

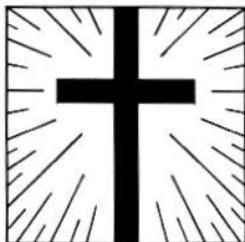
Diary Devotions

Year 11

Term 2

Studies on the character and nature of God

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SAVIOUR

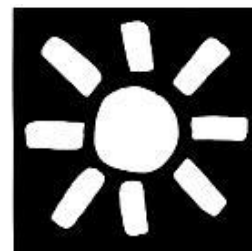
God so loved
the world...



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

God is Forgiving

Jesus showed us how to forgive. There is never an account where he would not grant forgiveness to someone who sought it. In his mercy he offers forgiveness to all who are willing to accept it.

He extended forgiveness to the sinful woman who washed His feet with her hair and her tears:

Luke 7:47-50 Then Jesus said to the woman, “Your sins are forgiven.” The men at the table said among themselves, “Who is this man, that he goes around forgiving sins?”

Luke 23:34 On the cross he said “Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing”.

Jesus taught about forgiveness. After teaching his disciples to pray, he said,

Matt 6:14-15 “If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins”.

Nehemiah 9:17 But you are a God of forgiveness, gracious and merciful, slow to become angry, and rich in unfailing love.

Psalms 103:2-3 Let all that I am praise the Lord; may I never forget the good things he does for me. He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases.

Parables that teach about forgiveness:

- The parable of the unforgiving servant. (Matt 18:21-35)
- The story of the lost son. (Luke 15:11-24)

Questions and Activities

1. To be forgiven by Jesus, what is required of us?
2. Give an example from the New Testament where Jesus showed forgiveness.
3. What is the consequence of NOT forgiving others? (Matt 6:14-15.)
4. Who showed forgiveness in the parable of the lost son?

Jesus is Our Saviour Week 2

God is Forgiving

Paul also teaches that we are to extend to others the forgiveness we received from Jesus:

Colossians 3:13 Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. (See also Eph.4:31-32)

Ephesians 4:32 Be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

Unlike us, God is slow to anger.

He revealed himself to Moses as: "Yahweh! The Lord! The God of compassion and mercy:

Exodus 34:6 I am slow to anger and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness. I lavish unfailing love to a thousand generations. I forgive iniquity, rebellion, and sin.

He promises forgiveness to the repentant:

2 Chronicles 7:14 If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land.

Forgiving others

Extending forgiveness to those who have hurt us does not mean we are saying "What you did is OK". It also doesn't mean that we immediately forget what they did. It is a decision we make to not hold them accountable and to release them into God's hands. We need to ask God to help us make this choice, to fill us with his love for the person and to heal our hearts.

Ephesians 4:31-32 Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

Matthew 18:21-22 Peter came to him and asked, 'Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?' 'No, not seven times,' Jesus replied, 'but seventy times seven!'

Forgiveness is rarely a one-time event. So how often do you have to keep releasing your right to get even? Until you stop feeling the hurt — then you'll know you've forgiven that person.

Questions and Activities

1. In Exodus 34:6 God tells us that he forgives iniquity, rebellion, and sin. What must a person do to receive this forgiveness? See 2 Chronicles 7:14.
2. If someone has hurt you and you have forgiven them, what would you do if they keep hurting you?

Jesus is Our Saviour Week 3

God is Forgiving

God showed forgiveness over and over again to the Israelites:

Nehemiah 9:16-22 tells of Israel's disobedience and sin, then says "you are a God of forgiveness, gracious and merciful, slow to become angry, and rich in unfailing love" (verse 17).

In the Psalms God tells how he forgave Israel over and over again.

Psalms 25:11 For the sake of your name, LORD, forgive my iniquity, though it is great.

Psalms 86:5 O Lord, you are so good, so ready to forgive, so full of unfailing love for all who ask for your help.

Forgiveness is at the core of the Gospel, made possible because Jesus became a man and died; without forgiveness we cannot be saved from death.

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.

Hebrews 2:9... because he suffered death for us, he is now "crowned with glory and honor." Yes, by God's grace, Jesus tasted death for everyone.

Ephesians 1:6-7 So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son. He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins.

1 John 1:8-9 If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.

Questions and Activities

1. Give an example from the Old Testament where God forgave his people.
2. What does Jesus do for us in addition to forgiving our sins? (Psalm 103:2-3)
3. Explain the meaning of "forgiveness is at the core of the Gospel."

God is Pure & Holy Week 1

God is Our Righteousness

Righteousness definition:

Righteousness, in a biblical context, refers to a quality of moral uprightness and purity that aligns with the perfect character and will of God. It signifies acting in accordance with divine standards rather than merely human ones. Moreover, righteousness is not solely about external behavior; it involves an attitude of the heart, grounded in faith and a right relationship with God. According to Scripture, humankind cannot achieve ultimate righteousness on its own, but can receive it through faith.

Rom 14:17 For the kingdom of God is righteousness, peace and joy.

God's perfect righteousness contrasts with our unrighteousness.

About our righteousness:

Romans 3:10 No one is righteous— not even one."

About God's righteousness:

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

Psalms 71:19 Indeed, God's righteousness "reaches to the highest heavens... Who can compare with you, O God?"

The only answer to our unrighteousness is the cross of Jesus.

Romans 3:22-23 We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

Questions and activities

1. In your own words, explain the meaning of righteousness.
2. Choose a Bible verse that tells us about God's righteousness and write it.
3. How does God's righteousness compare with the righteousness of the human race?
4. How can sinners be made righteous?

God is Pure & Holy Week 2

God is Our Righteousness

He is not only righteous; He is our RIGHTEOUSNESS! He makes us righteous.

2 Peter 1:4 This name is His covenant commitment to make us innocent, faultless, right with Him, able to share His divine nature!

2 Corinthians 5:21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

1 Corinthians 1:30 God has united you with Christ Jesus. For our benefit God made him to be wisdom itself. Christ made us right with God; he made us pure and holy, and he freed us from sin.

2 Corinthians 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Romans 5:17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.

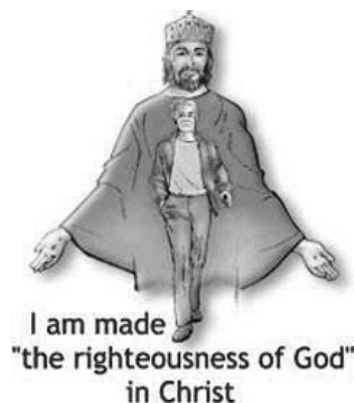
Isaiah 61:10 I will rejoice greatly in the Lord. My soul will exult in my God; For He has clothed me with garments of salvation. He has wrapped me with a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

John 10:7,9 I am the gate for the sheep. ... Yes, I am the gate. Those who come in through me will be saved. They will come and go freely and will find good pastures.

Isaiah 1:18 Though your sins are like scarlet, I will make them as white as snow. Though they are red like crimson, I will make them as white as wool.

Questions and activities

1. God is not only righteous, but he is OUR righteousness. What does this mean?
2. Who are the sheep? Why are the sheep able to go in and out freely? (John 10:7,9)



God is Pure & Holy Week 3

God is Our Righteousness

What happens if we sin after we give our lives to Jesus?

Upon surrender of our lives to the lordship of Jesus, we became God's sons and daughters.

Romans 8:15 The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."

But just as children sometimes disobey their parents as they grow, God's children sometimes disobey Him. We rebel, get angry, or doubt for a while.

After we become Christians, God deals with our sin differently than He did before we were saved. John 1:9 tells us that we can confess our sin and be forgiven.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Confession means we humbly agree with God about how bad sin is. We admit we were wrong and ask His forgiveness. God can pardon us and maintain His justice because our sin was already paid for by Jesus. There is no need to punish us because He has already punished His Son.

Colossians 2:14 Having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us, he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross.

As we "grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18), we overcome sins that weigh us down.

Hebrews 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

God's desire for us is that we not sin, and as we grow in our faith we live more righteously. We are in a fallen world, and we struggle with the flesh and sometimes lose the battle. But we will not be lost; Jesus Himself intercedes for us as our High Priest.

Romans 8:34 Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

Questions and activities

1. What is the question and answer given by Paul in Romans 6:1?
2. What good news is there for us if we do sin after becoming a Christian?

God is Pure & Holy Week 4

God is Our Righteousness

We are to be in right relationship firstly with God and then with others.

2 Corinthians 5:20-21 So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!" For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

Matthew 6:33 Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

Read the parable: Matthew 22:1-14. Who is invited to the wedding banquet? The answer is...everyone who hears the Gospel. But not everyone accepts the invitation. Some think they don't need to accept. They think they are good enough without Jesus. These people are 'self-righteous'. They think they are righteous but they are not really righteous at all. The Bible tells us that no one is righteous on their own. We can only be made righteous by asking Jesus to be righteousness for us. When we do this, we become his "chosen ones".

Romans 1:16-17 For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile. This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, "It is through faith that a righteous person has life."

Questions and activities

1. What is the key to being in right relationship with others? (Matt.6:33)
2. What is the message we proclaim to unbelievers?
3. What is the evidence of righteousness in the life of a Christian?
4. How should we live as Christians? Can we do whatever we like and say that's OK, because Jesus has covered my sin?

God is Creator Week 1

God is All-Present

Omnipresent: to say that God is omnipresent is to say that God is present everywhere.

When we say that God is omnipresent it means that ALL of God (not just part of him), is fully present in all places at all times at the same time. No place in the creation is absent from the presence of God and yet he is distinct from the creation which he has made and which he fully occupies. The “how” of this is beyond our finite capacity as humans to comprehend. We in contrast, can only be in one place at a time. We cannot become omnipresent.

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.

Jeremiah 23:24 Can anyone hide from me in a secret place? Am I not everywhere in all the heavens and earth?” says the Lord.”.

Hebrews 4:13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Nothing we do is ever hidden from the presence of God. This inescapable presence can be horrifying to the sinner when he realizes that what he has chosen to do in secret was in fact done in front of God. But to the Christian, God’s omnipresence is a source of constant comfort and strength.

John 14:16-17 Jesus said, “be sure of this: I am with you always.”

Matthew 28:20 “And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the world.”

John 14:16-17 I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth.

Questions and activities

1. What is the meaning of omnipresent?
2. What does this mean for people who want to hide from God?
3. What does this mean for people who love God?

God is Creator Week 2

God is All-Present

God is present in every aspect of the natural order of things, in every manner, time and place.

God's presence is continuous throughout all of creation, though it may not be revealed in the same way at the same time to people everywhere.

Isaiah 40:12 Who else has held the oceans in his hand? Who has measured off the heavens with his fingers. Who else knows the weight of the earth

Nahum 1:3 He displays his power in the whirlwind and the storm. The billowing clouds are the dust beneath his feet.

Prov 15:3 The Lord is watching everywhere, keeping his eye on both the evil and the good.

The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God, and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command.

Questions and activities

Write the Bible verse that tells us that God is in control of the weather.

God is Creator Week 3

God is All-Present

God is actively present in different ways in every event in history:

Psalms 48:7 You destroyed them, (the kings of the earth), like the mighty ships of Tarshish, shattered by a powerful east wind.

King David says in **Psalms 16:8** "I know the Lord is always with me. I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me."

Daniel 5:5 Suddenly, they saw the fingers of a human hand writing on the plaster wall of the king's palace, near the lampstand.

Hebrews 4:12-13 For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes, and he is the one to whom we are accountable.

Questions and activities

Read the story of the writing on the wall from Daniel 5. How did God show his presence, and why did he do this?