12

Windows to God

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; Our Beliefs, nos. 6, 1, 23















powertext

"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).

Sabbath

DO Do this week's activity on page 89.

powerpoint

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

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?"

12

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.

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



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.



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 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!"



PUZZLE 12

GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS

Instructions: Answer the True or False questions below and use the appropriate letter (reading down) to find the hidden phrase.

	True	False
The law of the Lord revives the soul. (Psalm 19:7)	G	V
Some of God's Word is flawed. (2 Timothy 3:16)	I	L
Light was created on the second day. (Genesis 1)	C	O
Plants were created before the sun. (Genesis 1)	R	T
Creation has been subjected to frustration. (Romans 8:20)	Y	I
God created the earth billions of years ago. (Old Testament genealogies: 1 Chronicles 1; Matthew 1)	C	U
God wants us to give Him our all. (Ephesians 6:7)	N	E
The statutes of the Lord make the wise simple. (Psalm 19:7)	N	T
Humankind is expected to know God through creation. (Romans 1:20)	O	E
God transforms us by the renewing of our minds. (Romans 12:2)	G	S
We need to avoid sin and not ask God for help. (Psalm 19:13)	H	O
The commands of the Lord give light to the eyes. (Psalm 19:8)	D	Y