

God's Work And God's Word

Psalm 19

MEMORY VERSE

PSALM 19:14

“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

One (wire) clothes hanger for each child, poster board, fishing line, markers (assorted colors), scissors, and a hole-punch.

Masking tape, index cards and pennies.

ATTENTION GETTER!

“I Saw Something God Made”

Today, we are going to learn about God’s creation and how it declares who God is. This game will help to introduce the theme. Have the children form a circle with one volunteer in the middle. The child in the center will say, “On my way to church today, I saw something God made. I saw a _____. At this point the child should imitate what he saw. The other children need to guess what it was he saw. Whoever guesses the correct answer can take the center place and describe something else. If no one guesses, have the center child tell what he saw and choose someone else to take his/her place.

IMPORTANT – It cannot be a man-made article.

LESSON TIME!

Did you know that God wants people to know who He is? God is not hiding from people. He wants people all over the world to understand who He is and that He loves them and wants to have a relationship with them. How does God reveal Himself to the world He loves? Today, we will look at two ways God reveals Himself to man—Creation and His Word. **God shows us who He is through His works and His Word.**

PSALM 19:1-6

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork.

Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge.

There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard.

Their line has gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them He has set a tabernacle for the sun,

Which is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoices like a strong man to run its race.

Its rising is from one end of heaven, and its circuit to the other end; and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

The psalmist, King David, must have had many opportunities as a young shepherd boy to gaze into star-filled skies and wonder about the God of all creation. He proclaims, "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork."

Have you ever gone out on a starry night and just looked out into space? One experiences a great sense of awe and wonder as he considers the vast heavens that God has created. Perhaps you have been able to go to a planetarium or study about planets, stars, and universes in school. One who studies the wonders of God's creation must ask, "How did all of this happen?" The universe did not happen by chance. The awesome design points emphatically to a designer.

The Bible tells us God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1). He spoke all things into existence; the magnificence and beauty of His creation will forever speak to every person in this world of God's glory.

Also, the firmament shows God's handiwork. Not only do we look into the sky to see God's fingerprints on everything, but we can also look at the creation all over this planet. Have you ever seen the Grand Canyon? The giant redwoods? Magnificent waterfalls? Have you stared out at the vast ocean? Have you considered the wonders of the plant and animal kingdoms. Have you considered the amazing human body--so complex that it *had* to be designed by God? It could not have happened by accident. Only those who do not want to know God would try to explain that we came about some other way.

Everything we see shows God's handiwork. God is speaking to mankind everyday through His creation. As David declares, "Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge."

He declares His glory to *the world* He so loves—every nation and every language in His creation: “There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard. Every day speech is uttered and every night knowledge is revealed.”

How wondrous a message is declared through creation. How dangerous and sad that man would foolishly accept a lie—the teaching of evolution. Evolution denies that man was created by God; it instead embraces a foolish notion that man evolved (began) from a small cell in some ooze somewhere. He became a small creature, crawled onto land, and eventually began to walk. In time, he became a monkey, and, finally, a person. Evolution, thus says, that man evolved from a lower form to a higher form; the Bible says man was created in the image of God; the image became marred when sin and death came into the world through Adam. It was God who created the heavens and the earth, including man. This truth is foundational to our Christian faith. No matter what man may say, God’s creation continues to be a testimony to His truth and reality. **God shows us who He is through His works and His Word.**

God’s Creation Mobile

You will need one clothes hanger for each child, poster board, fishing line, markers (assorted colors), scissors, and a hole punch. What the children will be making is a mobile with planets on it and a portion of Psalm 19 written on them.

Begin by cutting out various shapes and sizes of planets. You can include a sun and will need at least 8 of them. Make sure to make them big enough to put writing on them. You probably will not want to go to more than eight though because you might run out of space on your hanger. Be creative and allow the children to try to cut shapes like Saturn or a larger one for Jupiter. Cut the shapes

out. Then, beginning in order from the sun (if any) through the planets, write one word of the following phrase on each planet: THE HEAVENS DECLARE THE GLORY OF GOD! PSALM 19.

Next, allow the children to color and decorate their planets on both sides. Have them write the verse on one side. Next using a hole-punch, make a hole at the top of each planet. Cut various sizes of fishing line so the planets will hang at various levels. Tie a piece of fishing line to each planet. Next, tie the other side of the fishing line to the hanger. Tie it in order so the verse reads correctly. OPTIONAL – Cover the triangular section of the hanger with white construction paper and write “God’s Creation” and decorate. Have the children take them home to hang them in their rooms.

PSALM 19:7-11

The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;

The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;

The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever;
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

Moreover by them Your servant is warned, and in keeping them there is great reward.

Not only does God reveal Himself through creation, but He also reveals Himself through His Word. If we want to understand who God is, all we need to do is to look in the Bible—God’s written Word. We learn all about God—who He is and how we can come to know Him and live our lives according to His plan. The Bible says the Word of God is alive and powerful. God, by His Holy Spirit, will reveal the truths of the Word of God to our hearts (John 16:13).

In these verses, you see different names for the Word of God—the law, testimonies, statutes, commandments, and judgments. The Word of God has impact in our lives—converting the soul, making wise the simple, rejoicing the heart, enlightening the eyes. It helps us to know about the Lord and helps us to live our lives for Him. **God shows us who He is through His works and His Word.**

Let’s look at five qualities and effects of the Word of God:

1. *It is perfect and converts the soul.* The Word of God is complete. Contained in God’s Word is everything we need. The Word of God transforms or changes us. The Bible is the Word of Life. In Hebrews 4:12, we read, “For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of the soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” Through the Bible we understand God’s plan to change us from the inside out. We understand the work that God has done on our behalf when He sent His Son to die on the cross.
2. *It is sure and makes wise the simple.* The Word of God is sure, something that we can rely on—a strong, immovable foundation on which we can build our lives. In 2 Corinthians 1:20 we read, “For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.” Even when so much in our lives does not seem to make sense, we can rely upon the Word of God. God’s Word

makes wise the simple. Paul wrote to Timothy, "...and that from childhood, you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 3:15).

3. *It is right and rejoices the heart.* The Bible is "right on." No matter what the subject is covered, it will always be right. If we think something to be true, but the Bible says something different, we had better go with what the Bible says! God's Word rejoices the heart. We can be troubled or worried about something and find comfort and encouragement in the pages of the Bible as we let God speak to us.
4. *It is pure and enlightens the eyes.* We know that God's Word is pure and holy. The Bible is 100% accurate and without fault. We can put our full trust in God's Word. It will enlighten or open our eyes. God speaks to us through His Word.
5. *It is true and righteous.* God's Word is always true. The Bible tells us that God cannot lie and certainly His Word will never be false. Every word that we read is true. God's Word is righteous. We can rely on it.

Note, also, David described the Word of God as more to be desired than gold, much fine gold. At the time that this psalm was written, probably the most valuable mineral in the world was gold; gold remains the most valuable mineral, today. Yet God's Word and its effect on our lives is much more valuable than any earthly things. Like David, let us consider God's Word more important than anything else we could desire.

God's Word is described as sweeter than honey and a honeycomb. What a sweet and delightful thing to read and meditate on the Word of God--especially when we are praying and allowing God to open up the scriptures to us. Have you experienced the blessing found in the study of God's Word? It can be sweeter than being treated to a triple-decker ice cream!

Next, we see that God's Word warns us. God has given us guidance and admonition in His Word to keep us from heading in a direction that is dangerous or harmful to us. When we choose to obey and do what He says, we can be confident there will be great reward. **God shows us who He is through His works and His Word.**

PSALM 19:12-13

Who can understand his errors? Cleanse me from secret faults.

Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and I shall be innocent of great transgression.

David prays to the Lord and asks Him to continue to cleanse him and to keep him from sinning. God's Word certainly has a cleansing effect. It exposes our sin and weakness. When confronted with our sin, let us confess our sins as did David. The Bible says if we confess our sins, God will be faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

PSALM 19:14

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.

David concludes with prayer. In response to God's revelation of Himself through the magnificence of creation and His Word, David desires that his words and the thoughts of his heart be acceptable to God. He desires to follow the Lord with all of his heart. Note, David ends His prayer acknowledging that God is His strength and Redeemer. Without God's help, we cannot hope to speak words and think thoughts that are acceptable to God.

So, God has revealed himself to man through creation and through His Word. "There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard. Their line has gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world." He desires to have a personal relationship with each one of us. Have you heard His voice? How have you responded to His message? God promises great reward to those who will choose to follow Him wholly. **God shows us who He is through His works and His Word.**

Choose Your Points Game

For this game you will need masking tape, index cards and pennies. Use this game as a review for the lesson today. Before class, make three fairly good-sized circles with masking tape. All three should be next to each other and in a place where children can stand back and try to toss a penny into a circle. Mark off a starting place by making a line with masking tape.

Label the circles 1, 2, and 3; these will represent the number of points the children can receive. Also before class write down several questions about today's lesson. Make the questions for 1 point very easy with 2 and 3 being a little more difficult. Have the children split into two teams and see which team can get the most points.

When everyone is ready the teams should take turns sending a player to the line to toss a penny into one of the circles. The team can try for 1, 2 or 3 points. If the child can get the penny into a

circle, a question is answered for that number of points. If the penny does not make it into any circle, the next team is allowed to go. When the question is asked, the child who tossed the penny may answer. If he cannot, he will be allowed a 30 second “conference” with teammates. Note, he needs to stay quiet because if he still does not get it right, the other team may answer the question. If they answer correctly, they will get that number of points. Continue to play until everyone has had a turn.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to hear and respond to God’s message through creation and, especially, His Word. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.