

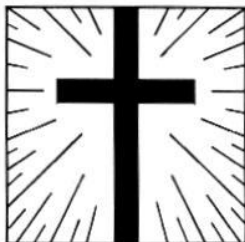
Diary Devotions

Year 10

Term 2

Studies on the character and nature of God

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SAVIOUR

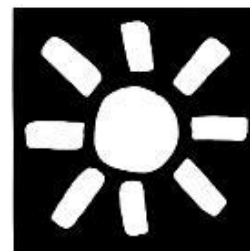
God so loved
the world...



PURE & HOLY

Whiter than
snow

Psalms 51:7



CREATOR

From the rising
of the sun, to its
setting, His name
is to be praised.

Jesus is Our Saviour Week 1

Jesus is the Way

Jesus is the way to the Father.

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

There are no other ways to God. Jesus is the only way. Only Jesus gives us access to the Father

Matthew 7:13-14 Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. 14 But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

Rom 5:1-2 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we[a] have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we[b] boast in the hope of the glory of God.

Acts 4:12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.

Hebrews 10:19-20 And so, dear brothers and sisters, we can boldly enter heaven’s Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus. By his death, Jesus opened a new and life-giving way through the curtain into the Most Holy Place.

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Questions and Activities

1. What is the major difference between Christianity and other faiths? (Think about Jesus being the way.)
2. What does the Bible say about the way being narrow? (Matt 7:13-14)

Jesus is Our Saviour Week 2

Jesus is the Way

Jesus showed us the way to live.

As well as Jesus being the way to God, he shows us the way to go when we walk closely with Him.

Isaiah 30:21 Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it".

So when we walk closely with the Lord, we can hear His voice telling us which way to go.

Proverbs 10:29 The way of the Lord is a stronghold to those with integrity, but it destroys the wicked.

This means that God is a refuge to those walking in His way, those who do evil, will be judged unless they repent.

If you don't know which way to go:

Proverbs 3:5-7 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not rely on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him and he will direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes. Fear the Lord and turn away from evil.

Psalms 25:8-10 The LORD is good and does what is right; he shows the proper path to those who go astray. He leads the humble in doing right, teaching them his way. The LORD leads with unfailing love and faithfulness all who keep his covenant and obey his demands.

Psalms 119:9 How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word.

Questions and Activities

1. Jesus showed us the way to live. Give an example.
2. If we want God to show us the way to go in life, what should we do?
3. Think of a time in life when you have not known which way to go.
4. What situations in the future might you face, where you do not know which way to go?

Jesus is Our Saviour Week 3

Jesus is the Way

God's way is perfect

Deuteronomy 32:4 He is the Rock; his deeds are perfect. Everything he does is just and fair. He is a faithful God who does no wrong; how just and upright he is!

Deuteronomy 32:4 God who does no wrong; how just and upright he is!

Psalms 145:17 The Lord is righteous in everything he does; he is filled with kindness.

Exodus 33:13 Moses said, "Let me know your ways so I may understand you more fully and continue to enjoy your favour."

2 Samuel 22:31-33 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? God is my strong fortress, and he makes my way perfect.

As much as we try to follow God's perfect way in our own strength we fail. But through Jesus, we are covered with his righteousness, so that God sees his righteousness in us. We 'put on' God's righteousness when we trust in Jesus, and then he gives us strength to follow in his ways.

Ephesians 4:24 And to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Philippians 3:9 And be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith.

Questions and activities

1. Write a response to "Jesus is the Way". How do I stay faithful in following God's ways?
2. What does it mean to 'put on' God's righteousness?

God is Pure & Holy Week 1

God is Light

John 1:5-7 God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all. If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus His Son purifies us from all sin.

Genesis 1:1-2

In the beginning there was only God.
The earth was formless and empty.
Darkness was over the waters.
God said, "Let there be light, and there was light."
God separated the light from darkness.
There was evening and morning, the first day.

What does this mean?

God has always been there – the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Together they created the world out of nothing.
Light enables life to exist.
God is good. His goodness is represented by light.

Light is a symbol of purity, and the opposite of darkness, which is a symbol of evil.

Psalms 27:1 "The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear?"

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

Colossians 1:13 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves."

Philippians 2:10-11 At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Using the NAME of Jesus when you feel overwhelmed by darkness will cause darkness to flee!

Questions and Activities

1. In the beginning, God created light first, because all life is dependent on light. Explain how spiritual life is dependent on God's light.
2. What is significant about the NAME of Jesus in the battle between light and darkness?

God is Pure & Holy Week 2

God is Light

Jesus is the light

John 8:12 Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in the darkness, but will have the light of life".

It was prophesied in the Old Testament that a Saviour would come, who would be a light to those walking in darkness.

Isaiah 9:2,6 & 7 The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.

Light is a symbol of purity:

Ephesians 5:8-11 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. Live as children of the light.

Deuteronomy 6:18 - Do that which is right and good.

Galatians 5:22 - Goodness is a fruit of the Spirit.

Romans 13:12 - Put on the armour of light.

James 4:7 – Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

1 John 2:28-29 - Everyone who does what is right is of God.

Questions and Activities

1. Jesus is the Light. What does this mean to you?
2. What is the meaning of Isaiah 9:2,6 & 7

God is Pure & Holy Week 3

God is Light

Christians should be lights to the world:

Christians as salt and light. Read Matt. 5:13-16.

Phil. 4:8-9 8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. 9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

Light is a symbol of God's work within us.

As the light of God's love is allowed to shine into our inner being, it changes on the inside. As God's light works on us and in us, we are changed to become more like Christ in our actions.

2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord. ()

1 Peter 2:9

He has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.

1 Thess 5:5

You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or darkness.

Matt. 5:14-16

You are the light of the world. Let your light shine before men that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in Heaven.

The Bible tells us to:

1 John 1:7 "Walk in the light as He is in the light."

To walk in the light means to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. In every situation say, "What would Jesus do?"

Do you want to achieve great things for God? Ask God to shine His light on you. May your words, thoughts and actions be a reflection of God's light.

Questions and Activities

1. Give two examples from the Bible, explaining that light is a symbol of purity.
2. How can a Christian be a light in a dark place?
3. Read **Matthew 5:13-16**. What does this tell us about how Christians are to live in the world?

God is Pure & Holy Week 4

God is Light

God's supernatural light

The Old Testament talks about a supernatural light that glowed around religious objects or in natural things like clouds. This light represented God's presence. That supernatural glowing light is called "the glory of God."

God led his people through the desert with his own light:

Exodus 13:21-22 By day the Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night. Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people."

When Moses came down from the mountain after receiving the Ten Commandments, his face shone with light, because he had been with God. Read **Exodus 34:29-35**.

Matthew 17 describes what is called the "transfiguration" of Jesus:

Matthew 17:1-2 After six days Jesus took with Him Peter, James, and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. There He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.

When this earth passes away, and there is a new heaven and earth – the new Jerusalem, there will be no sun or moon because God himself will be the light.

Rev 21:23 The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.

Questions and Activities

1. What should we do if we have fear of evil, or attacks from the powers of darkness?
2. How did God show himself as light in the Old Testament?
3. What event took place in the New Testament that showed Jesus as the light?
4. How will God show himself as light in the new Jerusalem, (Revelation 21)?

God is Creator Week 1

God is Uncreated

Genesis 1:1-2 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning, God....

These four words are the beginning of the Bible, the true story of God's interaction with mankind, but this is not the beginning of God's story. We are introduced to Him as having always existed, and then as Spirit The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters.

Genesis 1:2 And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.

He is uncreated, without a body, and invisible; He has eternally existed in a perfect relationship of love and oneness with the other two persons of the Trinity, the Father and the Son.

Revelation 1:8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega—the beginning and the end," says the Lord God. "I am the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come—the Almighty One."

So where did God come from? What is He made of? Jesus answered that question by saying:

John 4:24 "God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

God is not made of the same "stuff" as his created world, and he does not have a beginning and an end like His creation. Our minds struggle to grasp something unlike our natural world, so God uses pictures of things we do experience:

John 3:8 The wind blows wherever it wants. Just as you can hear the wind but can't tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can't explain how people are born of the Spirit.

The breath of God: The word for Spirit is the same word as wind. The breath of God, or His Spirit, has great power.

Genesis 2:7 God breathed life into Adam

Ezekiel 37:1-14 God breathed life into the dry bones.

Job 33:4 For the Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.

John 20:22 Jesus breathed on his disciples and told them to receive the Holy Spirit.

Questions and activities

1. How do we know that God existed before the creation of the world?
2. God is a Spirit. How is he different from us?

God is Creator Week 2

God is Uncreated

Application to our lives

Knowing that God is uncreated has important application for our lives: just as God does not have a beginning, God does not have an end. We can trust that He will never change, He will never go away or change His mind about His love and His promises.

James 1:17 Whatever is good and perfect comes down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow.

We can only be in one place, think one thought, speak to one person but God doesn't have those limitations! He can think, act, speak, love, listen to ALL of us at the same time, as though we are the only ones!

Psalms 139: 7-10 I can never escape from your Spirit! I can never get away from your presence! If I go up to heaven, you are there; if I go down to the grave, you are there. If I ride the wings of the morning, if I dwell by the farthest oceans, even there your hand will guide me and your strength will support me.

We need to know that the spiritual world is just as real as the physical world! God is very real and active in our world. The uncreated Spirit of God is called the "Rock" - the hardest substance around! David says:

Psalms 18:2 The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my saviour; my God is my rock, in whom I find protection.

Psalms 18:31 For who is God besides the Lord? And who is the Rock except our God?

Psalms 61:2 From the ends of the earth I call to you, I call as my heart grows faint; lead me to the rock that is higher than I.

Questions and activities

1. What does Psalm 139:7-10 tell us?
2. Although Jesus came in human form, he was still fully God. How did God's plan for Jesus to come in this form help us?

God is Creator Week 3

God is Uncreated

The Spirit of the Lord

The Spirit of the Lord came on people enabling them to do mighty things.

Many people in the Old Testament saw miracles when God's spirit came upon them, for example, Moses, Samson, Elijah, Elisha.

Luke 1:35 The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

The Spirit of God rested on Jesus, when he was baptized by John.

Luke 3:22 The Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

God's spirit is given to those who decide to follow Jesus:

John 3:5-6, 8 Jesus replied, "I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life. ... The wind blows wherever it wants. Just as you can hear the wind but can't tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can't explain how people are born of the Spirit."

Ezekiel 36:26-27 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

The Spirit was poured out on believers and worked signs and miracles.

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Joel 2:28 And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions.

Paul wrote, in **Romans 15:19** By the power of signs and wonders, through the power of the Spirit of God. So from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum, I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ.

Questions and activities

1. What does the symbol of water represent in John 3:5?
2. Give examples in the Old Testament where God's Spirit upon people enabled them to do mighty things.
3. Give examples in the New Testament.