**1. Motivate**

Who are some celebrities you admire?

* a particular president or other political figure
* Walt Disney
* a famous vocalist
* leader of a well-known musical group
* a talented instrumentalist
* a talented and upright sports personality
* a noted philanthropist

A video introduction to the Bible study is available at <https://tinyurl.com/ahf5nksj> 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/2s3rua63>

* a gifted medical personality
* Billy Graham, Franklin Graham

**2. Transition**

Some celebrities, such as Elvis in his day, are/were worshiped by their fans.

* Only God deserves our worship.
* Only God is worthy to be given praise and devotion.

**3. Bible Study**

3.1 Worshiping the All Powerful One

Listen for power and authority.

Isaiah 40:21-24 (NIV) 21 Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood since the earth was founded? 22 He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in. 23 He brings princes to naught and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing. 24 No sooner are they planted, no sooner are they sown, no sooner do they take root in the ground, than he blows on them and they wither, and a whirlwind sweeps them away like chaff.

What are words and phrases used in this passage to describe God.

* sits enthroned above the earth
* people look like grasshoppers to Him
* stretches out heaves like a canopy
* spreads heavens like a tent to live in
* reduces rulers of this world to nothing

What are some ways people outside the church describe God today?

* the “Man upstairs”

consider how inadequate and even demeaning such descriptions are

* the Great Spirit
* “the Big Guy”
* also use God’s name as a curse word

Think about some of the idols in our culture …

* Relationships
* Economic power, influence
* Material objects
* Pleasure

Why is looking to things or people for contentment and happiness in life foolish?

* they let you down
* they fail, deteriorate
* they get too familiar and no longer enamor us
* we only want more, they just give an appetite for more

Contrast idols with what God has done for us, wants to do for us …

* Our salvation
* The fruit of the spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, long suffering, faithfulness, gentleness)
* Make us holy, righteous
* The presence of the Holy Spirit within our lives

How have you seen God’s power on display?

* the beauty of creation
* the design of all things – consider the DNA molecule
* the variety of animals and plants
* the creation of the immense universe

How do God’s attributes (power, authority, love) move you to worship Him?

* He can be trusted
* He can accomplish miracles when we are so often helpless
* God will do what is best for us and will bring Him glory
* He knows better than we do what we need and when we need it

3.2 Worshiping the Creator - Sustainer

Listen for an implied truth.

Isaiah 40:25-28 (NIV) "To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One. 26 Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing. 27 Why do you say, O Jacob, and complain, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD; my cause is disregarded by my God"? 28 Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom.

Though stated as a question, what is the implied truth found in verse 25?

* nothing can compare to God
* a comparison looks for common characteristics
* God’s attributes or characteristics are so far beyond anything we can do that we cannot compare, we must contrast

How do these verses affirm that God is holy and in what way?

* no other “power” or being could have accomplished the creation of the universe
* it didn’t just happen
* He has the power to create them out of nothing, to bring them into existence
* He established the laws of physics that keep them in place, keep the burning of the star going

To what were the people directed to see evidence of the majestic power of God?

* all the stars in the sky
* God names them
* He knows their characteristics (temperature, size, density, gravitational pull, any orbiting planets, etc.)
* He created them … out of nothing … spoke them into existence

What flawed conclusion of the people did the prophet challenge?

* my way is hidden from the Lord
* God doesn’t see my situation
* I’m too small for God to pay attention to … He’s got the universe to keep in place and running
* God doesn’t care about little old me
* my cause is disregarded by God
* I’m not important enough for God to hear about my problems

Why did he suggest they should know better?

* God is everlasting
* He created not only the earth, but YOU
* He doesn’t get tired out
* He understands more than you do, more than you don’t know
* Jehovah is The God Who IS (in contrast to them who ain’t)
* you must not have been paying attention

What are the practical implications of God knowing everything about us?

* when we cannot even articulate the problem or how we feel … God knows
* when there are events that are about to blindside us … God knows and cares
* God knows our weaknesses … He wants to and can enable and strengthen us
* God knows the road we’ve traveled, the good times, the missteps … He knows how to get us on the right track

3.3 Worshiping the One Who Strengthens

Listen for an oft repeated analogy.

Isaiah 40:29-31 (NIV) He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. 30 Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; 31 but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

What do we read that the Lord does with His power?

* gives strength to the weary
* increases the power of the weak
* renews the strength of those who put their hope in Him

What analogies did the prophet use to describe the effectiveness of God’s strength within those who trust Him?

* soar on wings like eagles
* run and not grow weary
* walk and not be faint

How do these verses affirm that God is holy and in what way?

* only God can give strength to we who are weak
* we all have our limitations, but God has the power and authority and love for us to enable us to overcome
* God can and will empower those who trust him … politicians can’t , preachers can’t, education can’t, money can’t
* God loves us more than we can understand … no one else can or will do so

What are some ways that we experience being faint and weary?

* busy times in our lives – work, home, family
* dealing with teenagers
* having multiple toddlers in the family
* when experiencing destruction due to fire, weather, earthquake
* when you grow old

How does trusting God strengthen us?

* we are assured that He is present in our lives
* we can depend on God for physical, emotional, and spiritual strength
* we focus on God and His attributes (omniscience, omnipotence, omnipresence, love, authority), not on the problems that could overcome
* we lean on Him, we allow Him to carry us through the struggles

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

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The Starting Place.

* The worship journey begins with seeing God for who He is and responding to His offer of forgiveness in Christ.
* How has God revealed Himself to you? , What attributes of God draw you into worship?
* Take note of those things as you worship this week.

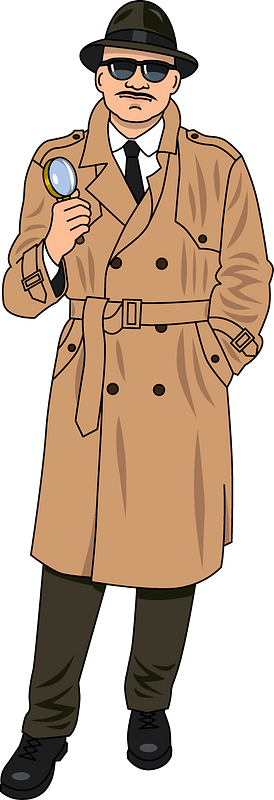
The Growing Place.

* Read Colossians 1:15-20. List all the attributes of Jesus found in these verses describing the essence of Christ.
* Select two or three of the descriptions of Jesus and locate other scriptures or prophecies that corroborate each one.

The Sowing Place.

* Do you know someone who seems to be hopeless?
* How can your worship point the way to the God who loves and gives grace to those who will seek Him?
* Begin praying for them by name and asking God to open the opportunity to point them to Christ, the only place where true hope and comfort are found

Double Puzzle

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This two part message was delivered by two different drones to our embassy in Brimarnow. The clue words are from your Bible passage. Put the letters in order, then use the numbers to fill in the blanks with the correct letters. Our decoder staff is stuck in the snow returning from a holiday middle school retreat. So, we need your help. Pass along the results to your worship pastor as soon as possible. Help is available at <https://tinyurl.com/2s3rua63>