



CREATION AND THE BEGINNING OF HUMAN HISTORY

## #21 - How Should We Respond to God? Psalm 33:1-15

### PICTURES NEEDED

- 21-1 Heavens
- 21-2 FEAR poster

### REVIEW (Before Teaching Lesson)

- **Journal Review:** Ask students to share an important truth that they learned from their journal readings at home that week. Share some of your own insights.
- **Previous Lesson Review:** (Use the visual from the last lesson to aid in review) What did God do on the seventh day of creation? What does God want man to do on the Sabbath? What day of the week is the Christian Sabbath? Why? What day of the week is the Jewish Sabbath? Why? How do we honor God on the Sabbath?
- **The Big Question Review:** What is the Sabbath?  
Let the students give their answers to the question.
- **Bible Verse Review:** Exodus 20:11  
On the seventh day of creation, God rested and called it holy?

*<sup>11</sup>For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.*

## LESSON CONTENT

**Note:** The Bible verses included in the lesson are from the NIV 1984 edition. The wording of the questions is derived from that version. If another version of the Bible is used, questions may need to be adapted.

This is a good point in the study of Genesis to pause and ponder the question, "How should we respond to God?" What have you learned so far through this study of Genesis? Let the children give their answers.

When we think of where God dwells where do we look? (picture 21-1) The heavens. From earth we can look out into the sky and see other parts of God's creation.

If God is everywhere, why do we think of him in the heavens? The Bible speaks of him as dwelling in heaven as a spiritual place. In the physical realm, there is something about the vast expanse of the sky or heavens that speaks of God. It is unsearchable, uncontainable and mysterious. It can't be known by people; it is beyond our ability to comprehend. However, we need to remember that every part of creation is known by God, he calls each of the stars by name. We are finite, he is infinite. There is something about what is beyond earth and the great expanse of the universe that points to the vastness of who God is. We are going to read Psalm 33:1-15 to gain greater understanding of and appreciation for our awesome God who created all things in order to answer the question, "How should we respond to God?"

### **Vs. 1-9**

*<sup>1</sup>Sing joyfully to the LORD, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise him. <sup>2</sup>Praise the LORD with the harp; make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre. <sup>3</sup>Sing to him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy.*

*<sup>4</sup>For the word of the LORD is right and true; he is faithful in all he does. <sup>5</sup>The LORD loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love.*

*<sup>6</sup>By the word of the LORD were the heavens made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth. <sup>7</sup>He gathers the waters of the sea into jars; he puts the deep into storehouses. <sup>8</sup>Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the people of the world revere him. <sup>9</sup>For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.*

How should all the earth respond to the Lord? (vs.8) All the earth is to fear and revere the Lord.

Why should all the earth fear and revere God? God is faithful and loving in all he does. He is the creator of all things and is the one who holds all things together. He is sovereign over his creation.

What does it mean to revere God? If we revere God that means that we esteem him and recognize that he is God. We don't think of ourselves as being his equal. We give ourselves to him to serve and honor him.

**Vs. 10-11** These verses show the sovereignty of God.

*<sup>10</sup>The LORD foils the plans of the nations; he thwarts the purposes of the peoples. <sup>11</sup>But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations.*

What does it mean that God is sovereign? God rules over all his creation and what he plans will come to pass. Man is not in charge, he is under God's authority.

How do these verses show God is sovereign? It is God's plans and purposes that will come to pass, not ours.

**Vs. 12-15** These verses show what it means to fear God.

*<sup>12</sup>Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people he chose for his inheritance.*

*<sup>13</sup>From heaven the LORD looks down and sees all mankind; <sup>14</sup>from his dwelling place he watches all who live on earth-- <sup>15</sup>he who forms the hearts of all, who considers everything they do.*

What does it mean to fear God? If we fear God we recognize who he is and understand that we are under his authority and accountable to him for the things we do. God watches over his creation and knows everything we do. One day we will answer to God for how we have lived our lives and responded to him. Our choice is either to believe God and submit to him and his purposes or to reject God and go our own way.

What does submitting to God do for us? Submitting to God puts us in right relationship to him. It is the way of blessing and joy. Rejecting God makes us at odds with him; it puts us on a destructive downward path.

Psalm 147:10-11 says, "the LORD delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love." Since God delights in those who fear him it would be good for us to examine further what the fear of the Lord means.

To do this we will associate each letter of the word fear with an action of what the fear of the Lord means we do. (As you go through each action have the younger children think of a movement to do that will remind them of what it means to do. Ideas are in parenthesis.) **(picture 21-2)**

**F Fix mind on God** (Brain, Touch temples then lift hands up.)

What does it mean to fix our mind on God? If we fix our minds on God, we think about him and his truth because we know that through him we gain understanding about the way to live life and honor him.

**E Enfold God's truth** (Bible, Put hands together in front like a book. Then cross arms in front of body.)

Enfold means to completely surround something. What does it mean to enfold God's truth? If we enfold God's truth then we meditate on God's word so that it fills our minds. If God's truth is enfolded into our thinking and becomes part of us then we will follow it even if no one else does.

**A Accept God's authority** (Throne or gavel, Raise one arm and make a fist. Bring the fist down on the other hand.)

What does it mean to accept God's authority? If we accept God's authority, we

recognize the right God has to rule over us. We honor God as our King and Lord and want to do what pleases him. We recognize his sovereignty and obey him.

## **R Render self to God** (Praying figure, Bow head and fold hands in prayer.)

Render means to give yourself over to something. What does it mean to render ourselves to God? If we render ourselves to God we give ourselves to him and see ourselves as his servants. When we render ourselves to God we want to serve and honor him. We yield to him and his authority.

The Bible says that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. If we fear God then we will: fix our minds on him, enfold his truth into our lives, accept his authority and render ourselves to him. Doing those things will make us wise as we will do what is right and good. It is good to know God, fear him and gain wisdom. That is a proper response to God and is the key to living life well.

Isaiah 33:5-6 says, *The LORD is exalted, for he dwells on high; he will fill Zion with justice and righteousness. He will be the sure foundation for your times, a rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge; the fear of the LORD is the key to this treasure.*

(Note: Originally Zion was the fortified stronghold in the southernmost hilltops of Jerusalem. In the Old Testament prophecies, it referred to Israel and all her inhabitants. In the New Testament the meaning has been extended to include all the people of God.)

What does it mean that God is a sure foundation for our times? A foundation is what gives stability to a building. God is stable and unchanging. His truth will never fail. If we build our lives on him, we will have the wisdom and understanding we need to live life well even if everything around us is crumbling and falling down. The fear of the Lord is the key to all that.

## **LESSON WRAP-UP**

- **Overview Questions:** Why are people who know God blessed? Why are we to praise God? Why are we to fear God? Why are we to revere God? What does it mean that God is sovereign?
- **Thought Questions:** If we fear God, what will we do? Why? What keeps people from fearing God? If we revere God, what will we do? Why? What keeps people from revering God? If we trust God, what will we do? Why? What keeps people from trusting God? If our hope is in God, what will we do? Why? What keeps people from putting their hope in God?
- **Prayer:** Thank God that he is the Almighty Creator who loves and rules over his creation. Pray that you would learn what it means to fear and revere God and love him with all your heart. Thank him that he knows and sees all that goes on in the earth and takes care of those who fear and trust him.
- **The Big Question: Why should we fear God?**  
Let the students give their answers to the question. Share the memory verse. Ask how it answers the question.

- **Memory Verse:** Isaiah 33:4-5 The fear of the Lord is the key to salvation and wisdom.

*The LORD is exalted, for he dwells on high; he will fill Zion with justice and righteousness. He will be the sure foundation for your times, a rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge; the fear of the LORD is the key to this treasure.*

Questions: What will God do for Zion? What does it mean that God is a sure foundation for our times? What is God a rich store of? What is the key to that treasure?

## ACTIVITIES (Completed after the lesson)

Any age appropriate activity can be included which fits into the class time. The activities with a star are included on the class notes.

- ★ **Lesson Notes:** Ask the students to summarize in one sentence what the lesson was about. Then have them give three main points covered in the lesson. An example is below.

Theme: We are to praise, fear and revere God.

1. We praise and revere God because he is faithful, loving and righteous.
2. We fear God because he is the one who made us and sees everything we do.
3. If we revere and fear God then we will give ourselves to him and do what makes him happy.

- ★ **Memory Verse:** Read the memory verse on the cover of the class notes and then have the students fill in the blanks in the verse.

- ★ **Activity Page:** Word Search

Instructions: Find verbs in the puzzle that are things God does for those who fear him: protects, provides, blesses, saves, prospers, helps, listens, watches.

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+++S++++H+++++
+++EA+++E+++++
+S+S+V++L+++++
++RS++E+P+++++
+++E+++SS+++++
+++LP++++P+++++
+++B+S++R+++++
+++++OOWATCHES
+++++TRS+++++
+++++E+NP+++++
+++CSEDIVORP++
+++T+T+++++
++S+S+++++
+++I+++++

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(Over,Down,Direction)
BLESSES(4,7,N)
HELPS(9,1,S)
LISTENS(3,15,NE)
PROSPERS(9,10,NW)
PROTECTS(10,6,SW)
PROVIDES(13,11,W)
SAVES(4,1,SE)
WATCHES(9,8,E)

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- **Further Understanding:** Investigation/Reasoning Skills

If the fear of the Lord is the key to the treasure of salvation, wisdom and knowledge we need to understand it more. To do this we will read verses from the Bible that reveal what the fear of the Lord does for a person.

Instructions: Assign each child (or pair of children) a verse to look up in the Bible. After a scripture is read, have the group choose one word that summarizes what that verse says the fear of the Lord does for a person. List the verse reference and descriptive words on the board. (Examples of appropriate words are in parenthesis.)

Psalms 34:7 (protection)

Psalms 34:9 (provision)

Psalms 111:10 (understanding)

Psalms 112:1-3 (blessing)

Psalms 128:1-2 (prosperity)

Psalms 145:18-19 (salvation)

Proverbs 1:7 (knowledge)

Proverbs 14:26-27 (security)

Proverbs 15:33 (wisdom, humility)

Proverbs 16:6 (righteousness)

Proverbs 19:23 (life, contentment)

Proverbs 22:4 (wealth, honor)

Questions: Why does the fear of the Lord bring each of these benefits? (Go through each benefit.) Why won't a person truly experience these benefits apart from a fear of the Lord?

The journal is passed out at the end of class for the students to complete at home. It has six readings that answer a digging deeper question. It would be beneficial for the teacher to work through the journal readings also.

**Digging Deeper:** How are we to worship God?

Reading 1: Psalm 138:1-8 We praise God with all our heart.  
Who should worship and praise God? What are things all people should worship and praise God for?

Reading 2: Psalm 108:1-5 We sing and make music with our soul.  
How should we worship God? When should we worship God? Where should we worship God? Why should we worship God?

Reading 3: Psalm 96:1-6 We declare God's glory among the nations.  
What should we proclaim about God? To whom should we proclaim it?

Reading 4: Psalm 115:1-8 We give glory to God for his love and faithfulness.  
Why are we to give glory to God?

Reading 5: Psalm 89:1-8 We acknowledge there is none like God.  
Why can nothing compare to God? What should be our response to God?

Reading 6: Isaiah 29:13-16 Worshiping God  
What does your worship of God consist of? What are ways you could worship and honor God more?