**1. Motivate**

What are some items you have seen where the item was changed to be able to do something entirely different from its original purpose?

* silverware made into wind chimes
* old tire made into a planter
* old CDs made into wheels for a physics project
* license plates made into roof for a birdhouse
* cheese grater made into lamp shade
* bicycle wheel with circular piece of glass made into a table
* antique saw made into hanging house number sign
* wash tub made into a seat
* collection of old faucet handles made into hang ups
* two halves of old sewing machine made into book ends
* old Polaroid camera made into toilet paper dispenser

A video introduction to the lesson is available, view it at <https://tinyurl.com/ynweadn9> If you don’t have wi-fi where you teach, it is best to download the video file to your computer from <https://tinyurl.com/56nemx5d>

**2. Transition**

God has created each of us with a specific purpose.

* Our sin can keep us from living out that purpose
* We seek both to know our purpose and to experience God’s restoration.

**3. Bible Study**

3.1 Look What Good God Did

Listen for descriptions of God.

Psalm 8:1-6 (NIV) O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. 2 From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger. 3 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, 4 what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? 5 You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. 6 You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet:

What are words and phrases David uses in this passage to describe God?

* excellent, majestic name
* glory higher than heavens
* ordained praise from little children
* stills His enemies

Why is “Lord” used two times in the declaration of praise in verse 1?

* the first is in caps, “LORD” … means Jehovah … The God Who IS … The Great I AM
* the second is declaring a ruling power, the person of authority, the One in charge
* the writer is saying that Jehovah God is the one who is the authority
* it is a declaration of submission to Jehovah

What words indicate the Lord is God of the universe?

* His glory is set above the heavens
* God silences foes and enemies
* He set in place the moon, the stars
* all He needed to do so was his fingers – no earthmovers, no “cast of thousands”

What do *you* find most amazing about God’s creation?

* the design … how things all work together
* the intricacy of design at both ends of the spectrum of magnitude …
* God’s design at the atomic level… the small
* His design of the universe … the LARGE

What can we learn from David about the attitude we should have about ourselves?

* we humans like to think we’re so clever, we know so much, we’re hot stuff
* in contrast to who God is and what God has done, we are so puny
* and yet God loves us and works in our behalf
* we should be amazed, totally astonished and in awe of God’s power, authority, and love for us

With what value did God create people?

* we are created a “little lower” than heavenly beings
* we are crowned with glory and honor
* we are special in God’s sight
* we are given the privilege and responsibility to rule over his works
* He gave us authority – “put everything under his (man’s) feet

How are you a “little less than God” (or “heavenly beings”)?

* we are the only created beings with whom God interacts directly
* we are higher level (spiritually) than animals
* yet we don’t have the capability that God has
* we are made in His image

3.2 Look How We Messed Up

Listen for how mankind failed.

Psalm 14:1-3 (NIV) The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is no one who does good. 2 The LORD looks down from heaven on the sons of men to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God. 3 All have turned aside, they have together become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one.

Verse 1 starts with “The fool says in his heart, ‘There is no God.’” How does this declaration reflect the psalmist’s view of human wisdom and foolishness?

* anyone who declares or lives in denial of God is a fool
* “wisdom” that is entirely humanistic is foolishness

What does this say about the nature of belief or unbelief with regards to God?

* belief in God is wise
* elsewhere scripture says that the fear (awe) of God is the beginning of wisdom
* denial of God is foolish

How does the Lord assess those who live as if He does not exist. List the words and phrases.

* he is a fool
* corrupt
* deeds are vile
* none of them do good

What are some examples of people expressing "there is no God" by how they live?

* those who promote “abortion rights”
* those in bondage to substance abuse have submitted to the control of that chemical, God is not in control of their life – usually not even invited into their life
* those who pursue gender confusion
* people who advocate same sex relationships
* those who live only to gain power, popularity, money, pleasure

How pervasive is the sin that characterizes humankind?

* there is “no one” that does good (repeated)
* all have turned aside
* they have together become corrupt
* not even one that does good
* note Paul’s paraphrasing of these verses in Romans 3

In a world that constantly seeks to turn us away from God, what practices can anchor us to Him?

* daily submit to God, “Jesus is Lord”
* daily seek to know what God says to you – reading his Word
* apply to your life what God says
* talk to God – prayer
* trust Him with your problems
* declare your praise
* confess and repent from your failures

3.3 Look at the Fix God Offers

Listen for God’s solution.

Psalm 14:4-7 (NIV) Will evildoers never learn-- those who devour my people as men eat bread and who do not call on the LORD? 5 There they are, overwhelmed with dread, for God is present in the company of the righteous. 6 You evildoers frustrate the plans of the poor, but the LORD is their refuge. 7 Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion! When the LORD restores the fortunes of his people, let Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad!

In verses 6-7, the psalmist expresses hope for salvation and deliverance. How do these verses contribute to the overall message of the psalm regarding hope and redemption?

* Jehovah God is the refuge of the poor
* God wants us to come to Him for salvation
* God will restore the fortunes of His people

What does this imply about the role of divine intervention in human history?

* God is in charge
* powerful men in high places may *think* they are in control, but ultimately God is in control
* consider Proverbs 21:1 (NLT2) The king’s heart is like a stream of water directed by the LORD; **He** guides it wherever **He** pleases.
* God will and does intervene
* God intervenes in world history *and* in *personal* lives

When has the Lord been a refuge for you during a difficult time?

* provided finances when desperately needed
* opened the door for a job at just the right time
* answered years of prayers for a wayward family member
* gave assurance that He was working in His way in His time as we continued to trust Him
* sustained during long bouts of pain and suffering
* sent a word of encouragement at a strategic point in time
* gave a verse to hold on to during lengthy struggle

Why are we reluctant to turn to God after we’ve sinned?

* Satan attacks us with guilt
* we think God wants to punish us
* actually He wants us to come to Him for forgiveness and restoration
* we think we have to earn our way back into His favor
* we need to learn that ALL our sins are forgiven
* we are sinners – all that has been wiped away – we are now made righteous
* when a believer does fail/sin, that has already been forgiven
* it is for us to confess and repent and continue to trust in His forgiveness to be once again in fellowship with God

Use the last page as a handout so your learners can take home the application points of this week’s lesson.

Application

Reflect. Take time to reflect on the fact that God has created you for His glory.

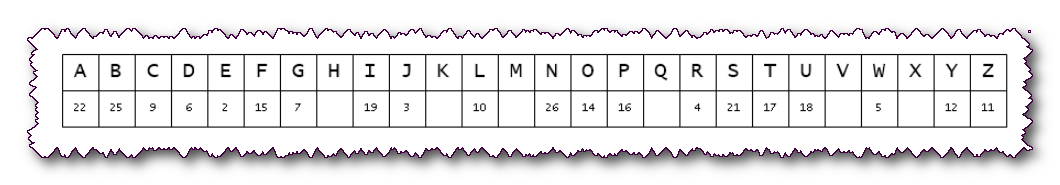
* Are you living your life for His glory or your own?
* Make any changes necessary to give Him all the praise.

Confess.

* What is a part of your life God is revealing that you may be living apart from His purposes for you?
* Confess that to Him, repent, and thank Him for His forgiveness.

Forgive.

* A sign of maturity is sharing God’s forgiveness with others.
* Is there someone who has hurt you?
* Ask God for the grace to forgive, even as He has forgiven you.



Cryptogram Puzzle

A person wearing a baseball cap

Description automatically generatedA white sheet of paper with black lines

Description automatically generated

In my role as the newly appointed sports attaché to the embassy in Yepurocnalia, I was passed this two part message. Our decryption staff is at an away game. We need your help to decode the message. Use the numbers in the key to determine the letters of the message. Pass the results to your church’s sports director. Find help at <https://tinyurl.com/56nemx5d> This ain’t over till it’s over.