



All-Knowing – Lesson 3

4K and 5K

Divine Attribute: God is All-Knowing

Heart Response: Listen to him

Memory Verse: Hebrews 1:1

“Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets...”

Points of Emphasis:

1. God knows everything.
2. God spoke his message through the prophets.
3. God teaches us to obey when we listen to him.
4. God is holy and knows we need to be rescued from our sin.

Personal Preparation:

It is important for us to understand that God knows everything. He created us, he called us into a relationship with himself, and he knows and desires what is best for us. He understands our hearts better than we do. We often do our own thing, judging ourselves by those around us and concluding that we are doing fine. But, when we compare ourselves to the amazing holiness, purity, and righteousness of God, we see ourselves as broken and sinful—needing to find mercy, needing to turn from our own ways, seeking forgiveness, and longing to turn back to God. That’s what he wants for us. That’s why he sent his Son to be our Shepherd and Savior.

In this unit, we see the same message from God to his people repeated time and again through the prophets. Through Isaiah, God reveals his holiness to his people and calls them to turn from their sin and follow him. Through Elijah, God reveals his power in order to call his people to turn from loving and trusting in idols to loving and trusting in him. Through Daniel, God sent a message to the Israelites to turn from trusting in themselves and their own ways back to following him and his ways. Turn, turn, turn—that is what it means to repent. And then, through Isaiah again, God

sends the message of a Rescuer for his broken and sinful people—a “turning” point for all people; the embodiment of his mercy and message—the Messiah. Ask Jesus to help you and the children listen to his message and turn from anything holding you back from following him.

CENTER TIME

10-20 minutes as the kids begin to arrive

To help the children transition into class, please use a center format at the beginning of each service. Set up three centers in your classroom to allow children options of activities. Ideas include, but are not limited to:

1. Read books on the floor.
2. Color at the table.
3. Play with blocks on the floor.
4. Play with puzzles at the table.
5. Play with Play-Doh at the table.

OPENING ACTIVITY

10 minutes at the start of service

The following activity is provided to begin engaging the children for the upcoming lesson. As the teacher of your class, you have an important opportunity to come alongside the parents of these children to teach them about God.

Talent Show

Supplies:

Motivational/award/incentive stickers (one per child)

Tell the children that you’re going to have a talent show today. Tell them to think of something they are good at and they will get 10 seconds to show the class their special talent. (If they need help thinking of something, try suggesting things like hopping on one foot, kicking a pretend ball, counting to 5 or 10, saying the alphabet, building

a tower with blocks, making a silly face, etc.) Give children a chance to showcase talents (one at a time) and hand them a sticker when they are finished.

BIG GROUP TIME

please check your classroom schedule

Please talk to your class about the purpose of this time—to have fun worshiping God together. Give your class practical ideas of what this means (obey the teachers up on the stage, sing and praise God with a happy heart, keep your hands to yourself, etc.). Teachers, you are crucial in helping create a peaceful, orderly environment to worship God during this time. Thank you for your help!

SMALL GROUP TIME

25-30 minutes

Bible Story

Supplies:

Bible

Blue ribbon cutout (one per bin)

(Open your Bible to Daniel 4.) **Let's say our memory verse together.** “Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets” Hebrews 1:1. Great!

Over the last few weeks, we have been learning about some of the prophets whom God spoke through. Can anyone tell me what a Bible prophet does? (Tells God's message to people.) **What are the names of the prophets we have learned about?** (Isaiah and Elijah.)

Today, we are going to learn about another prophet. The prophet's name is Daniel. God uses Daniel to understand dreams and tell others what their dreams mean. Have you ever had a dream? (Allow children to answer.) **Can anyone tell us about a dream they have had?** (Allow children to answer.)

Daniel is from Israel. Daniel faithfully follows God, but most of the people of Israel do not worship God. So, God allows them to be taken captive by the Babylonians. The King of Babylon's name

is Nebuchadnezzar. Can you say that name with me? (Nebuchadnezzar.)

In our Bible lesson today, King Nebuchadnezzar is very proud of himself. He has built a beautiful city with large buildings and lovely gardens. He rules over many people. What he often forgets is that God is the One who gives him the ability to do these things. God has allowed Nebuchadnezzar to be a powerful king.

When King Nebuchadnezzar has a dream that he doesn't understand, it worries him. He asks all the wise men to come to his palace to tell him what the dream means. When the wise men hear the dream, they are not able to tell the king what it means.

Then Daniel goes to see the king. When the king tells Daniel about his dream, God allows Daniel to know what it means. Daniel tells King Nebuchadnezzar that God is sending him a warning. Daniel tells the King that his dream means that God is going to take away Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom if he continues to brag about being the one who has built the beautiful buildings and gardens of Babylon in his own power.

One day, while King Nebuchadnezzar is walking in the royal palace, he says, “Isn't this the great Babylon that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty!” Uh, oh! Nebuchadnezzar starts thinking he is the one who is powerful and in control. He has forgotten that he could not have done anything without God.

So God speaks to him from Heaven, “King Nebuchadnezzar, your kingdom has been taken from you! You will be driven away from people and you will live with the beasts in the field. You will eat grass like an ox. You will be like this until you know that God rules over all men and gives power to whomever he chooses!” After God declares this, Nebuchadnezzar doesn't live in his palace, eat off a plate, sleep in a bed, or talk to other people for seven years! How would you feel if this happened to you? (Allow responses.)

How do you feel when you do a great job at something? (Proud of myself, happy, excited.) **Did you all like getting a blue ribbon today for showing off your talent?** (Show the children a blue ribbon.) **When you do something really great, sometimes people tell you how great you did, or sometimes you get a trophy or a reward like a blue ribbon.** When we are proud of ourselves, we often brag about what a great job we did. We say things like, “Wow, I really did a great job, or I sure am fast, or I can jump so high.”

When we are good at something, it is easy to forget that God gave us those talents. We need to remember to always give God the glory for the talents he has given us. When we brag about winning a race or being the best, it is not pleasing to God. We need to always remember God is the one in control. He is our Creator and the giver of our talents and abilities. Let's pray and thank God.

Prayer

Prayer time may not be appropriate immediately following story time. If this is the case, we ask that you be intentional about praying spontaneously or formally with the children at other times during class.

Dear God, thank you for giving us the ability to do so many things. We know we could not do these things without you. Help us to always remember to thank you and give you the praise for all you allow us to do. Amen.

Praying Hands

Supplies:

“I will thank God” hand (one per child)
“for the talents he gave me” hand (one per child)
Craft sticks (two per child)
Crayons
Glue sticks

Have the children color the pictures and hands as you talk—encourage them to draw pictures of activities they enjoy on the back of the hands (play sports, sing, cook, play video games, draw or paint, etc). As they color, talk about the fact that

without God, we would not have the abilities, gifts, and talents that we have to do these things. Help kids glue a craft stick to the bottom of each hand and show children how they can put the hands together as if they are praying. Remind the kids that we should pray and thank God for all that he gives us; we are nothing apart from him.

***Have fun and let them do the crafts themselves, as much as possible. This is a hands-on way for them to learn who God is and remember what they learn. It doesn't matter if they place the label or stickers in the wrong spot. What matters is teaching them who God is. ***

SNACK & ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

last 30 minutes

Please wash the children's hands before snack time and say a prayer thanking God for the food. As they are eating their snack, please take time to go over the review questions.

Review Questions

- 1. Who did God use to tell King Nebuchadnezzar what his dream meant?** (Daniel.)
- 2. Who was bragging about himself?** (King Nebuchadnezzar.)
- 3. What happened when the king did not listen to God's warning?** (He lost his whole kingdom and had to eat grass like an animal.)
- 4. Who gives us our talents, abilities, and wisdom?** (God, our creator.)
- 5. Who should we give glory to for the things we are able to do?** (God.)
- 6. Why should we give God the glory and listen to him, thank him, and praise him?** (Because God created us, he loves us and wants to have a relationship with us, he provides for us, and because he knows everything—he even knows us better than we know ourselves.)

Give God the Glory Bean Bag Toss

Supplies

Beanbags (three per bin)

Set of signs - GIVE, GOD, the GLORY (one set per bin)

Discuss with the children that God not only asked King Nebuchadnezzar to give God the glory for the things he could do but that God asks that of us, too. Tell them whatever good we do is ALL because of God. Put the three pieces of paper (GIVE, GOD, the GLORY) on the floor, a short distance from the children. Have the children take turns throwing the three beanbags onto the paper with GIVE, GOD, and the GLORY.



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