

Diary Devotions

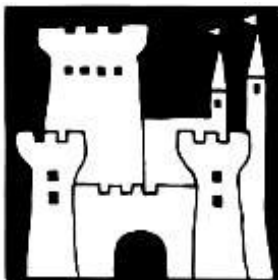
Year 9

Term 4

Studies on the character and nature of God

Page

God is Protector Week 1	2
God is Protector Week 1	3
God is Protector Week 1	4
God is Truth Week 1	5
God is Truth Week 1	6
God is Truth Week 1	7
God is Lord & King Week 1	8
God is Lord & King Week 1	9
God is Lord & King Week 1	10



PROTECTOR

God is a
fortress and
strong tower.



TRUTH

God's word
weighed in the
balances



LORD & KING

He is King of
kings and Lord
of lords.

God is Protector Week 1

God's promise to protect those who love Him is clear, though this does not mean that believers are exempt from difficulty in a world where there is evil. (Most of the disciples were martyred). We are told not to FEAR. There are times when God miraculously protects, and times when Satan wins. We should pray for protection at all times.

Ephesians 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

God protects His people through:

- the blood of Jesus
- the name of Jesus
- the word of God

Through the blood of Jesus we have protection from the punishment for sin:

- protection from enemy attack in the spirit world.
- protection from sickness and disease
- protection from physical danger
- protection from demonic attack

God's promises for protection:

Psalms 91:14 I will rescue those who love me. I will protect those who trust in my name.

Psalms 46:1-2 God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble. So we will not fear when earthquakes come and the mountains crumble into the sea.

2 Thess 3:3 But the Lord is faithful; he will strengthen you and guard you from the evil one.

In the Old Testament God regularly fought for His people as they trusted and obeyed him, winning impossible battles. Although war is something that we all hate, including God, there were, and still are, times when a nation will be destroyed by the enemy unless there is a counter attack against the enemy. This was particularly so in the case of Israel, who God needed to preserve because Israel would be the race through which Jesus would come into the world.

Joshua acknowledges God's protection over Israel:

Joshua 24:17 As we traveled through the wilderness among our enemies, he preserved us.

Joshua 10:9-14 – God commanded the sun to stand still so they could win the battle.

Questions and activities

1. Why should we pray for protection at all times?
2. What should we pray for protection *from*?
3. Read the account of the battle when the sun stood still, (Joshua 10:9-14).
4. What kind of battles do we fight today?

God is Protector Week 2

There are many prayers for protection recorded in the Bible.

Psalms 140:4 Guard me, O LORD, from the hands of the wicked. Keep me safe from men of violence who scheme to make me stumble.

In **Psalms 35:1** David is being attacked by many enemies and he calls out: “O Lord, oppose those who oppose me. Fight those who fight against me.” That is exactly what happened!

As part of the Lord’s Prayer, Jesus tells us to pray to God our Father for protection against the evil one:

Matthew 6:13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

in John 17, Jesus asks God to protect his followers from the evil in the world. (v.11,15)

John 17:15 I am not asking that You take them out of the world, but that You keep them from the evil one.

Man’s strength is NOT enough to protect and deliver!

Psalms 33:16-19 The best- equipped army cannot save a king, nor is great strength enough to save a warrior. Don’t count on your warhorse to give you victory—for all its strength, it cannot save you. But the Lord watches over those who fear him, those who rely on his unfailing love. He rescues them.

Paul prayed that believers will understand:

Ephesians 1:19-21 “the incredible greatness of God’s power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God’s right hand in the heavenly realms. Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come.”

Throughout the Old Testament God is called a ‘fortress’, ‘stronghold’, ‘high tower’, ‘rampart’, a ‘shield’, titles that show the ‘battle’ dimension of His protection:

Psalms 9:9 The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.

Psalms 18:2 The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn[b] of my salvation, my stronghold.

Proverbs 18:10 The name of the Lord is a fortified tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.

Questions and activities

1. Although Jesus defeated sin and death at the cross, Satan still has power on earth for a little while longer, until Jesus returns. How do we fight Satan’s works right now?
2. Read Psalm 91 and write the verses that speak about God’s protection.

God is Protector Week 3

A fortress is a military stronghold, often a fortified city, a place of protection in war; a *'rampart'* is a defensive wall of a castle or walled city, a protective barrier; a *shield* is for individual protection in battle. We may not face physical battles, but we do need God as we fight and wrestle against temptations, the flesh, the world and unseen forces of darkness

1 Peter 5:8 Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

Ephesians 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Ephesians 6:14-18 describes the armour (belt of truth, breastplate of righteousness, shoes of readiness, shield of faith, helmet of salvation) and weapons (sword of his word, prayer) given for the battles.

The biblical metaphors of *shelter* and *refuge* help us picture God's protection from things that try to harm us.

"Shelter" means "that which covers or defends from injury; a protection; security; a screen, a guardian or defender.

The image of God spreading wings of shelter and protection is given in many Bible verses:

Psalms 17:8 Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings

2 Thessalonians 3:3

He will cover you with his feathers. He will shelter you with his wings. His faithful promises are your armor and protection.

"Refuge" means "a condition of being safe or sheltered from pursuit, danger, or trouble"

Psalms 61:3 For you are my safe refuge, a fortress where my enemies cannot reach me.

Psalms 17:7 By your mighty power you rescue those who seek refuge from their enemies.

He becomes our refuge as we spend time with Him and trust and pour our hearts to Him in hard places. **Psalms 62:8** says "Pour out your heart to him, for God is our refuge."

As part of His protection God also asks **us** to be alert, vigilant and watchful for the enemy. Commands to watch, be careful and to be on guard appear around forty times in the scriptures. **Matthew 26:41** says "Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation."

Questions and activities

1. God is a shelter and a refuge. What does this mean?
2. How can you explain to someone that God promises protection, but there are sometimes calamities?
3. How can Christians be a shelter for others?

God is Truth Week 1

All three persons of the Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit - display truth in their every word and action.

Jesus is “the truth”.

John 14:6 Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.”

Jesus is not *a* truth - he is *the* truth. He doesn’t just have truth or teach truth. He *is* truth. He is “full of grace and truth”.

John 1:14 The Word became flesh (Jesus) and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

When Jesus was on trial before the Roman authorities, Pilate asked him “What is truth?” (John 18:38). Jesus did not answer Pilate verbally for it was not necessary to do so. Pilate was looking truth straight in the face.

Jeremiah 10:10 But the Lord is the only true God. He is the living God and the everlasting King!

1 John 5:20

And we know that the Son of God has come, and he has given us understanding so that we can know the true God. And now we live in fellowship with the true God because we live in fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ. He is the only true God, and he is eternal life.

Knowing God’s truth helps us to discern good from evil.

Hosea 14:9. Let those with discernment listen carefully. The paths of the Lord are true and right, and righteous people live by walking in them. But in those paths sinners stumble and fall.

Questions and activities

1. Give some examples of ‘untruths’ in the world around us.
2. When we hear or read messages through the media, (TV or social media), how do we know what is truth and what is not truth?
3. Discernment is the ability to know what is true and what is false. What does God say about the gift of discernment, available to all Christians? Read the following verses, then give your answer.

1 Corinthians 2:14; 1 John 2:27; 1 Timothy 4:1; Proverbs 15:14

God is Truth Week 2

The Spirit of God is truth. Jesus speaks of the Holy Spirit as 'the Spirit of truth'. He will come to you from the Father and will testify all about me. (John 15:26; also, John 16:13; 1 John 4:6; 5:6)

John 15:26 "When the Advocate (the Holy Spirit) comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me.

The Spirit of truth convicts:

John 16:8 And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment.

The Spirit of truth guides and leads us into all truth.

John 16:13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

2 Tim 1:14 The indwelling Spirit of truth helps us "carefully guard the precious truth that has been entrusted to" us.

The Spirit of truth is in those who belong to God:

1 John 4:6 But we belong to God, and those who know God listen to us. If they do not belong to God, they do not listen to us. That is how we know if someone has the Spirit of truth or the spirit of deception.

1 John 5:6 The testimony of the Spirit of truth confirms that Jesus Christ is God's Son ().

God's word is true

Psalms 18:30-31

God's way is perfect. All the Lord's promises prove true. He is a shield for all who look to him for protection. For who is God except the Lord? Who but our God is a solid rock?

Psalms 33:4-5

For the word of the Lord holds true, and we can trust everything he does. He loves whatever is just and good; the unfailing love of the Lord fills the earth.

Questions and activities

1. How would you explain to someone that the Bible is truth, whereas books of other faiths cannot be relied on for the truth?
2. Give an example of how can a Christian 'stand up for the truth'.

God is Truth Week 3

God the Father is “the God of truth” (Isaiah 65:16a), and he is “the only true God”.

Jeremiah 10:10 But the Lord is the true God; he is the living God, the eternal King.

He is the true God who demonstrated himself to the prophets of Baal, (1Kings 18:16 – 39.

John 17:3 Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

1 John 5:20 We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true by being in his Son Jesus

God’s words are truth: “For you are God, O Sovereign LORD. Your words are truth, and you have promised these good things to your servant.” (2 Sam 7:28; also Psalm 18:30; Proverbs 30:5; Rom 3:4; Rev 19:9).

Truth sets us free.

John 8:31-32 Jesus said to the people who believed in him, “You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

God wants us as His people to walk in truth.

Psalm 119:30 I have chosen the way of faithfulness; I have set my heart on your laws.

Questions and activities

1. Choose Bible verses to explain how each member of the Trinity – the Son, the Holy Spirit and the Father – all represent TRUTH.
2. How does God’s truth set a person free?
3. What does it mean for a Christian to “walk in truth”?

God is Lord and King Week 1

King of kings and Lord of lords

1 Timothy 6:15 God is worshipped as “the blessed and only almighty God, the King of all kings and Lord of all lords”.

Revelation 17:14 “the Lamb ... is Lord of all lords and King of all kings”)

Revelation 19:16 “on his robe at his thigh was written this title: King of all kings and Lord of all lords”.

God reigns over all human kings:

Daniel 2:21 “He controls the course of world events; he removes kings and sets up other kings”.

God has been King, ultimate ruler, since the beginning of time and always will be.

Expectations of a king

God expects earthly kings to “rule with justice and righteousness” (1Ki 10:9).

A king should detest wrongdoing and build his kingdom on justice (Pro 16:12).

“A just king gives stability to his nation, but one who demands bribes destroys it” (Pro 29:4).

Kings of the Old Testament

Israel’s first king was King Saul. In **Deuteronomy 17:14-20** God stipulates what a king should and should not do. Three things are prohibited. A king should not use his position to gain horses, wives, or gold for himself. In other words, he was not to give way to the temptations of power and authoritarianism, adultery and wealth. Lack of self-control in these areas would eventually destroy the king and the kingdom. (This happened in the case of Solomon: 1 Kings 10).

God’s king would be characterized by the opposite spirit of worldly kings: he would display servanthood, instead of the love of power, purity, instead of the love of pleasure, and generosity, instead of the love of material things. Jesus the model king who has all these Godly traits.

1 Timothy 1:17 - 20 Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Questions and activities

1. What are God’s requirements for an earthly king?
2. Who was the first human king in the Old Testament?
3. What rules did God set out for Israel’s king?
4. How was this different from the kings of countries around them?

God is Lord and King Week 2

Jesus is our king

Jesus was declared to be a king before he was born, later the King of Israel, the King of the Jews.

Romans 15:12 “The heir to David’s throne will come, and he will rule over the Gentiles. They will place their hope on him” (This is a prophesy from Isaiah 11:10)

Luke 1:32 He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. (the angel speaking to Mary)

Matthew 2:1-2 Wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews?”

The arrest, trial and crucifixion of Jesus centered on him being a king (John 18:33-37)

Matthew 27:11 The governor asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” “Yes, it is as you say,” Jesus replied.

Soldiers ridiculed His kingship by dressing him in purple robes of royalty, putting a crown of thorns on his head and giving Him a mock scepter. Purple is the colour for a king.

John 19:14 Pilate said to the people, “Look, here is your king.”

Matthew 27:37 The charge against him was written on the sign placed on the cross - “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.”

Jesus is our king, the one we bow before, and allow to rule our lives, the one who is coming back to earth as the warrior king who will judge the nations righteously and rule eternally.

Colossians 1:13-14 For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.

1. Describe Jesus as king when he was on earth. Was he the type of king the people were expecting?
2. Although Satan is currently the prince of the power of the air, (Ephesians 2:2), God is ultimately still in control. What does God’s title as ‘King of kings and Lord of lords’ mean to you?

God is Lord and King Week 3

Jesus will return as King

Revelation 11:15 “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever”.

Psalm 47:1-2

Come, everyone! Clap your hands! Shout to God with joyful praise! For the Lord Most High is awesome. He is the great King of all the earth.

Revelation 19:16

On his robe at his thigh was written this title: King of all kings and Lord of all lords.

Colossians 1:13-14

For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.

Psalm 99:1

The Lord is king! Let the nations tremble! He sits on his throne between the cherubim. Let the whole earth quake.

Daniel 7:13-14

I saw someone like a son of man coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient One and was led into his presence. He was given authority, honor, and sovereignty over all the nations of the world, so that people of every race and nation and language would obey him. His rule is eternal—it will never end. His kingdom will never be destroyed.

1 Timothy 1:17

All honor and glory to God forever and ever! He is the eternal King, the unseen one who never dies; he alone is God. Amen!

Questions and activities

1. Describe Jesus as king when he returns.
2. What does it mean to live under the kingship of Jesus? (Colossians 1:13-14)