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No Matter What

REFLECTIONS
for teens

you can rejoice

Leader's Guide and Answer Key

Welcome to the study of *No Matter What*. If you are a small-group leader, you will want to acquaint yourself with the overall structure of the Bible study. Each member of your group should have her own book and should complete each lesson on her own before it is discussed in the group. Discussion is effective in helping your group members think through the personal applications of a lesson. Try to keep the discussion focused on the lesson, and encourage all members of the group to participate. As the leader, you need to do little more than ask the questions and allow class members to share their answers. The following answers are provided to help you give details that will allow group members to realize what God reveals about Himself in the Scriptures. To draw the discussion to a close, ask class members to summarize the conclusions that have been reached or to share something from the final application section, "Reflections."

JOURNEYFORTH

Greenville, South Carolina

Lesson One

Blessing Our Great God

- p. 1 Q: Have you ever had something like that happen to you? How did you feel when you realized someone was watching you, maybe even making fun of you?
- A: *Answers will vary.*
- p. 2 Q: Psalm 104 begins and ends . . . with the same phrase. What is that phrase (verses 1 and 35)?
- A: *bless the Lord, O my soul*
- p. 2 Q: The psalmist does not address himself by name, but rather speaks to which part of himself (verse 1)?
- A: *soul*
- p. 2 Q: Look up Proverbs 4:23 and write it below.
- A: *"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."*
- p. 3 Q: Do we know what this psalmist is going through in his personal life?
- A: *probably not*
- p. 3 Q: Do we even know who this psalmist is?
- A: *probably not*
- p. 4 Q: Read 1 Peter 1:13. Fill in the blanks:
- A: "Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind" (1 Peter 1:13a).
- p. 4 Q: Can you think of some thought that might need *girding up* in your mind? (Helpful Hint: 2 Corinthians 10:5.)
- A: *Answers will vary. (arguments, lofty opinions, conceit, etc.)*
- pp. 4–5 Q: Read Philippians 4:8. What things are you supposed to think on?
- A: *Things that are true, honest (honorable), just, pure, lovely, of good report (commendable)*
- p. 5 Q: Back in Psalm 104:1, what does the psalmist tell his soul to do?
- A: "Bless the Lord, O my soul."
- p. 5 Q: How does Psalm 103 begin?
- A: *Bless the Lord*

pp. 5-6 Q: David goes on to tell us two practical ways that we can do that (Psalm 103:1-2). Fill in the blanks.

A:

1. In Psalm 103:1, it's a matter of blessing His holy name and *praising* God for Who He is.
2. In Psalm 103:2, it's a matter of *not forgetting* the blessings He gives to us, but rather remembering and *thanking* Him for what He does.

pp. 6-7 Q: Record how you could bless the Lord because of each of His names.

Blessing God For Who He Is

Reference	Name of God	Blessing That Name
Genesis 1:1; Psalm 139:14 Creation	Elohim: The Creator	I can praise God for making everything including me
Genesis 16:13 Hagar at her lowest point	El Roi: The God Who Sees	<i>I can praise God for seeing everything about me and my life.</i>
Genesis 22:6-17 Abraham at the altar with the son who meant the world to him	Jehovah-jireh: The Lord Will Provide	<i>I can praise God for providing everything that I need.</i>
Exodus 3:3-15 Moses at the burning bush	Jehovah (LORD; Yahweh): The Eternal, Self-Existent One; I AM	<i>I can praise God that He has always existed and will always exist.</i>
Psalms 23:1 In the Shepherd's care	Jehovah-raah: The LORD my Shepherd	<i>I can praise God for being my Shepherd and caring for me.</i>
Isaiah 9:6 The promise of the Messiah	Wonderful Counselor	No matter what my question or problem, I can go to God confident that He will have the answer!
Isaiah 9:6 The promise of the Messiah	Mighty God	<i>God has the strength to take care of anything.</i>

Reference	Name of God	Blessing That Name
Isaiah 9:6 The promise of the Messiah	Everlasting Father	<i>God will never cease to be, so His promises are forever.</i>
Isaiah 9:6 The promise of the Messiah	Prince of Peace	<i>God has provided the Messiah to give me salvation.</i>

pp. 7–8 Q: Read Psalm 103:3–5 and record the *benefits* that David did not forget!

Blessing God For What He's Done
"Forgiveth all thine iniquities"—God's salvation provided for me by Jesus Christ's death on the cross for my sin!
"healeth all thy diseases"—God cares for my physical needs including disease or sickness.
"redeemeth thy life from destruction"—God protects me from things that would destroy me.
"crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies"—God lavishes His kind love and mercy on me.
"satisfieth thy mouth with good things"—God provides food and all of the sustenance that I need.

p. 8 Q: How often or how long or when should we rejoice (1 Thessalonians 5:16)?

A: *evermore (always)*

p. 8 Q: And in what circumstances should we give thanks (1 Thessalonians 5:18)?

A: *in everything (in all circumstances)*

pp. 8–9 Q: There are so many specific ways you can bless the Lord. . . . look up the examples for each of these.

A:

1. In prayer:

Example: Psalm 68:9–10. What was David thanking God for?

A: *rain; goodness*

2. In song:

Example: Exodus 15:1. Who was singing this song? Why?

A: *Moses; God had rescued Israel from the Egyptians in the Red Sea.*

3. In testimony:

Example: Psalm 66:16. Who does this psalmist invite to hear his testimony?

A: *others who fear (reverence) God*

4. **Just in how you live:**

Example: 1 Corinthians 10:31. When are we to glorify God (give others the right opinion of Him)?

A: *when eating or drinking or in any activity*

p. 10 Q: When something goes wrong in your life, is your initial reaction to complain, to say you don't care anyway, or to convince yourself to praise the Lord no matter what?

A: *Answers will vary.*

p. 10 Q: Are you guarding your heart with all diligence?

A: *Answers will vary.*

p. 10 Q: What enemies do you have to guard against?

A: *Answers will vary.*

p. 10 Q: What could you do differently to better guard your heart?

A: *Answers will vary.*

p. 10 Q: What do you think about the most during a typical day? What areas of thinking could you do better in? What area is frequently a challenge for you?

A: *Answers will vary.*

p. 10 Q: What else might help you think the right thoughts?

A: *Answers will vary. (praying for God's help, getting rid of certain pictures or items in your room and/or locker, setting up some accountability, or something else)*

p. 10 Q: Pick one of the names of God that means a lot to you. Which one is it? Why?

A: *Answers will vary.*

p. 10 Q: Is it possible to bless or praise and thank God in every situation in your life?

A: *yes*

p. 11 Q: Is there something challenging that you are going through right now? What is it? And how can you bless the Lord even in the midst of it?

A: *Answers will vary.*

p. 11 Q: Will you choose to give God praise for being in control of your life?

A: *Answers will vary.*

p. 11 Q: Will you choose to be thankful in everything?

A: *Answers will vary.*

p. 11 Q: Write out some specific ways you can bless the Lord today:

A:

1. In prayer: What can you thank Him for today? Or which one of His names are you grateful for?

A: *Answers will vary.*

2. In song: Can you think of a song you could sing throughout this day?

A: *Answers will vary.*

3. In testimony: Who could you share with about what God is teaching you?

A: *Answers will vary.*

4. In how you live: How could you be a blessing to someone else and give them a right opinion of Who He is?

A: *Answers will vary.*

p. 11 Q: Read James 3:9–12. . . . If we are blessing God with our lips, how should we be treating other people?

A: *as God would treat them*

p. 12 Q: How do you treat other people?

A: *Answers will vary.*

p. 12 Q: What about behind their backs or when they're not around?

A: *Answers will vary.*

p. 12 Q: Would that please God?

A: *Answers will vary.*

Lesson Two

Approaching Our Great God



- p. 14 Q: How does this psalmist approach God (Psalm 104:1*b*)?
A: “*O Lord my God, Thou art very great!*”
- p. 14 Q: Fill in the blank from Psalm 104:1*b*
A: “O Lord my God . . .”
- p. 15 Q: In Matthew 7:22–23, what horrifying words does Christ tell people who claim His name and yet do not have a personal relationship with Him?
A: “*I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*”
- p. 15 Q: In Psalm 104:1*b*, how does the psalmist describe God?
A: *very great*
- p. 15 Q: Do you really believe that *your* God is very great?
A: *Answers will vary.*
- p. 16 Q: Look up the following verses and fill in the ways that we should rightly respond to our God’s greatness.

Verses	Ways to Respond
1 Samuel 12:24	“Only <u>fear</u> the Lord and <u>serve</u> Him in truth with all your heart...”
Nehemiah 4:14; Psalm 106:21	Remember the Lord; don’t forget Him like the children of Israel did. Don’t be afraid to fight for what’s right.
Nehemiah 8:6; Psalm 48:1	<i>Bless God; worship Him reverently; praise Him.</i>
Daniel 9:4	<i>Pray and confess to God.</i>
Titus 2:13 (Notice in this verse that Jesus Christ is “our great God” as well as our Savior.)	<i>Look forward to Christ’s return.</i>

- p. 17 Q: Can you give any additional or more specific examples of these issues in today’s teen culture?
- Rebellion:
 - rolling eyes at a parent
 - mocking behind a teacher’s back
- A: *Answers will vary.*

- Failure to listen to and/or obey God’s proclaimed Word:
in church services or Christian school chapel
going forward at camp just to get your youth pastor off your back

A: *Answers will vary.*

- General unfaithfulness and transgression: . . . Which of God’s principle lines are tempting to push?
The clothes you want to wear
music
physical relationships with a guy

A: *Answers will vary.*

p. 17 Q: Now look at Daniel 9:7–8. Against Whom is all sin committed?

A: *God*

p. 18 Q: Can you think of a time when you have asked God to forgive you for some specific sin and after praying you felt like a weight had been lifted from your heart?

A: *Answers will vary.*

p. 18 Q: Write out Psalm 86:5 below.

A: *“For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.”*

p. 19 Q: Do you approach God with respect when you pray? How about when you go to church to worship Him? Is your attitude one of respect in the services? In youth group?

A: *Answers will vary.*

p. 19 Q: Take a minute to prayerfully consider your own relationship with the Lord. Can you say in all truthfulness that He is “my God”? And will He say, “You are Mine”?

A: *Answers will vary.*

p. 19 Q: Are you spending time alone with Him on a daily basis? What could you improve about your quiet time?

A: *Answers will vary.*

p. 19 Q: Take a minute to consider some of the great things He has done for you (1 Samuel 12:24). Write a few of those things below and then thank Him for each of the things on your list.

A: *Answers will vary but could include such things as family, special friends, food and clothing, and church.*

p. 20 Q: As you see God’s greatness, do you recognize your own sinfulness? Do you realize that any sin in your life is really against God Himself? Is there any sin in your heart that you need to confess and ask God to forgive you for, right now?

A: *Answers will vary.*

- p. 20 Q: Will you rejoice in our great God's forgiveness?
A: *Answers will vary.*
- p. 20 Q: Do you ever find yourself making excuses for your sin by thinking that God just expects too much from us?
A: *Answers will vary.*
- p. 20 Q: Are you doing justly or what is fair and right in God's eyes?
A: *Answers will vary.*
- p. 20 Q: Do you love mercy—withholding punishment or condemnation when someone really deserves a consequence?
A: *Answers will vary.*
- p. 20 Q: Are you walking humbly with God? Or is there pride in your heart?
A: *Answers will vary.*

Lesson Three

Serving Our Great God As the Great King

- p. 23 Q: What two things clothe our King in Psalm 104:1c?
A: *honor and majesty*
- p. 24 Q: What additional garment does our King wear in Psalm 104:2?
A: *light*
- p. 24 Q: What do we discover in 1 John 1:5?
A: *"God is light, and in him is no darkness at all."*
- p. 24 Q: What does Isaiah 2:5 invite us to do?
A: *to walk in the light of the Lord*
- p. 24 Q: Look up the following references to discover a few of these characteristics.

Verses	Characteristics
Ephesians 6:10–18	<i>armor of God (girdle of truth, breastplate of righteousness, footwear of gospel, shield of faith, helmet of salvation, sword of Spirit)</i>
1 Peter 3:3, 4	<i>inward adornment of a meek and quiet spirit</i>
Proverbs 31:25	<i>strength and honor</i>

- p. 25 Q: Because God is so great as high King over all, what are we humans on earth like in comparison to Him?
A: *We are insignificant like grasshoppers.*
- p. 26 Q: What does He ride as a chariot (Psalm 104:3)?
A: *the clouds*
- p. 26 Q: And where does He walk (Psalm 104:3)?
A: *on the wings of the wind*
- p. 26 Q: What two terms are used of those who are serving Him?
A: *angels and ministers*
- p. 26 Q: What two terms are used to describe their activity?
A: *spirits and flaming fire*
- p. 26 Q: What is the verb that is used in Psalm 104:4?
A: *"Who maketh His angels spirits; His ministers a flaming fire."*

- p. 26 Q: So how are these ministers enabled or made able to serve?
A: *by God Himself*
- p. 27 Q: Is God King in your life?
A: *Answers will vary.*
- p. 27 Q: Is God's presence real to you? Are you aware of the fact that He is with you all the time? Do you live like He is?
A: *Answers will vary.*
- p. 27 Q: How do you serve the Lord? Do you do it wholeheartedly? Do you do your work "as unto the Lord"? Do you work quickly? Do you accomplish your goals?
A: *Answers will vary.*
- p. 28 Q: Who is it that enables you to serve the Lord?
A: *God Himself.*
- p. 28 Q: Will you resolve to serve the Lord and to bless—again, praise and thank—Him with all your heart because of Who He is?
A: *Answers will vary.*
- p. 28 Q: Read and meditate on Psalm 103:19–22 and Psalm 100:2–4. How are we to serve the Lord according to these passages?
A: *Answers will vary.*
- p. 28 Q: Read and meditate on Psalm 103:19–22 and Psalm 100:2–4. How are we to serve the Lord according to these passages?
A: *by doing His will and obeying His word; with gladness, singing, thanksgiving, praise*

Lesson Four

Becoming Beautiful for Our Great God

- pp. 30–31 Q: As we look at Psalm 104:4 . . . Who is the *Who* in this verse?
A: *God*
- p. 31 Q: What does Acts 5:39 tell us about when God does a work?
A: *Man cannot overthrow it.*
- p. 31 Q: What does John 10:28 tell us about when God saves?
A: *Man cannot pluck us out of God's hand.*
- p. 31 Q: What does Psalm 104:5 tell us about when God lays the foundations of something?
A: *Those foundations will never be moved.*
- p. 31 Q: And what else does Psalm 55:22 tell us God will not allow to be moved (or shaken)?
A: *The righteous will never be moved (shaken).*
- p. 32 Q: Read Psalm 55:16–17. What did David do in this difficult time, confident that God would hear and answer?
A: *call, pray, cry aloud unto God*
- p. 32 Q: Now read Psalm 55:18 . . . David experienced what emotion?
A: *“He hath delivered my soul in peace from the battle . . .”*
- p. 32 Q: What did it take for the waters to flee and haste away?
A: *God's voice*
- p. 32 Q: And where did they go (Psalm 104:8)?
A: *up the mountains and down into the valley*
- p. 33 Q: What does it take—or will it take—for you to obey God?
A: *Answers will vary.*
- p. 33 Q: What picture does God give for His boundaries on the waters?
A: *shutting the sea with doors*
- p. 33 Q: What picture does He give in Job 38:10?
A: *using bars and doors*
- p. 33 Q: And what did He tell the waters in Job 38:11?
A: *“Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further.”*

- p. 34 Q: Do you believe God is in control of your life?
A: *Answers will vary.*
- p. 34 Q: Do you trust Him to give you what is good for you?
A: *Answers will vary.*
- p. 35 Q: What should you do when you are feeling shaken (Psalm 55:22)?
A: *Cast your burden on God.*
- p. 35 Q: Does God have a specific plan for your life?
A: *yes*
- p. 35 Q: What limitations or boundaries has God given you?
A: *Answers will vary.*
- p. 35 Q: Will you choose to see God's limitations as opportunities for you to become beautiful to Him?
A: *Answers will vary.*
- p. 35 Q: Read 2 Corinthians 12:7–10. According to verse 7, what was Paul given?
A: *a thorn in the flesh (a trial)*
- p. 35 Q: Why was this “thorn in the flesh” given to him (also 2 Corinthians 12:7)?
A: *to prevent him from being exalted above measure*
- p. 36 Q: Instead, what did God tell Paul was sufficient or enough (2 Corinthians 12:9)?
A: *His grace*
- p. 36 Q: Paul accepted God's grace and decided he must then do what (2 Corinthians 12:9–10)?
A: *He would gladly glory in his infirmities.*
- p. 36 Q: What two reasons does Paul give for glorying in or taking pleasure in his infirmities (2 Corinthians 12:9b, 10b)?
A:
 1. *God's power would rest in him.*
 2. *In his weakness he found God's strength.*

Lesson Five

Singing to Our Great God from a Contented Heart

- p. 38 Q: Who is doing the sending forth (verse 10)?
A: *God*
- p. 38 Q: What is being sent (verse 10)?
A: *springs*
- p. 38 Q: Where does He send the springs (verse 10)?
A: *into the valleys*
- p. 38 Q: What is the purpose for sending the springs there (verse 11)?
A: *to give drink to all the animals in the fields*
- p. 39 Q: Do you believe—really believe—that God will meet every one of your needs?
A: *Answers will vary.*
- p. 39 Q: Read Isaiah 55:1–3. Who is invited to come to the waters for a relationship with Christ?
A: *everyone who is thirsty and without money*
- p. 39 Q: In what kind of land (what type of circumstances) do David’s soul and flesh seek the Lord (verse 1)?
A: *in a dry and thirsty land without water*
- p. 39 Q: What is better than life itself to David (verse 3)?
A: *God’s lovingkindness*
- p. 39 Q: What is David’s response to the Lord (verse 4)?
A: *He will praise God and raise his hands to Him.*
- p. 40 Q: Was David’s thirsty soul (verse 1) satisfied in God (verse 5)?
A: *Yes. It was satisfied to the fullest.*
- p. 40 Q: As you turn your eyes from the donkeys drinking by the stream and look up into the trees, what do you see (verse 12)?
A: *birds singing among the branches*
- p. 40 Q: What have these birds made by the springs (Psalm 104:12)?
A: *habitations (homes)*
- p. 40 Q: Where have the sparrow and swallow in this verse made their homes?
A: *in God’s altars*

- p. 41 **Q:** What do we find the birds in Psalm 104:12*b* doing?
A: *making their homes next to the water and singing*
- p. 41 **Q:** Write out Psalm 147:1 here, and take just a minute to ask yourself if your heart agrees.
A: *"Praise ye the Lord: for it is good to sing praises unto our God; for it is pleasant; and praise is comely."*
- p. 41 **Q:** Will you trust our great God to supply all of your needs—physical, emotional, social, and spiritual?
A: *Answers will vary.*
- p. 42 **Q:** Is there anything or anyone that you have tried to substitute for God in an attempt to be satisfied?
A: *Answers will vary.*
- p. 42 **Q:** Have you accepted God's offer of living water, the salvation from your sin through Jesus Christ's sacrifice?
A: *Answers will vary.*
- p. 42 **Q:** Is something in your life that you've been clutching onto instead of giving it to God?
A: *Answers will vary.*
- p. 42 **Q:** Do you enjoy singing to our great God?
A: *Answers will vary.*
- p. 42 **Q:** Why should you sing to the Lord? What can motivate your songs?
A: *Answers will vary, but could include such answers as: because I love Him, I am thankful to Him, and I want to please Him.*
- p. 42 **Q:** Why do you think these two men were able to respond in this type of a situation with singing?
A: *Answers will vary.*
- p. 43 **Q:** What results did their singing have?
A: *The jailor and his family got saved.*

Lesson Six

Finding Strength and Satisfaction In Our Great God

- p. 44 Q: What is being provided for in Psalm 104:13a?
A: *the hills*
- p. 45 Q: What then is God sending down from these chambers (Psalm 104:13a)?
A: *water (rain)*
- p. 45 Q: Look at Psalm 147:7–9. Rain is given as a reason to do what (verse 7)?
A: “*Sing* unto the Lord with *thanksgiving*;
sing praise . . . unto our God.”
- p. 45 Q: Who is in control of even the rain?
A: “Let us now *fear* the *Lord*!”
- p. 45 Q: In Psalm 104:14, what is caused to grow by the rain?
A: *grass, herb*
- p. 45 Q: For what purpose does it grow?
A: *food*
- p. 45 Q: Is it obvious to you that God cares for His creatures?
A: *yes*
- p. 46 Q: If God takes care of the birds and the lilies, will He take care of you?
A: *Yes. We are of more importance.*
- p. 46 Q: How, after all, did Christ describe these people (end of verse 30)?
A: *of little faith*
- p. 46 Q: According to Matthew 6:33, when will “all these things . . . be added unto you”?
A: *after we seek God’s kingdom*
- p. 46 Q: What grows “for the service of man” (Psalm 104:14)?
A: *herb*
- p. 46 Q: And both the cattle being fed and this vegetation growing are for what purpose (Psalm 104:14b)?
A: *food*
- p. 46 Q: What’s your favorite meal? Can you think of how God has provided for each of the ingredients that go into that dish?
A: *Answers will vary.*

pp. 46–47 Q: What else does God give to us in Psalm 104:15? Fill in the chart with what He gives and His purpose for it.

What God Gives	Why God Gives It
<i>Wine</i>	<i>Gladness</i>
<i>Oil</i>	<i>Face shine</i>
<i>Bread</i>	<i>Strength</i>

p. 47 Q: Can you think of something special that God has given you to enjoy?

A: *Answers will vary.*

p. 48 Q: Going back to Psalm 104, take one more look at verse 13. How is the earth referred to in the second half of that verse?

A: *The earth is satisfied with God's works.*

p. 49 Q: Do you respond to the rain with thanksgiving and praise to God (Psalm 147:7–9)? Or are you more likely to complain about it giving you a bad hair day?

A: *Answers will vary.*

p. 49 Q: Do you respond to God's power over the weather by fearing or reverencing and respecting Him (Jeremiah 5:24)?

A: *Answers will vary.*

p. 49 Q: Do you trust God to take care of your needs or are you like the people whom Christ addressed as "O ye of little faith" (Matthew 6:30)?

A: *Answers will vary.*

p. 49 Q: Are you satisfied and content with what God has given you? Have you thanked Him for His kindness to you recently?

A: *Answers will vary.*

p. 49 Q: Have you claimed Christ as your "wine, oil, and bread"—everything you need to be happy and have a full life?

A: *Answers will vary.*

p. 50 Q: Do you believe *you* can be satisfied with Christ alone?

A: *Answers will vary.*

p. 50 Q: How should our attitude differ from the Israelites concerning God's provisions for us?

A: *Answers will vary.*

Lesson Seven

Accepting Where Our Great God Has Planted Us

- p. 52 Q: Which kind of tree was planted in Lebanon (Psalm 104:16)?
A: *cedar*
- p. 52 Q: Who planted them there (Psalm 104:16)?
A: *God*
- p. 52 Q: Do birds live in cedar trees (Psalm 104:17)?
A: *yes*
- p. 53 Q: In what kind of tree does the stork make her home (Psalm 104:17)?
A: *fir*
- p. 53 Q: Read Genesis 1:9–13. Which day were the trees created?
A: *third day*
- p. 53 Q: Now read Genesis 1:20–23. Which day were birds created?
A: *fifth day*
- p. 53 Q: Did God know all about your *physical* makeup before you were born?
A: *Yes, He created me.*
- p. 53 Q: Do you think God has a specific *vocational* plan—what you will do for a living—for your life as well?
A: *Answers will vary.*
- p. 53 Q: Read Ephesians 1:3–6. What did God choose “that we should be” (verse 4*b*)?
A: *holy and without blame before Him*
- p. 54 Q: What had God predestinated—literally, seen beforehand; or planned ahead of time—for us to be a part of, “according to the good pleasure of his will” (Ephesians 1:5)?
A: *to be His children*
- p. 54 Q: What else has He “made us” (Ephesians 1:6)?
A: *“accepted in the beloved”*
- p. 54 Q: When did He choose this redemptive plan for us (Ephesians 1:4*a*)?
A: *before Creation*
- p. 54 Q: So has God had a plan for your *spiritual* life since before you were born?
A: *yes*

- p. 54 Q: According to Psalm 90:1, when has God been a dwelling place for His people?
A: *in all generations*
- p. 54 Q: And how long has He been God (Psalm 90:2)?
A: *forever (before the mountains, earth, and world were formed—from everlasting to everlasting)*
- p. 55 Q: Let’s look again at these trees in Psalm 104:16.
A: *“The trees of the Lord are full of sap.”*
- p. 55 Q: What kind of person is going to “flourish like the palm tree” and “grow like a cedar” (Psalm 92:12)?
A: *the righteous*
- p. 55 Q: Write out Christ’s promise in Matthew 5:6 below.
A: *“Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.”*
- p. 56 Q: Since trees bring forth fruit “after their kind,” what kind of fruit will the righteous produce (Psalm 92:14)? (Hints: Proverbs 11:30; 15:4; Galatians 5:22–23.)
A: *souls, wholesome tongue, love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance*
- p. 56 Q: The person who is blessed and “like a tree planted by the rivers of water” keeps himself or herself away from the wrong crowd (verse 1) and finds his or her delight in what (Psalm 1:2)?
A: *the law of the Lord*
- p. 56 Q: How often does this person meditate on God’s Word (Psalm 1:2)?
A: *day and night*
- p. 56 Q: Fill in the comparison chart below with what you find:

Characteristic	Jeremiah 17:5–6	Jeremiah 17:7–8
Overall description	Cursed	<i>blessed</i>
Where he places his trust	<i>In man</i>	<i>In God</i>
Relationship with God	<i>Departs from God</i>	“Whose hope the Lord is”
Like what kind of tree and where	Heath (shrub) in the desert	<i>green tree planted by the waters</i>
Will not see . . .	<i>When good comes</i>	(or fear) when the heat (trials or evil) comes

- p. 57 Q: What do the high hills, the rocks, cliffs, and crags provide the wild goats and the conies or rock badgers?
A: *a refuge*

- p. 58 Q: Do you believe that God knows everything about you and has a specific purpose for your life?
A: *Answers will vary.*
- p. 58 Q: Do you believe that God has given you everything you need (“fat” or “full of sap”) to be fruitful (“green” or productive) for Him (Psalm 92:14)?
A: *Answers will vary.*
- p. 58 Q: Do you spend time in God’s Word on a daily basis (Psalm 1:1–3)? And do you do your best to apply and obey what you read (James 1:21–25)?
A: *Answers will vary.*
- p. 58 Q: Will you determine to place your trust in the Lord and make Him your hope (Jeremiah 17:7)?
A: *Answers will vary.*
- p. 58 Q: Will you determine to not fear or even see when “the heat” comes (Jeremiah 17:8) because your eyes are on the Lord?
A: *Answers will vary.*
- p. 59 Q: Explain Psalm 52:8 in your own words.
A: *Answers will vary but might include the following: I am fruitful as long as I stay close to God. I will always trust God.*
- p. 59 Q: Will you claim God as your refuge (Psalm 91:2)?
A: *Answers will vary.*

Lesson Eight

Working Diligently for Our Great God and Walking in His Spirit

- p. 61 Q: Did God have an intended purpose for creating the sun, moon, and stars?
A: *yes*
- p. 61 Q: What were God's purposes for creating these lights (Genesis 1:14–15 and Psalm 104:19–20)?
A: *to divide the day from the night, for seasons, and to light the earth*
- p. 61 Q: Can you imagine what life would be like without this God-appointed order to our lives?
A: *Answers will vary.*
- p. 61 Q: What is the first great witness (Psalm 19:1–6)?
A: *creation*
- p. 61 Q: What is the second great witness (Psalm 19:7–11)?
A: *the law (word) of the Lord*
- p. 62 Q: According to Isaiah 45:7a, what does God form and create?
A: *light and darkness*
- p. 62 Q: In Isaiah 45:9, whom is woe ascribed against?
A: *he who strives against God*
- p. 62 Q: What happens at night (verses 20–21)?
A: *Beasts of the forest creep forth.*
- p. 62 Q: And what happens when day breaks (verses 22–23)?
A: *They gather together and lie down in their dens. People get up and work.*
- p. 62 Q: Where do “the young lions . . . seek their meat from” (verse 21)?
A: *God*
- p. 63 Q: What is man's part (Psalm 104:23)?
A: *to work*
- p. 64 Q: What phrase is repeated in Ezekiel 19:3 and 6?
A: *“became a young lion, and learned to catch the prey, and devoured men”*
- p. 64 Q: What should they have been doing instead (Galatians 5:14)?
A: *Answers will vary but might include encouraging others and showing love*

- p. 64 Q: What is love according to Galatians 5:22?
A: *It is fruit of the Spirit.*
- p. 64 Q: And how are we instructed to walk in Galatians 5:16, 25?
A: *in the spirit*
- p. 64 Q: Going back to those kings in Ezekiel 19, how did the prince in verse 6 become a young lion?
A: *He learned from the lions.*
- p. 64 Q: Write out Proverbs 13:20 below.
A: *"He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed."*
- p. 65 Q: What is the result for those who "bite and devour one another" like lions and follow their fleshly lusts according to Galatians 5:19–21?
A: *They "shall not inherit the kingdom of God."*
- p. 65 Q: Are you seeking to know God's will for your life and submitted to following and obeying His plan?
A: *Answers will vary.*
- p. 65 Q: What are God's two great witnesses in Psalm 19? Give an example from each of these witnesses that teaches you something about our great God.
A:
 1. *creation—the heavens show God's majesty and glory (v. 1)*
 2. *the Word—God's law tells how to be converted and makes the simple wise (v. 7)*
- p. 66 Q: Are you willing to follow God's plan even if He doesn't answer all of your questions when, or how, you'd like Him to (Isaiah 44)? Is there something that is holding you back from submitting yourself to God? Are you insisting on understanding everything before you take a step? Will you decide instead to let Him direct your path and to trust Him to choose what is best for you? (See Proverbs 3:5–6.)
A: *Answers will vary.*
- p. 66 Q: Do you diligently do the work God has given you, whether it's a household chore, homework, or an actual job?
A: *Answers will vary.*
- p. 66 Q: Are your friends wise or foolish? Do they want to be like Jesus? Are you better off spiritually when you hang around with certain people? Can you think of someone that would be good for you to spend more time with? Is there anyone that you should spend less time with?
A: *Answers will vary.*

p. 66 Q: Are you walking in the Spirit, evidencing the fruit of that Spirit (Galatians 5:22–24), or are you following your flesh, biting and devouring others, and practicing sinful habits (Galatians 5:15, 19–21)?

A: *Answers will vary.*

Lesson Nine

Rejoicing in the Riches of Our Great God

p. 69 Q: Review Psalm 104:5–23 and see how many [wonderful works] you can list. Include any mention of a created work even if it is not the focus of the verse.

A: *earth, waters (oceans), mountains, thunder, valleys, springs, hills, beasts, asses, fowls, heaven, branches, grass, cattle, herb, man, food, wine, heart, oil, face, bread, trees, sap, cedars, birds, stork, fir tress, goats, rocks, conies, moon, sun, forest, lions, dens, man*

p. 69 Q: What attribute of God is highlighted in the second phrase of Psalm 104:24?

A: *wisdom*

pp. 69–70 Q: Write down what each verse tells us about our great God’s wisdom in the space provided.

Verses	What it says about God’s wisdom
Proverbs 3:19–20	<i>It founded the earth; established the heavens; depths are broken up; clouds drop down the dew.</i>
Daniel 2:19–22	<i>It reveals visions (deep and secret things).</i>
Isaiah 40:13–14; Romans 11:33–34	No one can teach God anything. He has no need for a counselor because He knows and understands everything!
Psalm 139:1–4; 1 Chronicles 28:9	God knows everything about me! He even understands my <i>thoughts before I think them!</i>
James 1:5; 1 Kings 3:9, 28	<i>God gives wisdom if we ask for it.</i>

p. 70 Q: What is it that God possesses that fills the earth? Look at Psalm 33:5*b* for the answer.

A: *His goodness*

p. 70 Q: Have we not seen several times already the goodness of our great God in Psalm 104?

A: *Answers will vary.*

p. 70 Q: Paul was also excited about the rich possessions of God. What attributes did he marvel at in Romans 11:33?

A: *His wisdom, knowledge, judgments, and ways*

- pp. 70–71 Q: Write out Romans 11:33 here:
 A: *“O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!”*
- p. 71 Q: What is “the riches of the glory of this mystery” and “our hope of glory” according to Colossians 1:27?
 A: *Christ in us*
- p. 71 Q: And as you keep reading, you discover in Colossians 2:3 that “in [Christ] are hid” what?
 A: *all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge*
- p. 72 Q: Then he notices what else out in the sea (Psalm 104:26a)?
 A: *ships*
- p. 72 Q: Are you like a merchant ship in that way? Are you creatively finding ways to accomplish your goals? Are you taking advantage of the opportunities and resources He has given to you?
 A: *Answers will vary.*
- p. 73 Q: Can you think of some specific blessings the Lord has given you that will help you be successful in life?
 A: *Answers will vary.*
- p. 73 Q: In Psalm 104:26b, what else does the psalmist point out down in that “great and wide sea”?
 A: *leviathan*
- p. 73 Q: What has God made this creature to do (Psalm 104:26b)?
 A: *to play in the water*
- p. 73 Q: Where is it, after all, that we find “fulness of joy” and lasting pleasure (Psalm 16:11)?
 A: *in God’s presence*
- p. 74 Q: Since God is wise, can you go to Him in His Word with any problem and expect to find the right answer?
 A: *yes*
- p. 74 Q: Have you seen God answer your prayers for wisdom?
 A: *Answers will vary.*
- p. 74 Q: Is God rich enough to take care of all your needs? Will you trust Him to do so?
 A: *Answers will vary.*
- p. 74 Q: Are you using the rich resources He has given you so that you can be successful?
 A: *Answers will vary.*

p. 74 Q: What resource(s) has God given you that you would like to make better use of—perhaps money, time, His Word, wise parents, good teachers, or something else?

A: *Answers will vary.*

p. 74 Q: Do you enjoy the good things God has given you? Or do you find things God has forbidden either in His Word or through your parents to be more pleasurable?

A: *Answers will vary.*

p. 74 Q: Are you spending time in God’s Word as a personal, daily practice and letting His Word “dwell in you richly” on a regular basis (Colossians 3:10)?

A: *Answers will vary.*

p. 75 Q: Are you rejoicing in our great God today?

A: *Answers will vary.*

p. 75 Q: Can you trust Him to do what is best for you?

A: *Answers will vary.*

p. 75 Q: Compare Job 41:34*b* with Isaiah 14:12–17 and Revelation 12:9. What do you think?

A: *Answers will vary.*

Lesson Ten

Waiting On Our Great God



p. 77 Q: What are they waiting for (Psalm 104:27)?

A: *for God to give them their food*

p. 77 Q: How do we look to the Lord?

A: *as a servant looks to his/her master for instructions*

pp. 77–78 Q: Fill in the chart below with who waits, or waited, patiently according to these verses.

Verse	Who Waits Patiently
James 5:7	The husbandman or farmer
James 5:10	<i>Prophets</i>
James 5:11	<i>Job</i>

p. 78 Q: According to James 5:8, who is also supposed to be patient?

A: *We are.*

p. 78 Q: Until when (James 5:7)?

A: *until Christ's return*

p. 78 Q: And what are you **not** supposed to do towards those who cause you grief (James 5:9)?

A: *grudge (grumble)*

p. 78 Q: How is God referred to in James 5:9?

A: *as a judge*

p. 79 Q: Read Titus 2:11–14. What has God's grace taught us we should live like (Titus 2:12)?

A:

1. *soberly (self-controlled)*
2. *righteously (upright)*
3. *godly*

p. 79 Q: What are we to be looking for and waiting for in patient expectation (Titus 2:13)?

A: *Christ's return*

- p. 79 Q: What are we to be zealous or enthusiastic about in the meantime (Titus 2:14)?
A: *good works*
- p. 79 Q: How can we overcome weariness—fatigue, faintness, and a desire to quit?
A: *by waiting on God*
- p. 80 Q: What are we to keep before the Lord in order to renew our strength according to Isaiah 41:1a?
A: *silence*
- p. 80 Q: In what do we find strength according to Isaiah 30:15?
A: *quietness and confidence*
- p. 80 Q: When does God provide (Psalm 104:27b)?
A: *in due season*
- p. 80 Q: And what does God expect us to do with what He provides (Psalm 104:28a)?
A: *We are to gather it.*
- p. 81 Q: When He takes what is in His hand and gives it to us, what should we realize (Psalm 104:28b)?
A: *We are given what is good.*
- p. 81 Q: Do you feel like you have a better understanding of what it means to wait on the Lord?
A: *Answers will vary.*
- p. 81 Q: If someone were to ask you what it means to wait on the Lord, what would you tell them in one or two sentences?
A: *Answers will vary but could include the following: look to God for your answers; be patient; trust God.*
- p. 81 Q: Do you *expect* God to give you a good portion?
A: *Answers will vary.*
- p. 82 Q: Are you patiently enduring whatever hard thing the Lord has allowed into your life right now?
A: *Answers will vary.*
- p. 82 Q: Are you looking for Christ's return with a joyful hope and confident expectation?
A: *Answers will vary.*
- p. 82 Q: What are you doing to serve the Lord and love others while you wait?
A: *Answers will vary.*
- p. 82 Q: Are you finding strength as you spend quiet time in God's Word on a consistent basis?
A: *Answers will vary.*

- p. 82 Q: Will you choose to trust in the Lord and depend completely on Him for all your needs and desires?
A: *Answers will vary.*
- p. 82 Q: What part of God's portion for you right now is hard to accept?
A: *Answers will vary.*
- p. 82 Q: Do you believe God's judgments or decisions to be best for you, or are you tempted to think you might know better sometimes?
A: *Answers will vary.*
- p. 82 Q: Will you choose to praise our great God for giving you the portion He has chosen to give you right now and acknowledge that His ways are "too wonderful" for you to completely understand (Psalm 139:6)?
A: *Answers will vary.*

Lesson Eleven

Living in the Presence of Our Great God

- p. 84 Q: What happens when God hides His face (Psalm 104:29)?
A: *Trouble follows.*
- p. 85 Q: Read Psalm 22:1–24. Have you ever felt dejected and forsaken as David did?
A: *Answers will vary.*
- p. 85 Q: While Christ was suffering on the cross, what phrase did He quote from Psalm 22?
A: *“My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?”*
- p. 85 Q: What is the penalty or payment of sin (Romans 6:23a)?
A: *death*
- p. 85 Q: What does David pray in Psalm 51:11?
A: *“Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.”*
- p. 86 Q: According to Psalm 104:29b, what happens if He takes our breath away?
A: *We die and return to dust.*
- p. 86 Q: Read Job 33:4 and Acts 17:24–25. Who gave us our breath in the first place?
A: *the Spirit of God*
- p. 86 Q: Read Genesis 2:7. What did God make man out of?
A: *the dust of the ground*
- p. 86 Q: And what did God’s breathing into man’s nostrils “the breath of life” make man become?
A: *a living soul*
- p. 86 Q: According to Genesis 3:3, what would be the consequence of their choice to disobey?
A: *death*
- p. 86 Q: What would Adam return to (Genesis 3:19; Job 34:14–15)?
A: *dust*
- p. 86 Q: Read James 4:14. What does James point out that we don’t know?
A: *what will happen tomorrow*

- p. 86 Q: And what does he compare life to?
A: *a vapor (mist) that quickly disappears*
- p. 87 Q: What comes after your appointment with death?
A: *the judgment*
- p. 87 Q: God not only removes His presence or our breath, but He also does what according to verse 30?
A: *He renews the face of the earth (ground).*
- p. 87 Q: Read Ezekiel 37:1. Where did Ezekiel find himself in this vision?
A: *in a valley*
- p. 87 Q: What was the valley full of (Ezekiel 37:1)?
A: *bones*
- p. 87 Q: Read Ezekiel 37:2–4. How did Ezekiel answer the Lord’s question, “Can these bones live?”
A: *“O Lord God, thou knowest.”*
- p. 88 Q: Read Ezekiel 37:5–10. What happened to the dry bones?
A: *They lived.*
- p. 88 Q: Read Ezekiel 37:11–14. Do you see a connection between this passage and Psalm 104:30?
A: *Both speak of God’s breathing His Spirit to create life.*
- p. 88 Q: Record verses 10 and 12 below.
A: **Psalm 51:10:**
“Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.”
- Psalm 51:12:**
“Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.”
- p. 89 Q: What must “endure forever”?
A: *the glory of the Lord*
- p. 89 Q: Is that your heart’s greatest desire too—for God’s presence to *always* be present in your life?
A: *Answers will vary.*
- p. 89 Q: Again, what do we find in God’s presence according to Psalm 16:11?
A: *fulness of joy*
- p. 90 Q: Do you respond to the Lord’s presence with awe and respectful amazement?
A: *Answers will vary.*
- p. 90 Q: How does the author of Hebrews describe our God in Hebrews 12:29?
A: *a consuming fire*

- p. 90 Q: According to Ezekiel 36:27, what does God cause and expect us to do when we have His Spirit?
A: *to walk in His statutes and keep His judgments (be careful to obey God's expectations)*
- p. 90 Q: Read Revelation 4:11. What is the purpose of God's creation?
A: *to give glory, honor, and power to God*
- p. 91 Q: Have you experienced the pain of God's silence? Or has He seemed to be far away? Have you experienced the awfulness of having some sin separating you from the Lord?
A: *Answers will vary.*
- p. 91 Q: Is there some sin that you need to confess to the Lord right now and ask for forgiveness and restored fellowship?
A: *Answers will vary.*
- p. 91 Q: Who gave you breath? And Who decides how long your life will be? Do you trust Him with your life and breath?
A: *Answers will vary.*
- p. 91 Q: Are you living your life in such a way that it is obvious that you desire God's special presence to be with you forever?
A: *Answers will vary.*
- p. 91 Q: Is your life bringing pleasure to God?
A: *Answers will vary.*
- pp. 91–92 Q: Read Romans 8:1–6, Galatians 5:16–26, and Ephesians 2:1–10 and meditate on the difference between living in the flesh versus living in the Spirit.

Verses	In the flesh	In the spirit
Romans 8:1–6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>under condemnation</i> • <i>under the Law</i> • <i>minds on fleshly things</i> • <i>death</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>no condemnation</i> • <i>free</i> • <i>minds on things of the Spirit</i> • <i>life</i>
Galatians 5:16–26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>against the Spirit</i> • <i>sexual immorality...</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>against the flesh</i> • <i>not under the law</i> • <i>love...</i> • <i>crucify the flesh</i>
Ephesians 2:1–10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>dead in trespasses and sins</i> • <i>following the prince of the power of the air</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>alive together with Christ</i> • <i>His workmanship</i>

Lesson Twelve

Worshiping Our Great God

- pp. 94–95 Q: What two things does the psalmist say he *will* do in verse 33?
A:
1. *"I will sing unto the Lord as long as I live."*
2. *"I will sing praise to my God while I have my being."*
- p. 95 Q: How long will He sing (verse 33)?
A: *until he dies*
- p. 95 Q: How many times does David say "I will" in those three verses (Psalm 108:1–3)?
A: *four times*
- p. 96 Q: And what are his resolutions?
A: *to sing and give praise, to awake early, to praise God, to sing praises unto God*
- p. 96 Q: What did Christ call those who said the "right" things but didn't have a right heart (Matthew 15:7)?
A: *hypocrites*
- p. 96 Q: Though they drew near with what they said, where was their heart (Matthew 15:8)?
A: *far from God*
- p. 96 Q: What did Christ say their worship was (Matthew 15:9a)?
A: *vain (empty)*
- p. 96 Q: How must we worship God?
A:
1. *in spirit*
2. *in truth*
- p. 97 Q: What does Psalm 104:34 say that this kind of Scriptural meditation will be?
A: *sweet*
- p. 97 Q: In Psalm 104:34b our psalmist declares one more "I will." What is it?
A: *be glad in the Lord*
- p. 98 Q: Read 1 Kings 8:66. Why were the people so happy?
A: *for the goodness that the Lord had done*

- p. 98 Q: Read Psalm 29:2 and 96:9. How are we to worship the Lord?
A: *in the beauty of holiness*
- p. 99 Q: What does Christ want to present Himself (Ephesians 5:27)?
A: *a glorious church without spot or blemish*
- p. 99 Q: What did Christ do that this might be possible (Ephesians 5:25)?
A: *gave Himself (died) for the church*
- p. 99 Q: And what does He use to purify us (Ephesians 5:26)?
A: *the Word*
- p. 100 Q: When God uses trials to purify us, how do we come out in comparison with gold?
A: *much more precious than pure gold*
- p. 100 Q: Read Hebrews 12:6–11. Whom does the Lord chasten (verse 6)?
A: *those whom He loves*
- p. 100 Q: Why does God chasten us, according to that same verse?
A: *for our profit*
- p. 100 Q: Read 1 Peter 1:14–17. What are we to be as (verse 14)?
A: *obedient children*
- p. 100 Q: Is 1 Peter 1:15–16 given as an option or as a command?
A: *command*
- p. 100 Q: Why are we to be holy (1 Peter 1:16)?
A: *because God is holy and He commands it*
- p. 100 Q: What is God going to do “without respect of persons” (without showing any favoritism, no matter who you are) according to 1 Peter 1:17?
A: *judge according to every man’s work*
- p. 101 Q: What does Psalm 97:10 reveal to be true about those who love God?
A: *They hate evil.*
- p. 101 Q: What portion of verse 35 is repeated from verse 1?
A: *“Bless . . . the Lord, O my soul.”*
- p. 102 Q: Will you resolve to worship God in what and how you sing?
A: *Answers will vary.*
- p. 102 Q: Will you resolve to sing to God and not be so concerned with what those around you think about your vocal abilities?
A: *Answers will vary.*

- p. 102 Q: Do you worship the Lord “in spirit” with a sincere heart of love “and in truth,” determining to be consistent with the Word of God and not stray from it? Do you struggle more with one than the other?
A: *Answers will vary.*
- p. 102 Q: Is your meditation or what you think about sweet to God?
A: *Answers will vary.*
- p. 102 Q: Do you find meditating on God, Who He is and what He’s done, to be sweet?
A: *Answers will vary.*
- p. 102 Q: Will you resolve to be glad in the Lord, to rejoice in Him no matter what?
A: *Answers will vary.*
- p. 102 Q: Will you resolve to be holy and beautiful for God rather than trying to attract attention from guys in a worldly way?
A: *Answers will vary.*
- p. 102 Q: Will you resolve to love the Lord and hate evil (Psalm 97:10)? Is there any sin in your life that you need to confess?
A: *Answers will vary.*
- p. 102 Q: Are you spending time in His Word so that He can cleanse you that way?
A: *Answers will vary.*
- p. 103 Q: Is there some hard thing in your life that God may be using to purify you? Are you willing to go through trials or chastening if it means you will come out pure and beautiful to God?
A: *Answers will vary.*
- p. 103 Q: After completing this study and “finding out God’s greatness,” are you excited with the psalmist to praise the Lord?
A: *Answers will vary.*
- p. 103 Q: Do you want others to see our great God and praise Him with you?
A: *Answers will vary.*