**1. Motivate**

What is something you possess that you think is unique?

* 3D printer
* a cottage on the lake

A video introduction to the lesson is available. View it at <https://watch.liberty.edu/media/t/1_4rcqq83k> . If you have no wi-fi where you teach, best to download from <https://tinyurl.com/mryaf335>

* two trombones
* old coin collection
* a 35mm camera that used film
* an old dial telephone
* 80 column computer cards
* a homemade lawn sprinkler system
* an Erector Set from the 1950’s
* an LP record sleave signed by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Grandma’s Massillon high school autograph book signed by coach Paul Brown

**2. Transition**

God is unique, different, set apart from everything in His creation.

* Today’s lesson considers why God is *holy* !

**3. Bible Study**

3.1 Set Apart by His Greatness

Listen for response to greatness.

Psalm 99:1-3 (NIV) The LORD reigns, let the nations tremble; he sits enthroned between the cherubim, let the earth shake. 2 Great is the LORD in Zion; he is exalted over all the nations. 3 Let them praise your great and awesome name-- he is holy.

What attributes does the psalmist describe of the Lord?

* God reigns – He rules – He is sovereign
* God is enthroned as ruler
* He is great, He is exalted
* He is holy

Over whom does He reign?

* over all the nations
* over all creation

What is to be the response to He who reigns?

* the earth trembles
* exalt Him
* praise His great and awesome name

What does it mean to praise the name of the Lord?

* His names describe Him
* Elohim, El Shadday, El Roi, Jehovah-Rapha, Jehovah-Nissi, Jehovah-Shalom …
* declare His worthiness, His worth (“worth-ship”) – “worship” Him

What aspects of God help you appreciate His greatness?

* omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, sovereignty
* love, eternal, compassionate, healer, provider, …

The psalm repeatedly emphasizes God's kingship and His authority over the nations. How does this perspective impact our understanding of God's sovereignty and our role as His people?

* God does as God pleases to do – He is sovereign
* we see that He pleases to rescue us from sin – redeems us
* God is in control of all
* when we see the chaos and sinfulness of the world, we remember that they are not in charge, God is in charge
* we can trust Him to carry out His plans and purposes
* He has the power and authority and love for us to accomplish His purposes for His Body of Believers – the church

3.2 Set Apart by His Justice

Listen for attributes of God

Psalm 99:4-5 (NIV) The King is mighty, he loves justice-- you have established equity; in Jacob you have done what is just and right. 5 Exalt the LORD our God and worship at his footstool; he is holy.

Although the Lord is mighty in strength and as sovereign can do what He chooses, what characterizes His approach to judgment?

* He loves justice – He loves to do what is right (righteousness)
* He is the One who establishes equity (not a “woke” culture)
* in this sense He is unique, different from all others
* He is holy

What should be the response of His people? Once again, why is the Lord worthy of praise?

* He does the right thing
* He does the just thing
* we worship, we declare the worth of God for His righteousness/justice

How does it impact your faith to know that God is all-powerful and He is also good?

* some rulers are powerful, but are bad
* some rulers are good but have no power or authority to carry out those good intentions
* Jehovah God is right and just and has the power and authority to accomplish what is right and good

In verse 5, the psalmist praises God for establishing justice and equity. How does this resonate with contemporary issues of social justice and equality?

* those in government say they want to establish justice and equality
* they have their own definitions of what is “right and just”
* they have redefined “equity” for political purposes – to keep themselves in power
* even when their ideas of justice are valid, they don’t have the power or the will to accomplish those ideas

How can we pursue justice in our own communities?

* pray for our leaders
* vote
* and vote wisely
* be involved in ministering to needy
* our civil government has had to step in and provide benevolence when in many situations the church should have been doing so

The psalm concludes with a call to exalt the Lord our God and worship at His footstool. What does it mean to exalt God, and how can we do so in our daily lives?

* sing His praises – corporately as a church, alone as you listen to praise music
* daily read, carefully consider (meditate on), and obey His words to us – Scripture
* live a life that reflects many of those same attributes – the Fruit of the Spirit
* submit to God’s authority, leadership in your life
* talk to God … prayers of adoration, confession, thanksgiving, supplications (A.C.T.S.)

3.3 Set Apart by His Grace

Listen for significant leaders.

Psalm 99:6-9 (NIV) Moses and Aaron were among his priests, Samuel was among those who called on his name; they called on the LORD and he answered them. 7 He spoke to them from the pillar of cloud; they kept his statutes and the decrees he gave them. 8 O LORD our God, you answered them; you were to Israel a forgiving God, though you punished their misdeeds. 9 Exalt the LORD our God and worship at his holy mountain, for the LORD our God is holy.

What assurance does this psalm offer to those who call on the Lord?

* He is forgiving
* He administers justice, judgment, punishment
* when we call on Him, He answers, He gives direction

The psalmist mentions the examples of Moses, Aaron, and Samuel as individuals who called upon God and received His answers. How does their faithfulness and interaction with God inspire us today?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| What They Did | What We Can Do |
| * they communicated God’s words to the people * they called out to God for the people * they received God’s answers and directions * they exhorted the people to do what God had directed * they lead in worship | * we can do that as witnesses * we can support others in prayer * we can encourage and challenge people to trust and obey the Lord * we can worship alone and with others |

How should His people respond to Him because of His forgiveness?

* exalt Him
* declare His loving kindness
* thank Him for His forgiveness
* receive His power in your life to improve your behavior

How do we balance reverence for God with a close personal relationship with Him?

* He chooses to be in close personal relationship to us
* only true when we confess, repent of sin and receive His redemption as an act of faith
* we can trust Him
* we are in awe of Him
* we hold that personal relationship in awe
* we submit to His loving authority

Why is God’s uniqueness/holiness so vital to our faith?

* if God were in any way like someone or something else … He’d be no big deal
* He’d be just another deity among many
* might as well worship one of them as Him
* all those omni- attributes would be common among other deities
* A picture containing text, circle, font, design

  Description automatically generatedHe’d be hardly be worth trusting or worshiping as special

What are some ways we can respond to God’s holiness this week?

* review, think about, meditate on His attributes
* regularly read through 101 Reasons to Trust the Lord (<https://tinyurl.com/2kdpfm88> )
* tell God of your awe, respect, joy of knowing Him personally
* submit to God’s authority in your life
* share His love and greatness with others

Use the last page as a handout so your learners can take home the application points of this week’s lesson.

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Pray.

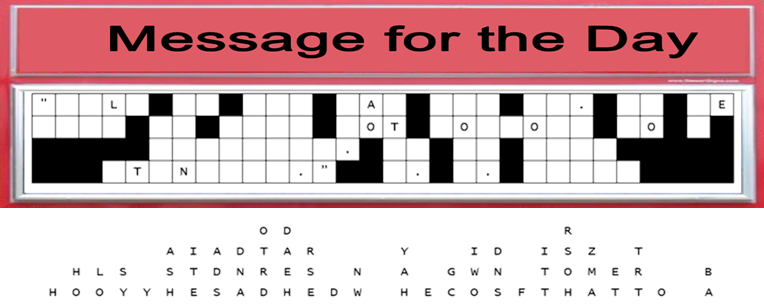
* Ask God to reveal any times your thoughts, attitudes, or behavior have disappointed Him.
* Ask God to redeem those character flaws and make you more like Him.

Reflect.

* Meditate on the moral attributes of God (holiness, righteousness, justice, love, mercy, wisdom).
* Identify those principles and ask God to help you embody those attributes in your life.

Search.

* Search Scripture using available Bible tools in your library or online.
* Record examples of God’s greatness and how He is set apart from all of creation.
* Ask God to expand your mind to comprehend His glory, then to magnify Himself through you as you manifest His transforming power in your life.

Fallen Phrases

A cartoon of a police officer holding an object

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We have a situation here … letters down. That windstorm last night did a number on this sign. Luckily the letters all fell straight down. We need your help to fix the sign before the pastor gets here. Start with single letter columns and single letter words, then two and three letter words. Figure out what letters make sense. Watch out for punctuation marks. Let your youth pastor know what the message is, he didn’t get to see it before the wind came along. For help and other fun Family Activities, go to <https://tinyurl.com/mryaf335>