

Weekday Bible School Series

THE DOCTRINES OF GOD

Eighth Grade

UNIT I

NATURE AND ATTRIBUTES OF GOD



Published by the
Christian Nurture Committee
of Lancaster Mennonite Conference

Weekday Bible School Series

THE DOCTRINES OF GOD

Eighth Grade

UNIT I

NATURE AND ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

JOHN S. WENGER, *Revision Editor*

Published by the

Christian Nurture Committee
of Lancaster Mennonite Conference
Box 541, R. 4, Lancaster, Pa.

1952

Lithographed in U.S.A. by
Mennonite Publishing House
Scottsdale, Pa.

1956

General Introduction to Eighth Grade Course

THE DOCTRINE OF GOD, for eighth-grade pupils, was originally published in 1936 by the Summer and Weekday Bible School Committee under Eastern Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities. It was printed in mimeographed form. A number of writers assisted in writing the lessons after the outline of lesson titles was prepared by J. Paul Graybill who also served as editor for the course. The course was remimeographed in 1939.

The Christian Nurture Committee of Lancaster Conference, succeeding the Summer and Weekday Bible School Committee, used the above course as basic material to provide unit courses of twelve lessons each to meet the current teaching needs. The former courses were used by teachers only, but these twelve lesson courses in printed form are prepared for both teacher and pupil use.

A study of the character of God is both needed and interesting. When a life is in touch with God, it is changed. Youth, as they better understand God and His workings with men, can give themselves wholly unto Him for a life of service. Even though the lessons are largely doctrinal, they are inspirational.

Memory work: Psalms 95, 96, 97.

God is Spirit, infinite and perfect, the source, support, and end of all things.—*Doctrines of the Bible*, Kauffman.

Table of Contents

General Introduction to Eighth Grade Course	3
Lesson I	
Our God Is a Real Person (The Personality of God)	5
Lesson II	
Our God Is Eternal and Unchangeable (The Eternity and Immutability of God)	7
Lesson III	
The Wonderful Power of Our God (The Omnipotence of God)	9
Lesson IV	
God the Creator of All Things	11
Lesson V	
God Makes Himself Known to Us	13
Lesson VI	
God Present Everywhere (Omnipresence)	15
Lesson VII	
The Holiness of God	17
Lesson VIII	
God Is a Just God	19
Lesson IX	
The Mercy of God	21
Lesson X	
God Is a Spirit	23
Lesson XI	
God Knows All Things (Omniscience)	25
Lesson XII	
What We Owe to God	27

Lesson I

Our God Is a Real Person

(THE PERSONALITY OF GOD)

DANIEL 6:16-27

Aim and Presentation

Yes, our God is a real person. He is alive and has the marks of a personality, such as knowledge, feeling, will, and understanding. He takes a personal interest in the affairs of men. In this lesson you will see that God has an interest in you as an individual and always has your welfare at heart. This lesson should increase your love and reverential fear for God.

This lesson uses the character of Daniel to portray and illustrate the lesson. This story not only shows the power of God but shows God's personal interest in Daniel as a person. Thus we see a personal God interested in each of His children in a personal way.

From this text you will also note that even a heathen king recognized not only the power of God but His care of His own.

Lesson Text Outline

I. What Daniel thought of his God.

1. He prayed to Him.—Dan. 6:10, 11.
2. He gave thanks to Him.—6:10.
3. He served Him continually.—6:16, 20.
4. Called Him "My God."—6:23.
5. He believed in his God.—6:23.

II. What Darius, the heathen king, thought of Daniel's God.

1. Said He would deliver Daniel.—6:16.
2. Called Him a living God.—6:20, 26.
3. Confesses He has a kingdom.—6:26.
4. Made proclamation that men of his dominion shall fear God.—6:25-27.

III. What Daniel's God did for Daniel.

1. He sent His angel.—6:22.
2. Delivered him from the hungry lions.—6:27.
3. No manner of hurt was allowed upon Daniel.—6:23.

IV. Words that show personality—"delivereth," "rescueth."—6:27.

Topical Outline

- I. God a living Being.—Acts 14:15; I Thess. 1:9.
 1. He sees.—II Chron. 16:9.
 2. He hears.—Ps. 94:9.
 3. He knows.—Ps. 94:10.
 4. He feels.—Jon. 4:9, 10.
- II. He has a present personal interest in the affairs of men.
 1. Notice lesson story.
 2. He interfered at the tower of Babel.
 3. He cares for the individual.—Gen. 39:21; I Kings 19:5-7.
- III. God's care for His creatures—birds and flowers.—Matt. 6:26, 28-30; 10:29, 30.
- IV. God's care extends to the minutest matters.—Matt. 10:29, 30.

Expressional Work

- I. Cross out the incorrect statement in each pair.
 1. God answers prayer.
It is useless to pray.
 2. It is good to give thanks, but God never hears.
God is pleased with our thanks.
 3. God knows of our sins if we tell Him about them.
God knows at once every sin we commit.
 4. Daniel was not hurt because the lions were not hungry.
The lions killed Daniel's enemies because they were un-protected.
 5. The king delivered Daniel because he loved him.
The Lord delivered Daniel because Daniel trusted Him.
 6. Birds feed themselves by depending on man's care for them.
God provides for the birds and usually without the help of men.
 7. God did many wonderful things only in the olden days.
God will take care of every need of His people today.
 8. God has never spoken to my soul.
I have heard Him again and again speaking to me.

Lesson II

Our God Is Eternal and Unchangeable

(THE ETERNITY AND IMMUTABILITY OF GOD)

PSALM 90:1-12; HEBREWS 1:10-12

Aim and Presentation

In this lesson we learn that God is a self-existing being, having neither beginning nor ending, but is the one who always *IS*. God's character does not change but He remains always the same. This eternal and unchangeable God has a definite relationship to your and my life because He gives us existence and our lives must be hidden in His life for salvation and happiness.

Everything we see, hear, or touch has a maker—but not so with God. He did not even make Himself. He always is existing. “In the beginning God” surely takes us to this eternal existing one. It is perhaps difficult to comprehend completely this eternal one, but this is not necessary. “Only believe” is the requirement to be fulfilled. Our unchanging God has never changed this requirement for man's coming into salvation and happiness.

Lesson Text Outline

1. The eternal existence of God vs. creation.
 - a. God existent before the mountains.
 - b. God existent before the earth and world.—Ps. 90:2; Heb. 1:10.
 - c. God existent from everlasting to everlasting.—Ps. 90:2.
2. The eternal existence of God vs. time.
 - a. A thousand years is as one day—passes as quickly as a day passes for us.—Ps. 90:4.
—carried away as with a flood.—Ps. 90:5.
—as a sleep.—Ps. 90:5.
—as grass.—Ps. 90:5.
3. The eternal existence of God vs. man.
 - a. Man's days pass as a tale that is told—pass as quickly as a thought.—90:9.
—soon cut off.—90:10.
4. The eternal existence of God vs. changes constantly taking place.
—Ps. 90:5, 6; Heb. 1:11, 12.

Topical Outline

1. God exists of Himself.—Ex. 3:14.
2. God has not beginning or ending.—Rev. 1:8.
3. God dwells in eternity.—Isa. 57:15.
4. God has no equal.—Isa. 45:22.
5. God does not change.—Jas. 1:17; Ps. 102:27.
6. Because God “Is”—I am in existence.—Ps. 90:1.

Expressional Work

- I. List the words in two columns: (1) God (2) Creation.

Yesterday, today, forever.

Endeth.

Withereth.

Everlasting to everlasting.

Cut off.

Fly away.

Change not.

Forever and ever.

Eternal.

Wax old.

- II. Tell in a few words what the Bible teaches about God's eternal existence in each of the following verses:

1. Exodus 3:14.
2. Malachi 3:6.
3. Hebrews 1:12.
4. Habakkuk 1:12.
5. Revelation 11:15.

Lesson III

The Wonderful Power of Our God

(THE OMNIPRESENCE OF GOD)

EXODUS 8:16-24

Aim and Presentation

In this lesson we want to see that the God we trust in and worship is a powerful God and only as we are connected with this powerful God, can we as His children manifest any power among each other. God is not merely a source of power but is the only source of power. God being omnipotent and yet being loving is able to help us in every line of need. By comparison and contrast you will see that God is greater than any human or even satanic power. His is absolutely infinite.

The lesson text illustrates the all power of our God and in contrast we see the complete lack of power of the Egyptian gods. As one notices God revealing His power in the plagues, one is not only awed but challenged to greater faith.

Lesson Text Outline

1. Moses and Aaron hear God speak.—V. 16.
2. Moses and Aaron are obedient.—V. 17.
3. Dust becomes lice on man and beast.—V. 17.
4. God's power contrasted with Satan's power.—V. 18.
5. Magicians said: "This is the finger of God."—V. 19.
6. Pharaoh hardens his heart again.—V. 19.
7. God again entreats Pharaoh.—V. 20.
8. God knows Pharaoh's thoughts and actions.—Vv. 19, 20.
9. God warns of the plague of flies.—V. 21.
10. God puts a difference between Egypt and Israel to show His power.—Vv. 22, 23.
11. God is as good as His word.—V. 24.

Topical Outline

- I. Examples of God's power in little things.
 1. Only a rod.—Ex. 4:2.
 2. A jawbone.—Judg. 15:15.
 3. Five smooth stones.—I Sam. 17:40.

4. A handful of meal and a little oil.—I Kings 17:12.
 5. A cloud the size of a man's hand.—I Kings 18:44.
 6. Small things.—Zech. 4:10.
 7. The mustard seed.—Matt. 13:32.
 8. Five barley loaves.—John 6:9.
- II. God's power shown in connection with Bible men and women.
1. Enoch.—Gen. 5:24.
 2. Three Hebrew children.—Dan. 3:25.
 3. Moses.—Ex. 14:13.
 4. Miriam.—Num. 12:10.
 5. Noah.—Gen. 7:23.
 6. Daniel.—Dan. 6:16, 22.
 7. David.—I Sam. 17:4, 5.
 8. Elijah.—I Kings 17:4.
 9. Peter.—Acts 12:11.
 10. Paul.—Acts 16:26.
- III. God omnipotent over all.
1. Fact of His omnipotence—God can do all things.—Job 42:2; Gen. 18:14; Matt. 19:26.
 2. All nature is absolutely subject to God's will and word.—Ps. 107:25-29.
 3. All men are absolutely subject to God's will and word.—Jas. 4:15.
 4. Angels are absolutely subject to God's will and word.—Heb. 1:13, 14.
 5. Satan is absolutely subject to God's will and word.—Job 1:12; 2:6.

Expressional Work

- I. List the ten plagues.

1.	6.
2.	7.
3.	8.
4.	9.
5.	10.
- II. List five persons from the Bible and tell how God showed His power in the life of each.
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.

Lesson IV

God the Creator of All Things

JOB 38:1-13; 31-41

Aim and Presentation

In this lesson our appreciation for God is increased through the study of things that He has made. The things that God has made lead one to Him. As we view the things of His creation, we feel reverent, and adoration arises within our breast.

Can you imagine what this world was like when there was only the heavenly Father, His Son, and the Holy Spirit? God wanted this world to be beautiful and a nice place for us to live. So God made all things so beautiful and useful. Did you ever consider how wonderfully your body is made? The psalmist says, "I am fearfully and wonderfully made." We must surely say the same.

Lesson Text Outline

I. Setting or context.—Job 38:1-3.

After the miserable comforters had attempted to show Job the justice of God, the Lord Himself speaks to Job out of a whirlwind asking him questions designed to show Job his own nothingness in contrast to the wondrous works and unsearchable wisdom of God.

II. The acts of creation which God cites before Job.

1. Laying the foundation of the earth.—V. 4.
2. Measuring for the earth.—V. 5.
3. Fastening the foundations and laying the cornerstone of earth.—V. 6.
4. Morning stars sang together.—V. 7.
5. Waters of seas controlled.—Vv. 8-11.
6. Morning commanded and dayspring placed.—Vv. 12, 13.
7. Control of stars.—Vv. 31-33.
8. Control of clouds and rain.—Vv. 34, 35, 38.
9. Giving wisdom and understanding to the heart.—V. 36.
10. Providing food for wild animals.—Vv. 39, 41.

Topical Outline

- I. Before the creation.—John 1:1; Ps. 90:2.
- II. God the Creator of all things.—Eccl. 3:11; Ps. 147:8; Job 37:6; Ps. 74:16; Ps. 136:1, 7, 8, 9.
- III. What we learn about God from the things He has made.
 1. He has infinite power.
 2. He has infinite wisdom.
 3. He makes all things perfectly.
 4. He cares for all His creatures.—Matt. 6:20-30.

Expressional Work

- I. Fill in the missing words.

After the _____ comforters had attempted to show Job the _____ of God, the _____ Himself speaks to Job out of a _____ asking him questions designed to show Job his _____ in contrast to the _____ works and unsearchable _____ of God.
- II. Name five things God created and tell how each shows a master creator.
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.

Lesson V

God Makes Himself Known to Us

GENESIS 2:8, 9, 15-17; 3:8-19

Aim and Presentation

Our last lesson presented God as the creator of the universe. In this lesson, we notice that this great God condescends to personally make Himself known to man and comes to us and speaks to us. Yes, you can have God speak to you. This is indeed both striking and consoling to us. God likes this fellowship with the crowning work of His creation. We, in turn, too enjoy this closeness with our Creator.

Lesson Text Outline

I. God's loving provision for Adam.—Gen. 2:8, 9.

1. He gives him a work to do.—V. 15.
 - a. Dress garden.
 - b. Keep it.
2. He speaks to him for his good.—V. 16.
 - a. Tells him what he may eat.—V. 16.
 - b. Tells him what not to eat.—V. 17.
 - c. Tells him the result of disobedience.—V. 17.

II. How Adam treated God's loving provision.

1. Disobedient.—3:6.
2. Afraid—3:10.
3. Hid himself.—3:10.

III. God speaks again.

1. He speaks to him about his sin.—3:8-13.
 - a. "Where art thou?"—V. 9.
 - b. "Who told thee?"—V. 11.
 - c. "Hast thou eaten?"—V. 11.
 - d. "What is this that thou hast done?"—V. 13.
2. He speaks the punishment for sin.—Vv. 14-19.
 - a. The serpent—cursed above all cattle.—V. 14.
 - b. The woman—multiplied sorrow.—V. 16.
 - c. The man—earns his bread by hard labor.—V. 19.
 - d. The promise of a Redeemer.—V. 15.

Topical Outline

I. Illustrations of God revealing Himself to men.

1. God speaks directly.—Gen. 3:8-19; 22:1-13; I Sam. 3:1-10.
2. By a dream.—Gen. 28:12-17.
3. Through a burning bush.—Ex. 3:1-6.
4. Through bitter experiences.—Jon. 3:1, 2.
5. Heavenly vision.—Acts 9:1-6.

II. How God speaks to me.

1. Through the heavens.—Ps. 8:3; 19:1-6.
2. Through the Bible.
3. Through Jesus.—Heb. 1:1.
4. Through the Holy Spirit—
 - a. By giving convictions of wrong.
 - b. By guiding me in the right way.
 - c. By comforting.
5. Through conscience.
6. Through providence.

Illustration: Augustine at one time went to a distant town to preach, and took a guide to direct him on the way. By some means the guide mistook his way and got into a by-path. Later Augustine learned that there were men lying in wait to kill him, and that his life was saved through the guide's mistake.

Expressional Work

True or False.

1. God told Adam to dress and keep the garden.
2. God told Adam what to eat and what not to eat.
3. God told Adam that he would have to leave the garden if he disobeyed.
4. Adam was not afraid of God.
5. Adam did know that he had sinned.
6. Adam blamed Eve for his fall.
7. God didn't give any provision for man's sin.
8. God speaks only through direct contact with man.
9. God speaks to us through the Bible.
10. Conscience is always a safe guide.

Lesson VI

God Present Everywhere

(THE OMNIPRESENCE OF GOD)

GENESIS 28:10-22

Aim and Presentation

You are familiar with the common understanding that God is in heaven and also that He meets with us when we assemble for worship. Furthermore, God is everywhere. He is in our homes, at school, on the highways, at work, even by our beds as we sleep. God either approves or condemns our course of living.

Whether you seek God or not, He is present with you. He is ever by your side and you can't escape from Him. He even knows the thoughts and intents of your heart. But don't think that God takes this position so that He can condemn you, but rather that He may help you in time of need.

Jacob learned this lesson by experience.

Lesson Text Outline

- I. God present in unexpected place.
 1. In dark night.
 2. Jacob alone.
 3. Far from home.
 4. Jacob dreams.
 5. God speaks.
- II. How Jacob feels.
 1. Afraid.
 2. Dreadful place.
 3. "Surely the Lord is here."
 4. Worships.
- III. God's promise to Jacob.
 1. God of Abraham thy father.
 2. Would give this land to Jacob and his children.
 3. His seed should be as the dust of the earth.
 4. "I am with thee."
 5. "I will not leave thee."
- IV. Jacob's vow.
 1. "Then shall the Lord be my God."
 2. This pillar shall be God's house (place of worship).
 3. "I will surely give the tenth unto thee."

Topical Outline

God present everywhere.

I. His dwelling place in heaven.—Ps. 11:4; Isa. 66:1; Eccl. 5:2; Matt. 6:9.

II. He is near to us.

1. Dwells in us.—Isa. 57:15.

2. We live in Him.—Acts 17:27, 28.

3. We cannot hide from God.—Jer. 23:24; Ps. 139:11, 12.

4. His eyes see the evil and the good.—Prov. 15:3.

III. God present in every place.

1. We can go no place from His presence.—Ps. 139:7-10.

2. The heavens cannot contain Him.—I Kings 8:27; Acts 17:24.

3. Fills heaven and earth.—Jer. 23:24.

Illustration: A little boy being asked, "How many Gods are there?" replied, "One." "How do you know that?" "Because," said the boy, "there is room for only one; for He fills heaven and earth."

Expressional Work

1. God's dwelling place is in _____.
2. It was _____ when God spoke to Jacob.
3. I cannot _____ from God.
4. God sees the _____ and the _____.
5. "Whither shall I go from thy _____?"
6. "The _____ and the _____ are both alike to thee."
7. Jacob awaked out of his sleep and he said, "Surely _____"

8. "In him we _____ and _____ and have our _____."
9. "If God _____ in my _____ I need not be _____
of Him as Jacob was."
10. "Thou _____ seest _____."
11. God being everywhere is known as His _____.
12. "Be sure your _____ will find you _____."

Lesson VII

The Holiness of God

EXODUS 19:10-21

Aim and Presentation

Our God is absolutely holy, entirely apart from all that is evil and from all that defiles both in Himself and in relation to all His creatures.

We cannot approach God except in God's own way.

Right views of the holiness of God will produce right views of sin and the atonement for sin.

God is completely clean and pure and holy, nothing unholy being in Him. Children, sin separates us from God. Sin is a vile and detestable thing to God. Because we are sinful and our God is holy, then in order for us to approach such a holy God we need cleansing. An atonement is necessary.

We need to practice godly reverence, especially in God's house or whenever or wherever the Word of God is read. Let us not forget that we are always in the presence of this holy God.

Lesson Text Outline

- I. God's message to Moses.
 1. Concerning the people.—Ex. 19:10, 11.
 - a. Sanctify them.—19:10.
 - b. Wash their clothes.—19:10.
 - c. Be ready for third day.—19:11.
 2. Concerning Himself (God).—Ex. 19:11.
 - a. He would appear on the mount.—19:11.
 3. Concerning the mount.—Ex. 19:12, 13.
 - a. Set bounds round about.—19:12.
 - b. Must not be touched.—19:12.
 4. Concerning penalty.—Ex. 19:12, 13.
 - a. Be stoned.—19:13.
 - b. Shot through.—19:13.
 - c. Shall not live.—19:12, 13.
- II. God's presence upon the mount.
 1. Its effect upon nature.—Ex. 19:16-19.
 - a. Thunders and lightnings.—19:16.
 - b. Cloud covered the mount.—19:16.
 2. Its effect upon the people.—Ex. 19:16.
 - a. They trembled.—19:16.

III. God calls Moses up to top of mount.

1. God and Moses converse together.—Ex. 19:20, 21.

Topical Outline

I. The holiness of God is incomparable.—Ex. 15:11; I Sam. 2:2.

II. Scriptural statements setting forth the fact of God's holiness.

1. Visions of Himself which God granted men.

a. Isaiah.—Isa. 6:1-5.

b. Moses.—Ex. 3:2-6.

c. Job.—Job 40:3, 4; 42:4, 5.

2. His personal name is holy.—Isa. 57:15; John 17:11; Luke 1:49.

3. He cannot look on sin.—Heb. 1:13.

4. He should be exalted.—Ps. 99:5.

III. Manifestations of God's holiness.

1. God hates sin.—Prov. 15:9, 26.

2. Separation of the sinner from Himself.—Isa. 59:1, 2.

3. His making an infinite sacrifice to save others from sin unto holiness.—I Pet. 3:18.

IV. His children commanded to be holy.—Lev. 11:44; II Pet. 1:15, 16; Heb. 12:14.

V. Man can approach this holy God only by:

1. Blood.—Heb. 9:22, 23.

2. Christ.—Heb. 10:19-21; John 14:6.

3. Repentance and abhorrence of sin.—II Pet. 3:9; Isa. 55:7.

4. Cleansed lives.—Heb. 10:22.

5. Reverence and godly fear.—Heb. 12:28, 29.

Expressional Work

MATCHING TEST

In the blank space provided, write the correct number of the word in the second column which makes the sentence correct:

- | | |
|--|------------|
| _____A. Moses was told to sanctify the | clothes |
| _____B. The people were commanded to wash their | touched |
| _____C. Moses set a bound about the | sin |
| _____D. The mountain was not to be | people |
| _____E. All the people | mountain |
| _____F. The cloud covered the | trembled |
| _____G. The sight of God's holiness made Isaiah see
his | cross |
| _____H. God is so holy that He cannot look on | sin |
| _____I. God loves the sinner but hates his | mountain |
| _____J. Because God is holy our sin had to be atoned
for on the | sinfulness |

Lesson VIII

God Is a Just God

NUMBERS 13:2; 14:38

Aim and Presentation

In this lesson the attribute of God, His justice or righteousness, is studied. God, in His dealings, always justly rewards the righteous and punishes the wicked. We need to realize that it pays to obey God and that disobeying God brings punishment.

This study presents us with the scene of about two million people ready to enter a land promised to them by God. The spies report back to the people. Ten bring an evil report and two a good report. The people chose to accept the report of the ten and therefore rejected God. They paid for this by wandering in the wilderness for forty long years. Caleb and Joshua, the faithful ones, too received their reward from a just God.

Remember that God is still on the throne and deals justly with you and with me.

Lesson Text Outline

- I. God carrying out His covenant with Israel.
 1. Offers them the land promised.—Num. 13:2.
 2. Chides the people for not believing Him.—Num. 14:11.
 3. Threatens to punish them for unbelief even though He had led and blessed them so far.—Num. 14:12.
 4. People pardoned but must suffer death.—Num. 14:20, 22, 23.
- II. God in His justice or righteousness punishes Israel for their sins.
 1. Note God's love, mercy, and power manifested to Israel, to Egypt now.
 2. Their murmurings.—Num. 14:2, 27.
 3. Twenty years old and above of congregation must die in the wilderness.—14:29.
 4. They shall not come into the land promised into which they are journeying.—Num. 14:30.
 5. Their children need to suffer for forty years because of parents' sin.—Num. 14:33.
 6. One year for each day.—Num. 14:34.
 7. Ten spies, especially guilty, died of plague.—14:36, 37.

- III. God deals justly in mercy with those not guilty.
1. He carries out His promise to Israel as a nation.—14:31.
 2. The innocent children to inherit the land.—14:31.
 3. Caleb and Joshua to be preserved to inherit the land.—Num. 14:30, 38; Josh. 14:5-15.

Topical Outline

- I. The fact that God is righteous.
 1. He does right.—Gen. 18:25; Deut. 32:4; Ezra 9:15; Ps. 145:17.
 2. He is a righteous Father.—John 17:25.
 3. His ways and acts are righteous.—I Sam. 12:7; Ps. 19:9.
 4. He shall judge the world in righteousness.—Ps. 96:13; 98:9.
- II. God's righteousness is shown in relation to the wicked and their wickedness in—
 1. Hating iniquity.—Ps. 11:5.
 2. Punishing sinners according to their due.—Ex. 9:27; Rom. 2:2-6; Gen. 6:5-7; Dan. 9:12-14.
- III. God's righteousness shown in forgiving sins.—I John 1:9.
- IV. God's righteousness is shown in relation to the righteous in—
 1. Rewarding them.—II Tim. 4:8; Heb. 6:10.
 2. Delivering from enemies and trouble.—II Thess. 1:5-7; Rev. 22:12.

Expressional Work

YES OR NO TEST

- _____ 1. God promised the land to Israel and promised to lead them to it.
- _____ 2. God blessed the people for not believing Him.
- _____ 3. Unbelief brought many disasters to Israel.
- _____ 4. "The wages of sin is death," is illustrated in Israel.
- _____ 5. God refused to pardon Israel.
- _____ 6. All Israel thirty years old and over died in the wilderness.
- _____ 7. The children had to suffer forty years because of their parents' sin.
- _____ 8. The journey to the promised land could have been made in forty days.
- _____ 9. The ten spies who brought the evil report died of the plague.
- _____ 10. Caleb and Joshua entered the promised land.

Lesson IX

The Mercy of God

JONAH 3:1-10

Aim and Presentation

Our God is kind and merciful to His creatures when they are in right relationship to Him, and even when they stray. Mercy is usually exercised in connection with guilt. We see that God hates sin but loves the sinners and that He has provided a plan whereby He can punish sin, yet save the sinner. While His mercy is extended to all, only those who accept it will receive the benefits of salvation.

In this lesson, we see God's mercy exercised when a people, the Ninevites, sought it. Nineveh was spared, but contrast this with Sodom where God's mercy didn't function. The people were not righteous and didn't seek God's mercy. God's judgments are always preceded by His warnings and pleadings.

Lesson Text Outline

- I. God sends Jonah to Nineveh.—Jon. 3:1, 2.
 1. Because of their wickedness.
 2. To pronounce judgment.—3:4.
 3. His warning.—3:4.
- II. All Nineveh repents.—3:5.
 1. People believe God.—3:5.
 2. King of Nineveh.—3:6-8.
 - a. Humbles himself.
 - b. Proclaims a fast throughout all Nineveh.
 - c. Exhorts all to turn from evil ways.
- III. God's mercy manifested.—Jon. 3:10.
 1. God saw their penitence.
 2. God spared the city.

Topical Outline

The mercy of God:

1. Is part of His character.—Jon. 4:2; II Cor. 1:3.
2. Is His delight.—Mic. 7:18; Jer. 32:42.

3. Is described as—
 - a. Great.—Isa. 54:7.
 - b. Rich.—Eph. 2:4.
 - c. Plenteous.—Ps. 103:8.
 - d. Everlasting.—Ps. 106:1; 89:22.
 - e. New every morning.—Lam. 3:22, 23.
 - f. High as heaven.—Ps. 103:11.
4. Is manifested—
 - a. In the sending of Christ.—John 2:17.
 - b. In salvation.—Titus 3:5.
 - c. In long-suffering.—Lam. 3:22.
 - d. To them that fear Him.—Ps. 103:17.
 - e. To returning backsliders.—Jer. 3:12.
 - f. To repentant sinners.—Isa. 55:7.
 - g. To the afflicted.—Isa. 49:13.
 - h. To whom He will.—Rom. 9:15.
 - i. To all.—II Pet. 3:9.
 - j. For His own sake.—Isa. 43:35.

Expressional Work

- I. Strike out the false statement in each group.
 - (1) God hates the sinner.
God hates sin but loves the sinner.
 - (2) God's mercy is offered to all for salvation.
God's mercy is only for a few.
 - (3) God's mercy is everlasting to those who fear Him.
God's mercy is limited.
 - (4) God sent His Son to condemn the world.
God sent His Son that the world through Him might be saved.
 - (5) Repentance is necessary to obtain God's mercy.
You need not repent to obtain God's mercy.
- II. Give five examples of God's mercy from Bible narratives.
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.

Lesson X

God Is a Spirit

JOB 23:3-17

Aim and Presentation

God is not a human body like men but is spirit and is invisible to human eyes. Yet He is a real person. Our God as spirit is free from the limitation of a material being, yet possessing a personality. Even though we can't see God He is real. We can experience Him in our lives.

God is not limited by the physical. His eyes never grow dim and weary, nor do His ears fail to hear one whispered prayer. He is not rushed because He must go quickly from one place to another. He is not limited to one locality. He dwells in each heart that is opened to Him and there gives strength and peace. Although we cannot see Him, yet "He knoweth the way that I take." We can talk to Him, receive definite messages from Him, and be keenly aware of Him.

Perhaps since you can't see God you may think He isn't real. Did you ever see the wind? No, you didn't, but a wind is real. You have never seen love, but you like to have the love of father, mother, and friends. In some of these things that we can't see, are the real values of life.

Lesson Text Outline

I. Trying to find God, or

The human heart's cry after God.

1. Job looks for Him.—V. 3.
2. He looks for His seat.—V. 3.
3. Job wants to tell God something—his troubles.—V. 4.
4. Job wants to find fault with God.—V. 4.
5. He wants to know what God would say to him.—V. 5.

II. We cannot find God to see Him with our natural eyes.

1. Forward or backward—He is not there.—V. 8.
2. On the left—on the right—He is not there.—V. 9.
3. Man can see nothing but materiality—God has a spiritual existence.

III. We find God when we let Him into our heart.

1. Doing God's way.—V. 11.
2. Not leaving God's way.—V. 11.

3. Not doing different from what God has said.—V. 12.
 4. Loving the Bible.—V. 12.
- IV. When we find God by letting Him into our heart, He blesses us.
1. He will be kind to us even though He is of great power.—V. 6.
 2. He will put strength in us.—V. 6.
 3. He knows our life—trials and heartaches.—V. 10.
 4. He will make us pure and valuable as gold.—V. 10.
 5. He desires to bless us through these afflictions.—V. 13.
 6. He gives confidence to trust Him.—V. 10.

Topical Outline

- I. What is a spirit?²—Luke 24:39.
- II. God, a spirit.—John 4:24.
 1. No one has seen God.—John 1:18.
 2. By faith we “see” Him.—Heb. 11:27.
 3. Because God is spirit He can be present everywhere—dwells in us.—I John 4:12.
- III. When God appeared to man He took some form::
 1. As a man—
 - a. To Moses and others.—Ex. 24:9, 10.
 - b. To Abraham.—Gen. 18:16, 17—one of the three “men” was Jehovah.
 - c. To Jacob.—Gen. 32:24, 30.
 2. A still small voice.—I Kings 19:12, 13.
 3. In the person of Jesus.—John 1:14.
 4. Symbols of God’s presence—
 - a. Burning bush.—Ex. 3:4.
 - b. Cloudy pillar.—Ex. 33:9.
- IV. Since God is a spirit, true worship is spiritual.—John 4:24; Deut. 4:15-18.

Expressional Work

- I. Explain in a few words why we do not worship idols as the heathen do, or why we do not pray to images of Jesus.
- II. List five ways to worship God.
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.

Lesson XI

God Knows All Things

(OMNISCIENCE OF GOD)

PSALM 139:1-18

Aim and Presentation

God knows about everything, for there is nothing hid from Him. God's knowledge is infinite, so that man cannot understand it. This God who is the only true God, holds such wonderful knowledge in His power and created us to glorify Him.

The Creator of all things must know all about them to make them. You have considered many, many parts of God's creation, such as a flower, an animal, a piece of coal, a snowflake, or the mighty sea. All the knowledge we have comes from these things which God has made. We know only a little of God's vast knowledge. Only as one seeks wisdom from Him as the source of wisdom will he receive it. After it is received it must be used to give back honor to Him.

Lesson Text Outline

I. God knows all about man.

1. God knew David.—V. 1.
2. God knew all his activities.—V. 2.
3. God knew him when far away.—V. 2.
4. God knows man's ways and nature.—V. 3.
5. God knows our words and thoughts.—V. 4.
6. God knows even our secrets.—Vv. 11, 12.

II. God's knowledge is greater than man can understand.

1. God's knowledge is too wonderful for us.—V. 6.
2. God's knowledge is greater than we can have.—V. 6.
3. We cannot find any place He does not know.
 - a. Cannot flee from Him.—V. 7.
 - b. His knowledge reaches heaven and hell.—V. 8.
 - c. The sea He knows entirely.—Vv. 9, 10.
(On the sea, man is readily lost, but not God.)
 - d. No darkness too dark for Him to know it.—Vv. 11, 12.
4. God knows things beforehand.—V. 16.
5. His knowledge is like the countless grains of sand—infinite.—V. 18.

III. God knows how things were made and created.

1. He knows now and has known man.—V. 1.
2. God created us and knows how we are made.—V. 14.
3. Even man when secretly formed is still known to God.—V. 15.

IV. God's knowledge is good.

1. It is wonderful.—V. 6.
2. It is precious.—V. 17.

Topical Outline

I. God knows everything.—I John 3:20; Prov. 15:3; Ps. 147:15; Job 37:16.

Man does not equal this knowledge.—Job 11:7, 8; Isa. 40:28; Rom. 11:33.

II. God's knowledge of nature.

1. Stars.—Ps. 147:4; Gen. 15:5.
2. Birds.—Matt. 10:29.
3. Hairs on head.—Matt. 10:29, 30.

III. God knows man's feelings.

1. Man's thoughts.—Ps. 139:2, 3.
2. Man's actions.—Ex. 3:19.
3. Man's conduct.—Prov. 5:21.
4. Private life.—Ps. 139:2, 3.
5. Words.—Ps. 139:4.
6. Troubles.—Ex. 3:7.

IV. God knows the past and the future.—Isa. 48:5-8; 46:9, 10.

Expressional Work

I. Fill in one of the answers from the parentheses:

1. God knows _____ things. (all, some, most)
2. God knows _____ man. (as much as, more than, less than)
3. A deed done in the dark is _____ to God. (hid, known)
4. God knows us _____ than we know ourselves. (better, less)
5. God has _____ known so very much. (always, only lately)
6. We _____ understand God's knowledge. (can, cannot)
7. God _____ know what I am thinking. (does, does not)
8. God taught man _____ of what he knows. (all, some, most)
9. The more man learns about God the _____ he thinks of himself. (more, less)
10. All the ways of God _____ be found out. (can, can not)

Lesson XII

What We Owe to God

MATTHEW 25:14-30

Aim and Presentation

We hope that this lesson will help you have a proper attitude toward God and a proper response in life and service. You know of the love of God, His greatness, His goodness, and His mercy. We owe something to God and each has his or her part to do in living for God. Accepting His salvation is not enough. God expects us to give our lives and service to Him. Rom. 12:1. He can only live in us as we yield to Him in love and obedience. We are nothing in ourselves and all we have is God's. He has created us for Himself.

There is a no more beautiful life than the life early consecrated to God. Many blessings accompany this life, not only eventually gaining heaven, but the blessings of a life of service. It is high time for you to be returning to God what is due Him.

Lesson Text Outline

1. The servants called and entrusted.—V. 14.
2. Entrusted according to ability.—V. 15.
3. First one traded and gained.—V. 16.
4. Second one traded and gained.—V. 17.
5. Third one hid his talent.—V. 18.
6. The reckoning.—V. 19.
7. First one presents his gain.—V. 20.
8. His reward.—V. 21.
9. Second one presents his gain.—V. 22.
10. His reward.—V. 23.
11. Excuse of third.—Vv. 24, 25.
12. His condemnation.—Vv. 26, 27.
13. His punishment.—Vv. 28-30.

Topical Outline

- I. Some things we owe to God.
 1. Obedience.—Acts 5:29.
 2. Love.—Deut. 6:5.
 3. Service.—John 12:25, 26.

II. Some examples of giving ALL to God.

1. Abraham (obedience).—Heb. 11:8.
2. Paul (love and service).—Acts 20:18-27, 31.
3. Mary at Bethany (love and service).—Mark 14:3-9.

NOTE: It is only as we use the light we have that more light and power is given.

III. Some results of consecration and service.

1. Power in prayer.
2. Passion for unsaved souls.
3. Growth in spiritual life.
4. Beautiful character.
5. Influence for good.
6. Victorious living.

Expressional Work

- I. Write a paragraph on this topic: What I Owe to God.

