

YEAR C | QUARTER 2

12

Windows to God

Grace

God's grace transforms us.

POWER TEXT

"The heavens declare the glory of God" (Psalm 19:1).
"The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul" (Psalm 19:7).
"May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer" (Psalm 19:14).

KEY REFERENCES

- Psalm 19
- *Steps to Christ,* chap. 1, pp. 9-16
- *The SDA Bible Commentary,* Ellen G. White Comments, vol. 3, pp. 1143, 1144
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 8, pp. 58-61
- student story on page 132 of this guide

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 6, Creation
- No. 1, The Holy Scriptures
- No. 23, Marriage and the Family

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** that God reveals Himself to us in nature, His Word, and His work in our lives.
- **Feel** that they want to get to know God in these ways.
- **Respond** by taking time to "read" nature and to store His words in their hearts.



God reveals Himself in nature, His Word, and His work in our lives.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

"Nature and revelation alike testify of God's love" (*Steps to Christ,* p. 9). This statement could almost be a summary of Psalm 19. This psalm leads us to meditate on how God reveals Himself in nature and in His Holy Word. It closes with reference to the influence these revelations of God have on our personal lives. When we let God reveal Himself in our lives, others can see Him there too.

This is a lesson about grace in action.

God reveals Himself to us in nature and in the Bible. But He also reveals Himself in us as we meditate on and incorporate these revelations of Him into our lives.

Teacher Enrichment

"God calls upon teachers to behold the heavens and study the works of God in nature. . . . We would do well to read often the nineteenth psalm that we may understand how the Lord binds up His law with His created works. . . .

"We are to contemplate the wonderful works of God, and repeat the lessons learned from them to our children, that we may lead them to see His skill, His power, His grandeur in His created works.

"What a God is our God! He rules over His kingdom with diligence and care, and He has built a hedge—the ten commandments—about His subjects, to preserve them from transgression. In requiring obedience to the laws of His kingdom, God gives His people health and happiness, peace and joy. He teaches them that the perfection of character He requires can only be attained by becoming familiar with His Word" (*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* Ellen G. White Comments, vol. 3, p. 1143).

"By beholding we are to become changed, and as we meditate upon the perfections of our divine Model, we shall desire to become wholly transformed and renewed in the image of His purity. . . . The more our thoughts are upon Christ, the more we shall speak of Him to others, and represent Him to the world" (*ibid.,* p. 1145).

In what ways do I look for new and fresh revelations of God in my life?

Welcome

Welcome students at the door and direct them to their seats. Ask them how their week has been. Encourage learners to study their Sabbath School lesson regularly, and use several minutes to debrief students on the previous week's lesson.

Ask: **What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find the most helpful? Which activity was the most fun?** Invite students to share their experiences and/or the handiworks they created for Sabbath School during the week. (The leader should be familiar with the previous lesson to be able to direct the discussion.) This is also a good time to have students recite the power text.

Have students begin the Readiness Activity of your choice. »

Program notes

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	Ongoing	Greet students at door. Ask about their week.	
1 Readiness	10-15	*A. Getting to Know Me* *B. See My Handiwork, See Me*	Bibles Bibles, works of art people have made OR modeling clay, sand, or other creative medium
* Prayer and Praise	15-20	See page 127. Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks, offering plate/basket, world map, pushpins
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story Experiencing the Story Exploring the Bible	 Bibles, index cards Bibles, white/chalkboard, markers/chalk
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*My Application*	
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*Hear the Word of the Lord*	Bibles, *He Is Our Song* OR copies of p. 153
* Closing		A. Prayer and Closing Comments B. Reminder to Parents C. Coming Up Next Week	

1

READINESS ACTIVITIES

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

A

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles

Getting to Know Me

Take a walk through your church grounds or neighborhood and point out things you see, such as a rock, flower, book, key, puppy, cotton ball, spider, piece of candy, or newspaper. Ask students to tell how each object might symbolize something about themselves. For example, a rock might symbolize strength, or a puppy might symbolize warmth or unconditional love. Model this to the students first.

Debriefing

Ask: **How did you feel about trying to express yourself through an object? Did you get to know some of your fellow students better as a result of this exercise? Would someone who doesn't know you at all have learned something important about you from the objects we saw?**

Say: **Today we are studying Psalm 19. Let's find and read Psalm 19:1-4.**

Ask: **How is God revealed through creation? We are God's creation. How does God reveal Himself through us?**

Say: **Today we are learning that**

God reveals Himself in nature, His Word, and His work in our lives.

B

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ works of art people have made OR
- ☐ modeling clay, sand, OR other creative medium

See My Handiwork, See Me

If possible, bring samples of different people's artwork or crafts (or books of art). Ask students to find a partner, choose one piece of art, and brainstorm a list of characteristics about the artist that are revealed by their work of art. For example, about a rather modern piece students might say "a very abstract thinker."

OR distribute modeling clay or provide sand for sand sculptures. Ask each student to create something. Then ask students to decide what each handiwork says about its maker. Model this by showing them an example of something you made (i.e., a clay figure).

Debriefing

Ask: **How did it feel to be telling something about yourself by what you made? (Or trying to find out something about someone by what they made?) If you could begin creating now, what would you create to try to tell others about yourself?**

Say: **Today we are studying Psalm 19. Let's find and read Psalm 19:1-4.**

Ask: **How is God revealed through what He has created? We are God's creation. How does God reveal Himself through us?**

Say: **Today we are learning that**

God reveals Himself in nature, His Word, and His work in our lives.

Prayer and Praise

Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). If they have given you permission, share one or two special items from students' Bible study during the week. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

"I'll Be Still" (*He Is Our Song,* no. 142)
"Face to Face" (*He Is Our Song,* no. 143)
"As for Me" (*He Is Our Song,* no. 144)
"Lord, Be Glorified" (*He Is Our Song,* no. 148)

Mission

YOU NEED:
- ☐ world map and push pins

Use Adventist *Mission* for youth and adults (go to www.juniorpowerpoints.org and click on MISSION) or another mission report available to you. For the mission story, have a map of the world where the students can identify the location of the mission story and compare it to where they are. You could use pushpins to mark where the mission story takes place.

Offering

YOU NEED:
- ☐ offering plate/basket

Remind the students of the special offering that is being taken today and the project for which it is going.

Prayer

Just as Psalm 19 is divided into three parts, pray today in three parts. If you are a large group, divide into smaller groups. Ask each student to thank God (1) for a revelation of Himself in nature, (2) for a message from Scripture, and (3) for God's law, which is "perfect, refreshing the soul." When all have prayed, close together by reciting Psalm 19:14.

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

Notes

2

BIBLE LESSON

Introducing the Bible Story

Say: **There are three main ways that we get to know God. One way is through His revelation of Himself in nature. There are many things we can learn about God through the wonders of the things He has made, including ourselves. The second way is through His revelation of Himself in His Word, the Bible, including what we know about Jesus and His life. And the third way is through His working in our lives, what the Holy Spirit does in us as we meditate on God. We become a third revelation of God to others. We can be "read" by those who have not thought much about nature or the Bible. David talked about these three revelations of God in Psalm 19.**

YOU NEED:
- □ Bibles
- □ index cards

Experiencing the Story

Divide the students into groups. Assign each group one of the following portions of Psalm 19: (1) verses 1-6, (2) verses 7-11, and (3) verses 12-14. Ask each group to take the next few minutes (specify the number) to memorize their portion of this psalm. Each group can decide to memorize their portion all together or to divide up the verses.

When the time is up, have the class recite the entire psalm as a speech choir, each person joining in on the portion that they learned. This would be a great activity for a Thirteenth Sabbath program for this class.

Debriefing

Ask: **What did you learn from this psalm?** Encourage a wide variety of answers. **What specifically did you learn about God? about nature? about the Bible? about yourselves?**

God reveals Himself in nature, His Word, and His work in our lives.

Accommodations for students with special needs: Write the texts on index cards for students who have difficulty memorizing them or allow these students to work with partners and say the passages together.

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ white/chalkboard
- ☐ markers/chalk

Exploring the Bible

Say: **One of the ways God reveals Himself to us is through His Word. In verses 7-10 David, the author of this psalm, uses "parallelism," a special type of Hebrew poetry. Let's make a chart as we study these verses, to see what names David gives "God's law" and what it is like and what effect it has.** List the following headings where all can see: "Name for the law," "Its nature," "Its effects." Then ask the students to call out to you the terms they find in verses 7-10 as you fill out the chart.

Note: If you want to explore further, have students turn to Psalm 119 and find these same ideas throughout that chapter. They may, however, be expressed in different words.

Name for the law	Its nature	Its effects
law	perfect	refreshing
statutes	trustworthy	making wise
precepts	right	giving joy
commands	radiant	giving light
fear	pure	[enduring]
decrees	firm	[righteous]

Ask: **What do these verses say God's revelation of Himself in His Word does for us?** (refreshes the soul, makes us wise, gives us joy, gives us light, warns us, and rewards us) **In other words, it transforms us. And what do verses 12-14 say that we can do to assist in this transformation?** (pray for God to forgive us and keep us through the power of His Holy Spirit)

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Accommodation for students with special needs:
Use the Bibles with tabs to help students who don't know all the books of the Bible to become familiarized with them.

My Application

Have your students, in pairs or small groups, write and/or share verbally a scenario from their lives that illustrates some of the things they have learned today from Psalm 19 (i.e., how they learned to recognize the work of the Creator when contemplating the beauties of nature).

Show an illustration of a nature scene on paper, or on the computer and talk about how you see God revealed in this nature scene. You may also show a two- to three-minute video of a flower blooming or a butterfly being born (YouTube has a lot of these or you can google the topic of nature).

When students have finished writing their scenarios, have each scenario read to the class and discussed. At the end, say this week's power point.

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4

SHARING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ *He Is Our Song* OR copies p. 153

Hear the Word of the Lord

Ahead of time, make arrangements for your students to present part of an adult Sabbath School program, a special feature at the worship service, or a program for a school or nursing home. Let them know about the plan. Say: **We have learned today that God is revealed through nature, through His Word, and through His work in our lives. We are going to give others a chance to see Him in all three ways.** Let them help you make the final plans for your presentation.

Be sure to include something about nature (perhaps nature slides); a recitation of Psalm 19—perhaps with boys learning odd verses and girls learning evens and presenting antiphonally; and the song "The Law of the Lord" (*He Is Our Song,* no. 97, or p. 153 of this guide).

Begin to practice the song and the recitation. Plan the rest of the details, and set up practice time.

Closing

Prayer and closing comments:

Remind the students that as they mediate on the revelations of God through nature and His Word, He is also working in their lives to be another revelation of Him to others. Ask God to speak to others through their lives in the coming week.

Reminder to parents:

Say: **Check out the student Bible study guide to find Parents' Pages for your use in family worship, or however you wish to use them to spiritually guide your children. You may listen to the podcast of the lesson online at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php ?channel=1.**

Coming up next week:

Say: **God shares His plans. One of God's special gifts to us is the gift of prophecy.**

Notes

Student lesson

Windows to God

When was the last time you thought of God as you spent time in nature? What are some lessons you learned from nature and the Bible about God? Nature and the Bible reveal countless proofs of God's love for us.

Hey, Mom!" Brad exclaimed as he slid into the back seat and closed the car door. "My whole Sabbath School class is invited to Pastor Jack's house tomorrow night. We are going to have a potluck and play games. I can go, can't I?"

"Fasten your seat belt," Dad said as he turned the key and started the car.

Mom smiled back at Brad. "Yes, you may," she answered. "What kind of food are you supposed to take to the potluck?"

Brad finally found both ends of his seat belt and clicked them together. "Well, that's kind of a problem," he said, grinning. "I'm supposed to take something that I've made myself."

Dad laughed. "You could take a box of cereal and a carton of milk," he suggested as he drove out of the church parking lot.

"Very funny!" Brad exclaimed. "And something else too," Brad continued. "Everybody is supposed to bring an example of how we can see God in nature, or how nature teaches us about God. Can you give me an example?"

Dad glanced at Brad in the rearview mirror. "Sure, I can," he said. "But you can't use my examples tomorrow. You need to find one of your own."

"Ah, Dad, you are making it difficult for me!"

It was quiet in the car for a moment. "Mom, will you give me an example I can use?"

Mom laughed. "I'll give you an example," she said. "But your dad's right. You'll have to find one of your own for tomorrow night."

"OK," Brad agreed. "Just give me an idea then."

"Well, here is one of my favorites," Mom began. "Birds rub oil from a special oil gland onto their feathers. The oil helps keep the birds clean. Dirt doesn't stick to them. In the Bible, oil represents the Holy Spirit. When we have the Holy Spirit in our lives, the dirt of sin doesn't stick to us."

"That's cool!" Brad said thoughtfully. "I knew that part about birds rubbing oil on their feathers. But I didn't think about the Holy Spirit in that way."

"You have to think about things for a while, and then you can make some of those connections," Dad said. "It's called 'meditating' or 'ruminating.' Ruminating means to chew on an idea, as a cow chews its cud."

"Yuck!" Brad said.

"Talking about chewing makes me think of another example!" Mom added. "When you take good food into your body and chew on it, your digestive system breaks it down, and the food becomes a part of you. It makes you strong and healthy and protects you against disease.

"If you chew on God's Word, you'll become strong and healthy spiritually. You will be protected against the disease of sin. Then people will be able to see what God is doing in your life. They'll know what you've been chewing on!"

"Good one!" Dad exclaimed. "And here's another example. There's a text in Isaiah that says, 'Those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles' (Isaiah 40:31, NKJV). Sometimes eagles need to travel long distances to find food. If they have to go a day or more without eating, they do not have a lot of energy to flap their wings and fly farther. So the eagles use thermals—warm air currents that rise from the ground—like elevators. A thermal can carry an eagle far, far up into the sky. Then it can glide for miles without having to flap its wings.

"It's like when we pray for the Holy Spirit in our lives and then just let Him carry us closer to God. We don't get closer to God by flapping around wearing ourselves out doing good works," Dad added.

"I like that example!" Brad said. "Maybe it won't be so hard to find my own example for tomorrow night."

"Maybe I could teach you how to make tamale pie tomorrow," Mom suggested. I know you really like tamale, and it's not hard to make."

"OK," Brad agreed. Then he laughed. "Pastor Jack said he would make something too. I wonder what it will be. Mrs. Jack says he can hardly boil water without burning it!"

"Here's another example of God in nature," Dad added. "God could have made you without taste buds. Then it wouldn't matter if your food was burned or not. Think what pleasures you would be missing, though! What does this tell you about God?"

"Wait a minute! My brain is chewing on something," Brad said. "I've got one!" he exclaimed. "Squirrels are always gathering nuts, and they hide lots of them

KEY REFERENCES

- Psalm 19
- *Steps to Christ,* chap. 1, pp. 9-16
- *The SDA Bible Commentary,* Ellen G. White Comments, vol. 3, pp. 1143, 1144
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 8, pp. 58-61 ("Lessons From Little Things")
- Our Beliefs, nos. 6, 1, 23

POWER TEXT

"The heavens declare the glory of God" (Psalm 19:1).

"The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul" (Psalm 19:7).

"May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer" (Psalm 19:14).

POWER POINT

God reveals Himself in nature, His Word, and His work in our lives.

away for the winter, when they will need them. That's like the verse that says to hide God's Word in your heart. So it is there when you need it. Right?"

"That's good!" Dad said. "I would not be at all surprised if before your party tomorrow you came up with a whole bunch of ways to see God in nature!"







Sabbath

DO Do this week's activity on page 89.

Sunday

READ Read Isaiah 45:12 and this week's story, "Windows to God."

LEARN Begin to learn the power texts, Psalm 19:1, 7, 14. Practice saying all the other verses of Psalm 19 as well.

PRAY Ask God to reveal Himself to you and through you.

Monday

READ Read Psalm 19:1-6.

CREATE Create something using things you find in nature.

WATCH Watch a nature program, read a nature book, or research something about nature on the Internet.

PRAY Thank God for all the things He has revealed to you through nature.

Tuesday

READ Read Psalm 19:7-11.

WRITE In your Bible study journal, write about something in the Bible that revives, makes wise, gives joy, gives light. List the Bible texts that help you feel this way.

PRAY Thank God for what He has revealed to you through His Word.

Wednesday

READ Read Psalm 19:12-14.

TALK Talk with an adult about what you have learned about God through nature. Ask them if they can tell you something else that they have learned.

PRAY Thank God for what He has revealed about Himself to you through the lives of other Christians.

Thursday

COMPARE Look through Psalm 119 and find all the places in that psalm that remind you of Psalm 19.

WRITE Write what you find in your Bible study journal.

PRAY Pray that God will continue to revive you, make you wise, and give you joy and light through His Word.

Friday

REPEAT Say your power texts, and as much of Psalm 19 as you are able, to your family at worship.

SHARE Share stories of what you have learned about God through nature.

DRAW Ask each person to draw something they see when they read or hear Psalm 19:1-6. Then share your pictures and explain them.

PRAY Thank God together for the wonderful things in nature that reflect His love for us.