

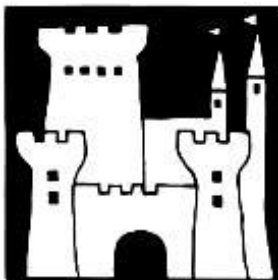
Diary Devotions

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 a Warrior

Exodus 15:3 The Lord is a warrior; Yahweh is his name.

Deuteronomy 1:30 The Lord your God is going ahead of you. He will fight for you, just as you saw him do in Egypt.

In the Old Testament God regularly fought for His people, winning impossible battles. In Exodus, God sent hornets (Exodus 23:28) and hail (Exodus 9). For Joshua, God confused the enemy, (Joshua 10:10).

In Jesus ministry on earth, he overcame Satan by offering LIFE. He healed, freed and raised people from the dead.

John 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

Jesus is a victorious conqueror over the enemy and death, enabling us to live in victory.

Jesus is victorious because through His death and resurrection, he overcame sin, death, and every form of evil. This victory assures believers of life, hope, and eternal salvation. No matter what struggles we face, Christ's power reigns supreme.

John 16:33 Here on earth, you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.

1 Corinthians 15:55,57 Death has been swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting? ... But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 John 3:8 The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

1 Corinthians 15:57 But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Questions and activities

1. What does victorious' mean?
2. Give two examples from the Old Testament where God caused his people to be victorious in battle.
3. How did Jesus overcome the works of Satan when he was on earth?
4. What does Jesus give us victory over?

God is Protector Week 2

God is a Warrior

The enemy

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.

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.

His people are warriors.

These days we may not fight physical battles but we all fight and wrestle against temptations, the flesh, the world and unseen forces of darkness.

2 Peter 1:11 Keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls.

God wants us to recognize our need to rely on HIM as the One who fights for us.

Jesus will return as a warrior king, and there will be a battle against Satan and his kingdom.

Revelation 19:11-16 His eyes like blazing fire, with crowns on his head and his word like a sharp sword. He will be riding a white horse, ready for battle, with all the armies of heaven following him, unstoppable and unable to be defeated!

Revelation 19:11 Then I saw heaven opened, and a white horse was standing there. Its rider was named Faithful and True, for he judges fairly and wages a righteous war.

Revelation 20:10 And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

Questions and activities

1. In the description of Jesus returning as king in Rev 19:11-16, which images stand out to you as being powerful and victorious?
2. How does the Bible describe the devil?
3. Give some examples of 'worldly desires' in 2 Peter 1:11, that might give ground to the enemy having influence in our life.

God is Protector Week 3

God is a Warrior

Psalm 33:16-18 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. ... We put our hope in the Lord. He is our help and our shield.

In the Old Testament God's people were commanded to war against and destroy peoples and nations who would not accept God's truth, living evil, harmful lives. However, in the New Testament God's people are instructed to fight the ideas, rather than the persons.

God's people use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons. There are many false beliefs in the world that can deceive people. We need to ask God for the gift of discernment and battle against false beliefs.

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 6:10-11 Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil.

Ephesians 6:14-18 describes the armor – the belt of truth, breastplate of righteousness, shoes of readiness, shield of faith, helmet of salvation. The weapons are the sword of His word and prayer. God gives us these to fight in the battles.

2 Corinthians 10:3-4 We are human, but we don't wage war as humans do. We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments.

2 Corinthians 10:14 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.

Isaiah 54:17 "No weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and this is their vindication from me," declares the Lord.'

Psalm 33:20 We put our hope in the LORD. He is our help and our shield.

Exodus 15:2-3 The Lord is my strength and my song; he has given me victory. This is my God, and I will praise him—my father's God, and I will exalt him! The Lord is a warrior; Yahweh is his name!

Questions and activities

1. What kinds of battles do people mainly fight today?
2. How does the armour of God help us to fight against the enemy? List the parts of the armour and what they are for. Now list the weapons and what they are used for.

God is Truth Week 1

God Our Teacher

God wants to teach us his ways, so that we can walk with Him.

Job 36:22 God is all-powerful. Who is a teacher like him?

Psalm 86:11

Teach me your ways, O Lord, that I may live according to your truth! Grant me purity of heart, so that I may honor you.

Isaiah 48:17 This is what the Lord says—your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: “I am the Lord your God, who teaches you what is good for you and leads you along the paths you should follow.”

Teaching is far more than giving a lecture. It includes helping the person to understand something through discussion and example. A good teacher asks their students questions.

As a model teacher, God asks us questions. Question-asking is good for it develops thinking skills and helps us to solve problems. In the Gospels, Jesus asks 315 questions.

Examples of questions that Jesus asked:

1. “Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?” (Matthew 8:26).
2. “For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise and walk’?” (Matthew 9:5).
3. “Is a lamp brought in to be put under a basket, or under a bed, and not on a stand?” (Mark 4:21).
4. “Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you?” (Luke 6:46).
5. “But Who do you say that I am?” (Luke 9:20).
6. 10. “If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things?” (John 3:12).
7. 11. “Do you want to be healed?” (John 5:6).

John 1:17 the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

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”

Questions and Activities

1. Make a list of the qualities you would want to have in a good teacher.
2. How do you like to be taught: lectures, discussion, pictures, stories?
3. Why is asking questions a good way of teaching?
4. Think of ways in which Jesus taught the people. Why were the parables an excellent example of a way to teach?

God is Truth Week 2

God Our Teacher

God taught all generations and involved parents in the teaching process.

Psalm 71:16 O God, you have taught me from my earliest childhood, and I constantly tell others about the wonderful things you do. ()

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

About God's commandments: "Repeat them [God's commands] again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. (Deuteronomy 6:7)

Jesus taught truth, using the phrase "I tell you the truth" over 60 times in the Gospels.

Examples:

Matthew 6:2 – Teaching about sincere religious practices: "I tell you the truth, they have their reward."

Matthew 11:11 – On the greatness of John the Baptist: "I tell you the truth, among those born of women, no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist."

Matthew 17:20 – On faith: "I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can move mountains."

John 14:1 – Comforting His disciples: "I tell you the truth, do not let your hearts be troubled."

Jesus taught with wisdom and understanding that caused astonishment

Matthew 13:54 Coming to his hometown, he began teaching the people in their synagogue, and they were amazed. "Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers?" they asked.

Jesus taught with authority and with power confirming that his words came from God.

Mark 1:22 The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law.

John 8:31-32 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

Questions and Activities

1. What does God say about the way in which children should be taught?
2. Why were the teachers amazed at Jesus' teaching?

God is Truth Week 3

God Our Teacher

The Holy Spirit is a teacher

John 14:25,26 am telling you these things now while I am still with you. But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you.

Luke 12:11-12 When you are brought before synagogues, rulers, and authorities, do not worry about how to defend yourselves or what to say. For at that time the Holy Spirit will teach you what you should say.”

The Holy Spirit helps us discern what is TRUTH and what is a lie.

John 16:13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth.

Matthew 7:15 Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves.

The Holy Spirit helps us to understand the things of God:

The Holy Spirit led Philip to a man who was reading Isaiah 53 and didn’t understand it - Philip was able to bring understanding of Jesus. (Read the whole story Acts 8:26-39.)

God longs for us to be teachable. He lovingly using both difficult circumstances and the consequences of disobedience to teach us.

Psalms 32:8 The Lord says, “I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you. Do not be like a senseless horse or mule that needs a bit and bridle to keep it under control.”

Proverbs 9:8 Instruct the wise, and they will be even wiser. Teach the righteous, and they will learn even more.

Psalms 32:8 The Lord says, “I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you.”

Questions and Activities

5. In Acts 8:26-29, what was the role of the Holy Spirit in the Ethiopian man’s conversion to Christ?
6. In Matthew 7:15 Jesus spoke about wolves in sheep’s clothing, coming to deceive his followers. What is the best way to know whether something is true, or a lie?
7. What does it mean to be ‘teachable’?
8. God sometimes teaches us life lessons when we go astray. Which parable is an example of this? (Luke 15:11-32). How did the son learn the hard way?

God is Lord and King Week 1

God is with us

Isaiah 7:14 The Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be pregnant. She will have a son, and she will name him Immanuel.

It was prophesied in the Old Testament that a Saviour would come to live with us, his name being 'Immanuel', which means "God with us."

God is incarnate: He came to us in human form.

God became flesh, God took on a human nature and became a man in the form of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

John 1:14 So the Word became human and made his home among us.

Jesus is the visible image of the invisible God.

He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation.

Colossians 1:15 Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation.

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.

Colossians 2:8-9 Don't let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ. For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body.

2 Corinthians 5:19 For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them.

John 1:1-2 In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He existed in the beginning with God.

Philippians 2:6-7 Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being.

Questions and activities

1. What did Jesus experience as a human being, while he was on earth?
2. What aspects show that he was at the same time, God?
3. Give evidence from Colossians that Jesus existed before the creation, and in fact played a part in the creation of the world.

God is Lord and King Week 2

God is with us

In what ways was Jesus fully human?

- the all-powerful God became a baby, totally dependent on his young, teen-age mother.
- the all-present God became like all other human beings, limited to a body.
- the all-knowing God had to learn a language like every other human child.

At the same time, Jesus was fully God.

Jesus gave up his position in Heaven, choosing to become a servant, and to live with us on earth. Instead of demanding that we serve him, he did all he could to serve us.

Christians know that Jesus had a bodily resurrection. This is the cornerstone of our faith.

1 Corinthians 15:17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.

But a bodily resurrection means that Jesus still has a body - an amazing resurrected one, but a body none the less.

The resurrected Jesus says to his surprised disciples,

Luke 24:39 “See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have”.

When he ascended to heaven in bodily form, angels declare,

Acts 1:11 “... someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!”

In Revelation, John never describes the Father or the Spirit in any bodily language, but he does describe the resurrected Jesus with many bodily metaphors:

- “someone like the Son of Man” (Rev 1:13-16; 14:14)
- “a Lamb” (Rev 5:6,8,12-14; 6:1,3,5,7,9,12,16; 7:9-10,14,17; 8:1; 12:11; 13:8,11)
- “the Lion of the tribe of Judah” (Rev 5:5)
- a warrior “named Faithful and True ... King of all kings and Lord of all lords ... riding the white horse” (Rev 19:11-16,21).

When Jesus chose to take on bodily form, (incarnation), he made a choice to maintain his bodily form eternally, in order to guarantee for us eternal salvation.

Questions and activities

1. How does Jesus’ willingness to come to earth in human form show great humility?
2. Why did Jesus come to earth in human form?
3. Give evidence from Revelation that we will see Jesus in bodily form when he returns.

God is Lord and King Week 3

God is with us

What did Jesus bodily form look like after the resurrection?

We know that He had a body of flesh and bone. Jesus told the disciples:

Luke 24:39 “Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have”.

We also know that Jesus ate food. Imagine the surprise of the disciples when the risen Lord appeared to them and then said,

Luke 24:41–43 “Have you any food here?” They gave Jesus a piece of broiled fish and some honeycomb, and He ate it.

His resurrected body also could be touched and felt.

Matthew 28:9 When the women were returning from the empty tomb, “Behold, Jesus met them, saying, ‘Rejoice!’ So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him”.

John 20:27 Then, when Jesus appeared to the disciples in the Upper Room, He said to Thomas, “Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing”.

This tells us that in His resurrected body, Jesus still wore the marks of the crucifixion. And He will wear those marks, even in eternity.

Philippians 2:9 Because Jesus chose to take on bodily form, and chose death and resurrection for our sake, God has elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Colossians 1:15,19-20 Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ, and through him God reconciled everything to himself.

Hebrews 1:3 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. When he had cleansed us from our sins, he sat down in the place of honor at the right hand of the majestic God in heaven.

Questions and activities

1. Describe Jesus in bodily form after the resurrection.
2. What would you say to someone who says that Jesus was just a good man, or even a prophet, whose *only* purpose was to set an example of how to live.
3. What place of honour does Jesus have in heaven?