasted and cried out to the Lord. When God saw what they did, He relented from bringing disaster upon the city. God had seen the hearts of the people of Nineveh. They were willing to truly repent, so He did not destroy the city as originally intended.

2. **How is God merciful?**
   God is merciful because He does not punish us according to what we deserve. Just like the people of Nineveh, sometimes we sin against God. We see that when the city was willing to

repent, God was willing to relent from bringing destruction. Today, we also receive mercy from God in this manner. In recognizing our weaknesses and bringing them to the Lord, we are able to receive God's mercy. God loves us all, and He finds no pleasure in our deaths, even of the wicked. He wants all people to return to Him and receive salvation. However, our hearts are often so hardened that we are unwilling to return to Him. In Isaiah 30:15, God has promised that in returning to Him, we will be saved. Through returning to God, we will be able to experience His unfailing mercy.

C. How Do God's Mercy and Justice Work Together in Salvation?

The Bible reveals God's mercy, as well as His just nature. One day, He will judge the whole world according to His righteousness. He has offered us a salvation plan, but He is not ignoring justice in favor of mercy. Rather, He is displaying justice through mercy. When Jesus Christ was crucified on the cross, His suffering and eventual death were the penalties paid for sin, and a requirement of God's justice. This act of sacrifice from Jesus Christ fulfilled God's justice, and in turn, God's mercy was given to us so that we are no longer condemned but saved.

As those who have received the mercy of God, we are greatly blessed. As Paul wrote, "Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off" (Rom 11:22). Now that we have learned about God's justice and mercy, let us strive to show the same justice and mercy of God in our own lives.

Check for Understanding

1. **What is justice?** Justice is the process or result of using laws to fairly judge and punish crimes and criminals.
2. **Give an example of God's justice in the Bible.** God's destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah.
3. **In what ways is God just?**
   a. God's laws are just
   b. God's judgments are just
4. **What is mercy?** Mercy is the kind or forgiving treatment of someone who could be treated harshly.
5. **Give an example of God's mercy in the Bible.** God's willingness to relent from destroying Nineveh.
6. **How do God's justice and mercy work together in salvation?** Jesus Christ was crucified on the cross for the justice of God, and through His crucifixion, we receive the mercy of God to receive eternal life!

Life Application

1. What Does the Lord Require of You?

"He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Mic 6:8)

God wants us to be just and merciful, just as He is, but how do we do that? What ultimately motivates us to become just and merciful is our love. The story of the good Samaritan (Lk 10:25–37) illustrates how our love can cross cultural barriers and support the needs of others. Micah 6:8 teaches us to "do justly," "love mercy," and "walk humbly with [our] God." God wants us to have these three characteristics, but to "do," "love," and "walk" are active verbs – God wants us to take action. Love motivates us to see the needs of others, and Micah 6:8 teaches us how to respond and act upon them according to the word of God.

Consider each and ask: what does this look like in your personal life?

a. **To do justly**
   (Example: To do justly means to do what is right in God's eyes and not my own. Knowing this, I will make sure that I do not cheat or copy the work of other students, because by cheating, I am lying to my teacher. I will do what is right and just according to God's commandments.)

b. **To love mercy**
   (Example: To love mercy is to make sure that I do not have any hatred or hold grudges against anyone in my heart. Even though there may be people in my life that I may get into a conflict with, I will pray for God to give me a merciful heart filled with His love, so that I am able to forgive and let go of any hatred or dislike in my heart.)

c. **To walk humbly with your God**
   (Example: To walk humbly with God in my life means humbly asking God to walk with me, avoiding a prideful heart, and being aware of my dependence on Him moment by moment. It also means praising and giving thanks to Him for the good grades I receive in school, because He is the one who has given me the wisdom and grace to do well! It means cultivating a relationship with Him and choosing to follow His commands over the expectations of the world around me.)

These are three behaviors that God requires from us. He wants us to do these things in our daily life, so let's make it a goal to put one of these into action this week!

2. Respond with the Word of God

(Teachers: Below are different scenarios related to doing justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly. Students must identify which behavior from Micah 6:8 the scenario requires. Next, students must select a verse that would be suitable to use as an encouragement for each scenario and explain why they chose that verse.)

Let's read a few scenarios together. For each, pick which behavior from Micah 6:8 applies to it. Then try thinking of another verse that could help the person in each scenario.

Scenario 1

Jack always dreaded going to history class. There were so many names, dates, and places to remember that it made his head spin. After his history teacher had finished taking roll, she announced that they were having a pop quiz! Jack started to panic until he saw a piece of paper on the ground by his desk. When he took a closer look, he realized that it was a pop quiz someone had left from the previous class.

- Which verse would you use to encourage Jack? Why did you pick that verse? (To do justly. Possible verse: James 4:17)

Scenario 2

Rebecca thought her younger sister Ann was a real pain! Ann wanted to do everything with her, especially when Rebecca's friends were over. Ann would annoy her sister by following her around and demanding a turn in everything Rebecca did. She would even interrupt Rebecca as she talked with her friends! One day, Rebecca decided that she had had enough of this!

- Which verse would you use to encourage Rebecca? Why did you pick that verse? (To love mercy. Possible verse: Proverbs 17:17)

Scenario 3

Lex was doing well in school. He was the captain of the soccer team and had many great friends. It seemed like everything in life was going so well that he started to think to himself, "What a great life I have! I bet there are guys in school who wish they were me!"

- Which verse would you use to encourage Lex? Why did you pick that verse? (To walk humbly with your God. Possible verse: Job 1:21)

Scenario 4

Janet was walking to class with her friends when she saw several bills fall out of the pocket of the student walking in front of her. As she stooped down to pick them up, her friends whispered to her, "You should keep the money! She won't even notice."

- Which verse would you use to encourage Janet? Why did you pick that verse? (To do justly. Possible verse: Proverbs 19:1)

Memory Verse

"He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8)

Meaning

1. To do justly means to do the right thing in all aspects of our life according to the commandments of God.
2. To love mercy means to show mercy and forgiveness to others. Instead of complaining about the behavior of others, we first look at ourselves and think about what we can do for them.
3. To walk humbly with God means that we need to remember at all times that God is the one who blesses us with what we have in our life. There is nothing that we have that God has not given to us. Therefore, we have to glorify Him in all that we do.

Conclusion

God desires for us to show mercy and justice to others in the same way He has shown them to us. But how can this be achieved? We must learn to love others the way God has taught us to. Love truly motivates us to respond to the needs we see. The story of the good Samaritan (Lk 10:25–37) illustrates how love crosses cultural barriers and deals with real needs. Love motivates us, but the characteristics in Micah 6:8 teach us how to respond according to the word of God. As children of God, we must strive to do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God in our daily actions.

Lesson 3 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. Pick one of the characteristics in the memory verse. Briefly explain what it means.
   See Memory Verse section.

2. How did God show justice to the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah? Why did He show justice to them?
   He destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah with brimstone and fire because of their wickedness.

3. In what two ways is God just?
   God is just in His laws and in His judgments. His laws help us to know what is holy, just, and good, and His judgments are always right.

4. How did God show mercy to the city of Nineveh? Why did He show mercy?
   He relented from destroying the city, because they were truly willing to repent.

5. How did Jesus Christ's death on the cross fulfill God's justice and allow God to show His mercy to us?
   Jesus' suffering and death were the penalties paid for our sin, and a demonstration of God's justice. This act of sacrifice fulfilled God's justice and, in turn, led to our salvation out of God's mercy.

6. Describe how you have done justly, loved mercy, or walked humbly with your God this week.
   Personal answers.

Junior 1 Year 3 Book 2 Lesson 4
Understanding God's Love and Holiness
Passages: As listed in the lesson.

Memory Verse

"Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments." (Deuteronomy 7:9)

Knowledge of God's Will [God's Word]	Knowledge of God [God's Divine Nature]	Good Works [Behavior]
1. God shows His love for us through our family members. 2. Our holiness is shown through our actions and reliance on the Holy Spirit in our daily lives.	1. God is love. 2. God is holy.	1. Live out love in our daily lives. 2. Be holy, and have a plan to stay holy.

Overview

Events and Spiritual Teachings
A. What Is Love?
B. The Love of God
C. What Is Holiness?

Life Application
1. Don't Hold Back; Love God with Your Whole Being!
2. A Plan to Stay Holy

Memory Verse

Conclusion: Out of His love, God has called us to be set apart as His holy people. Let us repay God's love and demonstrate our holiness and love through our daily actions.

Events and Spiritual Teachings

Introduction

What are some examples of love that we see in society today? *(Write these examples in one column; e.g., parents and children, siblings, movie romance, etc.)*

Now, if you had to describe God's love, how would you describe it? *(Write these responses in an adjacent column; e.g., like a father who loves his children, love to the point of dying on the cross, etc.)*

So, this is our understanding of love from what we have seen in the world and have studied as Christians. Now, I want to tell you about an exclusive club. Only select people—people like you—can join this special club! However, if you want to join this club, then there are a few rules that you have to follow exactly. If you do not follow them exactly, you will be kicked out. These rules are:

- You have to follow all the rules given by the club leader
- The club and the club leader have to be the most important things in your life
- You have to call the club leader at least once every day

If this were an exclusive club with amazing benefits, wouldn't you want to join? What if I told you that what I described is the covenant you must make to be a part of God's holy nation? Do you still want to join this club? In today's class, we will be learning about two qualities of God—love and holiness. Since God is absolute and almighty, He is the absolute standard from which we can learn about love and holiness.

A. What Is Love?

Let's take a look at the following statements:

- I love my parents
- My parents love me

There is an obvious but distinct difference between the two. The first is how we feel towards our parents. This love is personal to us; we can show it through our actions, our thoughts and understanding, and our feelings and emotions. What are some ways we show love to our parents?

The second is how our parents feel towards us. We may not always feel their love because we cannot see or hear their thoughts. We only see what they do for us or say to us. So, sometimes when our parents do something that we view as uncaring, we may feel as though they don't love us. Has this ever happened to you? But in their eyes, this could be how they believe love should be shown.

Now, let's look at the following statements. This time we've added a third point.

- I love God
- God loves me
- God is love

The first is what we feel towards God. Like our love towards our parents, this love is personal to us. We decide whether we love God, and we show it through our actions, thoughts, understanding, feelings, and emotions.

The second is how God feels towards us. We see the results and actions of His love, but we don't always understand it, just as we may not understand our parents' love. There may be times when we feel as if God is not looking after us or showing love to us, and it is only after a period of time that we can see

God's love toward us.

The third statement is unique to God. We know God is absolute and almighty—He existed before anything else. So, all love actually begins with God. Before we can understand how to love God, we first need to understand how God is love. When we come to understand how God is love, we can understand how God loves us and how we should love God. This will be the focus in our lesson today.

B. The Love of God

God recognizes that it is difficult to understand someone you can't see or hear directly, so He has given us many examples of His love in our lives. What are some of these examples? (Examples: Parents and children, siblings, husband and wife, best friends, church members, etc.). God has also helped us to understand His love through other ways, including:

- His forgiveness of our sins
- When He disciplines us to turn us away from sin
- Sending His Son Jesus to give up His life on the cross

These are some of the signs that indicate and demonstrate His love. But to truly understand the depth of His love, we need to examine it more closely. Let's take a look at a few of the characteristics of His love.

1. Enduring, merciful, and free

God showed His love when He sent His Son Jesus to die on the cross for us. Jesus Christ's sacrifice on the cross for us is an amazing display of God's love. In the hymn *And Can It Be That I Should Gain?*, we sing: "Amazing love! How can it be, that thou, my God shouldst die for me?" Yet, His sacrifice on the cross is only a small part of the qualities of God. When translating the Bible from Hebrew and Greek to English, sometimes translators cannot find one word to precisely explain the original Hebrew meaning. This is the case for the word "love" in Hebrew.

There are many ingredients that make up love, and the love of God even more so because it is so vast. The love of God is far too broad to be encompassed in a single word. Let's look at just a few characteristics of God's covenantal love:

- He is loyal and enduring forever: He keeps His promises (Ps 103:17)
- He is merciful and kind: We, being sinners and Gentiles, have now received this grace to be a part of His covenant (Eph 2:4–7)
- His love towards those He has called, His people, is free (Eph 2:8)

God's love is enduring, merciful, and has no price except our own love in return. Deuteronomy 7:9 says, "Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments." This is the love of God—that we can freely be His people and be a part of His covenant.

2. The bride of Christ

Do you remember the exclusive club mentioned earlier? When we join this exclusive club, we are making a "covenant." When we receive God's calling and choose to follow Jesus, we are agreeing to be His people. All we must do is follow His commandments; in return, He will keep His promises.

As described before, God's love is a covenant, which means that there are responsibilities that both

parties must keep. “Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything” (Eph 5:24). God is the bridegroom, and we are the bride. Let’s turn to Deuteronomy 7:6–11. What are some of the things we have to do to stay in the love of God?

Keeping His commandments and statutes, submitting to Him, and being careful to listen to and understand His words are all ways for us to stay in the covenantal love of God. In addition, we should learn to treat others with kindness, mercy, and love.

From examining the characteristics of God’s love, we can see now that love is not merely an emotional response to someone. It requires our understanding of God and His commandments (1 Jn 5:2–3).

C. What Is Holiness?

We cannot define holiness without looking to God’s Word. Without the Bible, we would never be able to understand what holiness is, and thus how we should be holy. Let’s read Psalm 15. After reading this chapter, how would you describe holiness? Do you think you are holy? For humankind, holiness is something impossible to achieve without God, who Himself is holy. But in what way is God holy?

God is holy because no sin exists in Him. It is simply not in His nature to do wrong or wickedness (Job 34:10). But not only is God incapable of doing evil, but He also detests it in His children. He commanded us, “You shall therefore consecrate yourselves, and you shall be holy; for I am holy” (Lev 11:44).

A Holy Nation

God’s love and holiness are inseparable. God has set us apart as His own special people because He loves us. But in God’s eyes, love is more than an emotional response. It is a relationship where both parties have a responsibility to uphold. In our relationship with God, our responsibility is to be holy. Let’s read 1 Peter 2:9–10.

What are the key words in these verses? *(Ask the students to circle the following words: chosen, royal, holy, His own special people, the people of God, mercy.)* From these words, we know God has set us apart to be holy. But what does it mean for us to be holy today?

1. **We belong to God**
   Our commitment to stay holy is also a reminder that we do not belong to ourselves. We belong to God; we are His own special people, as described in 1 Peter 2:9–10. Let’s look at two other verses: Titus 2:14 and Galatians 5:24. We have been cleansed and purified, so we have to put aside our desires and passions. What are some things that are holy and belong to God? *(Sabbath day, the holy temple, our body, the church, etc.)*

2. **We have been called by God**
   “Sanctify” and “consecrate” are commonly used in the Bible to show that whatever God sets apart is different from common things. That which God has set apart is called “holy,” which means that it belongs to God. If something is not holy, it cannot belong to Him. “Holy” can only be used to describe whatever belongs to God, whether it be a person, object, or time. Today, God has called us, His people, to be saints, or holy people (Rom 1:6–7). Those who have been called by God have the responsibility to pursue holiness in accordance with His word.

Life Application

1. Don't Hold Back; Love God with Your Whole Being!

The love of God has no end, because love is who God is. But as we just learned, love is more than a feeling or an emotion. Because God is love, He desires that we imitate Him, and this is evident in the words of the Bible, both in the example that God sets, and the instructions that He gives us. In the New International Version of the Bible, "love" is recorded 744 times. The importance of love is undeniable, and not just our love for God, but for those around us as well. Love is the greatest need in our world.

Jesus teaches us to "love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength" (Mk 12:30). The Greek word that Jesus uses for "love" in this verse is *agape*. This is a love that comes from God Himself: an everlasting, unchanging love. Everything will cease one day, but the love of God lasts forever. If we choose to grow in the love of God through the power of the Holy Spirit, we will become more and more like Jesus, and one day, see Him face to face and spend eternity with Him together!

But love cannot be an afterthought. We need to pay attention to its growth and cultivate it daily. To do so, we must truly embrace Jesus, and as we pray in the power of the Holy Spirit, the love of God will grow in our hearts. We should never let the flame of our love for God go out but be on guard against anything that can lead us astray on our walk with God. As Jesus taught us, "If you love Me, keep My commandments" (Jn 14:15).

A Good Practice! How Do You Love Others?

When we are filled with love, we will love the lonely and the hungry. We will visit the sick and comfort those who are in pain, whether physically, emotionally, or spiritually. Love is an active compassion, the driving force behind the kindness and care that we share with those around us. The Bible records one of the greatest descriptions of love in 1 Corinthians 13:1–8. *(Ask students to read the passage together as a class.)*

It is crucial for us to commit these verses to memory and to live them out in our lives. The first three verses teach us that love must be the motivation for all that we do. Yes, we can offer and do many things, but if we don't act with love, our actions are meaningless. The next four verses teach us how love manifests in our behavior and thoughts. Together, these verses guide us on how to act as holy, loving children of God.

Let's do a quick exercise to test our love. There are two other ways we can read 1 Corinthians 13:4–7. First, replace the word "love" with "Jesus." Read it, and you will read the heart of Jesus. Next, replace the word "love" with your name (e.g., "Jimmy suffers long and is kind."). Determine which of the aspects of love you need to grow more and share with your classmates.

2. A Plan to Stay Holy!

There are many things we struggle with at our age, such as the temptation of dating before we are ready for marriage, looking at things we shouldn't (e.g., pornography), other sexual temptations, greed, or hatred towards certain people. But God wants us to be holy. Without holiness, no one can see God (Heb 12:14), so we must strive to avoid temptations. To do so, we must come up with a plan to help each other stay holy. What specific action plan can we follow in order to have holiness in our lives?

a. Pray daily

The Holy Spirit gives us the power and strength to say "no" to temptation. Therefore, the first step is to pray daily, asking God to fill us with His power so that we have the strength to resist

the devil (Jas 4:7). When we pray before we leave for school, we offer our day to Him and make a covenant with God to be holy with our feet, our hands, and even our eyes (Job 31:1).

b. **Meditate on God's word daily**
Let us read Philippians 4:8 together. Filling our minds and thoughts daily with God's word is the best way to fight against unholy thoughts, for the word of God is powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword (Heb 4:12). For example, if you struggle with unholy thoughts about the opposite sex or the media, you can meditate on Job 31:1 and Romans 6:12–13. When we meditate on the word of God, it will guard our hearts and help us fight those unholy thoughts. However, we must first recognize our weaknesses. Then we can find the right verses to combat them. Memorizing God's word can help us get rid of our anger, resentment, or bitterness. The word of God is like water; it cleanses any undesirable elements in our lives.

c. **Offer our bodies fully to God daily**
Though the Internet or those around us seek to tempt us, we must not succumb to sexual lust before marriage, and instead offer our bodies fully to God each day. Each of us should honor marriage, as the marriage bed must be kept pure (Heb 13:4). We should not have an intimate relationship with the opposite sex, not even in dreams or fantasies. With the power of the Holy Spirit, we must strive to prevent even a hint of sexual immorality from coming into our lives (Eph 5:3).

d. **Be accountable to a spiritual friend**
When we belong to the light, we should live in light and not hide secrets in our lives. However, if we keep losing the battle to be holy, the Bible has taught us to "pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart" (2 Tim 2:22). In other words, we must be accountable to a spiritual friend who calls "on the Lord out of a pure heart," and who can help us fight this spiritual battle. By allowing someone to hold us accountable for the choices that we make, we are taking a step out of darkness (Eph 5:8–11).

Taking these concrete actions can help us live in holiness and be free from sin. We can also listen to godly music, such as hymns, and develop a habit of helping the church and those in need. When we live a life of simplicity and holiness, we glorify God.

Check for Understanding

1. **What is the covenantal love of God?** God's special relationship with His people, where He shows loyalty, kindness, mercy and love, and where His people have to keep His commandments.
2. **What is the difference between God's love and the love we see in the world?** Love in the world is usually an emotional response and can be temporary. The love of God is a relationship that will last forever with God because He is faithful.
3. **What does it mean to be holy?** It means to be free of wickedness and to belong to God.
4. **What are some ways that God shows His love in our lives?** Through parents, siblings, spouses, best friends, etc.
5. **How does one with love act, according to 1 Corinthians 13:4–7?** Love: suffers long; is kind; does not envy; does not parade itself; is not puffed up; does not behave rudely; does not seek its own; is not provoked; thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity; rejoices in the truth; bears all things; believes all things; hopes all things; and endures all things.
6. **What are some concrete actions that we can take to help us stay holy?** Pray daily; meditate on

God's word daily; offer our bodies fully to God daily; and be accountable to a spiritual friend.

Memory Verse

"Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments." (Deuteronomy 7:9)

Key Words: faithful, covenant, mercy, keep, commandments

Meaning

1. When the Israelites were about to enter Canaan, Moses exhorted them to remember their relationship with God and to be faithful to God always. Through this verse, we know that God will keep His covenant with those who love Him and keep His commandments.
2. To love God means to do what God commands, how He commands it.
3. Our part of the covenant requires us to keep God's commandments always. This means living out biblical teachings in our lives, such as keeping the Sabbath holy and being kind to others.

Conclusion

God gave up His Son so that we could be saved and have everlasting life. We did nothing to deserve salvation, yet God, out of His great love, made this plan for us. We should love God even more in return, and not with just any love, but with the love of God. When we are filled with the love of God, we're motivated to love Him back by loving other brothers and sisters through our servitude. God has also called us to be holy in our thoughts and in our actions. Let's strive to be more like God, who abounds in holiness and love!

Lesson 4 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. What does this verse teach us about our covenant with God?
   God will keep His covenant with those who love Him and keep His commandments.

2. "But you are a _____ generation, a royal priesthood, a _____ nation, His own _____ people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who _____ you out of darkness into His marvelous _____." (1 _____ 2:9)
   chosen, holy, special, called, light, Peter

3. According to our study of Deuteronomy 7:6–11, how do we stay in the love of God?
   By keeping His commandments, submitting to Him, listening to and understanding His words.

4. How is God holy? What does this mean for His followers?
   He is holy because no sin exists in Him. It is simply not in His nature to do wrong or wickedness. It means that His followers must also be holy and avoid evil (Lev 11:44).

5. What actions will you take this week in order to grow in your love? Consider what you lack the most according to 1 Corinthians 13:4–8.
   Personal answers.

6. What aspect of your life do you need to change in order to become more holy?
   Personal answers.

Junior 1 Year 3 Book 2 Lesson 5
God Is Truth
Passages: As listed in the lesson.

Memory Verse

"If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself." (2 Timothy 2:13)

Knowledge of God's Will [God's Word]	Knowledge of God [God's Divine Nature]	Good Works [Behavior]
1. God's truthfulness has many aspects. 2. God has promised His faithfulness.	God is truthful in His character, His words, and His promises.	1. Know the truth and grow in the truth. 2. Pray to be filled with love to cast out our fears.

Overview

Events and Spiritual Teachings
A. God's Character Is True
B. God's Word Is True
C. God's Promises Are True

Life Application
1. What Does God See in Our Hearts?
2. Take Courage in the Truth

Memory Verse

Conclusion: Truth is the very character of our God, and He will never change. As a result, His promises will never fail, and the will of God will be done, fully and completely in accordance with His truth. When we stand on the truth and make it the foundation of our lives, God will give us courage.

Events and Spiritual Teachings

Introduction

Lying is common in everyday personal speech as well as in school, in business, on television and radio, and sometimes among friends and family members. People lie to get out of difficult circumstances, to pass the blame to someone else, to gain an advantage over another person, or to make friends and family feel good. How should we regard the matter of lying? To answer this question, we must examine the opposite of lies: truth. Only when we understand the basis of what truth is can we understand why people may lie.

(Teachers: Ask a student to hold up both of their hands, then loosely wrap a piece of yarn around their wrists and hold it securely. Then invite the student to break free. It should be relatively easy. Now, wrap the student's wrists about six more times, this time more tightly, while explaining that one lie often leads us to many more as we try to cover up previous lies. Once again, invite the student to break free. It should be more difficult now.)

As we have seen here, when we tell many lies, it is more difficult to free ourselves. The more we lie, the more difficult it becomes to tell the truth. To be free of lies, we must tell the truth, and when we tell the truth, God is pleased with us. But even though we as God's children may determine to tell only the truth, others often do not think the same.

Can you distinguish true statements from false ones? Many supposedly true statements are, in fact, lies, whether intentional or unintentional. Satan may attack or tempt us by using lies to deceive our minds and make us doubt the words of God. The only way to overcome this is by knowing the truth. But what is the truth? Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (Jn 14:6). Jesus equates Himself to the truth. Today, we are going to consider three aspects of the truth that God encompasses.

A. God's Character Is True

The primary purpose of lies is to deceive others. It is natural for humans to turn to deceit, and it is a commonplace occurrence, whether large or small. On the other hand, we learned in the previous lesson that God is holy because it is against His very nature to sin, and thus to lie. This is why God is true in His character – it is a part of His very nature. Hebrews 6:18 says, "[It] is impossible for God to lie." The God that we worship is a "God of truth and without injustice; righteous and upright is He" (Deut 32:4). Let's study some of the ways God's character is true:

1. **God is the Creator and source of all truth**
   We also call Him true because He is the Creator of all things, and everything that we can see, touch, and feel, are built upon the truth that He created. Consider what we know of the laws of the universe, the way our bodies work, and the nature of the earth we live on. All of these exist because God declared and made them the way they are. Without God, the truth would not even exist.

2. **God never changes**
   God's character is also true because He does not change (Mal 3:6): God is the only eternal and unchanging being in existence. He never changes and will never die. The world around us, however, is constantly changing, because all things on it eventually die. Society's outlook on sexual orientation, on race and diversity, on how to judge crimes, and even on moral standards,

differ from generation to generation. Only God and His truth are eternal, and they never change to meet human standards. He has always been, and will always be, holy and true (Jas 1:17).

3. **The truth that leads to godliness**
   We can see the truth of God's character in Jesus, who called Himself "the way, the truth, and the life" (Jn 14:6). The reason Jesus could bear our sins on the cross was because of His perfect holiness. When we pursue God, we are pursuing this same holiness. And to find it, we must understand the truth that God has given us within the Bible.

   Paul called knowledge of God's truth, "the truth that leads to godliness" (Tit 1:1 NIV). Peter wrote that we have "purified [our] souls in obeying the truth" (1 Pet 1:22), and when Jesus prayed for His disciples, He asked God to "[s]anctify them by Your truth" (Jn 17:17). While human organizations, philosophies, and traditions are constantly changing, God's truth will never change and lasts forever. The truth that we can find in Jesus Christ is a solid foundation that will lead us to godliness, and from godliness to salvation.

B. God's Word Is True

Psalm 33:4 says that "the word of the LORD is right." God is truth, so by extension, we know that His words are also true (Ps 119:160). Jesus once said, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away" (Mt 24:35). Therefore, "the word of our God stands forever" (Isa 40:8). So, not only was God's word true in the past, but it will also continue to be true in the future. But how do we know that the Bible contains God's words?

1. **A single author**
   Over a span of 1,500 years, forty different writers recorded the words of God, which eventually became the Bible we know today. Some of these writers were well educated; others were not. Yet all of them told the same story. This is because the Bible had only one author: God Himself. The Bible's very existence is evidence of God's authorship: Despite the length of time over which it was written, the Bible communicates a unified message that applies to all people, places, and times.

2. **Prophecies**
   Fulfilled prophecies are evidence that the Bible contains God's words and is therefore true. Let's review some of the prophecies regarding Jesus Christ.

Old Testament Prophecy	New Testament Fulfillment
Christ to be born in Bethlehem (Mic 5:2)	Herod asked the chief priests and scribes where Christ had been born. They answered, "In Bethlehem." (Mt 2:4–6)
Christ to enter Jerusalem riding on a donkey (Zech 9:9)	Christ enters Jerusalem riding on a donkey (Mt 21:4–11)
Christ to be betrayed by a friend (Ps 41:9)	Judas betrayed Jesus (Lk 22:21, 48)
Christ to be betrayed for thirty pieces of silver (Zech 11:12)	Judas sold Jesus for thirty pieces of silver (Mt 26:14–15)

Thirty pieces of silver cast down and used to buy a potter's field (Zech 11:13)	Thirty pieces of silver used to buy a potter's field (Mt 27:3–10)
Although innocent, Christ will remain silent when in trial (Isa 53:7)	Jesus kept silent when questioned (Mk 14:60–61)
Christ crucified (Ps 22:16)	Jesus was crucified (Jn 19:17–18)

There are many more occasions where prophecies recorded within the Bible were fulfilled, whether immediately or after hundreds of years. Knowing this, we can be sure that the prophecies concerning the end times will also come to pass.

C. God's Promises Are True

Since God's word is true, His promises are equally true, including the covenant of salvation that He has offered us. Hebrews 6:18 says that "it is impossible for God to lie," so we can have a "strong consolation" in the hope of salvation that He has given us. He is always faithful to His promises, no matter how incredible they may seem. This is only possible because of His omnipotence.

As humans, no matter how much we want to help and protect those we care about, we can only promise so much. Even our family cannot guarantee our safety, because so many things are out of our control. What can you do about a hurricane, or a car accident? What can you do when faced with financial difficulties or health problems? God, on the other hand, can easily provide for all of our needs and take care of us no matter what we encounter. His promises have greater meaning and truth because of His power.

What are some seemingly impossible promises that God made to His followers in the Bible?

- God promised Abraham that he would have a son by his wife Sarah (Gen 12:4; 15:4; 17:15–29; 21:1–2);
- God promised Simeon that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ (Lk 2:26);
- Before His ascension, Jesus told His apostles to wait in Jerusalem until they received the "Promise of the Father" (Acts 1:4–5). On the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit poured out upon the apostles (Acts 2:2–4).

Now, what are some promises God has made to us? Try to think of a promise that you have seen fulfilled in your life, or that has encouraged you in the past. *(Teachers: Before class, compile a list of promises in the Bible. Suggestions: Mt 6:33; Ps 50:15; Ps 103:8–9. Invite students to choose one to share about (i.e., how it encourages them). As an alternative sharing idea, ask the students to share promises of God that have helped them.)*

In view of the promises made and fulfilled by God, it is clear that God will always honor His promises. If God could lie, He would be like Satan, the father of lies (Jn 8:44). He would also be just like humankind who lie, misrepresent, or distort the truth. But "God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?" (Num 23:19). Paul also wrote, "If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself" (2 Tim 2:13).

If His promises are true, then God's covenants, by extension, are also true. When God makes a

covenant, He will fulfill it (2 Cor 1:20), because the almighty God not only tells the truth—He is the truth. Although He is sovereign and almighty, He has committed Himself to His people in an "everlasting covenant" (Gen 9:16; 17:7; 1 Chr 16:17).

What kind of covenants did God make in the Old Testament?

- God made a covenant with Noah to never destroy the earth again through a flood (Gen 9:11–13).
- God made a covenant with Abraham that:
  - he would be a father of many nations (Gen 17:5–7);
  - his nation will be led into the promised land (Gen 12:1);
  - he will be made into a great nation (Gen 12:2); and that
  - through him, all the people of the earth will be blessed (Gen 12:3).
- God made a covenant with David that He will bring His people back into a relationship with Him. God told David that his descendants, his royal house, and his kingdom "shall be established forever" (2 Sam 7:16). This covenant was fulfilled in Jesus, a descendant of the line of David (Mt 1:1; Lk 1:30–33).
- God made a covenant with Moses. It was a covenant between God and His people, the Israelites. God told Moses that if Israel obeys, they "shall be a special treasure to [Him, and] a kingdom of priests and a holy nation" (Ex 19:5–6).

All these covenants share a central theme: "You shall be My people, and I will be your God" (Jer 30:22). As long as we are willing to be His people and obey His commands, He commits Himself forever to being our God. Knowing this, we can be assured of the truth of His words and of His promises, because we know that not only is it impossible for God to lie, but He also has the power to make His promises become reality. "Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments" (Deut 7:9).

Check for Understanding

1. **What are the three reasons God's character is true?** God is the Creator and source of all truth; God never changes; His truth leads to godliness.
2. **List two prophecies that came true in the New Testament.** Refer to *Spiritual Teachings, Section B*.
3. **Our God is a God of promise. List at least two examples from the Bible.** Refer to *Spiritual Teachings, Section C*.
4. **Who is the father of all lies?** Satan (Jn 8:44).
5. **What covenant did God make with Moses?** God told Moses that if the Israelites obey, they "shall be a special treasure to [Him, and] a kingdom of priests and a holy nation" (Ex 19:5–6).
6. **What covenant did God make with David?** God promised that He will bring His people back into a relationship with Him. He told David that his descendants and his royal house and his kingdom "shall be established forever" (2 Sam 7:16).

Life Application

1. What Does God See in Our Hearts?

God looks into our hearts, so we must constantly examine ourselves and ask questions that challenge our conscience about deception. "I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings" (Jer 17:10). In other words, God searches our hearts and gives to us according to what we have done. What does God see in our hearts? Does He see

honesty and integrity? Does He see lying and deception? Does He see a heart that follows the truth of the Bible in all of our decisions? We live in a world where knowing the truth can be confusing, and where it is often difficult to discern right from wrong.

The world around us has its own standards for what is right. It is wrong to lie, but white lies are okay, for example, and it is wrong to steal, but taking extra freebies from a shop offering one per customer is okay. We must live by the truth of the Bible, not by the malleable and changeable truth of the world. Let's take a look at a few examples that we may encounter in our daily lives, and then review how we should act according to the truth of the Bible.

(Teachers: Review the following questions with the students. Ask them to think deeply about their answers and invite volunteers to share. Afterwards, share the verses about the truth found in the Bible. Your students' responses should help you gain better insight into your students' understanding of biblical teachings.)

- Do you always return the money when a cashier mistakenly gives you extra change?
  God's teaching: Do not steal. (Ex 20:15)
- Are you willing to confess your lies honestly to your family and your friends?
  God's teaching: I should be honest at all times. I should not lie. (Prov 26:28)
- Do you believe that it is okay to talk behind a person's back?
  God's teaching: Do not gossip. (Prov 20:19)
- Do you believe that it is okay to cheat on your homework?
  God's teaching: Do not bear false witness. (Ex 20:16)
- Do you think that it is okay to own many material possessions while not sharing with the poor who have none?
  God's teaching: Be generous to the poor. (Prov 19:17)
- Do you think that it is okay to listen to secular music that affects your spirituality negatively?
  God's teaching: Build ourselves up on the most holy faith. (Jude 1:20)
- Do you think that same-sex marriage is okay?
  God's teaching: God detests same-sex marriage. (Rom 1:27)
- Do you think that intimacy with the opposite sex is okay as long as you do not "go all the way"?
  God's teaching: The marriage bed should be kept undefiled (Heb 13:4). But among the saints there must not be any hint of sexual immorality (Eph 5:3).

The more time we spend with God's word, the more we will form convictions that guide us in every decision we make and with every step we take. We become more like Jesus as we spend time with Him. The only way to know God is by experiencing His sanctifying work in our life. So, we must allow the word of God and the Holy Spirit to transform us moment by moment, day by day.

2. Take Courage in the Truth

We all want to be liked and admired by our friends and our peers. We desire to be fully accepted by the people who surround us daily. In the New Testament, many people were afraid of openly seeking or even mentioning Jesus Christ for fear of the Jews (Jn 7:13). A "ruler of the Jews" named Nicodemus chose to go to Jesus by night, possibly fearing persecution from others if he went during the day (Jn 3:1–2). Even one of Jesus Christ's disciples denied Him publicly three times (Jn 18:15–17, 25–27). No one wants to be humiliated or persecuted.

The Bible clearly tells us: "We ought to obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29). If we fear Him greatly, then we really need to stand up for the truth courageously. But we must do so with the power of the Holy Spirit. Peter once denied Jesus three times, but on the Day of Pentecost, he was filled by the Holy Spirit! He preached with boldness, with courage, and without fear. Peter became an apostle who defended and lived out the truth without any fear of the consequences. But how do we develop such courage?

Replace Fear with Love for His Truth

2 Timothy 1:7 says, "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind." When we pray daily and yield to the Holy Spirit, we no longer fear, but instead are filled with love for God and His truth. 1 John 4:18 says, "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love." If we have perfected God's love in us, then our fears will vanish. So, by understanding God's love and filling ourselves with that same love, we can learn to speak and act out the truth with courage.

Memory Verse

"If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself." (2 Timothy 2:13)

Meaning

1. To be "faithless" can mean to question or betray a trust, or to be unfaithful. As humans, we are susceptible to falling out of the truth, or to succumbing to lies. However, God's nature is faithful and true, so even if we betray His trust or lose faith in Him, He will still be true.
2. In times when we may turn away from God, we can be assured that when we do return to God and face Him, He will be there to receive us.
3. God cannot deny Himself because He is holy; as a holy God, it is impossible for Him to lie. He has promised His faithfulness, so He will always be faithful to us.

Conclusion

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (Jn 14:6). Truth is the very character of our God, and He will never change. As a result, His promises will never fail, for the "LORD is trustworthy in all [He] promises and faithful in all [He] does" (Ps 145:13 NIV). The time is going to come when the kingdom of God will come, and the will of God will be done, fully and completely in accordance with His truth. When we stand on the truth and make it the foundation of our lives, God will give us courage.

Lesson 5 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. What does it mean that God cannot deny Himself?
   It is in God's nature to be faithful and true. It is impossible for Him to lie.

2. What are three ways God is true in His character?
   God is the Creator and source of all truth; God never changes; His truth leads to godliness.

3. Pick one of the above ways God's character is true, and briefly explain in your own words.
   God is the Creator and source of all truth – Without God, the truth would not even exist.
   God never changes – He is the only eternal and unchanging being in existence.
   His truth leads to godliness – The truth that we find in Jesus Christ is a solid foundation that will lead us to godliness, and from godliness to salvation.

4. How do we know the Bible contains God's words?
   It has a single author, and many prophecies recorded within have been fulfilled.

5. How can we be assured of the truth in God's promises?
   Because we know that not only is it impossible for God to lie, but He also has the power to make His promises become reality.

6. Do you courageously speak and live out the truth? Describe a moment when you did or did not.
   Personal answers.

Junior 1 Year 3 Book 2 Lesson 6
Understanding God's Providence
Passages: As listed in the lesson.

Memory Verse

"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose." (Romans 8:28)

Knowledge of God's Will [God's Word]	Knowledge of God [God's Divine Nature]	Good Works [Behavior]
God wants to provide for our needs and guide our future.	1. God is a sovereign King. 2. God is a loving Father.	Trust in God's provision and guidance without worry or fear.

Overview

Events and Spiritual Teachings
A. God's Providence
B. God Is the Best Provider

Life Application: Learn to Trust in God's Providence

Memory Verse

Conclusion: God knows our needs, so we must trust in God's ability to provide for us more than in our own ability—we need not fear nor worry.

Events and Spiritual Teachings

Introduction

(Teachers: Ask your students, "How would you define providence?" Invite responses from students, even if they are inaccurate or incorrect.)

Providence can be defined as God's guidance and care over creation, especially in sustaining or guiding human destiny. Destiny refers to the specific events that will happen in a person's future.

Aesop's fable *The Ant and the Grasshopper* tells the story of an ant that gathered food in the plentiful summer to prepare for the scarcity of winter; meanwhile, the grasshopper just played around. The moral of the story: the ant could "provide" food in the winter months because the ant had the *foresight* to prepare. Many times, we may make great plans, but our plans for the future go wrong because there are things we cannot foresee nor prepare for. But God, in His infinite knowledge, power, and wisdom, always succeeds in His plans. So, we must understand the difference between what God can provide in our lives and what man can provide for himself with his own power.

A. God's Providence

In the beginning, God presented Adam and Eve with a choice: Be guided by your own desires, or trust God's insight and direction for your lives (Gen 2:16–17; 3:6). This is the central point to understanding God's providence in our lives. If we could provide for ourselves, then God's providence would be unnecessary. Those who do not believe in God believe that they can provide for themselves and direct their own lives. But God is the one who truly provides, so man must defer to God and trust in His provision.

God's providence is important to understand because God gave mankind an important ability: free will (Gen 2:16–17; Deut 11:26–28; 30:1–3, 15–18; Josh 24:15; Jer 26:4–6). Free will refers to our ability to make our own plans and decisions, and to seek out our own needs and wants. However, God has offered His commandments as guidelines for our choices (Gen 2:16–17). He has given each of us a choice as to whether or not we follow, trust, and obey Him. As His children, our free will should abide by the limits placed by God.

Although we must learn to trust in God's providence, trusting Him does not mean that we can sit back, do nothing, and laze around. Rather, it means that we must trust in God's ability to guide and direct our path more than we trust in our own ability to provide for ourselves. Let's examine some of the ways God's provision is greater than our own.

1. God provides as a sovereign God and loving Father

God promised Abraham that his wife would bear a son, even though she was past childbearing age. Childbearing would have been humanly impossible, but the impossible became possible because Abraham trusted in God's power. However, years after Isaac's birth, God tested Abraham. He asked Abraham to take his only son Isaac, whom he loved, and sacrifice him as a burnt offering. Let's read Genesis 22:1–14.

Why did God call on Abraham to sacrifice his only son? God was testing whether Abraham would obediently surrender Isaac out of his fear of God. Let's turn to Hebrews 11:17–19.

> *"By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, 'In Isaac your seed shall be called,' concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead[.]"*

Whatever pain Abraham may have felt at the thought of sacrificing his only son, he completely trusted in God's promise. As a result, God stopped him, and instead provided a ram for him to offer. "And Abraham called the name of the place, The-LORD-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, 'In the Mount of the LORD it shall be provided' " (Gen 22:14). No matter how difficult or miserable the situation we face, we have a sovereign God and a loving Father. He will provide whatever we need.

2. God provides during our tests of faith

The trials that we face in our lives are often a test of our faith. One very good example can be found in the Book of Daniel, chapter three. The king threatened Daniel's three friends with death in a fiery furnace if they did not worship the golden statue. The three refused. "If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up" (Dan 3:17–18). They had no idea whether or not God would save them from the fiery furnace, but they nonetheless remained faithful.

In the end, though Daniel's three friends were bound and thrown into the hot furnace, King Nebuchadnezzar saw them walking around freely, unharmed, along with a fourth figure that looked like "the Son of God" (Dan 3:25). Daniel's three friends completely trusted in God, even under the threat of death, and in return for their faithfulness, He delivered them from death.

When we encounter trials in our faith, God sees that we are in need. However, for God to provide for our need, we need to keep our faith in Him, just as Daniel's three friends did. Let's read 1 Peter 1:7. A genuine faith in God is more precious than gold, and even in the face of trials, when we truly have faith in God, our actions will glorify God. No matter what trials we may face, when we trust in Him, He will answer with His provision.

3. God provides in our times of need

Sometimes, we may be weak in our faith and question how God can or will provide for us. During these times, we must run to God and ask Him for His providence. Whether our faith is weak or strong, we must go to God and share our fears, worries, concerns, and doubts. We must ask God to provide for us in our time of need. Even if what we need is a stronger faith, we must still ask Him for His help. We must not doubt His promise of providence, for His promise is true and He will provide. "And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Phil 4:19).

B. God Is the Best Provider

God can guide and care for us so effectively because He knows us more than we even know ourselves.

1. God's intimate knowledge of our past

The Bible tells us that God knew us and what we would do even before we were born:

a. God sees our "unformed" substance (Ps 139:16).
b. God set Jeremiah apart as a prophet before Jeremiah was even born (Jer 1:5).
c. Apostle Paul said that God "separated [him] from [his] mother's womb and called [him] through His grace" (Gal 1:15).

2. **God's intimate knowledge of our present**
   The Bible teaches us that God also knows us intimately in the present:
   a. God knows every hair on our head, and not one of them will fall to the ground apart from God's will (Mt 10:29–31).
   b. No creature is hidden from God's sight; all things are naked and open before God's eyes, and everything that we do will one day be accounted for (Heb 4:13; Mk 4:22).
   c. There are no secrets from God (Eccl 12:14). It may be scary to realize that God is all-knowing and all-seeing. But at the same time, we can bring everything to Him in prayer because He understands us so deeply.
   d. Since God knows us intimately, He can help us as no other person in this world can. Through the Spirit, God knows our weaknesses and can help us with them. He can even help intercede for us (Rom 8:26).

3. **God's intimate knowledge of our future**
   The Bible tells us that God also knows our future.
   a. God declares the end from the beginning; He knows and directs what will happen (Isa 46:10).
   b. God knows what words we will say before we even say them (Ps 139:4).
   c. God knows and directs the times and places where nations live (Acts 17:26).
   d. God directs our path in life (Prov 20:24; Jer 10:23).

God knows all things and is in control of all things, which is why His promises are always true. Since God knows us intimately from beginning to end—before we were born, at our present situation in life, and in our future—let us ask ourselves: "Is there anyone in a better position to guide and care for us than God Himself?" The answer is: No.

There is no one apart from God who is in a better position to guide and care for us. He is our sovereign Ruler, yet within God's sovereignty is His love. He is the only one with the power to provide, and like a loving Father, He wants to guide and care for us each day (Isa 46:3–4). God knows our needs, so we must trust in His ability to provide for us more than in our own ability. With His providence, we never need to fear nor worry in our lives.

Check for Understanding

1. **What does it mean that God has given us free will?** God has given us the ability to choose and make moral decisions freely. In giving us the freedom to choose, we need to learn to live by faith.
2. **What does it mean to trust in God's providence?** Trusting Him does not mean that we can sit back, do nothing, and laze around. Rather, it means that we must trust in God's ability to guide and direct our path more than we trust in our own ability to provide for ourselves.
3. **How is God's provision greater than our own?** God provides as a sovereign God and loving Father; He provides during our tests of faith; and He provides in our times of need.
4. **Like Daniel's three friends, what do we need for God's provision during our tests of faith?** We need to keep our faith in Him. No matter what trials we may face, when we trust in Him, He will answer with His provision.
5. **Why is God the best provider for us?** He can guide and care for us so effectively because He knows us more than we know ourselves.

Life Application

Learn to Trust in God's Providence

1. Trust in times of difficulty

Job endured a great deal of suffering when he faced the trials God allowed in his life (Job 1:6–2:8). His suffering became so great that his wife told him, "Curse God and die!" But Job replied, "You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?" (Job 2:9–10). Throughout his trials, Job accepted that he did not understand why such awful things were happening. Job eventually recognized his lack of insight, and as a result, he was able to see God more clearly (Job 42:2–6).

God's care and guidance are difficult to remember when we undergo trials and difficulties. This is because when our hearts and minds are focused on our struggles, we create a fog through which we cannot see God. Once Job understood his lack of insight, God blessed Job twice as much as before (Job 42:10). We must learn to entrust our lives into God's hands during our trials, so that we can receive God's blessings.

2. Trust without worry or fear

Difficulties and challenges in our lives show us just how much we really trust and have faith in God. Weightlifters don't know their true strength until they begin to lift. In the same way, trials that we face reveal the true strength and nature of our faith. But how do we face such trials without fear or worry?

Jesus has taught us that when we fully understand God's guidance and love for us, we will not worry nor be afraid about whether or not God will provide for us (Mt 6:25–34; 10:29–31). What we should truly be worried about is: Do we fear the God who can save or condemn both our body and soul? (Mt 10:28; Lk 12:5). Our greatest fear should not be the challenges we face. It should be whether we honor God after we know the truth, because if we do not, we can only expect God's judgment (Heb 10:26–27).

3. Trust through prayer

God wants to provide for our deepest needs, and He already has a perfect plan for our future. We can make our own path in life, but God's way is much better because He has full insight and knowledge into our situation and future, even more than we do (Isa 55:7–9; Jas 4:13–16). God will "fulfill the desire of those who fear Him" (Ps 145:19), so we must learn to trust Him with everything. But our trust only comes to life when we pray according to His will.

Prayer is the key to showing God that we trust and rely upon Him (cf. 1 Sam 1:10, 27). If we do not pray often, then we likely do not know how to rely on Him, because prayer is one of the most important methods through which God guides us. The Bible teaches us how God's providence is revealed through prayer:

- "Ask the LORD for rain in the time of the latter rain. […] He will give them showers of rain, grass in the field for everyone" (Zech 10:1; cf. Jas 5:17–18).
- Jesus taught, "Ask, and it will be given to you" (Mt 7:7).
- When we ask in faith, according to His will, God hears our prayers (1 Jn 5:14–15; Jas 1:5–7).
- Do not be anxious over anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let our requests be made known to God (Phil 4:6). Then we can receive the divine peace that surpasses all understanding (Phil 4:7).

In prayer, we can ask God for all that we need and desire. But we need to ask according to His will, not our own. When we do so, we will experience God's providence and blessing in our lives. As Romans 8:28 says, "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the

called according to His purpose." God will fulfill our deepest needs and desires through prayer if, instead of following our own will, we learn to put our trust and focus upon His will and plan for us.

Trusting God to fulfill our needs and wants is difficult to do in trying times. But as we learn to rely on God's provision more than our own, we become less fearful or worried about our future. This is because we know that God is in control, so we place our trust in Him. Whether in good times or bad, we should focus on God's will and provision through our prayers.

4. Trust in spiritual friends

"And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Phil 4:19). God is always concerned with our needs, and He will provide for us beyond what we can imagine! His goal is to shape and mold us. To do so, He uses difficult times and trials to test us, so that we can become more Christ-like. In times like these, God may work through others to help us. One sister shared a testimony about how God provided for her through a friend during her trials of life. The following is an excerpt.

Testimony: Thank You

It is said that the Lord works in mysterious ways. I am inclined to believe He does. As I trace my Christian walk in the United States of America, I see how the Lord has led me into your care so that every one of you could help me and my family grow from one year to another.

In January 1989, my husband Larry was baptized. Six months later, he received the Holy Spirit. Thus 1989 became an especially good year for us. We were spiritually elevated, and we were equally elated about other aspects of our lives. We were all in relatively good health. Larry's career in a major oil packaging company was challenging and rewarding. We had also achieved our American dream of home ownership, and to top that, we were able to remain a traditional family where Larry went to work, and I stayed at home to take care of our children. Our joy was complete.

But there is "a season and a time for every matter under heaven." In the summer of 1990, Larry was diagnosed with a rare form of abdominal cancer. Again, you supported us with your prayers so that the surgeon could efficiently remove a tumor "the size of a small basketball," and Larry was able to recover quickly from the surgery. He returned to work and, for about a year, was again in good health. However, over the next two years, we lived in fear of each new test. We fought the disease in any way we could and as hard as we could. We prayed and we fasted. We bargained for more time, and we promised to be missionaries. At the same time, Larry also subjected himself to a series of surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation treatments. We even tried special diets. Truly, the disease was a heavy cross to bear.

But we were never alone, for you carried our burden as well. You, too, fasted and prayed, more than we did or could ever do. You stayed with us as we sat and waited through each surgery to listen to the dreadful news of what was or was not inside Larry's abdomen. You went through the ordeal of donating blood so that your life-giving force would sustain Larry during the initial stages of recovery. You served him healthy meals, brought him flowers and sent him greeting cards. You took care of my daughters and offered them your companionship. You invited me into your home so that I would have a place to rest for the night while Larry rested in his hospital bed with the assurance that I was only a short distance away. When there was a need for me to travel between my house and the hospital, you went out of your way to drive hundreds of miles to give me a ride.

By the summer of 1993, we found that the cancer had spread to Larry's liver. From then on, Larry began to lose weight. As Larry's health deteriorated, you continued your prayer vigils. Eventually, he was unable to attend to his personal needs. He also became incoherent. You understood my struggle and you continued to lend me your support. You stepped up your prayers, and you took turns to come by to assist me so that Larry would, in addition to being cared for by the nurses from the local hospice organization, receive round-the-clock care.

The following Monday, December 13, 1993, Larry passed on. Although the nurses had prepared me for the inevitable, you understood that it was not easy for me to let go of someone with whom I had spent almost half of my life. You also understood that I feared for my daughters who would now grow up fatherless. And so, you let us mourn while you got together to raise the funds to lay a dearly beloved brother to rest.

I thank you for all your good works. May the Lord Jesus reward you with His abundant grace.

– Susan Estrada

Discussion

- How can we see the hand of God's providence in this testimony?
- From this testimony, what can we learn about how we should trust God with our needs and plans in the future?
- Are you willing to be used by God to be someone's blessings through their tests?

Memory Verse

"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose." (Romans 8:28)

Paul understood that the Roman members suffering persecution may have begun to question whether they should be following Christ. He encouraged them, saying that since they love God and have been called by Him, everything will work out in the end. God will take care of His chosen.

What does it mean by "all things work together for good"?
Whether good or bad, all events that occur ultimately have a purpose, as they are a part of God's perfect plan. All that the Roman members endured occurred so that the gospel could be spread further. They all "work[ed] together for good." The trials that we endure are the same.

How are we one of "the called"?
Paul assured the members that God had called each of them to be His children and had set each of them apart to be sanctified. We, too, have been called by God to be set apart as one of His children.

Why is it important to become "those who love God"?
God blesses us in many different ways and gives His grace freely, but for our part, we must first love Him and follow His commandments. It is important that we do not take His providence for granted.

Conclusion

Since God knows us intimately from beginning to end—before we were born, at our present situation in life, and in our future. There is no one who is in a better position to guide and care for us. He is our sovereign Ruler, yet within God's sovereignty is His love. He is the only one with the power to provide,

and like a loving Father, He wants to guide and care for us each day (Isa 46:3–4). With His providence, we never need to fear nor worry in our lives.

Lesson 6 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. Why is it important for us to become “those who love God”?
   God blesses us in many different ways and gives His grace feely, but for our part, we must first love Him and follow His commandments. It is important that we do not take His providence for granted.

2. What is important to remember about our free will as God’s children?
   God has offered His commandments as guidelines for our choices. As His children, our free will should abide by the limits placed by God.

3. What are three ways God in which provides?
   He provides as a sovereign God and loving Father; God provides during our tests of faith; and God provides in our times of need.

4. Why is God’s care for us so much more effective than our own provision?
   Because He knows us more than we even know ourselves. He has intimate knowledge of our past, our present, and our future.

5. How do we trust God without worry or fear?
   When we fully understand God’s guidance and love for us, we will not worry nor be afraid about whether or not He will provide for us. Our greatest fear should not be the challenges we face, but whether we honor God after we know the truth.

6. Share a time when you have felt anxious or forgotten about God’s provision. After today’s lesson, what can you change if you are faced with similar situations in the future?
   Personal answers.

Junior 1 Year 3 Book 2 Lesson 7
The Holy Name of God (I)
Passages: As listed in the lesson.

Memory Verse

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name." (Matthew 6:9)

Knowledge of God's Will [God's Word]	Knowledge of God [God's Divine Nature]	Good Works [Behavior]
1. God's name is holy. 2. God's name holds many meanings.	1. The Lord is our provider and our shepherd. 2. God is peace. 3. God is righteous.	1. Revere God's holy name. 2. Call on God's name with trust in times of need.

Overview

Events and Spiritual Teachings
A. Understanding God's Holy Name
B. The Meanings of God's Names

Life Application
1. Trust in the Name of God
2. Hallow God's Name
3. The Meanings of God's Name

Memory Verse

Conclusion: God's name is powerful and holds many meanings that can bring strength in our lives today. But even though He is our sovereign Creator, God is never out of reach. He loves when we talk to Him, and He wants us to come to Him with our difficulties. He is ready to help us, if only we call on His name.

Events and Spiritual Teachings

Introduction

Do you know what your name means? For many parents, choosing a child's name usually requires great thought and consideration. Some names hold great importance for the family. Some names define traits they wish their children to embody. Some names reveal their child's birthplace, or a place dear to their hearts. Whatever the case, parents often choose names that are meaningful to them. God, too, has a name that bears great meaning to us when we study it more closely. One of the characteristics that we can see in His name is His holiness.

Do you know what "holy" means? Try defining "holy" in your own words.

(Show a blank, white sheet of paper.) As you can see, this clean sheet of paper is spotless and clean. To be holy means to be without sin, filth, or blemish. However, as humans, we are constantly adding awful, black marks to this clean sheet of white paper. Every hurtful word that we say, offensive action that we take, or evil thought that we think is another black mark. God is holy, so as His children, it is our goal to keep this sheet of paper as clean and white as possible. We need to stay holy throughout our lifetime.

Now that we have a basic understanding of the word "holy," and understand how names hold different meanings, we can examine the holy name of God and the many meanings of His name.

A. Understanding God's Holy Name

When God came down to earth in the form of a man, He was known as Jesus. But what about God's name? Did He reveal His holy name to us? In Exodus 3:13–15, Moses faced the burning bush and asked what he should call God when the Israelites asked. God replied, "I AM WHO I AM." In the Hebrew text, this phrase is written as "*YHWH,*" which is sometimes expressed as "*Yahweh.*"

This name expresses how God is absolute, and how He existed before everything else. God is so powerful, almighty, and holy that any name given to Him would set boundaries to God's almighty nature. But there are no boundaries to His power. He encompasses and surpasses all things, so God's name is, "I AM WHO I AM."

In Genesis 14:18–20, when Melchizedek king of Salem blessed Abram, he referred to God as *El Elyon,* "God Most High." In a grammatical context, the word "most" is used to show that this is the highest level. Nothing and no one can be higher than our God, because He is God Most High. His power is so great, and His sovereign nature is so far beyond our own, that no name can contain or properly express Him.

When we consider God's absolute holiness, power, and might, we may feel unworthy of calling upon Him. But this is the opposite of how we should view God. On many occasions during the exodus, He reassured the Israelites by saying, "I am the LORD your God." God is always ready to help, encourage, and guide us, through good times and bad.

B. The Meanings of God's Names

As the standard for almightiness and holiness, God may seem unapproachable or unreachable. But God wants us to come before Him and embrace Him as our Father. God understands us more than we think, and He can relate to us in ways that no one else can. The Bible teaches us many meanings to God's name, and all of these meanings are relevant to our lives today.

1. ***YHWH Yireh:* The Lord Will Provide** (Gen 22:14)
When Abraham was about to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice to God, the Angel of the LORD stopped him and provided a ram for the burnt offering instead. So, Abraham called the name of the place *YHWH Yireh*, "The-LORD-Will-Provide."

It is easy to forget the power behind God's provision. God's provision is a promise that He gives to those who follow Him (Mt 6:31–34), but it is also a promise that God alone can fulfill. He is the only one who has the power to provide for our every need. Abraham understood this almighty power in declaring this name of God.

However, even knowing this, we often forget to turn to God when in need and forget to thank God for all that He has given us. What are some things that God has provided for you? *(Allow students to answer. Examples: a healthy body, a loving family, food to eat, a solution to a particular problem, certain skills, etc.)* In our time of need, God knows what is best for us. Sometimes, we may not get what we ask for, but even if we do not necessarily receive what we want, we should still trust that God provides for our needs and always remember that "those who seek the LORD shall not lack any good thing" (Ps 34:10).

2. ***YHWH Rohi:* The Lord Is My Shepherd** (Ps 23:1)
In Psalm 23, David wrote: *YHWH Rohi,* "The LORD is my shepherd." Before David became king, he was a shepherd. For David, God was his own shepherd, who took care of him and protected him from his enemies, the same way he once cared for his father's sheep. Today, God continues to play the same role as our shepherd. He is our protector and our guide. He shields us from danger and leads us on the path we ought to take.

To have God as our protector is a very precious thing. David wrote, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me" (Ps 23:4). David experienced so much danger and suffering throughout his lifetime, yet he knew that God was his shepherd; the Lord would protect him from harm. Knowing this, he could walk forward confidently without fear, even in the face of death.

As God's sheep, we are all very precious to Him, and He does not want any of us to fall away (Mt 18:12–13). In His description of the true shepherd, Jesus stated that the sheep "follow him, for they know his voice" (Jn 10:4). If we are truly God's sheep, we will know His voice and will follow His guidance. He is always calling for us, trying to guide us back into His protection so that we don't fall away. When we start to go astray, as His obedient sheep, we will return when we hear our shepherd calling for us.

3. ***YHWH Shalom:* The Lord Is Peace** (Judg 6:24)
Gideon built an altar to the Lord and called it *YHWH Shalom,* "The-LORD-Is-Peace." In today's world, many people seek peace but cannot find it. Can peace be found in the riches of the world? In relationships? In fame or glamour? Can peace be found in success?

Have you ever felt anxious about something? Do you know the reason for your anxiety? For example, if we have been waiting for someone for a while, we might begin to feel anxious and start wondering if maybe they forgot or got lost. Maybe you have felt anxious when waiting for the results of a test, or perhaps you experienced anxiety about something more serious, such as

the illness of a family member.

These anxieties arise because there are so many things in this world that are out of our control. But the Bible teaches us that God has "not forsaken those who seek [Him]" (Ps 9:10), allowing us to sleep in peace because God alone ensures our safety (Ps 4:8). God offers us peace, because those who seek Him know that He can be trusted in all things. And when we truly understand this, we will no longer feel anxious about anything.

The Lord Jesus reassured us, "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (Jn 14:27). The peace that God gives to us is an inner spiritual tranquility. With it, no matter what troubles or problems we face, we will not fear or worry. But this peace can only arise out of complete confidence in the Lord's power and a willingness to cast all of our cares upon Him (1 Pet 5:7). When we do so, we will "be anxious for nothing," and instead, "the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Phil 4:6–7).

4. ***YHWH Tsidkenu:* The Lord Our Righteousness** (Jer 33:16)
   The prophet Jeremiah made a proclamation of God's eternal covenant with David. "In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell safely. And this is the name by which she will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS," or in Hebrew, *YHWH Tsidkenu*. There is none more righteous than the Lord. This is a characteristic that we often forget, because we rely so much on His love, grace, and mercy. But the Lord's righteousness is a part of His nature. As a result, we who were born in sin can never reach Him.

   Humankind can never live up to the righteousness that one requires to dwell in eternity with our Lord God. God knows this, which is why He promised for us a "Branch of righteousness" who will "execute judgment and righteousness in the earth" (Jer 33:15). Jesus Christ would fulfill the righteousness that we could not, so that even though we fall short of His glory (Rom 3:23), we now have a chance to obtain the hope of eternal life.

   But if the Lord is so righteous, why does the world seem so unfair when we look around us? Why does it seem that people who do bad things are not punished, while others who do good are often oppressed? This makes many question if God is truly just. However, the Bible assures us that all will be "judged according to their works" (Rev 20:12). Let's read 2 Corinthians 5:9–10. "Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad." God has promised punishment and blessing according to our actions, speech, and thoughts. We have to be patient, wait on the Lord, and trust that He is a just and righteous God.

God's names express His power and holiness, but they also hold deep meaning for us. When we understand God's different names, we will receive strength and power in our daily lives.

Check for Understanding

1. **What is God's name?** God revealed His name to be "I AM WHO I AM," which in Hebrew is "*YHWH.*"

2. **Why is God not bound by one specific name?** God is so powerful, almighty, and holy that any name given to Him would set boundaries to God's almighty nature. But there are no boundaries to His power. He encompasses and surpasses all things.
3. **What are the meanings of God's name? Briefly explain each.**
   a. The Lord Will Provide (*YHWH Yireh*): God's provision is a promise that He gives to those who follow Him, and one that He alone can fulfill.
   b. The Lord Is My Shepherd (*YHWH Rohi*): He is our protector and guide. He shields us from danger and leads us on the path we ought to take.
   c. The Lord Is Peace (*YHWH Shalom*): The peace God gives us is an inner spiritual tranquility. But this peace can only arise out of complete confidence in God's power.
   d. The Lord Our Righteousness (*YHWH Tsidkenu*): There is none more righteous than the Lord. All will be judged according to their works (Rev 20:12).

Life Application

1. Trust in the Name of God

"Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God." (Ps 20:7 NIV)

Human beings are fallible and cannot be trusted without question. Our failure to act, capacity for deception, and inability to control the world around us causes disappointment on a regular basis. But we learned today that the Lord is our peace, because He is good and faithful. He can be trusted for all things, and "is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him" (Lam 3:25). He is our Creator who made the world from nothing. Don't you think, then, that He is capable of maneuvering the paths ahead of us, however rocky, dangerous, or winding they may be?

We may often choose to trust in our own capabilities, or in someone other than God. But when we do that, we have chosen not to yield to Him. We are refusing to surrender our control. But after studying the meanings behind the name of God, we now know that He is our shepherd and provider. We can find so much hope, guidance, direction, and stability in His name.

Imagine that you're standing on a large rock, a firm foundation that will never shake or move—doesn't this strong foundation make you feel stable? In order for us to stand on this firm foundation, we must make the choice to trust in His name and depend on Him. Instead of taking the keys for ourselves and driving along an unknown, winding path in the dark, we can give the keys to God. We can let Him take the wheel and lead us. Ask yourself: Will I trust God to guide my path?

2. Hallow God's Name

A frequent problem that we encounter today is the way God's name is commonly used in vain. It is a very natural thing for the world around us, but as God's children, we should know better. We understand that there is power, holiness, and sovereignty in His name. Here is a testimony of one anonymous brother who forgot to revere God's holy name.

Testimony: Keeping God's Name Holy

A young church brother who received the Holy Spirit during Bible camp went back to his old ways of swearing carelessly every now and then, even at the slightest thing. He didn't think it was such a big deal to swear, as almost all his friends in school were doing it. During a Friday night service, as everyone went up to pray and to receive the laying of hands, this brother decided to go up as well, but he discovered that he could no longer speak in tongues. Immediately, he felt fear in his heart

since he prayed very hard for the Holy Spirit and didn't want to lose it just like that. He cried out to God for forgiveness, and it struck him during prayer that God was unhappy with his careless tongue. He had not used it to revere God's name, but instead used it to swear. He couldn't speak in tongues for a whole week, and during that week, he repented, prayed, and pleaded to God. God forgave him and the spiritual tongue was granted back to him the following Sabbath during prayer in church. Since then, this young brother has been very careful with his words, and he now understands how unhappy God will be if he does not hallow God's name.

– Anonymous

Discussion: What are some ways we can hallow God's name?

3. The Meanings of God's Name

(Teachers: The last Life Application has been placed on a separate page, should you wish to hand it out to the students as a class activity or as homework.)

Memory Verse

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name." (Matthew 6:9)

Context

Jesus had only begun to preach after being tested in the wilderness and calling His disciples. He used the Beatitudes to teach His followers about the expectations of a Christian, about exercising Christ-like conduct in our treatment of others, and about how we should pray.

Meaning

This verse tells us that God's name is holy, and it must be revered. We are to regard His name as holy and to use it in a holy manner. We must not swear by God's name, by heaven, or by the earth, because God is the Creator of all of these (Mt 5:34–35).

Conclusion

In our lesson today, we learned that God's name is powerful and holds many meanings that can bring strength in our lives today. But even though He is our sovereign Creator, God is never out of reach. He loves when we talk to Him. He wants us to kneel down to pray and tell Him even our most trivial problems. God wants His children to come to Him when they have difficulties; He does not want them to rely on their friends over Him. God is ready to help us, if only we call on His name.

Life Application: The Meanings of God's Names

Write the meaning of God's name that identifies with each situation.

- The Lord Will Provide (*YHWH Yireh*)
- The Lord Is My Shepherd (*YHWH Rohi*)
- The Lord Is Peace (*YHWH Shalom*)
- The Lord Our Righteousness (*YHWH Tsidkenu*)

My aunt contracted breast cancer, but despite her grim situation, she always had a smile on her face. She constantly thanked God that her cancer wasn't the type that gave her pain.
Answer: _____

Sarah is excited about going to prom, and she wants to go with a date. Sarah wants to be kissed during the dance, but Sarah reminds herself that Satan would want her to defile herself and God would never allow that. Sarah decides to go to prom with her girlfriends instead.
Answer: _____

Dad recently lost his job, and we thought we would have a really tough month. However, Dad was offered a temporary job, and Mom got a raise at work that month. It wasn't so bad after all. Thank God!
Answer: _____

When applying for university, Sean entrusted his options in God's hands, and God guided Sean to a good school that is close to church. Sean knew that God's plan for him was always best. He only needed to follow, and things would work out just fine.
Answer: _____

Danny is a victim of verbal abuse in school, and he dreads going to school. He always prays for his aggressor to stop harassing him. One day, true to his prayer, his aggressor moved to another town, and Danny thanked God that he never fought back and allowed God's justice to prevail.
Answer: _____

Every time Emma went to the mall, she would see a homeless man picking food from the back of a restaurant. Emma had compassion on him and prayed daily that he would have a better life. One day, Emma saw this homeless man working in the same restaurant, and he was happy to see her. Emma knew in her heart that God had been merciful to him.
Answer: _____

Lesson 7 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. How do we hallow God's name?
   Regard His name as holy and use it in a holy manner. We must not swear by God's name, by heaven, or by the earth, because God is the Creator of all of these (Mt 5:34–35).

2. "And God said to Moses, 'I _____ WHO I AM.' […] This is My _____ forever; and this is My _____ to all generations." (Exodus 3:14–15)
   AM, name, memorial.

3. Why is God not bound by one specific name?
   God's power is not bound by a specific name because God is all-powerful and above everything else. There is nothing and no one more powerful, almighty, or holy than our Creator, and as such, no name can properly express His boundless power and authority.

4. Pick two of God's names and write what you learned about them, in your own words.
   a. *The Lord Will Provide (YHWH Yireh): God's provision is a promise that He gives to those who follow Him, and one that He alone can fulfill.*
   b. *The Lord Is My Shepherd (YHWH Rohi): He is our protector and guide. He shields us from danger and leads us on the path we ought to take.*
   c. *The Lord Is Peace (YHWH Shalom): The peace God gives us is an inner spiritual tranquility. But this peace can only arise out of complete confidence in God's power.*
   d. *The Lord Our Righteousness (YHWH Tsidkenu): There is none more righteous than the Lord. All will be judged according to their works (Rev 20:12).*

5. How do we know that we can trust in the name of God?
   Because God is good and faithful. He is our Creator who made the world from nothing, and as such, is more than capable of leading and guiding our path.

6. Which of God's names do you identify most closely with? Why?
   Personal answers.

Junior 1 Year 3 Book 2 Lesson 8
The Holy Name of God (II)
Passages: As listed in the lesson.

Memory Verse

"[I]f My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:14)

Knowledge of God's Will [God's Word]	Knowledge of God [God's Divine Nature]	Good Works [Behavior]
God's name holds many meanings.	1. God knows us by name. 2. God heals our hearts, and He is our banner. 3. God is faithful, and He sanctifies those who seek Him.	1. Learn to take delight in and live out God's character. 2. Rely on God's faithfulness by calling out to Him.

Overview

Events and Spiritual Teachings
A. The Importance of Studying God's Character
B. The Meanings of God's Names

Life Application
1. Delight in the Ways of the Lord
2. Living Out God's Character
3. Calling Out to God

Memory Verse

Conclusion: The more deeply we understand God's nature and character, the better we can reveal God's character to others.

Events and Spiritual Teachings

Introduction

Last week, we discussed the importance of names. Do you know what your name means? Would you like to share the story of how you received your name? Does your name say anything about your parents' hopes for you? *[Invite students to share.]* Even if your name didn't initially have any deep meaning, over time, our names become a vital part of ourselves in different ways.

1. **Our names are a mark of our identity.**
   For example, when we apply for an identification card, such as a student ID or driver's license, we are identified by our name. We may even pick up nicknames or other names which we associate with different aspects of our personal identity.

2. **People associate our name with their memories and experiences of us.**
   This is how we distinguish different people with the same names. For example, if your name is George, when your friends think of you, "George," they likely aren't thinking of "George Washington," the first president of the United States. On the other hand, if people are thinking about "George Washington," they won't be thinking of you. They're probably thinking of "America," "president," or perhaps "money," since George Washington is on the United States one-dollar bill. We associate people with certain experiences and identify them accordingly, even when they share the same name as another person.

This association can be both a positive and a negative thing. There is an English proverb that goes, "first impressions are the most lasting." Whether consciously or unconsciously, people tend to judge others based on their very first meeting. This often occurs when someone first "meets" with God for the first time. People sometimes have a negative impression of God and shun Him, not because God ever treated them badly, but because their initial experience with finding God, or with those associated with God, left a poor impression on them.

Others, however, have come to know and love God deeply, to the point where they would lay down their lives for Him. Many early Christians died as martyrs under persecution for the Lord. They were willing to do so because they truly came to know God. The memories and experiences that they associated with God's name touched them deeply and drew out their deepest love for Him from within their hearts.

A. The Importance of Studying God's Character

We quickly forget the names of strangers and passing acquaintances. Even if someone reminds you of their name, it is likely that you barely remember much else about them. But what if someone were to mention the name of someone close to you, such as a family member or a friend? In this case, it is easy to recall not just their name but also their characteristics, such as their hobbies, quirks, or a recent memory that we have with them. But can we also claim the same of God?

As Christians, we have named God our heavenly Father, and He has named us His sons and daughters. But simply declaring Him our Father is not enough. Let's examine two reasons it is important for us to study God's character.

1. **God knows us by name**
   Moses and God had an incredibly special relationship. The Bible records that Moses spoke to

God face to face, just as a man speaks with his friend (Ex 33:11). As a sign of how close they were, God declared to Moses, "I know you by name" (Ex 33:17). Can you imagine having such a close relationship with God?

The Bible teaches us that God knows us "by name," too (Jn 10:3). He knows all about us, from our individual quirks to every moment of our future (Ps 139:16). He can even number the hairs on our head (Mt 10:30; Lk 12:7) and knows the innermost thoughts of our hearts (Ps 19:12). This is because God truly knows us by name. He knows who we are even when we fail to understand Him.

Although God knows us "by name," the Bible also says that His sheep follow Him, "for they know his voice" (Jn 10:4). God wants us to know Him as much as He knows us. He wants us to have a good relationship with Him. And just as with our friends and family, we develop a relationship with Him by learning His character, His heart, and His love for us. Do we know God's voice? Can we claim to know God by name?

2. **Reflect the glory of His name**
   Last week, we learned two names of God: *YHWH*, and *El Elyon*. These names, "I AM WHO I AM" and "God Most High," are a sign of God's almighty nature. There is none mightier or more sovereign than our God. Just as a king's glory is revealed by his subjects, God's glory is revealed through His people. Paul wrote, "But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord" (2 Cor 3:18).

   We need to mirror the glory of God's name in our daily lives. When we do so, we prove to ourselves, to God, and to those around us, that He rules over us and that we are subjects of His everlasting kingdom. "His name shall be on [our] foreheads" (Rev 22:4). But it is impossible to mirror a name that we do not know. Therefore, we must first study God's character.

B. The Meanings of God's Names

Earlier, we mentioned how names are a part of our identity. The same is true of God. His many names reveal different aspects of His identity, or who He truly is. By studying these names, we can better understand God's character. Today, we are going to continue studying the names of God.

1. ***YHWH Rapha:* The Lord Who Heals** (Ex 15:23–26)
   When the Israelites arrived at Marah, they found the water to be bitter and undrinkable. As a result, they once again complained against God and Moses. Moses pleaded with God, and God showed him a tree. When he threw the tree in the water, the waters were made sweet. The Lord then declared to the Israelites that He is *YHWH Rapha*, the LORD who heals.

   God heals us in many ways. In a place and time where we have easy access to medical care, we tend to rely on science and technology for our sicknesses and illnesses. This isn't necessarily wrong, but we should not forget that we need to rely on God, too. Whatever physical ailments we experience, whether an everyday cold, an injury, or severe illness, we must remember that our God is the Lord who heals. *(Ask students to share any experiences of when God healed them or their families.)*

   In his description of the Messiah, Isaiah wrote, "And by His stripes we are healed" (Isa 53:5). The

healing that Jesus has offered to us is far more valuable than any physical healing. He has offered us life after death. Dissatisfaction, frustration, and hatred often cause bitterness in a person's heart. But when we receive Christ into our hearts, this bitterness transforms into a wellspring of life like the waters of Marah. He will give us a life of fulfillment and happiness, because when we seek out Christ, He becomes our treasure (Mt 6:19–21). Our hearts become filled with joy in His truth and with hope in eternal life.

2. ***YHWH Nissi:* The Lord Is My Banner** (Ex 17:8–16)
During a battle with the Amalekites, when Moses lifted his hands, Israel prevailed, but when he let down his hands, the Amalekites prevailed. So, Aaron and Hur supported his hands, and the Israelites defeated the Amalekites. Moses then built an altar and called its name *YHWH Nissi*, "The-LORD-Is-My-Banner."

In the past, the banner was an important and necessary presence in a battle. A banner not only told the armies which way to go and where to rally, but the sight of a banner being raised in the midst of a fight would also inspire hope, confidence, and inspiration. Today, Ephesians 6:12 clearly states that our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly realm. We are constantly fighting for our faith in our hearts.

Like the Israelites in the wilderness, we will encounter numerous battles in our journey to the heavenly kingdom, and a single failure in the testing of our faith can lead to serious consequences. It is easy for us to lose the fight against sin and fall away from the right path. But we are not fighting this spiritual battle alone. The Lord is the banner under which we fight for. He is our hope and confidence, and the one who gives us direction and inspiration in our struggles. He will never forsake us when we call upon Him, and He will give us the power and strength to overcome Satan. He is our hope for victory in our journey of faith.

3. ***El Emunah:* God of Faithfulness** (Deut 7:9; Deut 32:4)
We learned last week that our God is "THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS" (Jer 33:16). In alignment with this characteristic is His faithfulness. While relaying His commands to the Israelites, teaching them the covenant that His people must uphold, the Lord called Himself, "the faithful God." Moses later uses the same root word to describe God: *El emunah*, or "God of truth."

The Lord has promised His faithfulness, and we know we can rely on this, because His faithfulness is backed by His omnipotence. And as a righteous and holy God, He cannot lie. He has promised His protection, His strength, and eternal life. And we will receive it, as long as we in turn are faithful to Him. But because we are bound by the flesh and all of its desires, maintaining our faith in God is a constant struggle for us. It is always easier to submit to sin.

God wants us to be as faithful to Him as He is to us, no matter how impossible it may seem. By identifying ourselves as God's children, we declare our loyalty to Christ. But are our hearts truly God's? Or do we secretly idolize the things of the world, and worship greed, lust, or other worldly pleasures? No matter what we do for the church, if our hearts are not with God, then we are no longer His children. To be faithful, we must continue with the principles that we have promised to uphold. We must be faithful to God's commands. Then, in the end, God will judge those who are truly His servants, and those who are not. "For God *is* not unjust to forget your

work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name" (Heb 6:10).

4. ***YHWH Mekoddishkem:* The Lord Who Sanctifies** (Ex 31:13; Lev 20:8)
While conveying His commands to the Israelites, God declared, "I am the LORD who sanctifies you" (Ex 31:13). Hundreds of years later, Paul wrote: "For this is the will of God, your sanctification" (1 Thess 4:3). God wants us to be holy. But He also knows that it is impossible for us to achieve on our own. We who are born into sin can never achieve the holiness required for eternal life. So, He has given to us the path to holiness in His word: the Bible. As Jesus said, "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth" (Jn 17:17).

The reason God wants us to be holy is because He is holy. We are His children, and He loves us dearly. But if we are not sanctified, we will never be able to dwell with Him in His heavenly kingdom (Heb 12:14). As such, the truth of the Bible is for our sake. As long as we follow it, the Lord will make us "a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light" (1 Pet 2:9). The foundation for our sanctification lies in our separation from the world, no longer dwelling in darkness, but in the light that is our hope of eternal life.

It is not an easy thing to remain separate from the world. John wrote, "For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world" (1 Jn 2:16). These do not always take an obvious shape in our lives, but they are always present in some form. What are some examples in our daily lives? *(Let students answer. Examples: Idolizing celebrities, desires for specific possessions, obsessing over our looks, lying to avoid responsibilities or to avoid embarrassment.)* It is always human nature to "fit in," to follow the ways of the world so that we aren't excluded or shunned. But God wants His children to do exactly the opposite. He wants us to be sanctified.

Check for Understanding

1. **Why is it so important that we study God's character?** God knows us by name and wants us to know Him as much as He knows us. Just as a king's glory is revealed by his subjects, we need to mirror the glory of God's name in our daily lives. However, it is impossible to mirror a name that we do not know.
2. **What different meanings of God's name did we learn today? Briefly explain each.**
   a. *The Lord Who Heals:* God is able to heal us both physically and spiritually. He heals the bitterness in our hearts and gives us a life of fulfillment and happiness when we seek out Christ.
   b. *The Lord Is My Banner:* The Lord is the banner under which we fight for. He is our hope and confidence, and the one who gives us direction and inspiration in our struggles.
   c. *God of Faithfulness:* As a righteous and holy God, He cannot lie. We know that we can rely on His faithfulness, because His faithfulness is backed by His omnipotence.
   d. *The Lord Who Sanctifies:* God wants us to be holy because He is holy. It is always human nature to "fit in," to follow the ways of the world so that we aren't excluded or shunned. But God wants His children to be sanctified.

Life Application

1. Delight in the Ways of the Lord

When we learn the meanings of His names and the roles He has promised to undertake for us, we begin to take delight in God. As a result, our relationship with Him deepens, and we start to feel joy in learning

about Him, serving Him, and relying on Him. But how do we take delight in His character? Let's first turn to Psalm 119:9–16. What are the steps that the psalmist takes to finally delighting in God's word? *(Steps: Cleanse, sought, hidden, declared, rejoiced, and meditate.)* Have you noticed that all of these steps require active participation on our part?

a. Seek Him out

God is Spirit and not easily found, which may make our relationship with Him frustrating and unsatisfying, even for those with the Holy Spirit. God often hides Himself from us, sometimes because of our iniquities (Isa 59:2), because He is testing us (2 Chr 32:31), or because He is trying to strengthen us (2 Cor 12:7–9). But He also said that "you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart" (Jer 29:13). We cannot simply sit back and wait for God to come to us. We need to put in the time, dedication, and effort into cleansing ourselves and seeking Him out. Then, we will take delight in God's character, and "will not forget [His] word" (Ps 119:16).

b. Remove the idols from our hearts

Let's turn to 2 Chronicles 17:3–6. Jehoshaphat was the first king to walk in the ways of the Lord after David. Like the psalm we read earlier, he "sought the God of his father," "walked in His commandments," and "took delight in the ways of the LORD." Most importantly, he "removed the high places and wooden images from Judah." To take delight in God's character means to actively remove the idols from our hearts and turn our full attention to God. What are some ways we forget His character and fail to prioritize God in our daily lives? Try completing the following prayers in your notebooks, as a way to remind yourselves of God's character.

- "Dear God, You are the creator of the universe. Today I want to praise You for…"
- "Dear God, today, I want to depend on You because…"
- "Dear God, I love You because You are…"

2. Living Out God's Character

We learned today that our God is the Lord who heals the sin of our heart. He is faithful to His promises, and He will grant us eternal life by sanctifying us. But we have to hold Him as the banner in our hearts and remain faithful in return. To do so, we need to live out His character in our lives.

Our looks, behavior, and habits are affected by the environment we grow up in. Everything from our home, family, friends, and school affect and influence our character. In the same way, we need to pick up the spiritual habits of one who is God's family. We need to reflect His glory in our lives as evidence that we belong to His household. So, what spiritual habits of God's do we need to reflect? What characteristics will show others that we are from His household?

The answer is in the names that we learned earlier, but especially in the fourth one from today's lesson, "the LORD who sanctifies." Let's turn to Isaiah 43:1. "But now, thus says the LORD, who created you, O Jacob, and He who formed you, O Israel: 'Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called *you* by your name; You *are* Mine.' " We need to depart from evil (2 Tim 2:19) because God has called us by name, the same way He called Moses. If we practice evil and live a sinful lifestyle, we destroy our own dignity and cannot glorify God (Prov 16:17; 19:16).

3. Calling Out to God

Let's read Psalm 116:1–4:

> *I love the LORD, because He has heard my voice and my supplications. Because He has inclined His ear to me, therefore I will call upon Him as long as I live. The pains of death surrounded me,*

> *and the pangs of Sheol laid hold of me; I found trouble and sorrow. Then I called upon the name of the LORD: "O LORD, I implore You, deliver my soul!"*

There are many examples of people who "call on the name of God" in the Old Testament. The Hebrew word for "call" means to ask for His help, and it is usually associated with a special, critical need. What happens when we call on the Lord?

> *The LORD preserves the simple; I was brought low, and He saved me. Return to your rest, O my soul, for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you. For You have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, and my feet from falling. I will walk before the LORD in the land of the living.*
> (Ps 116:6–9)

The Lord will answer when we call on Him because He is the Lord of faithfulness. It doesn't matter how big or small the problem is. When we trust in Him and call on His name, He will preserve us with His great power, and we will "walk before the LORD in the land of the living." So, when and how do we call on the name of God?

a. When in distress, call on the name of God. For example, when you are anxious, call on God and tell Him you need the peace of God.
b. Turn your heart and mind to the name of God. Tell Him how you feel and what you need: "Dear God, You are the God of peace…"
c. Spend time in prayer, and let the Holy Spirit fully fill you so that you can experience God.
d. The result will be strength, peace, rest, joy, and more. He will provide for our needs.

The God we serve is infinitely greater than our troubles, sorrows, and circumstances. He can and will handle them as long as we yield and surrender to Him. That is the great power of calling on the name of God. "The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth" (Ps 145:18).

Memory Verse

"[I]f My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:14)

Meaning

God has made a clear direction for those who have been called by and to His name. As His children, we must humble ourselves through repentance, seek His face, and turn away from evil. When we do these three things, God has promised three things: He will always hear our calls, forgive our sins, and heal us. By calling on His holy name with faith, God has promised to be faithful to us. He will sanctify us so that we become His high priests, separate from the world, and His holy nation, a reflection of His glory on earth.

Conclusion

God has many characteristics beyond our understanding, but we know that the Lord is faithful to us and has promised to sanctify those who seek Him out. We may be weak, but He will offer us healing and serve as our banner on our journey of faith. As long as we continuously seek Him and learn to delight in His character, the Lord will always answer us when we call on Him, because we are His precious children, and He knows each of us by name.

Lesson 8 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. What three things must we do in exchange for God's hearing, forgiveness, and healing?
   Humble ourselves, seek His face, and turn away from evil.

2. What are the two reasons it is important for us to study God's character?
   God knows us by name. Like Moses, we also need to develop a close relationship with Him. We also need to reflect the glory of His name as His people, just as a king's glory is revealed by his subjects.

3. Pick two of God's names and explain them in as much detail as you can.
   a. *The Lord Who Heals (Ex 15:23–26): God heals the bitterness in our hearts, transforming it into a wellspring of life like the waters of Marah (Isa 53:5).*
   b. *The Lord Is My Banner (Ex 17:8–16): The Lord is our banner, our hope and confidence, and the one who gives us direction and inspiration. He is our hope for victory in our journey of faith.*
   c. *God of Faithfulness (Deut 7:9; Deut 32:4): God wants us to be as faithful to Him as He is to us. To do so, we must continue with the principles that we have promised to uphold (Heb 6:10).*
   d. *The Lord Who Sanctifies (Ex 31:13; Lev 20:8): God loves us dearly, but if we are not sanctified, we will never dwell with Him. So, He has sanctified us by His truth (Jn 17:17), and to remain sanctified, we must remain separate from the world as God's children (1 Jn 2:16).*

4. "I will _____ on Your _____, and _____ Your ways. I will _____ myself in Your statutes; I will not _____ Your _____. (Psalm 119:15–16)
   meditate, precepts, contemplate, delight, forget, word

5. Have you ever prioritized other things over God? How can you change this in the future?

Junior 1 Year 3 Book 2 Lesson 9
The Redemptive Plan of God
Passages: As listed in the lesson.

Memory Verse

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." (Ephesians 2:8–9)

Knowledge of God's Will [God's Word]	Knowledge of God [God's Divine Nature]	Good Works [Behavior]
God had a plan for our redemption long before we even knew we needed it.	1. God is holy. 2. God is just. 3. God is love.	Hold on to our salvation by: • reading the Bible, • keeping God's commandments, and • holding on to our faith with the power of the Spirit.

Overview

Events and Spiritual Teachings
A. An Overview of Sin
B. God's Redemptive Plan
C. The Meaning of Salvation
D. Taking Hold of Salvation

Life Application: How to Keep Your Salvation!

Memory Verse

Conclusion: Knowing the importance of salvation, we must rely on the power of the Holy Spirit to keep our salvation until the end.

Events and Spiritual Teachings

Introduction: He Took My Place[1]

We begin with a story of raiders who robbed, pillaged, and burned unsuspecting communities. The situation became so bad that some people formed a militia to pursue these raiders. They had orders to immediately execute any that were found. It was not long before a group of these men were captured. They were lined up with their hands and legs tied and their eyes bandaged. As the firing squad prepared, a young man who had been hiding in the bushes suddenly rushed out, crying, "Wait, wait!" He approached the officer in command and pointed to one of the men who was waiting to be shot and said, "Let that man go free. He has a wife and four children and is needed at home. Let me take his place. I am guilty."

The officer had never heard of such an appeal, but after a long consultation, he granted the man's request. They cut the ropes and released the condemned man. The volunteer was put in his place, and soon he lay dead under the firing squad.

Later, the man who was set free returned to the awful scene of the shooting. He uncovered the grave and found the body of his friend. He put it on the back of a mule and took it to a little cemetery where he gave his friend a proper burial. Then, he erected a memorial stone with the words: HE TOOK MY PLACE. HE DIED FOR ME.

Discuss

1. If you were the man hiding in the bushes, what would you have done?
2. If you were the man whose life had been spared, what would some of your thoughts or feelings have been?

A. An Overview of Sin

What is sin exactly, and why is it a problem that we face? We probably know how it came about and what it is, but today we will be going into a bit more detail about sin.

1. **How sin entered the world**

   What caused sin to come into the world? You probably remember the story of Adam and Eve. When tempted by Satan, Adam and Eve disobeyed God's specific command and ate fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. As a result, sin immediately entered the world, and its effects were clear. From the moment they ate the fruit, we can immediately see a radical change in their behavior. Let's read Genesis, chapters 2 and 3, and examine how Adam and Eve acted before and after they sinned.

   a. Before Adam and Eve sinned
      - They had a childlike innocence and did not know good and evil (2:25)
      - They abided with God and talked to Him freely and openly (2:8–15; 3:8–9)

   b. After Adam and Eve sinned
      - Their eyes were opened, and they recognized good and evil (3:4–5, 7)
      - They sewed fig leaves together to cover up their shame (3:7)

[1] Editor's note: Could not find any evidence supporting the truth of this story, although original can be found at https://krausekorner.wordpress.com/2012/09/12/sermon-illustration-he-took-my-place-he-died-for-me/

- They were afraid because of their nakedness and hid from God (3:10)
- They passed on blame; Adam blamed Eve and God, and Eve blamed the snake (3:11–13)

Because of their disobedience, they and their descendants became alienated from God. There was now a barrier between us and God (3:22–24).

2. The consequences of sin

What consequences did Adam and Eve's sin bring upon mankind? Sin entered the world, and as a result, mankind came under the dominion of Satan and darkness. Paul wrote, "[T]hrough one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned" (Rom 5:12). Where before there was no death, after Adam and Eve acted against God's will, death entered the world.

This penalty of "death" does not refer simply to physical death. It is a spiritual death, which means eternal punishment in hell. Once our life on this earth is over, all we would have received was eternal suffering, with no hope for reprieve or salvation. Let's read Romans 6:20–21. "For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death." Sin's entry into the world made it impossible for us to have eternal life because "the wages of sin is death" (Rom 6:23).

3. What is sin?

We know that sin entered the world from the moment Adam and Eve disobeyed God, but what exactly is sin? *(Allow students to respond.)* Sin is anything that goes against God's will or command. Sin can be a thought, an action, or even failing to act when you know you should (Jas 4:17). Even things that don't seem bad to us are still considered sin in God's eyes. When we transgress against God's law of righteousness, we have sinned.

In Romans 7:18–19, Paul lamented how even when he desired to do good, he committed evil instead. Like Paul, we too have no control over our sinful nature and its desires. Even when we do our best to do good, we are bound to end up doing something wrong in the eyes of God, and those who walk according to their fleshly nature and its evil desires are known as sons of disobedience. Fornication, uncleanness, foolish talk, and all unrighteousness are just a small number of things that will cause God's wrath to come upon us (Eph 5:3–7; Col 3:5; Rom 1:18).

With the long list of what is considered unrighteous in God's eyes, would it ever be possible for any of us to be declared sinless? Paul declares that it is impossible, "[F]or all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom 3:23). As a result, all of us could only expect death in our future. We who were born into sin were faced with a problem that had no apparent solution.

B. God's Redemptive Plan

God is holy and just, which means He cannot simply overlook the sins that we bear. If He did, God would be denying His very nature. According to His righteousness, sinners must be condemned to death. And yet, God doesn't want any of us to perish. He is righteous, but He is also love, and because He loves us so much, He wants all of us to live. So, when sin entered the world through Adam and Eve, God provided a way to deliver mankind out of sin.

Jesus Became the Answer

All of mankind faced an insurmountable problem. According to Mosaic Law, blood must be shed in order for any sin to be forgiven (Lev 17:11; Heb 9:22). During Old Testament times, the only option available was to repeatedly offer animals as a sacrifice for their sins. However, this was only a temporary and imperfect solution (Heb 10:1–4). God had a better plan prepared, even before the creation of the world.

In order to atone for the sins of all mankind, the sacrifice had to be sinless. But all men born from Adam and Eve are born into sin, so no one on earth could ever satisfy this criterion. So, there was only one solution. God Himself, the only righteous being in existence, had to fulfill the righteous requirement. He lowered Himself and came to earth as Jesus Christ, conceived by the Holy Spirit and completely without sin (1 Jn 3:5). The Old Testament is full of prophecies that God spoke regarding the Messiah, as well as events that foreshadowed His coming long before He was even born. Let's look at a few of them.

Bible Verse	Prophecy/Prefiguration	Meaning/Fulfillment
Gen 3:15	The Seed of Eve would bruise the head of the serpent.	The Lord has already been victorious over sin and death (Jn 12:31).
Gen 3:21	God made garments of skin to cover Adam and Eve, meaning an animal had to be killed, and its blood shed.	God would send His Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross and shed His blood to cover our shame.
Gen 22:18; 12:1–3; 17:1–6	God promised Abraham that his descendant would bless all nations.	We are all heirs of God's blessings according to the promise (Gal 3:16, 29).
Ex 12:21–23	On the eve of their exodus from Egypt, each family had to kill a Passover lamb and spread its blood on the lintel and posts of their door so that the LORD would pass over the door when passing through Egypt to strike the Egyptians.	Jesus Christ became the new Passover lamb, who died and shed His blood for sinners (1 Pet 1:19). Through His blood, we are able to escape death and be saved.
Deut 18:15–19	God would raise a new Prophet from among the Israelites to guide the people.	Jesus Christ became the new prophet to guide God's children into salvation (Acts 3:22–26).

When Jesus was finally ready to begin His ministry, John the Baptist introduced Him with the words, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (Jn 1:29). Jesus became the spotless and blameless sacrifice (1 Pet 1:18–19), bearing our sins and dying on the cross, so that through His blood, He could redeem us. Through Adam, we were made slaves to sin, but through Jesus Christ, we have been freed from death.

C. The Meaning of Salvation

What does receiving salvation mean for each of us? What exactly are we being saved from? It is sometimes difficult for us to really understand the meaning of our salvation because the idea is so nebulous. Let's examine the reasons we need salvation.

1. Deliverance from Satan (Eph 2:1–3)
   With God's redemption, our home has moved from the realm of Satan to the realm of God. Our relationship with our heavenly Father has been restored so that we can once again be His sons and daughters.

2. Deliverance from sin (2 Cor 5:21)
   We are no longer bound by sin and its evil desires. With the help of God's teachings and the power and strength of the Holy Spirit, we can experience true freedom in Christ. We can be transformed into His likeness and choose to follow the path of righteousness instead of sin.

3. Deliverance from death (Rom 6:23)
   Through Jesus, we no longer fear death and the daunting prospect of eternal suffering in hell. Instead, we have been given the living hope of eternal peace and rest.

4. Deliverance into God's kingdom (Col 1:13)
   Jesus Christ said, "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also" (Jn 14:2–3). We will one day meet the Savior, who loves us and died for us, and unite with Him in His kingdom.

D. Taking Hold of Salvation

We have been given the opportunity to know the gospel today, either through our parents or our friends. However, there are still many who have not yet received this amazing grace. Just as we have freely been given salvation, God has charged us to freely share the same good news with others. Even those who already believe in God may think that all they need to do is confess that Jesus is Lord. However, Scripture has given us the complete and correct path to salvation:

1. Believe (Rom 10:9)
2. Repent (Acts 2:38)
3. Be baptized (Acts 2:38; Mt 28:18–20)
4. Receive the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38; Mt 28:18–20)
5. Obey God's commandments (Mt 28:18–20)

Life Application

How to Keep Your Salvation!

We have learned today the importance of salvation and why it is necessary. When we are baptized in water and the Spirit, we have been given salvation, but we have to determine to hold on to it. If we allow our sinful natures to control us, we will no longer be guaranteed a home in heaven with the Lord. So, how do we hold on to our salvation?

1. Read the Bible daily.

Are you faithfully reading the Bible daily to see what is expected of you? Hosea 4:6 states: "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." It is clear that each Christian is expected to read God's word daily. The only way to grow in Christ is by getting to know Him better, and the only way to get to know Him better is by studying the truth that He gave to us.

2. Keep God's commandments.

Not everyone who says to Me, "Lord, Lord," shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, "Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?" And then I will declare to them, "I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!"

(Matthew 7:21–23)

Simply acknowledging our belief in the Lord will not save us. The Bible clearly instructs us that to belong to God's kingdom, we must become His children. We must show our love for Him. But how do we do this? Let's turn to the following verses. Do you see the common theme in the following instructions from the Bible?

John 14:15	"If you love Me, keep My commandments."
John 14:21	"He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."
John 14:23	"Jesus answered and said to him, 'If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.' "

The Bible has clearly told us that to become His children, we must keep His commandments. Only then will we be able to hold on to our salvation.

3. Hold firm to your faith and pray with the power of the Holy Spirit.

"For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day."

(2 Timothy 1:12)

The word "faith" carries with it the idea of total surrender, of having complete assurance in what Christ did for us on the cross. When we have faith in God, we no longer rely on our good works, talents, worldly knowledge, or physical possessions, but on Jesus Christ.

Jesus promised the Spirit as a constant guide, teacher, comforter, and seal of salvation. "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you" (Jn 14:26). Moreover, Romans 8:26 encourages: "Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered."

The power of the Holy Spirit is the power of God! Do you pray daily that the Holy Spirit will give you guidance and understanding? In order not to slip away from salvation, we must pray as often as we can to fill ourselves with the power of the Holy Spirit.

4. Confess our sins if we slip and yield to temptation.

If we find that we have yielded to temptation, then we have to confess that sin. The Bible states, "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 Jn 1:8–9).

We may slip and fall from time to time, but this cannot become a habit, as simply confessing isn't enough. We must fully repent. True repentance means striving not to repeat the sin. There is no use in confessing our sins, then going right back and doing it again. That is not repentance. In other words, when we repent of something, that particular sin must no longer be a practice in our lives. By confessing our sins and humbly repenting, we are striving to stand against temptation.

5. Live a life that is pleasing to God.

The Lord commanded us, “Do not touch what is unclean” (2 Cor 6:17). We have to remain separate from evil! When you face something at school, with your friends, or by yourself, ask yourself the following questions:

a. Does it violate the principles taught in the Bible?
b. Will God be pleased if I do it?
c. Will it be a stumbling block to others?
d. Can I ask for God's blessing for it?
e. Would I be doing this if Christ were standing next to me?

If we truly know the Lord and are seeking to follow Him, we cannot afford to be complacent or unconcerned about the presence of sin in our lives. In fact, we need to hate sin and have the determination to conquer it. As those cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ and sealed with the promise of the Spirit, we must keep God’s commandments. As long as we do our best to glorify Him daily, we can continue living in full confidence that we will receive the blessing of eternal life with our God in heaven.

Check for Understanding

1. **What were the consequences of Adam and Eve’s disobedience?** Sin entered the world, the wages of which are death.
2. **Why was Jesus the necessary answer for our freedom?** In order to atone for the sins of all mankind, the sacrifice had to be sinless. But no one on earth could ever fulfill the righteous requirement. God is the only righteous being in existence.
3. **What are four reasons we need salvation?** Deliverance from Satan, sin, death, and deliverance into His kingdom.
4. **Name two specific Old Testament prophecies/prefigurations regarding Jesus’ coming.** Refer to *Spiritual Teachings, Section B*.
5. **Your friend tells you that in order to be saved, a person only needs to believe in the Lord Jesus. How would you explain to them that this is not enough?** Refer to *Spiritual Teachings, Section D*.

Memory Verse

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” (Ephesians 2:8–9)

Meaning

We did not receive salvation because of any works that we did. We did not “earn” our salvation. Rather, God’s salvation is freely given to us out of His love and mercy. It is easy to become proud and say that God called us because of all the great works that we have done. But when we do, we are removing God from the picture and putting ourselves front and center. We must do as Paul did and acknowledge that our salvation is from God alone, and that He gave it freely, out of His love.

Conclusion

We learned today that the wages of sin is death, and that being born into sin, we were faced with a problem that had no apparent solution. But because of God’s sacrificial love, we have been redeemed from death and given the hope of eternal life. We must hold on to our salvation by keeping God’s commandments, and by growing in faith with the power of the Holy Spirit. Then we will be able to dwell with Him in heaven for all eternity.

Lesson 9 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. Why is it important to remember that we did not "earn" our salvation?
   When we become proud and say that God called us because of our great works, we remove God from the picture and put ourselves front and center. God gave His salvation freely, out of love.

2. Why is sin such a serious problem for us? What is sin?
   Because with its entry, a barrier was formed between us and God. The wages of sin is a spiritual death, with no hope for reprieve or salvation (Rom 5:12; 6:20–23). Sin is disobedience against God's will or command.

3. Why can't God simply overlook our sins?
   Because God is holy and just. He is a righteous God, and according to His righteousness, sinners must be condemned to death.

4. Why was Jesus, and Jesus alone, the necessary answer for our freedom?
   In order to atone for the sins of all mankind, the sacrifice had to be sinless. God Himself, the only righteous being in existence, had to fulfill the righteous requirement Himself.

5. Of the steps to keeping our salvation, which do you need to work on the most? Explain.
   Personal answers.

6. Write a letter to the Lord. What would say to Him about His act of dying in your place?
   Personal answers.

Junior 1 Year 3 Book 2 Lesson 10
Angels and Their Ministry
Passages: As listed in the lesson.

Memory Verse

"For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways. In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone." (Psalm 91:11–12)

Knowledge of God's Will [God's Word]	Knowledge of God [God's Divine Nature]	Good Works [Behavior]
1. God uses angels mightily in His ministry. 2. Only God is worthy of our worship.	God created angels to be His mighty helpers and messengers.	1. Be God's messengers and helpers. 2. Guard against evil and minister to others.

Overview

Events and Spiritual Teachings
A. Understanding Angels
B. Angels, God, and Man

Life Application: God Has Called Us to Be His Shining Light!

Memory Verse

Conclusion: We must shine the light of God by serving Him, praising Him, and becoming His messenger.

Events and Spiritual Teachings

Introduction

We see depictions of angels all around us in fictional narratives or real-life experiences. But do angels really exist? If they do, what do they look like, and what do they do? Are they as powerful as God? The Bible refers to angels over 300 times, so we know that they exist. To find out more about them, let us take a closer look at the Bible.

Suggested lesson format: *Prepare index cards with questions from the Spiritual Teachings section, as well as a list of verses that direct the students to the answers. Have students work in pairs or individually, depending on class size, and hand out the index cards. Provide adequate time for the students to answer the questions, after which they can report on their findings. As they share, other students can write down the answers to the questions on their own worksheets.*

A. Understanding Angels

1. What are the names and titles of angels?

- "angel of the LORD" (Ps 34:7)
- "angel" (Acts 12:7–8)
- "holy ones" (Dan 4:17)
- "host of heaven" (1 Kgs 22:19)
- "heavenly host" (Lk 2:13)
- "ministering spirits" (Heb 1:14)
- "cherubim" (Gen 3:24; Ezek 11:22)
- "seraphim" (Isa 6:2)
- Michael (Jude 1:9)
- Gabriel (Lk 1:19)

2. What are angels like?

a. Angels are created as spirits (Heb 1:14)
   - Angels are spiritual beings so they do not die (Lk 20:35–36)
   - God created them (Ps 148:2, 5)
   - Angels can manifest in human form (Gen 18:1–2; Heb 13:2)
   - Angels can converse and dine with people (Gen 19:1–3)
   - Angels can move very fast (Ezek 1:14)
   - They never need to rest (Rev 4:8)
   - Angels have their own language (1 Cor 13:1)
   - Angels do not die since they are spirits, nor do they marry (Mt 22:30)

b. Angels are perfect and holy
   - They have a countenance like lightning and clothing as white as snow (Mt 28:3)
   - Angels are full of wisdom and perfect in beauty (Ezek 28:12)

c. Angels are humble and obedient
   - Angels are not to be worshipped (Rev 22:8–9)

3. What do angels do?

a. Angels minister to God in heaven

- They praise, worship, and glorify God (Rev 5:11–13)
- They minister and carry out God's orders (Dan 7:9–10)

b. Angels are sent as mighty messengers
- They deliver God's messages (Lk 2:10–11)
- They fight against Satan (Rev 12:7–9)

c. Angels minister to God's chosen people
- They give warning to the chosen people (Gen 19:21–22)
- They protect the saints (Ps 91:11–12)
- They deliver the saints from danger (Acts 5:17–20)
- They escort saints who have died to their heavenly home (Lk 16:22)
- They assist on the day of judgment (Mt 13:41–42)

4. Where do angels live?

a. They are called heavenly messengers, so they dwell in heaven (Mt 22:30)
b. All the host of heaven stand beside the Lord on His right hand and on His left (1 Kgs 22:19; Dan 7:10)
c. They are sent forth everywhere (Ps 34:7)

5. Are there different ranks of angels?

a. Angels have a huge population
- A "thousand thousands" serve God, and "ten thousand times ten thousand" stand before Him (Dan 7:10; Rev 5:11)
- The heavenly Jerusalem has an "innumerable company of angels" (Heb 12:22)

b. Angels have different names, roles, and ranks
- "Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?" (Mt 26:53)
    a. Six thousand soldiers form a legion; this tells us that angels have a form of organization

c. Michael (Who is like God)
- The chief angel is the archangel Michael (Jude 1:9)
- He had special charge of Israel as a nation (Dan 12:1)
- He disputed with Satan about the body of Moses (Jude 1:9)
- He fought against Satan (Rev 12:7)

d. Gabriel (Champion of God)
- Gabriel stands in the presence of God (Lk 1:19)
- Gabriel was sent to Daniel to explain the vision and the prophecies (Dan 9:21–23)
- Gabriel brought God's message to Mary that she was going to give birth to Jesus (Lk 1:26), and he announced the birth of John the Baptist (Lk 1:11–13)

e. Cherubim
- Angelic beings with wings (Ex 25:20; Ezek 10:8)
- They are guardians of Eden and of the tree of life (Gen 3:24)

- They are beside the throne of God (Ezek 10:1)

B. Angels, God, and Man

1. How are angels different from God?

- No creature can be in two places at one time, not even angels; only God is omnipresent (Acts 17:24)
- Angels know more than humans, but they are not omniscient like God (Mt 24:36)
- Angels excel in strength (Ps 103:20), but they are not omnipotent like God
- God has always existed—He has no beginning and no end—but each angel has a beginning because God created angels (Ps 148:5)

2. Are angels like men?

- Angels are servants of God, while the believers are the children of God, who will inherit salvation (Heb 1:14)
- Angels do not marry (Mt 22:30)
- Both angels and men are capable of sinning (2 Pet 2:4); all creation should follow God's righteousness

3. How powerful are angels?

- Angels have supernatural might (Ps 103:20)
- They can seal the mouths of lions (Dan 6:21–22)
- They can open the locks of jails (Acts 12:6–10)
- One angel once killed 185,000 men (2 Kgs 19:35)
- Angels have the might to bind Satan (Rev 20:1–2)

The apostle John wrote, "Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things. Then he said to me, 'See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God' " (Rev 22:8–9).

Even though angels are mighty beings created by God, the Bible teaches us that we should not worship angels. But why? This is because we should only worship God. Jesus Christ teaches us that we should worship the Lord our God and serve Him only (Mt 4:10). Nor should we pray to angels, because we can and should pray directly to God himself (Heb 4:14–16). Only God, our heavenly Father, is worthy of our prayers, our praise, and our adoration.

Check for Understanding

1. **Name four characteristics of angels.** Angels are created as spirits (Heb 1:14); Angels are perfect and holy; Angels are humble and obedient; Angels are not to be worshipped (Rev 22:8–9)
2. **What kinds of works do angels do?** They minister to God in heaven; are sent as mighty messengers; and minister to God's chosen people.
3. **Name three ways angels are different from God.** God is everywhere, but angels can only be in one place at a time; Angels know more than humans, but they are not omniscient like God; Angels excel in strength (Ps 103:20), but they are not omnipotent like God.
4. **How do angels minister to God?** They praise, worship, and glorify God and carry out God's orders.
5. **How do angels minister to the people of God?** They give warnings, protect and deliver the saints from danger, and assist on the day of judgment.

6. **Name a biblical example that illustrates the power of angels.** They can seal the mouths of lions (Dan 6:21–22) or open the locks of jails (Acts 12:6–10). One angel once killed 185,000 men (2 Kgs 19:35).
7. **Who in the Bible received a message from an angel?** Mary, Daniel, and Zacharias.

Life Application

God Has Called Us to Be His Shining Light!
"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

(Matthew 5:16)

We live in a time where darkness is everywhere around us. It is in crimes that we hear or read about, in the despair that so many people feel, and in the acceptance of actions against God's teachings. But the Bible tells us to "let [our] light so shine before men." God wants us to be different from the world, to love others as He loved us, and to bring others into His kingdom. What can we do to be His shining light?

1. **I can visit and pray for the sick.**
   Testimony*: A non-believer once contracted an incurable disease. Doctors told him that he only had a certain amount of time to live, and that there was nothing they could do. The only thing left was to wait for his death. Yet, although the doctors gave up on him, God never gave up on him. Members came to visit this person and preach to him about how God successfully treated many illnesses. In his difficult situation, he came to believe in God and soon, angels were sent to heal him. He praised God and became a fervent member of the church, doing many good works for God.*

   When someone is healed by the power of God through prayer, it is evidence that Jesus is the light.
   - "And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and <u>healing all kinds of sickness</u> and all kinds of disease among the people." **(**Mt 4:23)
   - "Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases. He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to <u>heal the sick</u>." (Lk 9:1–2)
   - "Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that <u>signs and wonders</u> may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus." (Acts 4:29–30)

   Discussion: What action plan will you take this week to be God's shining light to those who are sick?

2. **I can be God's messenger.**
   Angels are God's messengers. The angel Gabriel appeared to Daniel to explain his visions and give him important messages concerning the end of times (Dan 8:15–27; 9:20–27). An angel told Zacharias that his wife Elizabeth would have a boy (Lk 1:11–22), and Mary and Joseph received several messages through an angel. The angel served as a messenger not only for Jesus' birth, but also warned them to flee and told them when it was safe to return from Egypt (Lk 1:26–33; Mt 2:13, 19–20). Years later, two angels relayed the message of Jesus' resurrection to Mary Magdalene and Mary, mother of James (Lk 24:1–10).

   Testimony: *Stanley's Fall Spiritual Convocation was coming up soon. He had always wanted to invite*

his friend Bradley to one of the evangelical services. But how? One day in class, Bradley sat down at his desk with a frown. After approaching Bradley, Stanley learned of the difficult time Bradley was having at home. Knowing that God had brought this opportunity to him, Stanley told Bradley how God can comfort us and that there are angels all around us to watch over us. He then invited Bradley to the evangelical service on Friday night, and Bradley gladly accepted.

Discussion: We are also God's messengers. What kind of messages does God want you to share?

3. I can help and minister to others.

In the Bible, angels helped many workers when they had needs. For example, Elijah was awakened and strengthened by an angel, allowing him to go on a forty-day journey to Mt. Horeb.

Testimony: *Sitting in the corner of the cafeteria, Janice could feel hundreds of eyes on her. She was the new kid who had shown up halfway through the school year. She was the "outsider," someone whom they had only heard stories about. Her secondhand clothing looked like a patchwork quilt, but she always tried her best to look nice. To her surprise, Janice noticed someone walking towards her. "Hi, Janice, my name is Kari. Can I sit with you?" Taken aback, Janice could only nod silently. Kari introduced herself, and they spent the entire lunch talking. "Don't worry about the others. They're only scared of what they don't know. I could tell that you're a kind and warm person from how you treat the teachers and other students. I know that God can see that, too."*

Discussion: God has also sent you to be His helper. Who can you give a kind or encouraging word to this week?

4. I can encourage my peers to guard against evil.

Angels in the Bible fought against evil and rescued God's chosen people (Acts 12:5–15). Archangel Michael and his angels fought against Satan, and they came out victorious (Rev 12:7–12). These angels found victory against Satan, but we should not challenge Satan voluntarily; we cannot fight against Satan with flesh and blood. Rather, we need to rely on the name of God and the power of the Holy Spirit to protect ourselves and guard against evil. In this world where evil is all around us, we should be alert and encourage one another to guard against evil. To do so, we must:

a. *Guard our hearts.* "Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life" (Prov 4:23).
b. *Guard against false teachings.* "For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you beforehand" (Mt 24:24–25).
c. *Guard against idols.* "Little children, keep yourself from idols" (1 Jn 5:21).
d. *Guard our minds against those who cheat us through empty deceit*. "Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ" (Col 2:8).

Nowadays, movies and music can and often have powerful influences on our mind. We need to guard our minds and be vigilant by asking ourselves: Is this from God? We must search the Bible and combat these influences with the word of God (Eph 6:17).

***5.* I can praise God at any time.**

Angels in the Bible praised and glorified God all the time. In Isaiah 6:3, angels proclaimed the holiness of God by praising Him, "Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His

glory!" Likewise, we should praise God all the time.

Testimony: *Ryan's family had just driven three hours to attend an annual art exhibition and fair. They knew that the fair always drew large crowds, so they weren't surprised when they saw the long line into the parking lot. Ryan looked at his father in the rearview mirror, and he could tell that with every passing minute, his father was getting more stressed. His father didn't want them to miss anything by spending too much time in the parking lot. "Keep your eyes open!" Ryan's father exclaimed as they entered the lot. Ryan spotted a vacant spot the next row over. "Found one, Dad! It's in the row to the left!"*

As Ryan's father drove towards the spot with his blinker on, another driver came out of nowhere and took the spot, almost crashing into their car. Furious, Ryan's father honked the horn and was about to get out of the car to yell at the other driver when Ryan said, "Dad, maybe they were looking for even longer than we were. Thank God that no one was hurt. Why don't we just find another one?" Ryan's father closed his eyes and regained his composure. "Yes, thank God. An angel must be looking out for us. Maybe this angel can also help us find a parking spot!"

Discussion: What are some ways you can praise God this week?

Here are some other ways you can shine as the light of the world!

- Forgive someone who has wronged you. Is there someone on your grudge list? Ask God to open your heart so that you can truly forgive others.
- Thank your parents who take good care of you—appreciate them for all that they do!
- Be a helping hand to others—bring a bag of canned goods to your local food bank; give clothing and supplies to the homeless shelter; make a meal for an elderly neighbor; or offer a helping hand when you see a person in need.
- Say a prayer for a loved one or a friend, or for those who are sick physically or spiritually. Even you can pray for a stranger in need.
- Offer your abilities for a good cause and share with others the talents that God gave you. Volunteer at a hospital, a nursing home, a soup kitchen, etc.; the possibilities are endless!

Memory Verse

"For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways. In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone." (Psalm 91:11–12)

Meaning

1. God promises that He will be there with us whenever we are going through trials, but His love for us is so immense that He has even instructed His angels to help us up when we are about to stumble.
2. There are many times in our lives when we will face trials and tribulations, some of which may cause us to stumble. God has given His angels the duty to help us to remain on the correct path and keep us from stumbling.

Conclusion

In this lesson, we have learned about angels and their ministry. Not only did they protect and save God's people, but they also sent important messages from God. Today, we must shine the light of God by serving Him, praising Him, and becoming His messenger. May God guide us to be a helping hand to those in need as God's ministering servants.

Lesson 10 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. What does the memory verse teach us about God's love?
   His love for us is so immense that He has even instructed His angels to help us up when we are about to stumble.

2. "Praise Him, all His _____; praise Him, all His hosts! […] Let them _____ the name of the LORD, for He _____ and they were _____." (Psalm 148:2, 5)
   angels, praise, commanded, created

3. How are angels different from God?
   - *Angels can only be in one place at a time*
   - *Angels are not omniscient or omnipotent*
   - *Angels have a beginning, as God created them*

4. Write down the four ways angels serve, with biblical examples.
   - *Angels praise and glorify God (Rev 5:11–13; Isa 6:2–3)*
   - *Angels deliver God's messages (Lk 2:8–14; Lk 1:11–20)*
   - *Angels fight against Satan (Rev 12:7–9)*
   - *Angels help others (1 Kgs 19:2–8; Gen 19:15–22)*

5. How do we guard ourselves against evil?
   Guard our hearts (Prov 4:23), guard against false teachings (Mt 24:24–25), guard against idols (1 Jn 5:21), and guard our minds against those who cheat us through empty deceit (Col 2:8).

6. Choose one aspect of the angels' work and share how you can apply this to your life.
   Personal answers.

Junior 1 Year 3 Book 2 Lesson 11
The Origin, Nature, and End of Satan
Passages: As listed in the lesson.

Memory Verse

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour." (1 Peter 5:8)

Knowledge of God's Will [God's Word]	Knowledge of God [God's Divine Nature]	Good Works [Behavior]
1. Satan has an origin; he is not self-existing. 2. Satan is proud and deceitful. 3. Satan will ultimately be judged and condemned by God.	God is almighty and righteous.	1. Learn to renew our minds by replacing our old, harmful thoughts with God's truth. 2. Hide God's word in our hearts. 3. Maintain our spiritual discipline.

Overview

Events and Spiritual Teachings

A. The Name of Satan
B. The Origin of Satan
C. The Nature of Satan
D. The End of Satan

Life Application: Fighting Our Spiritual Enemy

Memory Verse

Conclusion: We must be alert and ready to defend against Satan's schemes by renewing our minds and replacing our old, harmful thoughts with God's truth. We must learn to hide God's word in our hearts and maintain our spiritual discipline.

Events and Spiritual Teachings

Introduction: Know Your Enemy!
In every great adventure story, there is always someone who must fight and overcome his or her evil adversary. Often, the hero is unable to defeat the enemy at first, so the hero embarks on a journey, often filled with difficulties. However, by the end of the story, there is usually an epic battle scene where the hero defeats the adversary in a final showdown, bringing the story to its happy ending.

Today, we are also heroes on a spiritual journey. However, our enemy is not someone we can see or touch. Our enemy is invisible, who oftentimes does not attack us outright but rather uses cunning tactics to cause us to fall. Do you know who our enemy is? (*Let students respond.)* Yes, our greatest enemy is Satan! Today, we are going to learn about where he came from, what he is like, and how he will be defeated. By learning about Satan, we can better prepare ourselves to defend against his attacks and learn how to fight against him with the help of our Lord Jesus Christ.

A. The Name of Satan
Satan is not a name. It is actually a title that means "adversary." This title is quite fitting because Satan's sole purpose is to act against God and His people. In the Bible, Satan has many other names and titles that reveal his character.

1. **Devil (Mt 4:1)**
   Devil means "slanderer" or "accuser." Satan slanders or speaks ill of God before man, and of man before God. Satan does this because he is trying to create conflict between God and man. He does not want mankind to be saved.

2. **Tempter (1 Thess 3:5)**
   Satan tries to entice and tempt mankind to sin. He uses our weaknesses and our sinful nature to lure us into his traps, making us sin against God.

3. **Ruler of the world (Jn 14:30)**
   He is able to rule over the world because of the sin that is in the world. In the Bible, it also describes how Satan is able to use his power to deceive the people of world.

4. **Great dragon and serpent of old (Rev 12:9)**
   This not only illustrates the crafty and deceiving nature of Satan, but also illustrates how he can be alluring and attractive.

B. The Origin of Satan
Where did Satan come from? God did not create this enemy. Rather, the Bible says that the being known as Satan was once one of God's angels. What was he like before? Ezekiel 28:12–14 describes an angel that was full of wisdom, covered with precious gems, and "perfect in beauty." Not only was this angel exceedingly wise and beautiful, but the angel was also anointed by the Lord and had dwelt in the garden of Eden. Let's read about Satan's downfall and what he said to himself in Isaiah 14:12–15.

This passage mentions the name *Lucifer*, which means "Day Star." This name refers to Satan before his fall. Satan was especially proud because of his beauty (cf. Ezekiel 28:17). He wanted to exalt himself and be just like God. Instead of fulfilling the will of God, he thought he was as good as, or even better than, God. As a result of this pride, Satan became an enemy of God and was cast out of heaven.

Satan was not the only one who rebelled against God. Angels who sinned were cast out of heaven (Jude 1:6; 2 Pet 2:4). These evil angels are the demons we read about in the Bible who do their evil work on the earth. Today, as we look at the world around us, we are able to see Satan's presence and work.

C. The Nature of Satan

In addition to knowing where Satan came from, it is also important for us to understand his nature so that we are better able to defend against him.

1. **Proud (1 Tim 3:6)**
   Pride was the primary cause of Satan's downfall. Pride is such an integral part of Satan's character that he knows very well how to ensnare people who have become proud and lead them to destruction.

2. **Father of lies (Jn 8:44)**
   Satan is known as the father of lies because the goal of his words is always to mislead us. Satan will even twist the words of God to suit his needs. For example, in the garden of Eden, Satan tempted Eve to eating fruit from the tree by saying, "You will not surely die." While it was true that Adam and Eve did not experience death immediately, the act of eating the fruit brought sin and eventual death.

3. **Deceitful (2 Cor 11:14)**
   Satan uses deceitful tactics to bring down the people of God, such as disguising himself as an angel of light to harm the people of God. For example, a person may go to church every Sabbath, but all they do at church is speak ill of others and cause people to fight. This person could be an instrument of Satan, used to deceive God's children and cause chaos in the church.

4. **Unclean (Ezek 28:16–18)**
   Satan is defiled and unclean. Ezekiel describes Satan as one who is filled with violence and corruption. There are also multiple recordings in the Bible where he is called an unclean demon (Lk 4:33). This is because all kinds of evil, adultery, fornication, and sinful acts come from him.

5. **Murderer (1 Pet 5:8)**
   Satan is a murderous lion who uses various methods to devour the children of God. Sometimes, he causes physical harm to a person, or he may disturb their minds so that they are unable to have peace in their hearts. Satan may even try to lead believers to stray from their faith by causing them to fall into temptation or by making them have doubts about God.

6. **Destroyer (Jn 10:10)**
   John 10:10 tells us that Satan comes to steal, kill, and destroy the flock of God, which is the church of God. Satan wants to steal us away from God and to kill us spiritually. He wants to completely destroy us so that we are unable to reach the heavenly kingdom and instead receive punishment with him in the lake of fire.

D. The End of Satan

Satan is impossible to beat on our own. But with the power from God, we are able to overcome Satan and defeat him! How exactly will Satan be defeated?

1. **Satan has already lost**
   Jesus Christ has already overcome Satan! Let's read 1 John 3:8. The Son of God came to earth for the sole purpose of destroying the works of Satan. When Jesus Christ sacrificed His life on the cross for us and resurrected, He defeated the work of Satan by overcoming death and opening up a way for mankind to be saved (Heb 2:14).

2. **Satan will be condemned**
   The Lord will cast Satan and angels like him into eternal condemnation. Jesus Christ overcame Satan and made a way for us to be saved, but the Lord will still judge Satan and his followers on the last day for their sins. The devil and all his false prophets will be cast into the lake of fire, which causes eternal torment (Rev 20:10). Satan knows this is his ultimate fate, so before this time, he will try his best to make us fall.

It is so important that we remain loyal to God. We must thoroughly equip ourselves with His words so that we are able to defend and protect ourselves from Satan's attacks. Let us constantly spiritually cultivate ourselves so that we can be on guard and prepared for whatever Satan throws at us!

Check for Understanding

1. **What does the title "Satan" mean?** Adversary.
2. **What are some of Satan's other titles?** Devil, tempter, ruler of the world, great dragon, serpent of old.
3. **Where did Satan come from?** Satan was an angel of God that became proud, so God cast him down from heaven.
4. **What is Satan's nature?** Proud, deceitful, dishonest, unclean.
5. **What is Satan's ultimate fate?** He and his followers will be cast into the lake of fire to receive eternal condemnation.

Life Application

Fighting Our Spiritual Enemy

1. **Be transformed by the renewing of our mind**

After baptism, we are supposed to become a new person. But often our daily speech or actions barely change. Let's read a scenario of someone who is struggling with their transformation in Christ.

Jordan got to know God at church during a national youth theological seminar when his friend invited him to attend. He still remembers the feeling of receiving the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues. Everyone in his group talked to him about God as if they had known each other for a long time. He was amazed to feel the downpouring of the Holy Spirit in him even before he knew what He was. After the seminar concluded and he returned home, he wanted to draw close to God. He never missed Sabbath, and he even began to talk to his friends at school about God.

But not long after, the battle with peer pressure and lust came again, just like when Jordan had not been a follower of God. On top of that, academics and other school activities began to dominate his thoughts and take away his time for God. His devotion to God began to weaken, and he found himself fighting a spiritual battle. The feeling of being so close to God was slowly fading, and he felt disconnected with God. He knew God loved him, but he still struggled with his faith.

Discussion: What was preventing Jordan from transforming into a new person in Christ?

One of the biggest obstacles in our faith is ourselves. Because of our worldly thoughts and standards, we unwittingly pull ourselves away from God. Our thoughts and our beliefs truly shape our behavior and our speech. Let's turn to Romans 12:2. "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." We transform ourselves by renewing our minds. We need to change the way we think.

To live a victorious life, we need to replace our old, harmful thoughts with God's truth. To do so, we need to have the mind of Christ. Our thoughts need to match His. Otherwise, we won't be able to transform and will remain our old selves. But becoming more like Christ is such a difficult task! Where do we even begin? Renewing our minds is a process that needs to be taken step by step. We can start by "putting off" the things of the world and "putting on" those of Christ. Let's read Colossians 3:8–10:

> *But now you yourselves are to <u>put off</u> all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have <u>put off</u> the old man with his deeds, and have <u>put on</u> the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him.*

What in our daily lives can we change? Do you get angry easily or lie a lot? We can begin the process by starting with these little things in our lives, step by step, and eventually we will learn to "set [our] mind on things above, not on things on the earth" (Col 3:2). When we do, we will be transformed.

Discussion: What part of your "old man" do you have difficulty "putting off"? What temptations do you face that are hard for you to overcome, and that interfere with your transformation in Christ?

2. Hide God's word in our hearts

We are constantly bombarded with the principles of the world through music, media, and even our friends. These can slowly chip away at our standards as a child of God. It is important to know how to identify Satan's deception and develop ways to defend ourselves with God's help. One of the ways God helps us is by communicating with us through the Bible. Studying His word is a key step to avoiding sin.

Whether through Satan's schemes or our own ambitions, our lives are often so busy that we do not stop to read the Bible. When we don't read the Bible, we forget what God wants us to do, making it easier to do things such as dishonoring our parents or lying. Let's read Psalm 119:11 and Colossians 3:16. To avoid falling into Satan's traps, we must hide God's word in our hearts, and let Christ's word dwell in us richly. But how do we let the word of God dwell in us "richly"? How do we "hide" His word in our hearts?

The word of God dwells in us richly when we meditate upon and memorize Scripture. Whenever we read the Bible, we need to ask questions. "What is God trying to teach me through this passage? What should I do about it? How can I hide it in my heart?" When we spend time asking questions and understanding the passage's intent, we begin filling our minds with His word and applying it to every part of our life. We start to change the way we think.

As an example, let's study Philippians 4:6–7. "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

- What is God trying to teach me through this passage? *Instead of relying on worldly solutions, I should not be anxious for anything, because God will take care of me. He has promised to give*

me peace in my heart when I rely on Him and am thankful for what He has done for me.

- What should I do about it? *I must try to take all of my worries and troubles to God in prayer. Whenever I am feeling stressed or worried about something, I must remember to kneel down to pray, and ask God for help. I must also try to be thankful in all things, even when I am feeling upset.*

- How can I hide it in my heart? *I should memorize this verse. If I regularly feel stressed when I am doing my homework, I can write it on a sticky note and place it on my wall or on my desk. At school, I can think of the verse whenever I feel anxious about a test or a problem with my friends. I can then remember to pray for help and to be thankful that things are not worse than they are.*

Discussion: Think of the temptations that we discussed earlier and find two verses that you will meditate on this week. Share the verses with the class and explain why you chose them. *(Teachers: This discussion question has been incorporated into the students' homework.)*

3. Maintain our spiritual discipline

Satan uses a variety of ways to try to deceive us and weaken our faith, and we fall prey to his schemes because we forget about God's word. We are no longer spiritually disciplined. For each characteristic of Satan, what verse can help us maintain our spiritual discipline? *(Teachers: The verses provided are only suggestions; there are a variety of verses that can be used. Try encouraging the students to find verses on their own, with some guidance if they are not quite familiar with the Bible yet.)*

- **Pride**

  Jamie was so proud of what she had accomplished on her art project. As she looked at her classmate's project, she thought to herself, "Wow, mine is so much better than hers. I know I'm going to get the best grade in the class."

  Bible Verse: Jas 4:6
  "But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: 'God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.' "

- **Father of lies**

  Frank lies a lot. He can't help himself. When his parents ask him if he has finished his homework, he'll say, "Yes," even though he isn't done. He also lies to his friends when he brags about how he owns the latest tech when he actually doesn't.

  Bible Verse: Prov 12:22
  "Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD, but those who deal truthfully are His delight."

- **Unclean**

  Lily loved to read, and recently, her best friend let her borrow a bestseller. She was so excited to read it. However, as she was reading, she found that there were certain parts of the story that were inappropriate and sensual. At the same time, the story was so good that she just couldn't put it down. Just a little bit of uncleanness should be okay, right?

  Bible Verse: 2 Cor 6:17
  "Therefore '[c]ome out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you.' "

- **Deceitful**
  Jacob only had one test question left to answer and time was running out. He had studied so hard, and he knew the material, but the answer just wouldn't come to mind. Jacob glanced over at his neighbor and saw that his neighbor had already completed that question. He was so tempted to copy down the answer. He knew that the answer was somewhere in his brain. It only seemed fair to copy something he already knew.

  Bible Verse: Gal 6:7–8
  "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life."

Memory Verse

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour." (1 Peter 5:8)

Context
The apostolic members were constantly oppressed and faced many tribulations in their faith, including physical persecution, discord, and pagan practices. In this passage, Peter reminds the members of the importance of humility and harmony within the church (vv. 5–7). He also encourages them to remain steadfast in the faith, for they were not the only members suffering persecution (vv. 9–10).

Meaning
To be "sober" means to be awake and self-disciplined, and to avoid foolish or irrational decisions. To be "vigilant" means to remain alert, to be constantly aware of our surroundings, and to stay on the lookout for danger at all times. Peter is warning us to be self-disciplined, sensible, and alert because Satan is always seeking for opportunities to lead us into sin.

Like many predators, lions prey on animals that have fallen behind, that have stumbled, or are weaker. Sometimes, their prey is foolish enough to make themselves open to attack, either by straying from safety or by forgetting to pay attention to its surroundings. In the same way, Satan is always watching for the moment we stray from God or become weak. He wants us to fall away from God, and he is waiting to attack us at our weakest moments! Therefore, we must remain sober and vigilant in our walk of faith.

Conclusion

We are constantly bombarded with the principles of the world through music, media, and even our friends. These can slowly chip away at our standards as a child of God. It is important to know how to identify Satan's deception and develop ways to defend ourselves with God's help. Satan is like a roaring lion, waiting for us to fall so that he can devour us. Therefore, we must be alert and ready to defend against his schemes by renewing our minds and replacing our old, harmful thoughts with God's truth. We must learn to hide God's word in our hearts and remain spiritually disciplined.

Lesson 11 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. Explain in your own words why we must remain sober and vigilant.
   Satan is always on the lookout for opportunities to lead us into sin, and he is constantly watching for the moment we stray from God or become weak. He wants us to fall away from God and he is waiting to attack us at our weakest moments.

2. "Your _____ was lifted up because of your beauty; you _____ your _____ for the sake of your splendor; I _____ you to the _____, I laid you before kings, that they may gaze at you." (Ezekiel 28:17)
   heart, corrupted, wisdom, cast, ground

3. Pick two of Satan's characteristics that we learned, and briefly explain how it is his nature.
   - *Proud: The primary cause of his downfall, Satan knows very well how to ensnare people who have become proud and lead them to destruction.*
   - *Father of lies: The goal of his words is always to mislead us. He even twists the words of God to suit his needs.*
   - *Deceitful: Satan uses deceitful tactics to bring down the people of God.*
   - *Unclean: Satan is filled with violence and corruption because all kinds of evil, adultery, fornication, and sinful acts come from him.*
   - *Murderer: Satan uses various methods to devour the children of God and lead them astray.*
   - *Destroyer: Satan comes to steal, kill, and destroy the flock of God. He wants to steal us away from God and destroy us spiritually so that we are unable to reach the heavenly kingdom.*

4. How do we transform ourselves by the renewing of our mind?
   By changing the way we think. We need to replace our old, harmful thoughts with God's truth. Our thoughts need to match His.

5. During class, we chose two verses that we would meditate on this week. For each, write down what God is trying to teach you, what you should do about it, and how you can hide it in your heart.
   Personal answers; see Life Application #2 for example.

Junior 1 Year 3 Book 2 Lesson 12
The Deceptive Tactics of Satan
Passages: As listed in the lesson.

Memory Verse

"Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart." (2 Timothy 2:22)

Knowledge of God's Will [God's Word]	Knowledge of God [God's Divine Nature]	Good Works [Behavior]
1. Satan uses many deceptive tactics. 2. Falling into sin has consequences. 3. We can overcome Satan's deceptive tactics with God's help.	God is almighty, ever-present, all-knowing, and everlasting.	1. Hide God's word in our hearts. 2. Pray and be empowered by the Holy Spirit. 3. Flee from and avoid temptation. 4. Make spiritual friends.

Overview

Events and Spiritual Teachings

A. Satan's Deceptive Tactics
B. The Consequences of Falling into Temptation

Life Application: Overcoming Satan's Deceptive Tactics

Memory Verse

Conclusion: God has given us a way not only to be free from sin, but also to be victorious over our sinful ways through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Events and Spiritual Teachings

Introduction: What Is Temptation?
Materials

- *$20 dollar bill*
- *Gummy worm*
- *Paper clip*
- *Chopstick*
- *12-inch string*

Preparation
Before class, tie one end of the string to the chopstick and the other end to the paper clip. This will act as your mini fishing pole.

The Bible describes Satan as a tempter, as one that is trying to lure us away from God. What does that look like? *(Take out the fishing pole and attach a gummy worm to the paper clip. Pretend to lure the students with the gummy worm.)*

Just as I have tried to tempt you into taking the gummy worm, Satan tries to tempt us into taking the bait that he has set in front of us. Sometimes, we don't fall for the temptation because we are able to overcome it. At this point, what does Satan do? Does he give up? Nope! Instead, he tries to tempt us even more with the things that we desire. *(Take off the gummy worm and attach the money to the paper clip. Again, pretend to lure the students with the bait.)*

When Satan fails, he does not give up. Every day, we find ourselves overwhelmed by the temptations that we encounter. This is not something new; rather, we can find many examples of Satan's deceptions in the Bible. Today, we will learn about his deceptive tactics so that we may know how to identify them and, most importantly, how to overcome them!

A. Satan's Deceptive Tactics
There are three main desires that Satan tries to tempt us with. Let's turn to 1 John 2:16. Every sin in the world is rooted in three desires: the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. If we follow these desires, we are "of the world." "If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him" (1 Jn 2:15). Let's take a closer look at the nature of these three temptations and how Satan uses these desires to pull our hearts away from God.

1. **The lust of the flesh**
   First, "flesh" refers to your physical body. As a result, the lust of the flesh refers to the desire to fulfill the pleasures of your physical body without thinking about the will of God. A common example of this would be having sex before marriage. However, the lust of the flesh is not only limited to sexual sin. A glutton—a person who has an unhealthy love for food and thus eats too much—can also be guilty of the lust of the flesh.

2. **The lust of the eyes**
   This refers to the desire to possess the things that we see. When we want what other people have, or when something new comes along and we feel the need to own it, we are guilty of the lust of the eyes. It is a form of materialism, where we prioritize obtaining the physical things around us over the invisible things of God's heavenly kingdom and His righteousness.

3. **The pride of life**
   This refers to the desire to rise up or exalt ourselves so that we are equal to or above God. This is perhaps the evilest of the three desires because Satan was cast out of heaven for his pride. Pride is tricky to catch, as it starts within ourselves, and we are often blind to it. For example, it can start with a simple thought, such as "I can do a better job than him," "I look better than my friends," or "I know better." These thoughts reveal the pride that is within us.

These three temptations can be found throughout the Bible. Let us look at two examples to see how Satan uses them to tempt us. The first is a familiar story. God had commanded Adam and Eve: "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die" (Gen 2:16–17). However, the deceptive serpent twisted God's commandment. Let's break down Genesis 3:1–6 so that we can better understand Satan's tricks.

1. Genesis 3:1–3
   - Serpent: "Has God indeed said, '*You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'*?"
   - Eve: "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, '*You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.' "*

2. Genesis 3:4–6
   - Serpent: "*You will not surely die.* For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be *like God*, knowing good and evil."
   - Eve: So when Eve saw that the tree was *good for food*, that it was *pleasant to the eyes*, and a tree *desirable to make one wise*, she took of its fruit and ate.
     - From Eve's response, we can see that she fell into temptation because of the three things that we mentioned in 1 John 2:16.
       - "Good for food" = Lust of flesh
       - "Pleasant to the eyes" = Lust of the eyes
       - "Desirable to make one wise" = Pride of life
     - Satan knows our desires, and he is willing to use our desires to make us sin against God!

We can see Satan's deceptive tactics through his conversation with Eve. First, he made her question God's commandment by asking her what God had commanded. Second, he denied the consequence of breaking the commandment by downplaying the seriousness of disobeying it. Lastly, he made disobedience to God seem desirable by making Eve believe that she would become like God if she ate the fruit. These are the three tactics that Satan used to trick Adam and Eve.

Let's look at another example. Turn to 2 Samuel 11:1–5.

King David fell into temptation for two reasons. First, it describes that at the time when kings went out to battle, King David sent his commander Joab to lead the army in his place while he remained in Jerusalem. David had already made a mistake right from the beginning: he was not where he was supposed to be! Instead of fighting alongside his men against the Ammonites, he was spending his time in the palace. He was not watchful of himself and allowed himself to lose his vigilance. So, Satan took the opportunity to lure him into temptation.

Secondly, instead of looking away when he saw Bathsheba, he desired her and sought her out. Later on, King David took her even though he knew she was married. He acted on the lust of his eyes, and in doing so, fulfilled the lust of his flesh.

King David fell into temptation in a time of prosperity and peace for his country. This was the same with Adam and Eve in the beautiful garden of Eden. These examples in the Bible serve as a warning to us that we must constantly be on guard against the temptations of Satan, especially in peaceful times when we are not as attentive. Satan does not only attack us when we are ready for him; he will try to attack us when we are the most relaxed and, therefore, the most vulnerable. Since we do not know when Satan will try to tempt us, it is so important that we stay alert spiritually.

B. The Consequences of Falling into Temptation

Adam, Eve, and King David all fell into temptation and suffered the consequences. The consequence of falling into temptation is sin. However, this sin does not only impact us; it can have a negative impact on our relationships.

Activity

Divide your class into three groups, depending on class size. Ask each student to look up Genesis 3:7–24. Each group must analyze the passage and find the consequence in one of Adam and Eve's three relationships:

Group 1 – Relationship with God
Group 2 – Relationship with each other
Group 3 – Relationship with nature

Relationship with God (Genesis 3:8–12)

Sin is what separates or alienates us from God, and it even makes us His enemy (Col 1:21)! Adam and Eve's disobedience broke their relationship with God. They were afraid to be in the presence of God because of their sin. They even tried to hide from Him. No longer were they living under the blessing of God; spiritually, they had died because of their sin.

Relationship with each other (Genesis 3:7, 12, 16)

Adam no longer saw Eve as the "bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh," but called her "the woman whom [God] gave to be with [him]." He put the blame for his actions on Eve and also on God. The state of their relationship changed from harmony to conflict. This was the consequence of their sin!

Relationship with nature (Genesis 3:17–19, 23)

Adam used to rule over the earth, but now the ground had been cursed with weeds and thorns. He now had to labor and toil to till the land so that he may eat of its food. Ultimately, Adam and Eve were banished from the garden of Eden.

From these three examples, we can see the negative impact of sin on our relationships. However, we must remember that the ultimate consequence of sin is death. Let's read James 1:14–15.

These verses show us a progression: Desire leads to sin, which leads to death. We may all have sinful desires, but it is when we act upon them and allow them to fester in our minds that they become a sin. If we continue to sin without repenting, then it ends in our spiritual death. We will be unable to go to

heaven and will be condemned to burn in everlasting fire! But God does not want this to happen to us. Rather, He wants us to obey His commandments so that we are able to receive everlasting life.

Check for Understanding

1. **What are the three ways that Satan tries to tempt us?** Satan tries to tempt us through the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life.
2. **How did Eve fall to the three temptations?** She saw that the fruit of the tree was:
   a. Good for food = Lust of the flesh
   b. Pleasant to the eyes = Lust of the eyes
   c. Desirable to make one wise = Pride of life
3. **What are Satan's deceptive tactics?** He makes us question God's commandments; He denies the consequences of breaking the commandments; He makes disobedience seem desirable.
4. **How does sin impact our relationships?** It breaks our relationship with God and our relationships with others.
5. **What is the ultimate consequence of sin?** Eternal death is the ultimate consequence of sin.

Life Application

Overcoming Satan's Deceptive Tactics
Even though Adam and Eve failed to resist the temptation set by Satan, we do not have to follow in their footsteps. God has given us many different ways to overcome Satan's temptations.

1. Flee from and avoid temptation (2 Tim 2:22)
The Bible tells us that we need to flee from youthful lusts or, in other words, run away from them! We encounter temptations every day, so we must be able to identify the temptations of Satan and run away, just as Joseph did when he fled from his master's wife (Gen 39). One way of running is by avoiding situations where we know we will be tempted. For example, if you know that you are prone to cheating, position yourself during a test so that you cannot see the paper of the person next to you. Or if you know a friend who likes you, avoid spending time alone with him or her. Satan is a roaring lion waiting to devour us, so we must be wise and flee from his attacks!

Discuss: How can you flee from the temptations in your life?

2. Hide the word of God in our heart (Ps 119:11)
Sometimes, even though we try to avoid temptation, it still finds its way to us. As a result, we have to be filled with the word of God so that we know how to overcome temptation. Jesus Christ set the example for us when He was tempted in the wilderness and used the word of God to defend against Satan. In the same way, the word of God empowers us and helps us to see very clearly what we should and should not do.

Discuss: What is one verse in the Bible that will help you to defend against temptation? *(Possible examples: Romans 12:1–2; Ephesians 5:8; 1 John 3:24)*

3. Pray and be empowered by the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8)
The Holy Spirit can empower us so that we are able to overcome our temptations. As we become filled with the Spirit of God, we can suppress our fleshly desires and resist temptation. When His disciples fell asleep, Jesus Christ admonished them, saying, "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak" (Mt 26:41). Therefore, it is important to make sure that we

constantly pray and always strive for the fullness of the Holy Spirit. When we do, we will receive the power to overcome.

Discuss: What can you do to include more time for prayer in your life?

4. Make spiritual friends (Eccl 4:12)

Having spiritual friends can help us when we are struggling with temptation because they can brainstorm solutions with us and hold us accountable for our actions. Most importantly, a spiritual friend is able to pray for us and be there for us in our time of trouble. God does not want us to struggle with our temptations alone, but to overcome them through the help of our brothers and sisters and His great power!

Discuss: How has your spiritual friend helped you in times of temptation?

Testimony #1 – Caught Off-Guard

One time while my friends and I were studying together in a library, they invited me to a birthday dinner and told me it was probably going to be on a Friday night. I was caught off-guard, and I was not bold enough to explain to everyone in our study group, many of whom didn't know me that well, about how I observe the Sabbath. Afraid that I would make the atmosphere awkward, I took the easy way out and said, "Sure, I'll go." Later that evening, however, my conscience kept rebuking me, and I kept thinking to myself that I had been unfaithful to God. Unable to reconcile with the fact that I had accepted the invitation, I wrote an email to my friend who was organizing the dinner and explained that I could not make it on Friday night because I observe the Sabbath and that I could not go to the birthday dinner in good conscience. Thank God, she was understanding and changed the time to Saturday night to accommodate me!

Testimony #2 – To Cheat or Not to Cheat?

In history class, we had been given the assignment to memorize all fifty states and their state capitals. I had spent weeks memorizing it; however, by the day of the test there were still a couple of state capitals that I got confused about. My history teacher passed out the test, and I quickly began to fill in all the blanks. After a few minutes, I heard my friend who was seated next to me whispering, "Psst, psst, look here." I looked and saw that he had hidden a list of the states and their capitals underneath his desk and that he was copying from it. Quickly, I glanced at my teacher who was sitting at his desk reading a book, completely unaware. It was at this point that I struggled within myself. I thought, "There's no harm in looking." However, just as quickly as that thought came into my mind, another thought came into my mind, "God knows." With that, I quickly turned to my friend and whispered back, "I don't need it." Praise the Lord, I finished the test on my own and turned it in. Later on, when we got our test scores back, I actually got a better grade than my friend who had cheated!

Testimony #3 – Burdens Are Lifted

"Downloading music illegally is stealing!" My teacher proclaimed this during one afternoon RE class. Before this, I had thought, "Everyone does it, so it must be okay!" However, after that RE class, it made me realize that I really was breaking the eighth commandment. The Bible tells us that when you break one commandment, you break them all. However, even with that knowledge, it was difficult for me to get rid of all my illegally downloaded music. I would make excuses such as, "That musician is way richer than I am; they wouldn't miss the dollar that I would have paid!" It was not until a student spiritual convocation that God empowered me to finally get rid of this sin. During one

prayer in the middle of the week, I had hit a wall in my prayers. I was repenting of my sins, but at the same time, I didn't feel God responding. It was at this point that I thought about all the illegal music that I had stored in my computer at home. I began to ask God to forgive me for my sinfulness and vowed to erase it all when I got home. I prayed to God to empower me with His power to do so! It was at this point that a great joy filled my heart! The day when SSC ended, I went home and deleted all of the illegal content on my computer. With the click of a mouse, I could feel a burden being lifted from me. This would not have been possible without the power of God and His transforming power! Praise the Lord for His mercy and grace!

Discuss

- Share how each person overcame Satan's temptations.
- Share similar experiences of how you overcame Satan with God's help.

Memory Verse

"Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart." (2 Timothy 2:22)

Meaning

1. Paul taught Timothy, to flee from "youthful lusts", but what exactly does this refer to? This isn't just a warning against sexual immorality, but anything that sparks some sort of desire. Today, this may be our beauty, fame on social media, or other worldly interests that would interfere with our pursuit of godliness. Moreover, Paul wrote to "flee" from them! This isn't simply a matter of cutting back, but of avoiding them entirely, as much as we can.
2. The more we pursue God, the less that we will want to sin against Him because we know that He grieves when He sees our sins (Gen 6:6). Our sin can also become a wall that separates us from God. On the other hand, the more we pursue and fill ourselves with righteousness, faith, love, and peace, the less we will want to sin against God.

Conclusion

Satan's deceptions are not always easy to see through, and many times he will attack us during the moments we feel most relaxed and are the most vulnerable. But though Satan employs many deceptive tactics to drag us into sin, God has given us a way to defend ourselves. In order to defend against Satan's deceptive tactics, we must flee from temptation, surround ourselves with spiritual friends, pray for the power of the Holy Spirit, and hide God's word in our hearts. Then, with God's guidance and the power of the Holy Spirit, we will be victorious over our sinful ways and receive our inheritance in God's heavenly kingdom.

Lesson 12 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. What comes naturally to us when we pursue God? Why?
   The more we pursue God, the less that we will want to sin against Him because we know that He grieves when He sees our sins.

2. "For all that is in the world—the lust of the _____, the lust of the _____, and the _____ of _____—is not of the Father but is of the world." (1 John 2:16)
   flesh, eyes, pride, life

3. "But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own _____ and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to _____; and_____, when it is full-grown, brings forth _____." (James 1:14–15)
   desires, sin, sin, death

4. What are the deceptive tactics of Satan?
   He makes us question God's commandments, denies or disguises the consequences of breaking them, and makes disobedience seem desirable.

5. Name one way we can overcome Satan's deceptions, and explain it in your own words.
   a. *Flee from and avoid temptation: We will be less likely to sin if we simply remove the temptation from our lives or position ourselves so that it is no longer an option.*
   b. *Hide the word of God in our heart: Just as Jesus Christ defended Himself with Scripture, the word of God helps us to see clearly what we should or should not do.*
   c. *Pray and be empowered by the Holy Spirit: As Jesus told His disciples, we must watch and pray, because the Spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak. The Holy Spirit empowers us so that we are able to overcome our temptations.*
   d. *Make spiritual friends: Spiritual friends can help come up with solutions for temptations and hold us accountable for our actions. They can also pray for us in times of trouble. God does not want us to struggle alone.*

6. List two actions that you will take this week to overcome Satan's deceptive tactics in your own life.
   Personal answers. Encourage the students to come up with realistic, "actionable" items. Examples may be: ask my parents to wake me earlier so that I can pray in the morning; set an alarm to read the Bible each night with my sibling or fellow student; move my computer into a common living/family room so that I am not tempted to visit certain websites, etc.

Junior 1 Year 3 Book 2 Review

Memory Verses

Instructions: Fill in the blanks correctly using the provided words.

vigilant	weary	mercy	Spirit
turn	seeking	humbly	gift
forgive	heaven	commandments	endures
worship	grace	keep	seek
justly	hallowed	bear	purpose
deny	good	covenant	faithless
boast	everlasting	name	work
faithful	understanding	approved	devour
charge	truth	life	called

James 1:12	2 Timothy 2:13	Isaiah 40:28	Ephesians 2:8–9
Micah 6:8	Romans 8:28	1 Peter 5:8	2 Chronicles 7:14
Psalm 91:11-12	Deuteronomy 7:9	Matthew 6:9	John 4:24

1. "God is _____, and those who _____ Him must worship Him in spirit and _____." (_____)
2. "Have you not known? Have you not heard? The _____ God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is _____. His _____ is unsearchable." (_____)
3. "He has shown you, O man, what is _____; and what does the Lord require of you but to do _____, to love mercy, and to walk _____ with your God?" (_____)
4. "Therefore know that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps _____ and _____ for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His _____." (_____)
5. "If we are _____, He remains _____; He cannot _____ Himself." (_____)
6. "And we know that all things _____ together for good to those who love God, to those who are the _____ according to His _____." (_____)

7. "Our Father in _____, _____ be Your _____." (_____)
8. "[I]f My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and _____ My face, and _____ from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will _____ their sin and heal their land." (_____)
9. "For by _____ you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the _____ of God, not of works, lest anyone should _____." (_____)
10. "For He shall give His angels _____ over you, to _____ you in all your ways. In their hands they shall _____ you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone." (_____)
11. "Be sober, be _____; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, _____ whom he may _____." (_____)
12. "Blessed is the man who _____ temptation; for when he has been _____, he will receive the crown of _____ which the Lord has promised to those who love Him." (_____)

Multiple Choice

1. ____ : Which of these is not listed in 1 John 2:16 as one of the desires of the world?
   a. The lust of the flesh
   b. The lust of the heart
   c. The lust of the eyes
   d. The pride of life

2. ____ : Which of the following facts about angels is false?
   a. Angels are servants of God.
   b. Angels have the might to bind Satan.
   c. Angels can be in two places at one time.
   d. Angels know more than humans.

3. ____ : Which of these is not considered a sin?
   a. Having a thought that goes against God's will or command
   b. Doing an action that goes against God's will or command
   c. Failing to act when you know that you should
   d. None of the above

4. ____ : "[It] is impossible for God to ____" (Heb 6:18).

a. lie
b. cheat
c. swear
d. regret

5. ____ : Which of the following is a characteristic of spiritual things?
   a. Does not have a physical body
   b. Is not limited by time or space
   c. Cannot be experienced using the five senses
   d. All of the above

6. ____ : Who is the father of all lies?
   a. Satan
   b. Ananias
   c. Judas
   d. Adam

7. ____ : What is the meaning of mercy?
   a. Refusal to punish someone who has committed a wrong
   b. Conditional forgiveness of someone, if the person first repents
   c. Kind or forgiving treatment of someone who could be treated harshly
   d. None of the above

The Names of God

A. What is God's name? _____

B. Instructions: For each of the meanings of the names of God, match the original name using the word bank and provide a brief description of the meaning as covered in the lessons.

YHWH Shalom	*YHWH Nissi*
El Emunah	*YHWH Mekoddishkem*
YHWH Rohi	*YHWH Tsidkenu*
YHWH Yireh	*YHWH Rapha*

Meaning	Original Name	Description
The Lord Will Provide		
The Lord Is My Banner		
The Lord Our Righteousness		
God of Faithfulness		
The Lord Is My Shepherd		
The Lord Who Heals		
The Lord Is Peace		
The Lord Who Sanctifies		

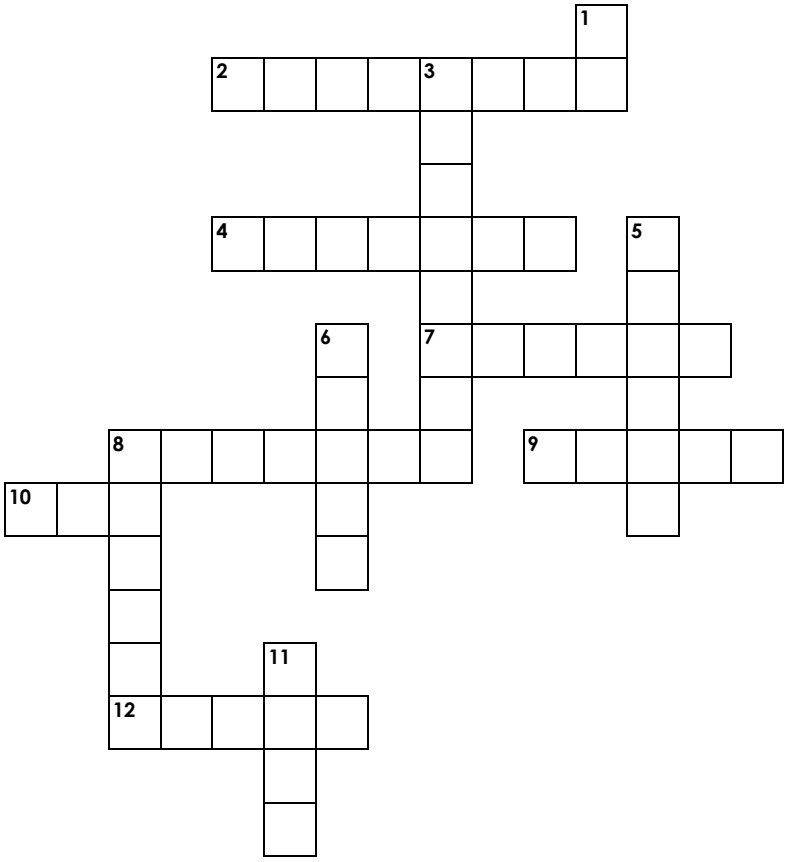
The Almightiness of God

A. What does it mean to say that God is:

- omnipresent: _____
- omnipotent: _____
- omniscient: _____

B. Crossword

Instructions: Fill in the crossword using the blanks in the statements about God's almightiness.



Across

2. God is powerful in ____. All things come from Him.
4. God is _____ all. He dwells with His people.
7. God knows our ___. He knows our ways.
8. God knows our ___, or what we are doing.
9. God knows our ___, or what we will speak.
10. God is all-powerful in relation to ___. He can do the impossible.
12. God has power over ___, who is afraid of God's name.

Down

1. God is ___ all through the Holy Spirit.
3. God knows the ___ in our head.
5. God knows what is before us in the ___.
6. God is ___ all; He is ___ time and space.
8. God has power over ___, who serve Him.
11. God knows what we did in the ___.

Short Answer

1. **(Lesson 1) Why is it important to understand the essence of God?**

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

2. **(Lesson 3) How do God's justice and mercy work together in salvation?**

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

3. **(Lesson 4) What is the difference between God's love and the love we see in the world? What does it mean to be holy, and what are some concrete actions we can take to stay holy?**

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

4. **(Lesson 5) Name three reasons why God's character is true. God's word and promises are also true. Name two Old Testament prophecies that were fulfilled in the New Testament, as well as one promise God gave that was fulfilled.**

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

5. **(Lesson 6) What does it mean that God has given us free will? What does it mean to trust in God's providence?**

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

6. **(Lesson 9) What is sin? Why is it such a serious problem for us? Why was Jesus, and Jesus alone, the necessary answer for our freedom?**

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

7. **(Lesson 10) Name four characteristics of angels, as well as the work that they do. What are ways in which we can shine the light and be messengers for Him?**

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

8. **(Lesson 12) Where did Satan come from? What are ways we can combat Satan's advances, and what does it mean to be "sober" in 1 Peter 5:8?**

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Junior 1 Year 3 Book 2 Review Answer Key

Memory Verses

1. "God is ***Spirit***, and those who ***worship*** Him must worship Him in spirit and ***truth***." (***John 4:24***)
2. "Have you not known? Have you not heard? The ***everlasting*** God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is ***weary***. His ***understanding*** is unsearchable." (***Isaiah 40:28***)
3. "He has shown you, O man, what is ***good***; and what does the Lord require of you but to do ***justly***, to love mercy, and to walk ***humbly*** with your God?" (***Micah 6:8***)
4. "Therefore know that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps ***covenant*** and ***mercy*** for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His ***commandments***." (***Deuteronomy 7:9***)
5. "If we are ***faithless***, He remains ***faithful***; He cannot ***deny*** Himself." (***2 Timothy 2:13***)
6. "And we know that all things ***work*** together for good to those who love God, to those who are the ***called*** according to His ***purpose***." (***Romans 8:28***)
7. "Our Father in ***heaven***, ***hallowed*** be Your ***name***." (***Matthew 6:9***)
8. "[I]f My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and ***seek*** My face, and ***turn*** from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will ***forgive*** their sin and heal their land." (***2 Chronicles 7:14***)
9. "For by ***grace*** you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the ***gift*** of God, not of works, lest anyone should ***boast***." (***Ephesians 2:8–9***)
10. "For He shall give His angels ***charge*** over you, to ***keep*** you in all your ways. In their hands they shall ***bear*** you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone." (***Psalm 91:11–12***)
11. "Be sober, be ***vigilant***; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, ***seeking*** whom he may ***devour***." (***1 Peter 5:8***)
12. "Blessed is the man who ***endures*** temptation; for when he has been ***approved***, he will receive the crown of ***life*** which the Lord has promised to those who love Him." (***James 1:12***)

Multiple Choice

1. ____ : Which of these is not listed in 1 John 2:16 as one of the desires of the world?
   a. The lust of the flesh
   b. The lust of the heart
   c. The lust of the eyes
   d. The pride of life

2. ____ : Which of the following facts about angels is false?
   a. Angels are servants of God.
   b. Angels have the might to bind Satan.
   c. Angels can be in two places at one time.
   d. Angels know more than humans.

3. ____ : Which of these is not considered a sin?
   a. Having a thought that goes against God's will or command
   b. Doing an action that goes against God's will or command
   c. Failing to act when you know that you should
   d. None of the above

4. ____ : "[It] is impossible for God to ____" (Heb 6:18).

a. lie
b. cheat
c. swear
d. regret

5. ____ : Which of the following is a characteristic of spiritual things?
   a. Does not have a physical body
   b. Is not limited by time or space
   c. Cannot be experienced using the five senses
   d. All of the above

6. ____ : Who is the father of all lies?
   a. Satan
   b. Ananias
   c. Judas
   d. Adam

7. ____ : What is the meaning of mercy?
   a. Refusal to punish someone who has committed a wrong
   b. Conditional forgiveness of someone, if the person first repents
   c. Kind or forgiving treatment of someone who could be treated harshly
   d. None of the above

The Names of God

A. What is God's name? *His name is "I AM WHO I AM," which in Hebrew is "YHWH."*

B. Table

Meaning	Original Name	Description
The Lord Will Provide	*YHWH Yireh*	*God's provision is a promise that He gives to those who follow Him, and one that He alone can fulfill.*
The Lord Is My Banner	*YHWH Nissi*	*The Lord is the banner under which we fight for. He is our hope and confidence, and the one who gives us direction and inspiration in our struggles.*
The Lord Our Righteousness	*YHWH Tsidkenu*	*There is none more righteous than the Lord. All will be judged according to their works.*
God of Faithfulness	*El Emunah*	*As a righteous and holy God, He cannot lie. We know that we can rely on His faithfulness, because His faithfulness is backed by His omnipotence.*
The Lord Is My Shepherd	*YHWH Rohi*	*He is our protector and guide. He shields us from danger and leads us on the path we ought to take.*
The Lord Who Heals	*YHWH Rapha*	*God is able to heal us both physically and spiritually. He heals the bitterness in our hearts and gives us a life of fulfillment and happiness when we seek out Christ.*
The Lord Is Peace	*YHWH Shalom*	*The peace God gives us is an inner spiritual tranquility. But this peace can only arise out of complete confidence in God's power.*

The Lord Who Sanctifies	*YHWH Mekoddishkem*	*God wants us to be holy because He is holy. God wants His children to be sanctified.*

The Almightiness of God

A. What does it mean to say that God is:

- omnipresent: *He is everywhere at the same time and is ever-present in all of creation.*
- omnipotent: *He is all-powerful. God's power is like Himself, infinite and incomparable.*
- omniscient: *He has complete knowledge of all things.*

B. Crossword

Across

2. God is all-powerful in ***creation***. All things come from Him.
4. God is ***through*** all. He dwells with His people.
7. God knows our ***habits***. He knows our ways.
8. God knows our ***actions***, or what we are doing.
9. God knows our ***words***, or what we will speak.
10. God is all-powerful in relation to ***man***. He can do the impossible.
12. God has power over ***Satan***, who is afraid of God's name.

Down

1. God is ***in*** all through the Holy Spirit.
3. God knows the ***thoughts*** in our head.
5. God knows what is before us in the ***future***.
6. God is ***above*** all because He is ***above*** time and space.
8. God has power over ***angels***, who serve Him.
11. God knows what we did in the ***past***.

Short Answer

1. **(Lesson 1) Why is it important to understand the essence of God?**
   Once we recognize the essence of God, we can come to Him faithfully in confidence, knowing that we can cast our cares upon Him, and that He will care for us because He is above all, through all, and in all. We know that we can fully rely on Him because He has complete authority over all things, is not bound by space or time, and is everywhere we are.

2. **(Lesson 3) How do God's justice and mercy work together in salvation?**
   When Jesus Christ was crucified on the cross, His suffering and eventual death were the penalties paid for sin, and a requirement of God's justice. This act of sacrifice from Jesus Christ fulfilled God's justice, and in turn, God's mercy was given to us so that we are no longer condemned but saved.

3. **(Lesson 4) What is the difference between God's love and the love we see in the world? What does it mean to be holy, and what are some concrete actions we can take to stay holy?**
   Love in the world is usually an emotional response and can be temporary. The love of God is a relationship that will last forever with God because He is faithful. To be holy means to be free of wickedness and to belong to God. To keep ourselves holy, we can pray daily, meditate on the word of God, offer our bodies fully to God, and be accountable to a spiritual friend.

4. **(Lesson 5) Name three reasons why God's character is true. God's word and promises are also true. Name two Old Testament prophecies that were fulfilled in the New Testament, as well as one promise God gave that eventually was fulfilled.**

God's character is true because God is the Creator and source of all truth; God never changes; His truth leads to godliness. Refer to Lesson 5, Events and Spiritual Teachings, Section B *for the prophecies. God promised Abraham would have a son by Sarah. God promised Simeon that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. God promised the apostles that they would receive the promise of the Father, the Holy Spirit, which poured out upon them on the Day of Pentecost.*

5. **(Lesson 6) What does it mean that God has given us free will? What does it mean to trust in God's providence?**
   God has given us the ability to choose and make moral decisions freely. In giving us the freedom to choose, we need to learn to live by faith. Trusting Him does not mean that we can sit back, do nothing, and laze around. Rather, it means that we must trust in God's ability to guide and direct our path more than we trust in our own ability to provide for ourselves.

6. **(Lesson 9) What is sin? Why is it such a serious problem for us? Why was Jesus, and Jesus alone, the necessary answer for our freedom?**
   Sin is disobedience against God's will or command. Because with its entry, a barrier was formed between us and God. The wages of sin is a spiritual death, with no hope for reprieve or salvation (Rom 5:12; 6:20–23). In order to atone for the sins of all mankind, the sacrifice had to be sinless. God Himself, the only righteous being in existence, had to fulfill the righteous requirement Himself.

7. **(Lesson 10) Name four characteristics of angels, as well as the work that they do. What are ways in which we can shine the light and be messengers for Him?**
   Angels are created as spirits. Angels are perfect and holy. Angels are humble and obedient. Angels are not to be worshipped. There are many ways we can shine the light. A few examples are: visit and pray for the sick; minister to others; encourage peers to guard against evil; praise God; be a helping hand to others; say a prayer for a loved one or a friend; offer my abilities for a good cause; forgive someone who has wronged my; or thank my parents for taking care of me.

8. **(Lesson 11) Where did Satan come from? What are ways we can combat Satan's advances, and what does it mean to be "sober" in 1 Peter 5:8?**
   Satan was an angel of God that became proud, so God cast him down from heaven. In order to fight our spiritual enemy Satan, we must be transformed by the renewing of our mind. To live a victorious life, we need to replace our old, harmful thoughts with God's truth. To do so, we need to have the mind of Christ. We must also hide God's word in our hearts, as it is important to know how to identify Satan's deception and develop ways to defend ourselves with God's help. Lastly, we must maintain our spiritual discipline by remaining humble, clean, and truthful. To be "sober" means to be awake and self-disciplined, and to avoid foolish or irrational decisions. Peter is warning us to be self-disciplined, sensible, and alert because Satan is always seeking for opportunities to lead us into sin.