

Lesson 8

God Cares for You

Teacher's One Sheet

BIBLE LESSON: Matthew 6:19-33

MEMORY VERSE: "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." Matthew 6:33

CHALLENGE MEMORY VERSE: "But they who seek the Lord shall not be in want of any good thing." Psalm 34:10b

CATECHISM:

The Tenth Commandment: Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his cattle, nor anything that is thy neighbor's.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not estrange or entice away our neighbor's wife, servants, or cattle, but seek to have them remain and discharge their duty to him.

LESSON OBJECTIVES: The student will know:

- God provides everything we need to live.
- We can be content with what God has given us.

MATERIALS: Lessons, activity sheets

LESSON OVERVIEW: Jesus talked to His disciples about how His Father loves them. Jesus had them look around them at the birds and flowers. The birds need shelter, food, and water to live. The flowers need air, sunlight, soil, and rain to grow. God provides these things. The birds do not worry about who will feed them. The flowers do not worry about what they will wear. God Himself cares for the things He created.

Jesus reminded the disciples that they are more important than birds and flowers. Jesus didn't want them to worry. They were children of God, and God takes care of His children.

Even though we sometimes want more than we have or forget God has given us all we need, we can be content. We can be happy with what God gives us.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS: 1) Have you ever thought that you are valuable to other people? 2) What are some things you need to live? What things has God promised to supply for us? 3) Do you ever want more than you have? Do you sometimes wish you had something another person has?

ACTIVITY 1: angels/disciples, pizza/food, like/feed, eat/wear, trees/birds and flowers, sing/worry, number/name, want/need, mad/happy or satisfied.

ACTIVITY 2: be content, be satisfied, God provides, God cares

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach

- ☐ Pray that God will help you to trust Him to supply all your needs.
- ☐ Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you study His Word and the lesson this week.

Prepare Materials

- ☐ Activity sheets
- ☐ Have memory verse(s) written on the board

☐ Hymns and Songs

FILL IN HERE

Prayer Preparation

- Talk to God about your personal needs.
- Thank the Lord for each of the children in your class this year.
- Ask Him to prepare their hearts to receive what He intends through His Word and the lesson.

Bible Background

Matthew 6:19-33

When God saw all that He had made, it was very good. After Adam and Eve sinned against God, He pronounced a curse on all that He had made that brought thorns and thistles, hard labor, pain and suffering to animals and humans (Gen 3:14-19). In that sense the earth is not “beautiful” anymore because it is corrupted by sin and evil. But creation still reveals the glory of God and serves as evidence of His creation (Rom 1:20).

When God saw the hearts of men become even more evil (Gen 6:5), He sent the global flood that destroyed all mankind except Noah and his family. The flood waters burst from the heavens above and from the earth beneath, altering the earth’s geography. The earth is still beautiful, and even more remarkable is the fact that God still preserves it and provides for every living being in spite of our sin.

Jesus opened the eyes of His disciples to the beauty of creation right before them by pointing to little things like birds and flowers (Mt 6:19-33). He tells us that God provides for common needs like food and clothing, things we tend to take for granted. We do that because of our sinful cravings that are not satisfied but always want more. That leads us to covet as in wanting a neighbor’s husband or wife or possessions.

We should not covet because God will supply all our basic needs like food and clothing (Mt 6:25), and all that He graciously allows us to possess. That doesn’t mean the food will appear on the ground each day like manna, but He will provide by some means at the right time. “The eyes of all look to You, And You give them their food in due time. You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing” (Ps 145:15,16).

Why doesn’t God feed every hungry person in the world? A simple answer would be that the Church should be doing that, like the early Church provided for widows and orphans (Acts 6). But in a large part of the world there is no Church, no Christians, no belief in God. Only God supplies food, idols don’t. God works within the world order in that place (or wherever he wills), but that order is broken by sin, and hunger, famine, disease are all consequences of that sinful order. We do what we can and should do more. Why do we not? Maybe because of our own sinful wants that keep us from sharing our abundance with others. Also, no matter how great it would be to feed the world, Jesus

reminded us that the poor will always be with us. Those words are not meant to excuse our inaction, but they are a reminder of a sinful world that will always need the Bread of Life.

People also worry about what to wear, not just for covering but for how they will look before others, as to whether they are “in fashion” or not. In the eastern countries, clothing fashions did not change as they do for us with every season. Clothing, especially of the rich, was meant to be a public display of their wealth. It was natural for people to look to the gold-embroidered robes of kings and emperors. Jewish traditions as to the glory of Solomon describe even his attendants as clothed in purple, and with hair glittering with gold-dust. Jesus, the true Son of David, saw in the simplest flower a glory greater than them all. It was said: “The lily shames the king.”

Without banks or other secure places, the people displayed their wealth in clothing, jewelry, utensils, etc. These were their treasures, and treasure will possess the heart and affection with serious results: “Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him” (1 Jn 2:15).

Anxiously seeking all these things makes us no better than the Gentiles, because God even supplies their needs. We must stay or “return” to our first love, to “seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be provided to you” (v.33).

The treasures of this world will take our eyes off the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. There we find Jesus, our “priceless treasure,” through Whom God offers what is our greatest need: His forgiveness for sin and His perfect righteousness by faith. Contentment comes as we grow “in the grace and knowledge of God” (2 Peter 3:18), and learn to trust Him for all our needs.

Learn the New Words

It is okay to explain the new words in the beginning or as you encounter them.

Remind: to bring someone’s thoughts back to what they already know.

contentment: to be happy or satisfied with what God has given you.

provides: gives, takes care of

remember: to come back to a thought or an idea again. This can make the idea stronger and easier to think of when you need it to help you.

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Ask the children what they saw outside on their way to church. Open the class with prayer, thanking God for his wonderful world.

Read the Memory Verse

Read it together aloud — “But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. *Matthew 6:33*”

Read it. Remind the children you’ll repeat the verse again at the end.

Review the Recent Lessons

Remember we have been learning about the Tenth Commandment. See if the students can remember something they learned in last week’s lesson.

TEACHING TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON

Introduce the Lesson

ASK: When was the last time you played outside? Have you ever walked in a park or hiked in a forest? Have you ever camped outdoors? What did you see?

Read the Lesson

Teacher read the opening paragraph. If in the sharing time you have talked about what the students saw in God's beautiful creation, remind them of those things now.

Read (or have a volunteer read) the second paragraph. Help the students find Matthew 6:19-33 in the Bible. Have volunteers take turns reading the Bible verses out loud.

ASK: Have you ever thought that you are valuable to other people, like your parents, brothers, and sisters? God cares about the birds and the flowers, the plants and the animals. God gives (or provides) them with everything they need. God cares for the things He created.

Jesus told the disciples that God, the Father, cares even more for them even more than that. Jesus didn't want His disciples to worry about what they would have to eat or drink or where they would rest for the night. Jesus wanted the disciples to know that God loved them and would take care of them. They are God's children and God takes care of His children.

Read the third paragraph.

SAY: You too are a child of God. In the Bible, the book of Isaiah Chapter 43, verse one, God says, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are Mine." **TM Note:** A child could ask about baptism in the context of how he or she became God's child. A simple answer from the catechism could be that baptism gives God's grace through water and God's Word. Most

children may not remember their baptism but could ask their parents to tell them more about it.

ASK: What are some things you need to live? (The children may say food, water, a home.) Remind them that Jesus said that His Heavenly Father already knows what you need. God knows everything!

SAY: You don't need to worry about these things. You can be content.

Read the fourth and fifth paragraphs. **ASK:** Do you ever want more than you have? Do you sometimes wish you had something another person has? Most people do, no matter what their age. Ask God to help you remember how much He loves you. You can use birds or flowers to remind you that God cares for you as much and even more than them. He loves you and has promised to take care of you.

TM note: Children may ask questions about kids who are hungry, poor, or abused. Prayerfully prepare for this. The effects of sin in this world causes situations like these. Consider people and organizations who help people like these, in the name of Jesus. The world isn't perfect, and life isn't always fair. Suggest telling parents, your pastor, or people in authority about someone who needs help.

Repeat the Memory Verses

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Do the Activities Together

The activity worksheets for this section are printed in the student books.

Word Swap?

Activity 1

Cross out the incorrect word and write the correct one on the line.

Activity 1
WORD SWAP

Change one word in each sentence to make it correct. Cross out the incorrect word. Write the correct word on the line. Then read the new sentence.

1. Jesus talked to His ~~angels~~ about how God cares for the flowers and birds.
disciples

2. God takes care of the birds and gives them ~~meat~~.
food

3. The birds do not worry about who will ~~like~~ them.
feed

4. The flowers do not worry about what they will ~~eat~~.
wear




5. Jesus reminded the disciples that they are more important than ~~these~~.
birds and flowers

6. Jesus did not want His disciples to ~~sing~~.
worry

7. God says, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you, I have called you by ~~number~~; you are Mine!"
name

8. God will provide all that I ~~want~~.
need

9. Being content means being ~~mad~~ about what God gives me.
happy or satisfied



Flying Maze

Activity 2

Get the bird to the flower, avoiding X, Y, and Z. Use the letters in the path to fill in the blank below each maze.

Activity 2
FLYING MAZE

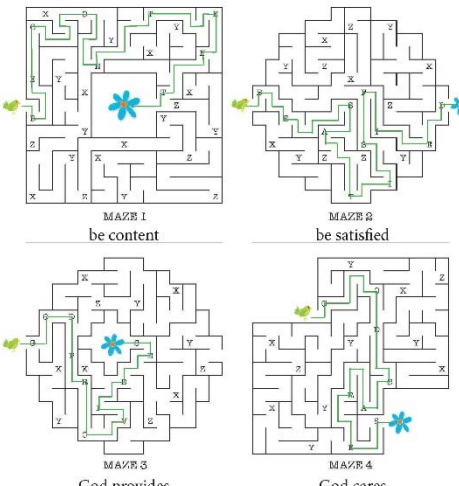
Help the bird fly to the flower in each maze. Avoid X, Y, Z. Write the secret messages on the blanks under each maze.

MAZE 1
be content

MAZE 2
be satisfied

MAZE 3
God provides

MAZE 4
God cares



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CLOSING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Closing Prayer

Ask about prayer requests. Allow students to pray if they choose. Allow time for silent prayer. Encourage students to bow their heads and close their eyes.