

Remembering What God Has Done

Psalm 136

MEMORY VERSE

PSALM 136:1

“Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

Two small cords or yarn long enough to make a bracelet.

Two copies of the “Creation Memory Match Game” curriculum template for each pair of children, white cardstock, crayons, and scissors.

Butcher paper and markers.

ATTENTION GETTER!

Memory Bracelets

For this activity, you will need two small cords or yarn long enough to make a bracelet. Ask the children to think of times God has shown Himself faithful to them, both tangible and intangible blessings for which they are thankful. They will be tying a knot for each remembrance of God’s faithfulness.

Begin with your bracelet. Have a volunteer help you by holding the ends of two cords. You will hold the other two ends. Explain ways that God has been faithful in your life (for example, “He has provided me with a wonderful family, a good job, helped me in a difficult time, etc.”). Tie a knot for each thing you are thankful for (Optional – place a colorful bead in each knot to make the bracelet more decorative). Leave space between each knot. After sharing four or five things, tie the bracelet around your wrist.

Have the children split into pairs. Give each child their cords and have them take turns with their partner helping to tie the knots and sharing with each other how God has been faithful in their lives.

LESSON TIME!

Throughout the entire psalm, we are encouraged to give thanks to God, remembering His enduring mercy.

Maybe you can think of times in your life when you or your family went through difficult times and God helped you. How important it is to reflect on God's faithfulness to be merciful to us. As we remember and thank God for His works in our lives in the past, His record of faithfulness gives us courage and hope for the present and the future. **God is merciful to us.**

PSALM 136:1-3

Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.

Oh, give thanks to the God of gods! For His mercy endures forever.

Oh, give thanks to the Lord of lords! For His mercy endures forever:

The first three verses encourage us to give thanks to the Lord. Why should we thank the Lord? First, because He is good! God, by nature, is "good" and bestows His goodness upon His children continually.

The psalmist then adds: “For His mercy endures forever.” Repeated line by line throughout the psalm, we read, “His mercy endures forever.” It is comforting to know that God’s mercy towards those who love Him will last forever. We cannot wear out God’s mercy. It is not possible to deplete. Psalm 103:11 describes the extent of God’s mercy: “For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who fear Him.” In Lamentations 3:22 & 23, God’s mercies are described as unfailing, “new every morning.”

Because God is merciful, He constantly intervenes in the life of His children. We know that “all things work together for good” in our life (Romans 8:28). Those of us who have walked with the Lord even a short time should be able to point to many examples of His faithfulness to us. **God is merciful to us.**

The psalmist describes God as the God of gods and the Lord of lords. God deserves our worship, our thanks, and our respect. Who do you respect? God is above every person—any ruler, king, president—and above anyone or anything that would call itself a god. There is no other God besides the Lord.

PSALM 136:4-9

To Him who alone does great wonders, for His mercy endures forever;

To Him who by wisdom made the heavens, for His mercy endures forever;

To Him who laid out the earth above the waters, for His mercy endures forever;

To Him who made great lights, for His mercy endures forever—

The sun to rule by day, for His mercy endures forever;

The moon and stars to rule by night, for His mercy endures forever.

Here the psalmist is praising and thanking God who has revealed His awesome glory through the acts and results of creation. Going back to the beginning, the psalmist reminds us that it was the Lord who created the heavens and the earth and all that is in them.

Do we keep the right perspective? All we see around us, including our very existence, is a gift from our loving Creator. How easy it is for us to take for granted God's blessings. Do problems sometimes make you feel sorry for yourself? Stop and think about God's wondrous gifts to you as you observe the world He created around you...and stop and think about you—the creation He cherishes. Think about your eyes, your ears, and the heart that beats inside of you in perfect, life-sustaining rhythm; think about your ability to think and reason. David said, "I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well" (Psalm 139:14).

Although the heavens and earth tell of His glory, not all want to hear and acknowledge the strong message of creation. Desiring to stay comfortable in their rebellion to their Creator, they have sought to cover the truth with their lies, seeking to explain away the wonders of creation with the lie of evolution. In Romans chapter one, Paul addresses those who willfully ignore God's testimony through creation: "...who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen" (verse 25), and "Professing to be wise, they became fools"(verse 22). Though one may call himself a "wise" professor, how foolish he has become, if he seeks to explain the intricacies and details of even a single part of creation—such as the human eye—apart from God!

Creation Memory Match Game

For this activity, you will need two copies of the curriculum template for each pair of children, white cardstock, crayons, and scissors. Make copies of the template on white cardstock. Split your class into pairs and give them two copies of the template. Have them cut out the squares and color them.

When they are done, have the children shuffle the cards and lay them face down on the floor in four rows. Each player will take a turn picking up two cards. If the cards match, the player gets to keep the cards. If they do not match, the player will put them back face down. The children will have to rely on watching and remembering to be successful at this game. They continue to play until all of the cards are picked up. The player with the most cards is the winner. Use this game to help the children to remember God's faithfulness in creation.

PSALM 136:10-24

To Him who struck Egypt in their firstborn, for His mercy endures forever;

And brought out Israel from among them, for His mercy endures forever;

With a strong hand, and with an outstretched arm, for His mercy endures forever;

To Him who divided the Red Sea in two, for His mercy endures forever;

And made Israel pass through the midst of it, for His mercy endures forever;

But overthrew Pharaoh and his army in the Red Sea,
for His mercy endures forever;

To Him who led His people through the wilderness,
for His mercy endures forever;

To Him who struck down great kings, for His mercy
endures forever;

And slew famous kings, for His mercy endures
forever—

Sihon king of the Amorites, for His mercy endures
forever;

And Og king of Bashan, for His mercy endures
forever—

And gave their land as a heritage, for His mercy
endures forever;

A heritage to Israel His servant, for His mercy
endures forever.

Who remembered us in our lowly state, for His mercy
endures forever;

And rescued us from our enemies, for His mercy
endures forever;

The psalmist now remembers God's mighty acts among His people, the nation Israel, celebrating each one with thanksgiving for God's mercy. God took His people from the bondage of slavery; He parted the Red Sea, kept them safe from their enemies, and blessed them with their arrival into the Promised Land. God has done all of those things for you and me. As Christians, we are no longer slaves

to sin (Romans 6:6); God takes care of the Red Sea in our lives (Exodus 14:14); He keeps us safe from our enemies (Psalm 91:15-16); and we will arrive in the Promised Land of heaven (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).

We as the psalmist, can thank God for His goodness and His mercy toward us—loving us, calling us, redeeming us, guiding us, working “all things together for good” (Romans 8:28) in our lives, blessing us in countless ways, and giving us a home with Him forever in Heaven. Let’s remember to *often* take time to reflect on all the ways God has shown Himself merciful in our lives.

If your parents or grandparents know the Lord and have walked with Him they can probably tell you many stories about how God has proved Himself faithful in their lives. Though you are young, you, too, can begin to construct a record of His faithfulness by considering His present and past goodness to you. **God is merciful to us.**

Moses Scroll

You will need butcher paper and markers for this activity. Divide the children into groups and assign each group a different scene from Moses’ life. Have the children draw the scene on a section of butcher paper. Go in chronological order. Scenes may include Moses in a basket, Moses in Pharaoh’s court, Moses and the burning bush, the ten plagues and crossing the Red Sea.

You can use this activity to help explain the section of Psalm 136 that talks about Moses’ life. Explain to the children that it is important to remember how God has helped those in the past; He will continue to help us now.

PSALM 136:25-26

Who gives food to all flesh, For His mercy endures forever.

Oh, give thanks to the God of heaven! for His mercy endures forever.

In ending the praise, the psalmist gives thanks to the Lord for meeting his daily needs. The Lord Jesus taught His disciples how to pray (Matthew 6:9-13). We are to make our requests known to God and then trust that He will provide what we need. Jesus also encouraged them in Matthew 6:25-26 to not be concerned about what we will wear or eat. God not only takes care of His children, He provides the needs of all of His creation.

We each have a choice. We can be like the children of Israel who grumbled when they tired of the manna God miraculously provided for them in the wilderness; or, even though life may make us feel sad and hurting at times, we can remember the *many* blessings for which we can be thankful. May we be a people that remember and reflect on God's faithfulness to us often!

How do you think thanking God for what He has done in the past might help us in the present and in the future? When we think about and remember the things He has done in our past, we can face our present and future problems with confidence and strength. We will have courage to go forward in our walk with the Lord, because we have put our trust in Him. **God is merciful to us.**

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving to the Lord for all that He has done in their lives. Also pray a prayer of commitment to always remember what God has done in the past and trust God for the future. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.

