**1. Motivate**

As a kid, what things did someone encourage you to be good at?

* school studies
* a particular sport
* fishing
* cooking

A video introduction to the lesson is available. View it at <https://tinyurl.com/36ye7jnd> 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/ycxebhfw>

* lawn care
* generosity
* politeness
* making friends
* being on time
* working hard

**2. Transition**

God always encourages us to excellence.

* His goodness and love encourage us.
* His mercy and grace encourage us to worship Him

**3. Bible Study**

3.1 God’s Love Shows His Mercy

Listen for prayer requests.

Psalm 25:4-7 (NIV) Show me your ways, O LORD, teach me your paths; 5 guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long. 6 remember, O LORD, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old. 7 Remember not the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you are good, O LORD.

Identify the various requests the psalmist makes of the Lord in these verses.

* show me your ways
* teach me your paths
* guide me in your truth
* remember me

On what basis does he make those requests?

* You are God
* You are my Savior
* I hope in you all day long
* Lord, You are *good*

What do you think David meant by God’s “ways” and “paths”?

* direction in life
* important choices such as schooling, vocation, life partner
* day to day choices – how to act
* what things to avoid
* how to spend your time
* how to manage your money

How does God make His ways, His paths known to us?

* scripture commands and principles
* common sense, God given intellect
* prompting of the Holy Spirit
* open and closed doors of opportunity
* the preaching and teaching of God’s Truth
* counsel of mature believers

Where do you see evidence in the world today of God’s goodness in your life?

* answers to prayer
* provision of a job, dependable finances
* direction in a major purchase
* His direction of your children, grandchildren
* freedoms in our country – worship, speech, …
* beauty in nature
* kindnesses of friendships
* God’s speaking to us through His word

Why does David ask God to remember His mercy and steadfast love but not his sins?

* he remembers his own foibles, his previous sinful actions and attitudes
* probably the situation with Bathsheba and her husband Uriah – adultery, then murder
* he knows he does not deserve God’s love and protection
* he wants to express, and restate His faith in God’s forgiveness and love, mercy and grace
* when God “forgets”, He is choosing *not* to act in judgment for what we deserve – His mercy
* when He “remembers”, He chooses to forgive and bless us, even though we don’t deserve it – grace

How does this reflect God's character?

* God’s love, God’s forgiveness
* God’s holiness – He cannot abide the presence of sin, of sinful people
* He is able to forgive and declare us as justified, righteous because He has carried out judgment against our sins through the death of Jesus
  + His holiness is satisfied
* He (for the present) does not act in judgment against sinners, so that they may have an opportunity to come to Him in repentance and faith

3.2 God’s Goodness Provides Forgiveness

Listen for God’s goodness.

Psalm 25:8-11 (NIV) Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways. 9 He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way. 10 All the ways of the LORD are loving and faithful for those who keep the demands of his covenant. 11 For the sake of your name, O LORD, forgive my iniquity, though it is great.

Note the two traits the psalmist assigned to God.

* Goodness
* Upright

List the actions which are motivated by these traits?

* instructs sinners in His ways
* guides the humble in what is right
* forgiveness

A black background with a black square

Description automatically generated with medium confidenceConsider some synonyms of “humble” .

* Modest
* Unassuming note: “arrogant” is an antonym
* Meek
* Unpretentious

A chair with a cross on it

Description automatically generatedHow do these diagrams illustrate arrogance and humility?

* we are not trying to take charge of our own lives
* the person is not surrendering his/her life to God’s direction
* if you don’t have that unassuming, humble attitude, you will not be asking for God’s teaching or guiding

Discuss the difference of how a person receives God’s guidance if they trust God as opposed to those who do not trust God?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Trusting God | Not Trusting God |
| * desire God’s guidance * willing to listen and heed * continues to trust God’s direction * confident that God gives good direction | * doesn’t feel God has the right to tell him/her what to do (“*if there is a God”*) * doesn’t want God’s direction * don’t even listen what God has to say |

David pleads for forgiveness for the sake of God’s name. How is God’s reputation is connected to forgiveness?

* He sees God’s character and reputation are deeply tied to His act of forgiveness
* Forgiving David (and us), God demonstrates His inherent mercy and love
* God upholds His own goodness and faithfulness in the eyes of others
* God continues to demonstrate His love and compassion – a core aspect of His nature

3.3 Motivated to Worship God

Listen for goodness, reverence, and worship.

Psalm 25:12-15 (NIV) Who, then, is the man that fears the LORD? He will instruct him in the way chosen for him. 13 He will spend his days in prosperity, and his descendants will inherit the land. 14 The LORD confides in those who fear him; he makes his covenant known to them. 15 My eyes are ever on the LORD, for only he will release my feet from the snare.

What did the psalmist say the Lord would do toward those who fear Him?

* God will instruct him, guide him in the way chosen for him
* spend his days in prosperity
* descendants will inherit the land
* God confides in him

What is the special relationship that exists between the God-fearer and the Lord?

* you are in awe of who God is, what He is like
* you are aware that He can and will be at work in your life
* you are totally convinced that He takes a personal interest in you and your situations
* you are confronted with the fact that God loves you dearly

The psalmist makes a commitment.

* My eyes are ever on the Lord
* I trust that He will release my feet from the snare

What does it look like to always have our eyes on the Lord?

* communicate with God daily
* read His words, talk to God often – prayer
* have a Biblical world view
* sensitive to God’s Spirit prompting, nudging, placing the right ideas in one’s head
* ignoring worldly interruptions to your thinking
* purposefully paying attention to what God wants, what God is doing, what God wants to do in your life

How do you “fix your eyes” on the Lord when facing difficulties, as mentioned in verse 15?

* don’t focus on the problem, the difficult situation
* focus on who God is … His power, His love for you
* remember that God can and will accomplish His purpose for you – God’s sovereignty
* claim God’s promises
* continue to tell God you are trusting Him in that difficulty
* thank God, in faith believing that He will carry you through
* praise Him, worship Him when He does resolve the situation

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

Application

The Starting Place.

* We are inspired to worship when we consider the love and forgiveness God has shown us in Christ.
* What are some of the ways God inspired you to worship this week?
* Make a list of how God has shown you love and forgiveness and thank Him for each one.

The Growing Place.

* We respond in worship to His leadership in our lives as He lovingly guides and directs our paths.
* What ways has God led you in life?
* How did He lead you this past week? How did you respond to His leadership?

The Sowing Place.

* We know that God’s compassion draws us in to worship.
* Do you know someone who doesn’t know Christ, or is far away from serving God that you could show compassion?
* Pray and ask the Lord to help you show others His love and compassion. Make plans to spend some time having coffee with someone you’ve prayed for.

A grid of black letters

Description automatically generatedA cartoon of a person in a suit

Description automatically generatedA close-up of a piece of paper

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This has just come in to headquarters from our consulate in Camenamjamas. A Christian there wanted to send an encouraging message to us in the west. Use the key below. You can see how it works with the “Hello World” message. Share this with your families. Technical help and further inspiring activities are found at <https://tinyurl.com/ycxebhfw>

Cryptogram Puzzle