



CREATION AND THE BEGINNING OF HUMAN HISTORY

#46 – What does the Word of God do for us?

PICTURES NEEDED

- 46-1 Starving children begging for food
- 46-2 Banquet table full of food

REVIEW (Before Teaching Lesson)

- **Journal Review:** Ask students to share an important truth that they learned from their journal readings at home that week. Share some of your own insights.
- **Previous Lesson Review:** (Use the visual from the last lesson to aid in review)
What were the seven promises God made to Abraham when he called him?
Who was the son of the promise given to Abraham? Who were Isaac's sons?
Which one of them did the promise pass through? Why? How many wives and sons did Jacob have?
- **The Big Question Review:** How are we to view God's promises?
Let the students give their answers to the question.
- **Bible Verse Review:** Hebrews 11:13 We live by faith and keep God's promises in view.

¹³ A(All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance.) And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth.

LESSON CONTENT

Note: The Bible verses included in the lesson are from the NIV 1984 edition. The wording of the questions is derived from that version. If another version of the Bible is used, questions may need to be adapted.

(picture 46-1) What is this a picture of? Poor children asking for food. What is their problem? They are not getting enough to eat.

What is the solution to the children's problem? The daily provision of food.

What is life like for these children? It is a daily struggle. They are always hungry, never satisfied and without energy to live life well.

Just as our bodies need physical food, so our souls need spiritual food. How do we feed our souls? We feed our souls at the banquet table of God's word by eating and talking with God.

(picture 46-2)

Isaiah 55:2 God says, ² *Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare.*

What is the result of feasting on God's Word? Our souls will be filled and satisfied. They will find delight in the very best food possible.

What is life like for people who don't feast on God's word? They are spiritually starving children. Life will be a struggle. They will be spiritually hungry, never satisfied and without understanding to live life well.

Before we begin a new study we want to look at the benefits of studying God's Word. What are things we gain from the study of God's Word? (List on the board the children's answers.) In this lesson, we will look at five benefits. (As you go through the lesson, circle the benefit that the children gave that you are talking about.)

1. We find life in Jesus. John 20:30-31

³⁰*Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*

What is the reason John wrote his gospel? That people might believe that Jesus is the Savior, the Son of God and that they would gain the life found in him.

What is the life we find in Jesus? We find physical, spiritual and eternal life. 2 Peter 1:3 says, ³*His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. We get everything we need to be made right and live life well as we get to know Jesus personally through the study of his Word. We come into an eternal relationship with God through Christ.*

2. We get to know God. Psalm 143:5-6

⁵ *I remember the days of long ago; I meditate on all your works and consider what your hands have done. ⁶ I spread out my hands to you; my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.*

What is a second benefit we get from studying God's Word? We get to know God, and see who we are in comparison. We learn of his attributes, his character, his faithfulness. We learn to love and rely on him.

3. We find the path of wisdom. Psalm 119:105

¹⁰⁵ *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.*

What does God's Word do for us? It guides us in the way we should go. If we follow it, we will make good decisions, do what is right and be wise.

What is wisdom? Wisdom is knowing what is right to do and doing it. We can't be wise without knowing God's Word.

Proverbs 9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

What does this verse say we must have to be wise? We can't be wise and have understanding if we don't know and fear God.

What is the fear of the Lord? The fear of the Lord is knowing who God is and who we are in comparison. We know that he knows and sees everything that we think and do and that we will be held accountable for our thoughts, words and actions. That should cause us to go God's way and do what is right, which is why the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. (Refer to Psalm 34:11-16)

4. We learn from history and the mistakes of others. 1 Corinthians 10:6

When the Apostle Paul talks about the Israelites and all that happened to them he says, *6Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did.*

What is a benefit Paul says we gain from studying God's Word? We learn from the history of Israel, the mistakes God's people made. Hopefully, we learn from their mistakes and don't make the same mistakes ourselves.

What is the lesson we should learn from them? They put their affection on evil things, things other than God. We should not put our hearts on evil things, things that are not of God.

5. We can fulfill the first and second greatest commandments.

Through the study of God's Word and his divine power, we gain what we need to fulfill the first and second greatest commandments.

Does anyone know what those commandments are? (Mark 12:29-31) ²⁹*"The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. ³⁰Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind*

and with all your strength.' ³¹The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.')(There is no commandment greater than these."

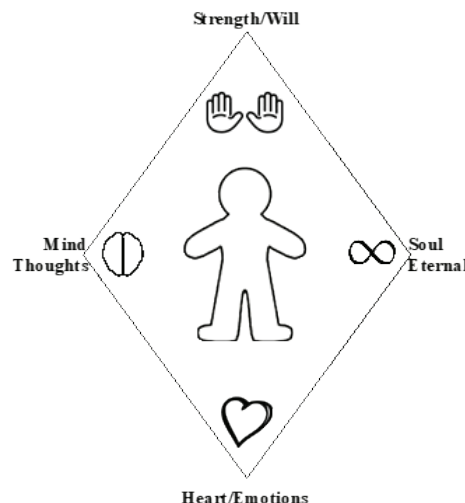
(Draw the visual on the board as you go through each of the elements of loving God.)

What does it mean to love God with all your heart?

The heart is related to our emotions or affections. When we love someone with all our heart we place our affections on them. We want to know them and be with them. We are devoted to them. If we love God with all our heart we are devoted to him and want to be with him. We have feelings for him.

What does it mean to love God with all your mind?

Our minds are related to our thoughts, knowledge and learning. If we love God with all our mind we want to learn from him and know all about what he has said and done. Then we will want to focus our minds on him and think about (meditate on) all he has said and done. Our thoughts will be filled with God and what is right and true.



What does it mean to love God with all your soul? Our soul is the eternal part of our being, the part that isn't complete without being in relationship with God. When we love God with all our soul we believe in Jesus and enter into an eternal relationship with him. We are saved from our sin and receive from him the power to live rightly. We gain life in his name, both eternal and abundant life.

What does it mean to love God with all your strength? Our strength is related to what we do and the choices we make. If we love God with all our strength we submit our will (desires) to his will. We live out our love for him in the way we relate to and treat others and the things we choose to do with our lives. It is the fulfillment of the second greatest commandment, to love others as we love ourselves. We can only love others rightly as we love God.

We need to remember that life will only go well for us if we feast on God's Word.

Isaiah 55:2 ² *Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare.*

LESSON WRAP-UP

- **Overview Questions:** What are the benefits of studying God's Word? What are the first and second greatest commandments? What does it mean to love God with all one's heart? What does it mean to love God with all one's mind? What does it mean to love God with all one's soul? What does it mean to love God with all one's strength? How do we fulfill the second greatest commandment?
- **Thought Questions:** What happens to us when we don't study God's Word? Why? What keeps us from wanting to study God's Word? What should motivate us to study God's Word? Why should that be our motivation? How often should we study God's Word? Why?
- **Prayer:** Pray that a desire to know Jesus better would grow in you so that you would hunger and thirst after his truth and find true satisfaction in a relationship with him. Pray that you would desire to be in his word every day so that you have real fellowship with him and want to go his way. Pray that you would recognize what keeps you from really pursuing Jesus and want to overcome that and be made right.
- **The Big Question: What does God's Word do for us?**
Let the students give their answers to the question. Share the memory verse. Ask how it answers the question.
- **Memory Verse: Isaiah 55:2**
Our souls are satisfied when we feed on God's truth.

² Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare.

Questions: What does it mean that our souls will be satisfied with the richest of fare? How does God's word satisfy more than things we spend money on?

ACTIVITIES (Completed after the lesson)

Any age appropriate activity can be included which fits into the class time. The activities with a star are included on the class notes.

- ★ **Lesson Notes:** Ask the students to summarize in one sentence what the lesson was about. Then have them give three main points covered in the lesson. An example is below.

Theme: God's Word is food for our souls and when we feast on it we gain great benefits.

1. We come to believe in Jesus and gain life in his name.
2. We come to know who God is and we are in comparison.
3. We learn the right way to go and gain wisdom.
4. We learn from the mistakes of others so we know to choose the right way to go.
5. We learn to fulfill the first and second greatest commandments.

- ★ **Memory Verse:** Read the memory verse on the cover of the class notes and then have the students fill in the blanks in the verse.

★ **Activity Page:** Word Search

Find the words from Psalm 19:7-13, describing the Word of God. Discuss what each of them means: perfect, trustworthy, wise, radiant, light, pure, enduring, sure, righteous, precious

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+ + + + + + + + S + + +
+ + + + + + + + U + + +
+ + + + + + + + R + + +

(Over, Down, Direction)
ENDURING(8, 1, SW)
LIGHT(1, 6, NE)
PERFECT(10, 8, NW)
PRECIOUS(10, 1, W)
PURE(6, 5, SE)
RADIANT(11, 7, N)
RIGHTEOUS(12, 3, S)
SURE(12, 12, S)
TRUSTWORTHY(1, 1, SE)
WISE(7, 3, E)

★ **Further Understanding:** Bible Study Skills

Instructions:

1. Read the whole passage below to the students as they read along in their Bibles or on the discussion notes.
2. Read the passage verse by verse and have the students explain each verse.
3. Have the students extract one important truth from the passage. This can be done as an entire class or you can break into pairs or small groups.
4. Have the students answer the additional two questions: How can you apply this truth in your life? What will be the result of applying that truth?

Psalm 19:7-13

⁷ *The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul.*

The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.

⁸ *The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart.*

The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes.

⁹ *The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever.*

The ordinances of the LORD are sure and altogether righteous.

¹⁰ *They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold;*

they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb.

¹¹ *By them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.*

¹² *Who can discern his errors? Forgive my hidden faults.*

¹³ *Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me.*

Then will I be blameless, innocent of great transgression.

Discussion Questions: Explain what God's word does for us in each of the verses: 7a, 7b, 8a, 8b, 11a, 11b, 12a.

JOURNAL

The journal is passed out at the end of class for the students to complete at home. It has six readings that answer a digging deeper question. It would be beneficial for the teacher to work through the journal readings also.

Digging Deeper: Journal Focus – What happens when we feed on God’s Word?

Reading 1: Psalm 119:1-8 We walk in God’s way.

According to these verses, what is the benefit of knowing God’s Word?

Reading 2: Psalm 119:9-16 We live according to God’s truth.

According to these verses, what is the benefit of knowing God’s Word?

Reading 3: Psalm 119:17-24 We live well.

According to these verses, what is the benefit of knowing God’s Word?

Reading 4: Psalm 119:25-32 We are kept from deceitful ways.

According to these verses, what is the benefit of knowing God’s Word?

Reading 5: Psalm 119:33-40 We gain understanding.

According to these verses, what is the benefit of knowing God’s Word?

Reading 6: Psalm 119:41-48 We walk in freedom.

According to these verses, what is the benefit of knowing God’s Word?