

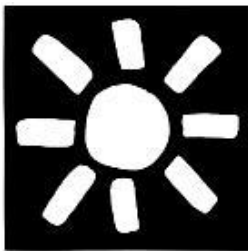
Diary Devotions

Year 12

Term 3

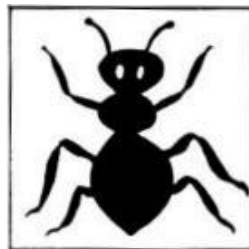
Studies on the character and nature of God

Major Theme	Page	Subtheme
God is Creator Week 1	2	Awesome
God is Creator Week 2	3	Powerful
God is Wise Week 1	4	
God is Wise Week 2	4	Guide
God is Wise Week 3	5	Just
God is Wise Week 4	6	Sustainer
God is a Servant Week 1	6	
God is a Servant Week 2	7	Humble
God is a Servant Week 3	8	Faithful
God is a Servant Week 4	8	Healer



CREATOR

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



WISE

The wisdom of the ant: Proverbs 6



SERVANT

Servant animals in the creation

God is Creator Week 4

God is Awesome

*Let all the earth fear the Lord;
Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him.
For He spoke and it was done;
He commanded and it stood fast. Psalm 33:8-9*

'To stand in awe is to have feelings of respect / reverential fear; or to be inspired by what is grand or sublime. God is an awesome *God*' - (*Dictionary meaning*).

Psalm 111:10

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;
A good understanding have all those who do His commandments;
His praise endures forever.

Proverbs 10:27

The fear of the Lord prolongs life,
But the years of the wicked will be shortened.

Proverbs 14:27

The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life,
That one may avoid the snares of death.

Proverbs 8:13

"The fear of the Lord is to hate evil;
Pride and arrogance and the evil way

Psalm 33:8

Let all the earth fear the Lord;
Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him.

God is Creator Week 5

God is Powerful

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses” (Acts 1:6).

God has power to change things:

Jesus changed the lives of the first disciples (John 1:35-50; Matt. 4:18-21; Matt 9:9-13)

Zacchaeus (Luke 19:9-13)

Healing for a paralysed man (Matt. 9:1-8)

Saul's conversion (Acts 9)

Healing for Naaman (2 Kings 5)

Jesus changed water to wine (John 2:1-12)

Nothing too difficult for God (Jer. 32:17)

God has power to raise the dead

Elijah brings a boy back to life (1 Kings 17:17-24)

Elisha and the Shunamite woman (2 Kings 4:8-37)

Jesus gives life to Jairus's daughter (Mark 5:22-43)

The raising of Lazarus (John 11:1-44)

God is a source of power

God gave power to Samson (Judges 13-15)

The miracles of Jesus (an overview)

A man with demons ((Mark 5:1-19)

The Vine (John 15:1-5)

The disciples receive power (Acts 1:8; Acts 2)

God's power shown through Peter, John (Acts 3); Paul, Barnabas (Acts 13:4)

God is Wise Week 1

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. All those who practice it have a good understanding (Ps 111:10).

The dictionary defines wisdom as “*having knowledge of what is true or right, coupled with just judgment.*”

In a child’s language this is: ‘*knowing the right thing to do, and doing it.*’

Therefore, God has the complete knowledge of all things and how they are best put to use.

God is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom, our righteousness and sanctification and redemption (1 Corinthians 1:30).

As God’s Holy Spirit lives in His people, it is His wisdom we use in choosing: how to behave towards other people how and what we apply our minds/emotions to how to know God and to respond to His call on our lives.

John 14:6 - (The Holy Spirit) will teach you all things.

John 16:13 - The Spirit of truth will guide you into all truth.

Jesus said “If you love Me, obey Me.) i.e. Keep my commandments.

Luke 2:40 Jesus *was filled* with wisdom.

Luke 2:52 Jesus *increased* in wisdom.

We should continue to grow in wisdom and understanding of God and His ways. Even after our bodies cease to grow our spirits must continue to grow.

God is Wise Week 2

God is our Guide

Your word is a lamp unto my feet and a light to my path (Psalm 119:105).

Wisdom was the first creative act of God, (Proverbs 8:22).

The Lord created me (wisdom) at the beginning of His work, the first of His acts of old. Each created thing was planned and brought forth in wisdom. Proverbs 8:23-36.

God had a meaningful plan for each person/thing He created. When we are obedient to the principles expressed in His Word, i.e we have the wisdom to fear the Lord, then all His creation will function with the perfection He originally intended.

It is wise to let God be our guide:

The Israelites were guided by fire and cloud (Ex. 13:21-22)

It is wise to take advice from those who have God's wisdom: (Prov. 13:10 & 20; Prov. 6:20)

The Bible is our guide (Ps. 119:105). It is wise to follow its advice.

Proverbs 6:20 - Our parents guide us to maturity.

Psalms 16:7 - I praise the Lord because He guides me. Even at night I feel His leading.

Matthew 2 - The magi were guided by the star and the scriptures; an angel guided Joseph through a dream to make the journey to Egypt, and later, back to Israel.

God is Wise Week 3

God is Just

Psalms 89:14 - Righteousness and justice are the foundations of Your throne; Lovingkindness and truth go before you.

Although grace, mercy and justice are three distinct qualities, each one is incomplete without the other two.

In His wisdom, God has established laws, principles and commandments for man to live by.

When a person breaks a law, God's justice (righteousness) would require that the sin is dealt with and the sinner should receive punishment

God is just. He gives us what we deserve.

But God is merciful and therefore He has provided for man to be saved from His wrath and punishment. He sent Jesus to earth to be the Savior of man:

1. to show people how God wants them to live on earth,
2. to take the punishment for man's sin (Hebrews 10:4-10)
3. to demonstrate God's power over sin and death by raising Jesus from death.

God is merciful. He doesn't give us what we deserve.

God is gracious. He gives us forgiveness, wholeness of body, mind and spirit. He gives the power of the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

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

God is gracious. He gives us what we don't deserve

Jesus is the supreme expression of God's justice, mercy and grace.

God is Wise Week 3

God is our Sustainer

Come unto Me all who are heavily laden and I will give you rest (Matt 11:28)

I am the Vine and you are the branches – John 15:5

Stay connected to Jesus and He will sustain you.

Cast all your cares upon Him for He cares for you – 1 Peter 5:7

If we look to God for wisdom and strength, He will show us the right thing to do, and the right path to follow.

God is the sustainer of life

The loaves and fishes (Mark 6:30-44)

Jesus, the Word (John 1:2 & 14)

God's word as our spiritual food (1 Peter 2:2)

God is a Servant Week 1

Whoever wants to be great must be a servant, and whoever wants to be first must be a slave – just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many (Matthew 20:27-28).

So the last will be first, and the first will be last (Matthew 20:16).

Jesus, the willing and obedient servant:

John 12:26 - Jesus said, "Whoever wants to serve me must follow me."

Joshua 24:15 - As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

Luke 2:41-52 - A visit to the temple - Jesus obeyed His Heavenly Father.

John 2:1-11 - Jesus helped as his mother asked and helped the hosts at the wedding.

1 Samuel 3 - The boy Samuel served in the temple. He obeyed Eli, and also obeyed God.

Ephesians 6:1 - Children, obey your parents in the Lord.

Luke 4: 1-13 - Jesus, when tempted by Satan, obeyed God.

John 13:3-5 - Jesus washed the disciples' feet.

Galatians 5:13 - In love, serve one another.

Matthew 20:20-28 - If you want to be great, then you must be a servant.

Isaiah 1:19 - Be willing and obedient.

Going the extra mile:

Matthew 5:41-42 - The extra mile

John 15:13 - Laying down one's life for his friends

Ephesians 6:7 - Serve wholeheartedly.

Matthew 8:14-17 - Jesus healed Peter's mother, even when he felt too tired to do any more work.

Luke 18:10-28 - Jesus healed a crippled woman.

Galatians 6:2 - Carry one another's' burdens.

Luke 10:30-37 - The Good Samaritan served the wounded man, even when he may have been looked down on for helping someone from an opposing country.

God is a Servant Week 2

God is Humble

Your attitude should be the same as that of Jesus Christ who being in very nature, God, did not consider equality with God, but made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross (Philippians 2:11)

Jesus, the humble servant:

Jesus was born in humble circumstances (Luke 2)

Jesus, the Son of God demonstrated His Father's meekness and humility by riding into Jerusalem on a donkey. In Eastern countries the ass is the animal of peace and honour.

Jesus was baptized by John – an act of humility (Matt. 3:13-17).

Jesus allowed the Jews to honour Him as king, and obeyed God His Father, knowing that He was in reality riding to His death on a cross. He knew that He must die in order to rise again and demonstrate His power over sin and death.

God is pleased when His children obey Him through obeying their parents, teachers and other leaders.

Jesus has a meek and humble spirit. He taught His disciples this by example and in parables.

Luke 14: 10: The parable of the marriage feast: "Come up higher, friend."

Victory over the world is found in exercising a meek and humble spirit:

Matthew 21:1-11 - King Jesus enters Jerusalem knowing He was riding to His death but also His victory over death.

Proverbs 25:6-7 - He who tries to honour himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself shall be honoured.

Jesus taught that humility is being willing to be known for who you really are. That means our lives are completely open before God and men.

Matthew 18:3; Luke 9:17; "Be as little children."

The rich man and the tax collector (Luke 18:9-14)

Don't make yourself important (Luke 14:7-11)

A servant of all (Matt. 20:20-28; Mark 10:35-45)

God is a Servant Week 3

God is Faithful

Fix your thoughts on Jesus. He was faithful to the one who appointed Him (Hebrews 3:1-2).

Jesus, the faithful servant:

Jesus was faithful to the disciples (John 17:1-26)

Jesus loved and forgave His friends (Luke 10:4; Matt. 17:27; John 21:15)

Jesus washed the disciples' feet (John 13:4-5)

Lessons of faithfulness:

The faithful servant (Luke 12:35-47)

Faithful friendship between David and Jonathan (1 Sam. 18-20)

A friend loves at all times (Prov. 17:17)

Faithfulness of the disciples and apostles (Acts 1-2; Acts 4:13-22; Acts 7)

Faithfulness in little things (Luke 16:10)

Parable of the talents (Matt. 25:14-29)

God is a Servant Week 3

God is a Healer

Surely He took our sicknesses and carried our sorrows; He was pierced for our sins, the punishment that brought us peace, and by His wounds we are healed (Isaiah 53:4-5)

Jesus, the healing servant:

The healing miracles of Jesus:

John 9:1-34 - The man born blind

John 5:1-18 - The man at the pool

Luke 8:43-48 - The woman who touched the hem of His garment

Luke 5:18-25 - Through the roof

Luke 6:6-10 - Jesus heals a paralyzed hand

Mark 5 The hem of His garment

Mark 10:46-52 - Blind Bartimaeus receives sight

Matthew 4:23 - Jesus healed all kinds of diseases

Luke 4:18 - He has chosen me to bring good news to the poor and recovery of sight to the blind...

Luke 6:17-18 - They had come to hear Him and to be healed of their diseases.

Luke 7 The sick servant

Matthew 14:14 - He was filled with pity for them and healed those who were ill.

Matthew 9:35-36 - Jesus healed people with every kind of disease.

Revelation 22:3 - The leaves of the tree are for healing of the nations

Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits – who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases (Psalm 103:2)

God has power to heal:

God can heal the body, mind, will, emotions, spirit. His desire is to restore wholeness to His creation. This includes both man and the created world, Romans 8:19-22.

Man receives healing of body, mind, will, emotions for God's glory. e.g. John 9 - the man born blind.

When people call upon God in repentance, He will heal their land, 2 Chronicles 7:14.

God can heal others through me when I am submitted to His will, Acts 9:36.

In many cases repentance and subsequent forgiveness are prerequisites to the healing of body, mind and spirit.