

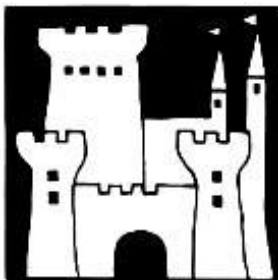
Diary Devotions

Year 10

Term 4

Studies on the character and nature of God

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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 is Peace

What is Peace?

Peace is an attitude of heart and mind, irrespective of the circumstances in which we find ourselves. Peace is the result of a strong faith and trust in God.

Philippians 4:7 Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

Read **Psalms 23** and **Psalms 91**. These are two of many examples in scripture of this inner peace.

Galatians 5:22 Peace is the fruit of the fruit of the Spirit. If we have all the other fruits of the Spirit operating in our lives: love, joy, patience, truth, goodness, faithfulness, kindness, gentleness and self-control, then we have peace within our inner spirits. Peace is the gift of God to His children.

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

John 16:33 - 33 "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Jesus is our peace.

Jesus has given us peace with God. We were once enemies with God because of our sin, but Jesus took our sins upon himself and offered forgiveness to all who want to receive it.

Romans 5:1 Being justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 2:12-13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Peace is a characteristic of secure people. Christians are secure because:

- we know who we are— (children of God)
- we know why we are here— (to live for God)
- we know where we are going— (following Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life)
- we know who is looking after us and caring for us - Jesus

Questions and Activities

1. What does *inner* peace mean?
2. What does Psalm 91 mean to you?
3. Having peace doesn't always mean lack of trouble. Read John 16:33. How can we have peace, despite trouble in this world?

God is Protector Week 2

God is Peace

Old Testament blessing

The priests of the Old Testament prayed this blessing:

Numbers 6:24-26 The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.

Verses that promise us peace:

Psalms 4:8 "In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, O LORD, will keep me safe".

Psalms 29:11 The Lord gives his people strength. The Lord blesses them with peace.

Psalms 35:27 "Great is the LORD, who delights in blessing his servant with peace!"

Isaiah 54:10 "For the mountains may move and the hills disappear, but even then, my faithful love for you will remain. My covenant of blessing[peace] will never be broken," says the LORD, who has mercy on you.

Isaiah 54:13 "I will teach all your children, and they will enjoy great peace".

Isaiah 26:3 You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!

Isaiah 26:3 You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!

Psalms 119:165 Those who love your instructions have great peace and do not stumble.

Psalms 4:8 In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, LORD, make me dwell in safety.

Isaiah 9:6-7 For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity.

Questions and Activities

1. What can we do in times of great distress? (Choose a Bible verse that would help you in such a time.)
2. What Bible verse could you meditate on when you need God to protect you?

God is Protector Week 3

God is Peace

Jesus the prince of peace

Jesus, the Messiah, is spoken of prophetically as the “Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6).

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

John 20:19 Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! “Peace be with you,” he said.

Colossians 1:19-20 For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ, and through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ’s blood on the cross

2 Thess.3:16 Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way.

Matthew 5:9 God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God.

Colossians 3:15 And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body, you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.

John 16:33 I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.

Romans 5:1-2 Therefore, since we have been made right in God’s sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God’s glory.

Colossians 3:15 And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body, you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.

Philippians. 4:6-7 Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

1 Peter 5:7 Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

Questions and Activities

1. Write a verse that shows that Jesus *gives* us peace, (John 14:27 or John 16:33)
2. What does it mean to have peace with God? (Romans 5:1)
3. Why does a person with faith in Jesus feel secure?
4. What should we do when faced with anxiety?

God is Truth Week 1

God is Faithful

God is faithful in that He never changes. His truth is constant.

Malachi 3:6 I am the Lord I change not.

Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.

Prov. 30:5 God is faithful to His word. He keeps every promise he makes.

Exodus 34:6 The Lord always keeps his promises; he is gracious in all he does.

Joshua 1:5 I will never leave you or forsake you.

God gave the rainbow as a sign of His promise to us, (Gen. 9:8-17.)

God kept His promise to Abraham, to have many children, (Gen. 15, 17 & 18).

God was faithful to Elijah when Elijah challenged his enemies: Which is the true God? – God of Israel or Baal? (1 Kings 18)

God's truth doesn't change.

Our response to God's faithfulness is in our commitment to truth, which should not waver. God wants us to obey the truth.

God wants us to be faithful and never depart from His truth.

We are told be honest in word and character

Prov. 20:23 The Lord detests differing weights, and dishonest scales do not please him.

And faithful to the only true God:

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were faithful to God's truth, (Dan. 3)

Exodus 20:3 "You shall have no other gods before me.

Questions and Activities

1. What is the meaning of faithfulness?
2. How does God show his faithfulness to us?
3. How does the sign of the rainbow after the Great Flood show God's faithfulness?

God is Truth Week 2

God is Faithful

We are encouraged to be faithful to the Lord

Ephesians 4:1 God asks Christians to “Live a life that measures up to the standard God set when he called you”.

Joshua 24:14 So fear the Lord and serve him whole-heartedly. Put away forever the idols your ancestors worshiped when they lived beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt. Serve the Lord alone.

Hebrews 3:14 For if we are faithful to the end, trusting God just as firmly as when we first believed, we will share in all that belongs to Christ. ()

Passages that show unfaithfulness or dishonesty:

The golden calf (Exodus 32)

The dishonesty of Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5)

The word ‘faithful’ is used today to refer to someone who is loyal, constant, and steadfast. The Bible definition is similar: reliable, trustworthy, stable, firm and sure.

God’s faithfulness means that he is totally trustworthy to keep his promises and to be completely true to all of who he is.

Faithfulness is an attribute of love.

Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

This means that the God who has chosen to love, has always done so and will always do so. His character is totally reliable and inalterable. We can trust him because he has proven himself trustworthy time and time again by his constant faithfulness to his character.

Psalms 36:5 Your unfailing love, O Lord, is as vast as the heavens; your faithfulness reaches beyond the clouds.

Psalms 145:13 Yahweh! The Lord! The God of compassion and mercy! I am slow to anger and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness.

Lamentations 3: 22-23 The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning.

Questions and Activities

1. Give two examples or people in the Bible who showed faithfulness to God.
2. What does the first commandment (of the Ten Commandments) tell us about faithfulness to God? (Exodus 20)
3. Give an example of someone in the Bible who was not faithful.

God is Truth Week 3

God is Faithful

The Bible tells us that God is faithful, steadfastly loyal, in all he does, FOREVER:

Exodus 34:6 “I am Yahweh! The Lord! The God of compassion and mercy! I am slow to anger and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness.

Deuteronomy 7:9 Understand, therefore, that the Lord your God is indeed God. He is the faithful God who keeps his covenant for a thousand generations and lavishes his unfailing love on those who love him and obey his commands.

Psalms 119:90 Your faithfulness continues through all generations; you established the earth, and it endures.

Psalms 25:9-10 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 36:5 Your unfailing love, O Lord, is as vast as the heavens; your faithfulness reaches beyond the clouds.

Psalms 117:2 For he loves us with unfailing love; the Lord’s faithfulness endures forever.

God remains faithful whatever our circumstances and choices are.

God was faithful to provide for the Israelites even when they were faithless, (Deut 2:7). God’s faithfulness to his promises is a constant theme throughout the Bible.

Psalms 119:89-90 Your eternal word, O Lord, stands firm in heaven. Your faithfulness extends to every generation, as enduring as the earth you created.

Psalms 111:7-8 All he does is just and good, and all his commandments are trustworthy. They are forever true, to be obeyed faithfully and with integrity.

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

Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise.

Lamentations 3: 22-25 The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning. I say to myself, “The Lord is my inheritance; therefore, I will hope in him!” The Lord is good to those who depend on him, to those who search for him.

Questions and Activities

1. What do you think is the worst act of unfaithfulness to God?
2. Because God is faithful, he can be trusted. Give a Bible verse that shows that the Bible can be trusted.
3. How does God’s faithfulness help us when we are going through difficult times?

God is Lord & King Week 1

God is a Judge

God's justice system is completely fair, although quite different to what most people think. God doesn't make a list of the sins a person has committed, with a rating next to each sin. He doesn't weigh up how good or bad each person has been. Instead, he judges us according to our acceptance of his truth.

The requirement for entering heaven is perfection - but Jesus is the only person who has never sinned! Does that mean that no one can enter heaven? No. God has made a way. He allows us to accept the righteousness of Jesus. For those who have heard the gospel but refused to accept the gift of eternal life, he judges. On the great day of judgment, there will not only be punishment for those who have rejected, but rewards for the followers.

God always judges righteously and justly. He makes no mistakes, takes no bribes and always makes fair decisions. Everything God does is just and fair.

Deuteronomy 32:4 He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he.

Psalms 9:16 The LORD is known for his justice ... the LORD reigns forever, executing judgment from his throne. He will judge the world with justice and rule the nations with fairness. The LORD is a shelter for the oppressed.

Isaiah prophesied that the promised Messiah would give justice to the poor and make fair decisions for those who have been treated unfairly.

Isaiah 11:4-5 The earth will shake at the force of his word, and one breath from his mouth will destroy the wicked. He will wear righteousness like a belt and truth like an undergarment... He will rule with mercy and truth. He will always do what is just and be eager to do what is right.

Psalms 98:9 For the Lord is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with justice, and the nations with fairness.

Psalms 9:7-8 But the Lord reigns forever, executing judgment from his throne. He will judge the world with justice and rule the nations with fairness.

Questions and Activities

1. In order to get into Heaven, God does not judge us according to how many bad things we have done. How does he judge us?
2. What is the role of a judge?

God is Lord & King Week 2

God is a Judge

Today “Judge” is the title given to a public official appointed to decide cases in a court of law, but also used for officials and those who make decisions in competitions. A judge has the responsibility of giving a decision or verdict.

God is clearly the ultimate judge, bringing judgement on the wicked throughout the Old Testament. He did this in the Garden of Eden, the Great Flood, Sodom and Gomorrah and judgement on the Pharaoh and the Egyptians.

Exodus 12:12 I will execute judgment against all the gods of Egypt, for I am the Lord!

Psalms 50:6 Then let the heavens proclaim his justice, for God himself will be the judge.

God will judge us for everything we do, including every secret thing, whether good or bad.

Ecclesiastes 12:14 For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

God has appointed Jesus as the righteous, end-time judge.

Revelation 20:11-15 Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

Psalms 98:9 For the Lord is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with justice, and the nations with fairness.

Jesus is the one appointed by God to be the judge of all—the living and the dead.

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in this earthly body.

2 Timothy 4:8 And now the prize awaits me—the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on the day of his return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to his appearing.

Questions and Activities

1. Give an example in the Old Testament where God judged sin.
2. What is meant by ‘the last judgement’? Who will be the judge? Who will be judged?

God is Lord & King Week 3

God is a Judge

Because He is a righteous judge God exhorts his people, especially those with a role of judge, to decide righteously and justly.

Deuteronomy 16:19-20 You must never twist justice or show partiality. Never accept a bribe, for bribes blind the eyes of the wise and corrupt the decisions of the godly. Let true justice prevail, so you may live and occupy the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

Leviticus 19:15 Do not pervert justice; do not show partiality to the poor or favoritism to the great, but judge your neighbor fairly.

Zechariah 7:9 This is what the Lord Almighty said: “Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another.”

2 Chronicles 19:7 Now let the fear of the Lord be on you. Judge carefully, for with the Lord our God there is no injustice.

Jesus will return and he will judge

Romans 2:16 And this is the message I proclaim—that the day is coming when God, through Christ Jesus, will judge everyone’s secret life.

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in this earthly body.

Psalms 96:11-13 Let the heavens be glad, and the earth rejoice! Let the sea and everything in it shout his praise! Let the fields and their crops burst out with joy! Let the trees of the forest rustle with praise before the Lord, for he is coming! He is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with justice, and the nations with his truth.

Acts 17:30b-31 ...he commands everyone everywhere to repent of their sins and turn to him. For he has set a day for judging the world with justice by the man he has appointed, and he proved to everyone who this is by raising him from the dead.

Revelation 20:4 I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

Questions and Activities

1. God expects his people to make righteous judgements. Give an example of a judgement that you could make in everyday life.
2. How will God treat leaders who have made bad judgements?