

## Gleaners Sunday School Lesson at First Baptist Church

September 13, 2020 Good Morning Gleaners

**Unit of Study: After God's Own Heart: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments.**

People today want to live life on their own terms, but God has given us a clear path to follow. For 6 weeks, we are taking a fresh look at the 10 Commandments with a focus on how obedience frees us to do and be in Christ. In the briefest and clearest of statements God has revealed to us the way to relate to Him and others.

**Topic of Session #2: Honor God**

**Scripture:** Primary source of lesson: Bible Studies for Life, Senior Adult Personal Study Guide p. 28, or open your Bible to **Exodus 20:7-11, and Psalm 145:1-7.**

**Prayer:** Father God, We praise your name as we return to our church classroom to study your Word. We pray that You will continue to wrap your loving arms around us with wellness and protection. Thank you for every blessing we've known this week. It is with grateful hearts, we continue to be amazed at the extent of your grace, love, and mercy for us.. We pray for our families, friends, college students, teachers, youth, and those in harm's way as the virus remains prevalent in our world. We pray for wellness and safety for missionaries as well our pastors as they faithfully serve our church family. Help us to better understand how to honor you in our lives as we study your Word today. It is in Jesus' Holy name I pray. Amen.

**Setting:** After their miraculous deliverance by God from Egyptian bondage, the Israelites traveled through the wilderness to Mount Sinai. There God told them of the covenant He was making with them and the commandments they were to follow as His covenant people. The covenant established a relationship between the Lord and His people by which they swore an oath to uphold their obligations. Those entering into covenant could expect blessings for obedience and curses for disobedience (Deut. 28).

**Question #1: (p.28) How can you recognize a genuine fan?**

This question is easy to answer since I have lived with a genuine Florida State fan for 55 years, and by association, have also become a fan. This has taken us to many football games sitting on row 30 at the stadium in Tallahassee. My husband and I enjoyed the drive time, parking, the walk to the stadium, cheering, the action, and even sitting in traffic gridlock when the game was over. We rarely complained about time and energy spent even with the three hour drive home or overnight accommodations. Yes, my husband and I are genuine fans who have willingly committed time to FSU football.

You and I know people who love and honor their college alma mater teams or professional football teams. If we translate that willingness and enthusiasm over to spiritual lives, I'm afraid many of us fall short. Our walk with God is more than telling people what we believe; our devotion to Him is to be seen in our words, worship, as well as our actions.

**The Point:** Our relationship with God is seen in how we honor Him.

**Read Exodus 20:7-11 (p.30)** These verses focus on the 3rd and 4th of the Ten Commandments.

**Verse 7:** The 3rd command forbids **misuse** of the Lord's name. God's name, Yahweh, reflects His nature, character and stands for everything He is, or His essence. **Misuse** means to take, lift, or carry. **Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.** This is not a prohibition against taking oaths in the Lord's name, but prohibits **misuse** including (1) irreverent use (as in profanity), (2) careless use (expression in surprise) (3) insincere use (speaking God's name to appear godly) (4) using it for manipulation (ex. "God told me we need to do this"), and (5) mocking God or His works. This command includes a warning: God promised He would **not leave unpunished** any person who violates His command by misusing His name.

**Question #2:** What are some ways that we dishonor God's name?

Jesus taught us to honor or *hallow* God's name. The term *hallowed* means holy, set apart or sanctified. Some dishonor God's name using profanity, vulgar speech, in careless surprise expressions, using it in manipulation (saying "God told me to do this,") or even in mocking God and His good works. We also honor or dishonor God's name through our actions and lifestyles

**(See p. 31) To fear the Lord is to honor Him.** Read (Ps. 31:19)(103:11) and (145:19)

**Verses 8-11:** The fourth commandment is stated as a positive instead of a prohibition. **Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy:** The Hebrew word for Sabbath literally means "to cease, stop, or rest." The command to rest on the Sabbath calls for people to take a break from their daily labor for renewal and recovery. The primary focus of Sabbath is a call to devote this day specifically to focus on God. We need to observe not only the command to **work**, but also the mandate to honor God through rest and worship. A Sabbath rest includes physical rest, as well as spiritual refreshment and reflection. **The Lord rested on the seventh day. Therefore, the Lord blessed the Sabbath and declared it holy.**

**Question #3: What are some ways we can set apart time to honor the Lord?**

We can pray, have personal worship with Bible study and set apart time for devotions daily. We can join fellow church members as our pastor leads Bible Study and prayer time on ZOOM weekly. On the Sabbath, we are to devote this day specifically to focus on God and how we should honor Him with our lives. We can attend church worship services and use the day to obtain physical rest as well as time for spiritual renewal and reflection on who God is and what He has done. All our honor is due Him.

**Read Psalm 145:1-3 (p32)** Here, we will consider how the psalmist honored God by exalting Him in worship. Psalm 145 is the last of the psalms attributed to David. It is an acrostic psalm (each verse begins with a successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet).

**Verses 1-2:** David had a deep relationship with the Lord. (See p. 32-33) He praised and **blessed God every day...** Not just on the good days when he felt like dancing and singing in the streets, and not just on victory days. He did not wait for a special day to **exalt** (lift or raise up to His rightful place in our life) and **bless** (praise or kneel) **His name forever and ever** (emphasize something eternal and unending) Daily worship was David's lifestyle; he may have been kneeling as he praised God for His attributes. Even after death, David knew he would join with others in perpetual praise to the Lord.

**Verse 3:** David is specifically referring to God's actions when he says, **The Lord is great and is highly praised.** He then said, **God's greatness is unsearchable.** Biblical writers, including David, recognized there are limits to what we as humans can fathom about God or discover about His nature and activity.

**Question #4: What obstacles get in the way of our worship of God every day?**

If we limit our worship of God to Sunday morning or when celebrating a success, and have hearts that do not reflect David's heart, then our worship is based on circumstances and convenience. That's not worship; it is emotion. God knows the state of our souls and wants to shape and sharpen us to be more like Jesus. We have to choose to honor Him with our worship in good or bad times and in spite of where we are on a given day. We need to trust God and work to rid the obstacles that get in the way of worshipping Him every day.

**Read Psalm 145: 4-7 (p. 34)** We learn here how to honor God through our lifestyle, which includes both our words and actions. David's heart shines through as he wrote of honoring God's great works and goodness while singing joyfully of His righteousness. Word upon word describe God's majestic nature, His brilliance and radiance.

**Verse 4:** David continued his psalm of praise by emphasizing the importance of helping others know the truth about God's nature and actions. Those who know the Lord must continue to share Him from generation to generation. The word **declare** (praise) carries the idea of someone praising the Lord in the presence of others (or the next generation). The Hebrew for **proclaim** means to be conspicuous and pictures someone standing boldly in front of another to make something known--In this case, God's **mighty acts**.

**Verse 5:** Here David announced his own commitment to **speak** of the Lord's awesome magnificence. He then listed three terms to celebrate reasons to honor God through worship: **His splendor, glorious majesty, and wondrous works**. (Recall that #3 represents completeness: the 3 words accentuate the reverence due God).

**Verse 6:** God's **power** or might relates to how He exercised this strength on behalf of His people against their enemies. It also describes the security that righteous individuals enjoy. Scripture calls attention to God's power or strength as a reason to praise or honor Him (Ps. 96:7). The terms **awe-inspiring acts** and **declare your greatness** underline nature's witness to God's greatness.

**Verse 7:** As in verse 6, David did not specify the identity of **they**. Some interpret the pronoun as God's people. The phrase translated **will give a testimony** more literally means "pour out a memorial" with the basic idea "to bubble up" or "gush forth" as David remembers all the mighty deeds God had done. The expression **will joyfully sing** represents another way God's people testify to His **great goodness and righteousness**. The term, **righteousness**, refers to an ethical and moral standard: what is right, just, and true. In the Old Testament that standard is God's nature and will.

See p. 35 for examples of times we have lost our first love for God (Rev. 2:4). May our testimony and actions never paint us as more prominent than God!

**Question #5:** **When have you experienced God's wondrous works and awe-inspiring acts?** When my grandson was in middle school, a pediatric orthopedic surgeon at Emory University corrected his scoliosis by fusing many of his thoracic vertebrae. I sat in a circle with family and friends as we prayed and waited for the results of the serious surgery that was a major success. Today, he is a fully recovered senior at UGA with no deformities. Watching his success in high school as the WCHS kicker on the football team, and watching his skill on the soccer field thrilled this grandmother's heart. This was indeed a first hand experience of God's wondrous works and awe-inspiring acts.

**Summary:** (1) God is holy; thus, His name is to be used in ways that honor His holiness. (2) To keep the Sabbath holy we are to set aside a day to focus on Him, taking actions such as learning about God, resting, being refreshed, and honoring God. (3) We honor God through daily worship (4) We honor God by focusing on His greatness that is beyond human comprehension (5) We honor God through personal, as well as congregational worship. (6) God's acts proclaim His greatness (7) Each generation of God's people is responsible to pass their faith to the next generation. (8) We honor God when both our words and actions reflect His goodness and righteousness.

**Engage: (p.36)** List the amount of time you spend per week interacting with the following media: (1) TV\_\_\_\_\_ (2) Social Media\_\_\_\_\_ (3) Internet\_\_\_\_\_

List the amount of time you spend per week focusing on honoring God in these ways:  
 (1) Personal Bible study, prayer, and worship\_\_\_\_ (2) Corporate worship and group Bible study\_\_\_\_ (3) Service to God \_\_\_\_\_

**Live it Out:(p. 37)** How will you actively seek to honor God? (1) **Repent.** Confess to God any times you misused the name of God and failed to honor Him with your life.  
 (2) **Journal** Write each day about your relationship with God and thoughts about Him. Let your own words reveal how much you honor and worship Him.  
 (3) **Share.** If on social media consider how you can post and share God-honoring posts this week. If not share a testimony of God and His power in your life with others.

**Prayer:** My prayer is that as we set aside time each week to focus and reflect daily on God's greatness and goodness, both honor and worship of Him will flow naturally out of our hearts.

**Watchword:** May the Lord watch between me and thee while we are absent one from another. I'm looking forward to a time when we can all be together again in Sunday School. If you did not receive the Fall Study Guide, please call me or the church office. Stay Well, Stay Safe, and have a great week!

## Information About the Attributes of God David Mentioned in Verses 5-6

- **Mighty acts** may refer to the Lord's powerful deeds from the past--historical recollections--as well as the present--personal testimonies.
- **Splendor**--refers to ornament or decoration and often emphasized God's grandeur and glory.
- **Glorious**--from the Hebrew word that figuratively means "weight."
- **Wondrous works**-- extraordinary, awe-inspiring things God has done in creation and the deliverance He carried out for His people.
- **Awe-inspiring acts**--displays of God's strength that resulted in reverent awe, fearful respect, and dread from those who witnessed them.

# Characteristics of God

Great

Highly Praised

Unsearchable

Mighty

Splendorous

Majestic

Glorious

Wondrous

Awe-inspiring

Good

Righteous