

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 can NOT be a man-made article.

LESSON TIME!

Did you know that God wants people to know who He is? 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. We are going to look at two ways today that God reveals Himself to people. He shows Himself through His creation and through His Word. When we see creation we see the beautiful work of God and when we read God's Word we understand who He is.

King David understood that and had a wonderful relationship with the Lord. Imagine how many nights David, as a young shepherd boy, must have gazed up into heaven and wondered about the God who created all of the stars. Or how he read God's Word and believed what He said and saw the Lord work great things in his life. Things like rescuing him from lions and bears and even the great giant Goliath.

Even today God is not hiding from people. If people want to find God and understand who He is they don't have to go very far. They can simply look at the wonders of His creation or just spend some time reading or listening to His Word and He will reveal Himself to them. **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.

King David wrote this psalm as praise to the Lord, but there is a lot for us to learn from it today. The first thing he says is that the heavens declare the glory of God. Have you ever gone out on a starry night and just looked out into space? There is just a great sense of awe and wonder as we consider the heavens that God has created. It is so beautiful and huge that we can't even comprehend everything that is out there.

Maybe you have been able to go to a planetarium or study about planets and stars and universes in school. As you study the wonders of God's creation you have to ask yourself, "How did all of this just happen?" The answer is that none of it happened by chance. You can see a design, a purpose behind everything. Where there is design there has to be a designer and for the world the designer is God. Not even the best of artists can just take ten different colors of paint and throw them all together at a canvas and expect a beautiful painting to come out of it. There would just be a big blob of colors mixed together without design. There has to be an artist to design and paint the picture to make it beautiful.

It was God who created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1). He spoke all things into existence and the beauty of His creation will forever speak to every man, woman and child on this planet of God's glory, that there is a God and He desires to have a relationship with us. **God shows us who He is through His works and His Word.**

We also see that the firmament shows His handiwork. God does great work! 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. We can look at places like the Grand Canyon, the oceans, the forests, or the amazing animal and plant kingdoms. What about the amazing human body? As you study the human body in school you will see that it is so complex and amazing that it had to be designed by God. It couldn't have happened by accident. Only those who don't want to know God would try to explain that we came about some other way.

In everything we see it shows God's handiwork. In Genesis we read that God saw His creation and that it was "good." We are told in this psalm also that every day speech is uttered and every night knowledge is revealed. God is speaking to mankind everyday through His creation.

We also see that God declares His glory in every nation and in every language through His creation. This is why the teaching of evolution is so dangerous because it is denying that we came from God. Evolution says that we began as a small cell in some ooze somewhere and eventually became a small creature and then crawled onto land and eventually began to walk and eventually became a monkey and finally a person.

Here's the BIG problem with that. When we say we evolved we are first of all saying that God is a liar because He says He spoke the world, and man into existence. The other big thing is that you are saying man has created himself instead of God. What happens is that man is worshipped and not God. Evolution goes directly against the Bible because it says that man started as a lower form and has become something greater. The Bible says that we began as something better (created in the image of God), but fell when Adam sinned in the garden. To take away the truth of creation is to take away the foundation of the Bible and who God says that He is. That foundation is very important.

Creation is how mankind all over the world can see and understand that God is real and wants to be our God. Verses 4 – 6 continue to explain how the heavens and things related to creation explain the reality of God. No matter what man may say, God's creation continues to be 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 won't want to go to more than 8 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. Once the shapes are cut 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 (just 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 and they can 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.

Next David turns to the Word of God. 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. We learn all about God, who He is, what He desires in our life, how we can come to know Him and live our lives according to His plan. The Bible is alive and with the Holy Spirit teaches us all about God's ways.

In these verses you see different names for the Word of God. It is called law, testimony, statutes, commandments, and judgments. These are all different names for the Word of God. But we also see in these verses that the Word of God does different things in our lives. 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 things that the Word of God does in our lives:

1. IT IS PERFECT AND CONVERTS THE SOUL. This means that the Word of God is complete. Contained in God's Word is everything we need. We don't need to go searching for something more than the Bible. And because it is all we need we see that it transforms or changes our souls. In the Bible we find the words of life. We understand how God desires to change us from the inside out. We also learn about how that happens through what Jesus has done for us on the cross.
2. IT IS SURE AND MAKES WISE THE SIMPLE. To say that the Bible is sure is to say that it is something that we can rely on. It is a strong foundation that won't move on us. Even when so much in our lives doesn't seem to make sense we can always trust in the Word of God. We also see that we can get wisdom from the Bible. To live in this world today we need a lot of wisdom, but not the world's wisdom, God's wisdom and we can get that in the Bible.

3. IT IS RIGHT AND REJOICES THE HEART. The Bible is right on. No matter what the subject is that it covers it will always be right. That is why we can put our trust in what it says. It is always right. If we think that one thing is true, but the Bible says something different we had better go with what the Bible says otherwise we will be wrong because the Bible is right. God's Word also rejoices the heart. This means that we can be troubled or worried about something and find comfort in the pages of the Bible. God speaks to us through His word and encourages us and gives us strength.
4. IT IS PURE AND ENLIGHTENS THE EYES. We know that God's Word is pure and holy. There are no mistakes or anything wrong with it. It is 100% accurate and without fault. So we can put our full trust in what it says. We also see that God's Word enlightens or opens our eyes. Those who do not know Jesus can read the Bible and see that Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life. 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. It is also righteous, again something we can rely on no matter what.

There are a couple of other things that are important to see in these verses. We see that the Word of God should be desired in our lives more than anything else. At the time that this psalm was written probably the most valuable thing in the world was gold and is really still true today. But God's Word is to be more desired in our hearts than all of the gold in the world. We should never let other things in this world become more important to us than God's Word. It is the most valuable thing we have.

We also see that it is sweeter than honey and a honeycomb. It is a joy to read and to study. Especially when we are praying and allowing God to open up the scriptures to us. We should be excited about reading God's Word, just like if we were going to get to ice cream or some other treat.

Next we see that we also receive warning from God's Word. If we are heading in a direction that is dangerous for us God will warn us in His Word. When we obey and do what He says then we know that there will be great reward. God will bless our lives when we do what He says in the Bible. **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 now prays to the Lord and asks Him to continue to cleanse him and to keep him from sinning. When we are reading God's Word we can begin to see that we don't always do everything perfectly. We will make mistakes and sin against God. So we can then pray and ask the Lord to forgive us and to ask for His help to keep us from sinning against Him. When we turn to God's Word we desire to turn to God. **God shows us who He is through His works and His Word.**

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.

Then David concludes with this prayer. David desires that his words and the thoughts in his heart would be acceptable to God. David understood that God has revealed Himself to him through His creation and through His Word. David responded by desiring to follow the Lord with all of his heart. When we see who God is we will do one of two things. Either we will worship Him and follow His ways or we will reject Him.

What have you done with Jesus? He has revealed himself through creation and through His Word. He desires to have a relationship with each one of us. Let's turn to Him and His Word! He is our strength and our Redeemer (Savior). **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 doesn't make it into any circle the next team is allowed to go. When the question is asked the child who tossed the penny gets

to answer. If they can't they can be allowed a 30 second "conference" with team mates, but they need to stay quiet because if they still don't get it right then the other team can answer the question. If they answer correctly then 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 learn more about the Lord through His creation and especially in His word. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.