



# 6

## Through God's Providence

### OVERVIEW

#### Preparing the Teacher

In God's covenant with David, God promised him that if his offspring sinned, God would discipline them by the actions of their military enemies (**2 Sam. 7:14**). When God's people sinned, He chastened them by allowing them to be enslaved by a foreign nation and exiled from their homeland (as recorded in **2 Kings 24:10–17**). And yet, in His wise providence, God used that period of captivity to strengthen His people and to manifest His power to heathen kings. Strong leaders such as Esther, Daniel, and Nehemiah gained favor with the rulers they served as captives and rose to acknowledge God's authority and accomplish His purposes. Even in a strange land, God did not forsake His own. And in His time, God brought His people out of captivity, allowing them to return to Israel and to rebuild their cities. As you consider the providence of God, meditate on **Romans 8:28–39**. Pray that as your students study this unit, they will be able to see the hand of God in their own lives and understand that God's works are always guided by His perfect wisdom, knowledge, and love.

#### Preparing the Materials

**104:** Several examples of epitaphs [O]

**105:** Small notebook [E]

# Unit 6 Through God's Providence

Theme, Memory Verse, and Principle	Lesson Number	TE Page	Worktext Page(s)	Lesson Title	Scripture or Focus	Connections
<b>Unit 6a Purity</b>  Ecclesiastes 3:1–3  <i>Many different experiences are encountered throughout life.</i>	91	198	135–37	Purposeful Purity	Daniel 1	Timeline: Daniel
	92	200	138	No Other God	Daniel 3	
	93	202	139–40	Faithful Follower: Gaspard de Coligny	Biography	
	94	204	141–42	Pressure That Perfects	Application Story	
	95	206		Unit 6a Activity		
<b>Unit 6b Pride</b>  Ecclesiastes 3:4–6  <i>Emotions should be expressed at the appropriate times.</i>	96	207	143–44	Prophet Focus: Ezekiel	Summary	Timeline: Ezekiel
	97	209	145	Humbled Pride	Daniel 4	
	98	211	146–48	Condemned Pride	Daniel 5	
	99	212	149	Prayer Versus Pride	Daniel 6	
	100	214		Unit 6b Activity	Review	
<b>Unit 6c Provision</b>  Ecclesiastes 3:7–9  <i>People cannot find satisfaction in the repetitiveness of life.</i>	101	215	150–51	Chosen Beauty	Esther 1:1–2:20	Timeline: Esther
	102	217	152	Sorrow to Joy	Esther 3:1–10:3	
	103	219	153	More Than You Ask For	Application Story	
	104	221	154–55	Faithful Follower: William Jennings Bryan	Biography	
	105	223		Unit 6c Activity		
<b>Unit 6d Promise</b>  Ecclesiastes 3:14  <i>God's work lasts forever and people should fear Him.</i>	106	224	156–57	Sermon: Benefits of Abandoning Sin	Daniel 9	
	107	227	158–59	Straying and Separating	Ezra 7–10	Timeline: Ezra
	108	229	160	Courage to Do God's Work	Nehemiah 1–2; 4–6	Timeline: Nehemiah
	109	232	161–62	Faithful Follower: Georgi Vins (Part 2)	Biography	
	110	234		Unit 6d Activity	Review	

Bible Doctrines	Skills/Applications
<p><b>The Doctrine of God</b></p> <p><i>Attributes of God</i></p> <p>God is eternal (Ps. 90:2).</p> <p>God is righteous (Ps. 116:5).</p> <p>God is holy (1 Pet. 1:16).</p> <p>God is merciful (Ps. 86:15).</p> <p>God is unchanging (immutable) (Mal. 3:6).</p> <p>God is faithful (1 Cor. 1:9).</p> <p>God is all-knowing (omniscient) (Job 42:2).</p> <p>God is all-powerful (omnipotent) (Jer. 32:27).</p> <p>God is everywhere (omnipresent) (Ps. 139:7–10).</p>	<p><b>Foundational</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Know that it is good to fear God</li> <li>• Know that God will never change</li> <li>• Know that those who put their trust in God will not have sinful fear</li> <li>• Realize that God is in control of all things</li> <li>• Recognize God's protecting hand</li> <li>• Recognize that God matures His children with trials</li> <li>• Develop an understanding of prophecy</li> <li>• Express thankfulness for God's provision</li> </ul> <p><b>Practical</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interpret Scripture</li> <li>• Recall facts and details</li> <li>• Take notes on a sermon</li> <li>• Sequence events</li> <li>• Identify character traits</li> <li>• Identify the correct Bible character</li> <li>• Complete a study of a Scripture passage</li> <li>• Use Bible reference tools: concordances and cross-references</li> <li>• Use a glossary</li> <li>• Read a timeline</li> <li>• Develop an appreciation of art</li> </ul> <p><b>Personal</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beware of the danger of pride</li> <li>• Develop the Bible reading habit</li> <li>• Understand the seriousness of sin</li> <li>• Appreciate God's sovereign control of life's events</li> <li>• Express thankfulness for God's provision</li> <li>• Develop a Christlike attitude toward fear</li> <li>• Learn to be faithful when tempted to sin</li> <li>• Develop principles for Christ-centered distinctiveness</li> <li>• Develop principles of time management</li> <li>• Recognize the importance of obedience</li> <li>• Realize that what is done for God is eternal</li> <li>• Develop a biblical understanding of a legacy</li> <li>• Understand that purity requires resisting peer pressure</li> <li>• Appreciate God's mercy and faithfulness toward those who obey Him</li> <li>• Apply Bible knowledge to everyday life</li> </ul>

# Purity

## Unit 6a

### PREVIEW

#### Doctrines

- 91: God is eternal (Ps. 90:2).
- 91: God is righteous (Ps. 116:5).
- 91: God is unchanging (immutable) (Mal. 3:6).
- 92: God is everywhere (omnipresent) (Ps. 139:7–10).

#### Skills and Applications

- Learn Ecclesiastes 3:1–3
- Interpret Scripture
- Understand that purity requires resisting peer pressure
- Recognize that God matures His children with trials
- Recognize the importance of obedience
- Recall facts and details
- Develop the Bible reading habit
- Develop principles for Christ-centered distinctiveness
- Read a timeline
- Apply Bible knowledge to everyday life

LESSON

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## Purposeful Purity

#### Materials

- Charts 1 and 32 (“The Bible Reading H.A.B.I.T.” and “Palestine and Beyond”)
- Timeline and picture of Daniel
- Copy of the “What Does God Say About Drugs, Tobacco, and Alcohol?” activity page from the Teacher’s Toolkit CD [E, O]

#### Music

Select a unit hymn. Songs that correlate with this unit’s theme include “God Makes No Mistakes,” “His Way Is Perfect,” “Rejoice in the Lord,” “Day by Day,” “My Father Planned It All,” and “This Is My Father’s World.”

#### Memory Verses: Ecclesiastes 3:1–3

**Principle:** Many different experiences are encountered throughout life. Locate and read aloud Ecclesiastes 3:1–3 as the students read silently.

Since God orders the universe with appointed times, how should you order your life? **Possible answer:** by following God’s pattern of orderliness

Why should you be careful how you react when something happens that you did not plan or that was out of your control? **God is in control; He allows everything that happens to us to happen for a purpose; it is for our good.**

Direct each student to read the verses to a partner. Instruct the students to mark the location with their Unit 6 bookmarks and to highlight the verses in their Bibles (optional).

#### Bible Account

##### Preview Background Information

###### King’s Food

The king’s food and drink were offered to idols before being served to the king and others to seek the idols’ favor. Daniel and his friends did not want to honor these false gods by eating food that had been offered to them. It is also very likely that the food in the king’s diet included foods forbidden by the Mosaic law.

## Introduce the Bible Account

**Discuss Nebuchadnezzar's victories.** Explain that after Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, defeated the Egyptians in the battle at Carchemish, he traveled to Jerusalem to conquer God's people. Display Chart 32 ("Palestine and Beyond"), pointing out Babylon, Carchemish, and Jerusalem. Direct the students to listen to the following account to find how God worked in His people through King Nebuchadnezzar.

## Teach for Understanding

**Read Daniel 1** or use the following retelling of the passage. Listening question: **What was the result of Daniel's diet? Daniel and his friends looked healthier than all the others who ate the king's food.**

## Purposeful Purity

Jehoiakim was in his third year as king of Judah when Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, attacked Jerusalem. Nebuchadnezzar's army conquered the city and took the gold and silver vessels from the temple to put in the treasure house of their god. They burned Jerusalem and took some of the people of the city and surrounding areas as prisoners.

Nebuchadnezzar told the chief official to bring members of the royal family and the best young men from Judah to be taught in the king's palace in Babylon. They were to be trained in the customs and language of the Chaldeans. King Nebuchadnezzar directed that these trainees be given a part of his food and wine each day for three years, after which they would start to serve him.

Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were four of the young people brought as captives to Babylon. The chief official gave them Babylonian names: Daniel was called Belteshazzar, Hananiah was called Shadrach, Mishael was called Meshach, and Azariah was called Abednego.

When Daniel heard about the king's order that they be given their daily food from the royal table, he determined to remain pure. He purposed in his heart to not defile himself with the king's food or wine. Therefore, he asked the chief official for permission to not eat it.

*Discuss the background information about the king's food.*

But the official was afraid to disobey the king's commandment about their food and drink. He was afraid that the four Hebrews would look unhealthy compared to the other young men if they didn't eat the king's food, and then he would be killed.

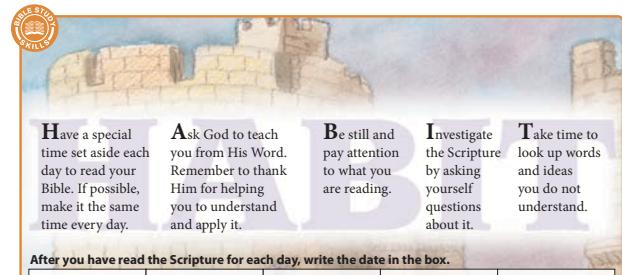
Daniel asked the official to test him and his three friends for ten days by feeding them only vegetables and water.

God caused the official to agree, and after even that short time, Daniel and his friends looked healthier than all the others who ate the king's food. Besides that, "God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams" (**Dan. 1:17**).

At the end of their three years of training, King Nebuchadnezzar called for all the young men to be brought to

## Get the Bible Reading H.A.B.I.T.

Name \_\_\_\_\_



Have a special time set aside each day to read your Bible. If possible, make it the same time every day.

Ask God to teach you from His Word. Remember to thank Him for helping you to understand and apply it.

Be still and pay attention to what you are reading.

Investigate the Scripture by asking yourself questions about it.

Take time to look up words and ideas you do not understand.

After you have read the Scripture for each day, write the date in the box.

God is able to do much more than Christians can ask or think.	God promises to meet Christians' needs for His own glory.	God provides for Christians' financial needs as they give to His work.	God uses other Christians to supply the needs of His people.	We must not trust in riches but in the God who provides them.
Ephesians 3:20-21	Philippians 4:19-20	2 Corinthians 9:7-11	Philippians 4:10-14	1 Timothy 6:17-19
Put on the armor of God to be strong to stand against Satan.	Protect yourself with truth, righteousness, and a prepared gospel witness.	Faith is the Christian's shield, salvation his helmet, and God's Word his sword.	Christians must pray for boldness for themselves and others.	Christians can stand firm because their comfort and hope are in God.
Ephesians 6:10-13	Ephesians 6:14-15	Ephesians 6:16-17	Ephesians 6:18-20	2 Thessalonians 2:15-17
Christians should warn sinners, encourage the weak, and do good to all.	Love God, not the temporary things of this world.	As we walk in the Spirit, He bears fruit in us.	If Christians walk in the Spirit, they will not be proud and envious.	Christians should live in harmony and respond to others with humility.
1 Thessalonians 5:14-15	1 John 2:15-17	Galatians 5:22-23	Galatians 5:24-26	Romans 12:14-17
God makes all things work together for good to those who love God.	Nothing can separate Christians from Christ's love.	Whoever is born of God does not habitually sin.	Godly sorrow for sin brings about true repentance.	When others are caught in sin, Christians should gently restore them.
Romans 8:28-30	Romans 8:31-39	1 John 3:5-9	2 Corinthians 7:9-11	Galatians 6:1-5

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him. The king talked with them but could not find any who compared to Daniel and his friends. "In all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm" (**Dan. 1:20**). So Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were selected to serve the king.

- ➲ Do you think Daniel and his friends were ridiculed for being different? **We are not told, but when God's people obey Him, they are often made fun of (2 Tim. 3:12).**
- ➲ What was wrong with the king's food? **It was a custom for food to be offered to idols to seek their favor. In abstaining from this food, Daniel and his three friends were making a clear distinction of separation that they would obey God (by not having any other gods before God) and seek His favor.**
- ➲ How did God prove His power through Daniel and his friends when they obeyed Him? **God gave them knowledge, skill, learning, and wisdom.**
- After three years, what did King Nebuchadnezzar see in Daniel and his friends that made them different from the other young people? **They had ten times more wisdom and understanding than his magicians and astrologers did.**
- ➲ How has God worked in your life recently to teach you obedience?

## Praying with Purpose

Name \_\_\_\_\_

God is omniscient and already knows Christians' needs and desires, so why do they pray? Those who pray do so because they have a sincere desire to please God and relate to Him as His children. Many purposes are accomplished by prayer.

Complete the sentences by writing a word from the word bank to match each parenthetical definition.

1. Prayer offers God the **praise** (adoration and exaltation) that He is worthy to receive (Ps. 67:3).
2. Prayer strengthens the believer against **temptation** (the attraction to do wrong) (Matt. 26:41).
3. Prayer brings God's **blessings** (gifts and favor) (Matt. 7:11).
4. Prayer helps the believer increase in **understanding** (judgment and discernment) (Jer. 33:3).
5. Prayer **pleases** God (Prov. 15:8).
6. Prayer completes the believer's **joy** (deep and lasting satisfaction) (John 16:24).
7. Prayer gives the believer assurance of God's **presence** (closeness) (Ps. 145:18).
8. Prayer brings **healing** (restoration of health) to the spirit of the believer (James 5:15).
9. Prayer helps the believer express the **thanks** (gratitude) that God desires (Eph. 5:20).



understanding	temptation	healing
pleases	joys	blessings
thanks	presence	riches
praise		

These are only a few of the purposes for praying.



Add to the list by writing more purposes here and giving Scripture references for them. You may use a Bible concordance for help.

**confessing (1 John 1:9); expressing trust that God will meet our needs (Phil. 4:19); asking for boldness for speaking (Acts 4:29)**



God does not say yes to every prayer. Even if a prayer is prayed for the right purposes, sometimes He says no or wait. But a Christian who prays with a godly purpose can always be assured that God will hear and give the best answer.

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## Timeline

**Place Daniel on the timeline.** Select a student to attach the card for Daniel (605–540 BC) to the large classroom timeline. Direct each student to glue the Daniel picture to his individual timeline.

## Worktext page 135

**Develop the Bible reading habit.** Read the top of the page to the students. Encourage each student to do the Bible reading. Display Chart 1 ("The Bible Reading H.A.B.I.T.") as a reminder to the students as they do their Bible reading (optional).

## Worktext page 136

**Emphasize praying with a purpose.**

## Worktext page 137

**Recall facts about the Bible account.**

**Discuss what God says about drugs, tobacco, and alcohol.** Read and discuss the "What Does God Say About Drugs, Tobacco, and Alcohol?" activity page (right) from the Teacher's Toolkit CD or send the page home for the students to discuss with their parents.

## Apart from the Crowd

Daniel 1

Name \_\_\_\_\_

King Nebuchadnezzar conquered Jerusalem in the land of Judah. He stole the treasures from the temple of God and took them to the house of his god. Many people were taken captive and brought to Babylon. Some young men were chosen to be taught in the king's palace.

**Answer the questions. You may use your Bible for help.**

1. How were the chosen men to prepare themselves before going before the king? (Dan. 1:5)

**Possible answers include that they were to eat and drink the same as the king, and they were to learn the language and knowledge of the Chaldeans.**

**3 years**

2. How long were the young men to prepare before going before the king? (Dan. 1:5)

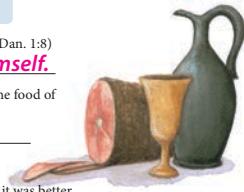
God had given His people strict laws about what they could eat and drink. Even though these men were not in their homeland, they wanted to honor God.

3. Did Daniel eat what was given to him? Why or why not? (Dan. 1:8)

**No. He determined not to defile himself.**

4. What concern did the chief official have about changing the food of Daniel and his friends? (Dan. 1:10)

**that he would be killed if they looked worse than the other men**



5. How long did the four men from Judah have to prove that it was better for them not to eat the king's food? (Dan. 1:15)

**10 days**

6. In addition to good health, how did God bless these men for their obedience to His Word? (Dan. 1:20)

**God gave them wisdom and understanding.**

Match the new Chaldean names with the Hebrew names of four of the young men from Judah (Dan. 1:6–7).

- |          |                 |             |
|----------|-----------------|-------------|
| <b>C</b> | 7. Belteshazzar | A. Hananiah |
| <b>A</b> | 8. Shadrach     | B. Azariah  |
| <b>D</b> | 9. Meshach      | C. Daniel   |
| <b>B</b> | 10. Abednego    | D. Mishael  |

**Think About It** God provided Daniel with the boldness he needed to do right. Before this time came, Daniel had already established a good testimony with the chief official. This good testimony gave Daniel the freedom to make the request that the official change their food. What testimony do you have with those in authority over you?

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## What Does God Say About Drugs, Tobacco, and Alcohol?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Tobacco, alcohol, and drugs can destroy your body.**

The Bible teaches that Christians are to avoid putting anything into their bodies that will cause harm. A Christian's body is the temple of the Holy Spirit and has been redeemed by Jesus Christ. Therefore, Christians must handle legal medications wisely and stay away from the use of illegal drugs, alcohol, and tobacco (1 Cor. 6:12; 10:23, 31).

### Tobacco

Tobacco is a plant containing a poison called *nicotine*. This addictive substance destroys the body whether it is smoked (cigarettes, cigars, pipes), chewed (chewing tobacco), or inhaled (snuff). Because of the fatal effects of tobacco, the government requires a warning to be printed on the package of every tobacco product sold in the United States.

### Drugs

A drug is a chemical substance that affects normal bodily functions when it is taken into the body. Drug abuse occurs when a person takes in a drug that will damage his body and mind. Harmful drugs include stimulants, depressants, narcotics, hallucinogens, and inhalants. When a drug user suddenly stops taking the drug, he suffers from withdrawal and becomes very ill.

### Alcohol

Alcohol is said to be the most abused drug in our society today. The Bible always associates drunkenness with sin and idolatry and describes its horrible effects. *Alcoholism*, the addiction to alcohol, is not a disease. It is the choice made by a person to allow alcohol to control his body. Each year thousands of teenagers are killed or injured because of drunk drivers.

### Common Dangers

1. All three of these substances encourage *addiction*. A person becomes addicted to something when he uses it so often that his body is unable to function without it. It is a sin to allow these substances to have control over your body. A Christian should be under the control of the Holy Spirit.
2. All three of these substances destroy cells and organs in the body and encourage the development of fatal diseases. They can cause heart failure, blackouts, loss of muscle coordination, ulcers, vomiting, and death.
3. Drugs and alcohol can have a powerful influence on your mind and emotions, and they can make you willing to do things that you would not ordinarily do. They distort reality, impair your ability to make good decisions, and cause irreversible damage to brain cells.
4. These substances not only harm the user, but they also damage relationships and the lives of other people.
5. The use of any of these substances causes a Christian to destroy his testimony for Christ. Even legal and prescribed medications must be taken only under professional guidance.

Read the verse and match the reference to the correct summary.

- |          |   |                              |
|----------|---|------------------------------|
| <b>D</b> | 1. Wise people avoid evil things, but foolish people participate in evil and suffer the consequences. | <b>A. Proverbs 20:1</b>      |
| <b>C</b> | 2. Do not get drunk. Do not be foolish, but instead be filled with the Holy Spirit.                   | <b>B. 1 Corinthians 5:11</b> |
| <b>B</b> | 3. Do not be friends with anybody who says he is a Christian but gets drunk.                          | <b>C. Ephesians 5:17–18</b>  |
| <b>A</b> | 4. Anyone who thinks alcohol will not humiliate or harm him is not wise.                              | <b>D. Proverbs 27:12</b>     |

Read Proverbs 23:29–35. In your own words, describe the consequences of drinking alcohol.

Activity Page

Bible 6

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**Music**

Review the chosen song and develop higher-order thinking skills by asking application questions.

**Memory Verses: Ecclesiastes 3:1–3**

**Practice the memory verses.** Locate Ecclesiastes 3:1–3 and select a student to read the verses aloud; then direct the students to read the verses responsively with you, phrase by phrase.

- ➊ Will we always know the purpose for everything God brings into our lives? **no** As far as we know, Job was never told why God brought such tragedies into his life.
- ➋ Read Romans 11:33. Why is this verse a good filter for viewing all that God brings into our lives? **We can rest in the fact that God's goodness is always according to His perfect wisdom and knowledge even though we will never understand it all in this life (Prov. 21:30).**
- ➌ What is the source of tragedies and painful circumstances that affect all of life? **They all stem from Adam and Eve's sin (Gen. 3:14–19; Rom. 8:20–23).**
- ➍ Why does God allow painful things to happen in our lives? **Possible answers include to help us become more like Him (Rom. 8:28–29), to reveal His glory (1 Pet. 1:7; Rom. 11:36), to purify us (Job 23:10), and to show others the light of Christ in us (Matt. 5:16).**

**Bible Account****Preview Background Information****Officials**

The bowing down of the officials listed in **Daniel 3:2–3** represented not only *their* allegiance to the king, but also the allegiance of their provinces and people.

**Chaldeans**

The Chaldeans were not included in the list of magicians or astrologers in **Daniel 2:10**. They were considered nobles in the community—in the bloodline of the elite. This reveals the emphasis in their accusation of the Jews (3:8, 12). Jealousy of these “lower-class” men in a high position could have been their motive.

**Where Was Daniel?**

The Bible does not give any indication of Daniel’s whereabouts at the time of the bowing to the idol. Various speculations have been presented (e.g., that he was out of the city on royal business), but they are only guesses.

**Introduce the Bible Account**

**Discuss rulers.** Explain that at the time of the following Bible account, Daniel had been promoted to rule over the whole province of Babylon. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had been appointed by Daniel to help him watch over the affairs of Babylon.

**Teach for Understanding**

Read **Daniel 3** or use the following retelling of the passage.

Listening question: **What two things did the king do at the end? He promoted the three faithful men and made a new law that nobody should speak against their God.**

**No Other God**

King Nebuchadnezzar made a golden image about ninety feet tall and nine feet wide. He commanded all his officials of all the provinces to come to the dedication of this image.

The king commanded that all the assembly of people of all nations and languages should fall down and worship the golden image when they heard the music indicating it was time to do so. And if anybody disobeyed, he would be thrown into a burning furnace.

When the people heard the music, they “fell down and worshiped the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up” (**Dan. 3:7**).

Some Chaldeans came and told the king that the three Jews (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego), whom the king had set over the affairs of Babylon, did not do as he commanded. “They don’t respect you, O king,” they said, “nor do they serve your gods. And that’s not all—they have not worshiped the golden image that you set up.”

*Share background information about who the Chaldeans were and about where Daniel was.*

King Nebuchadnezzar became angry and commanded that the three offenders be brought before him. “Is it true,” he asked the three men, “that you do not serve my gods or worship my golden image which I have set up?” The king offered to command the music to play again to give them a second chance to bow. The king warned them, “But if you do not worship, you will immediately be thrown into a burning furnace. And what god is there that can deliver you out of my hands?”

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego told the king, “Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, . . . we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up” (**3:17–18**).

King Nebuchadnezzar was furious! He commanded that the furnace be heated seven times hotter than its normal temperature and that some of the strongest men in his army tie up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and throw them into the fire. When they did, the heat of the furnace was so intense that it killed those soldiers.

The king stood up quickly and turned to his counselors, asking, “Didn’t we throw three men bound into the fire?”

“True, O king,” they said.

King Nebuchadnezzar responded, “But I see four men unbound walking in the middle of the fire, and they are not hurt even a little bit. The fourth man looks like a son of the gods.” Then Nebuchadnezzar approached the furnace and said, “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, you servants of the most high God, come out!”

They obeyed, and all the king's officials gathered around to see the men that the fire could not hurt. Not a hair of their heads was singed! And their clothes were not burned. They did not even smell like fire!

King Nebuchadnezzar said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who [has] sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God" (3:28).

Then King Nebuchadnezzar promoted the three Hebrew men in the province of Babylon and made a new law. He said that anyone who spoke against their God would be cut in pieces and have his house destroyed because no other god could deliver in this way.



- ➊ Read aloud Exodus 20:3. What does the first commandment teach us? **to worship God alone**
- ▶ What is the second commandment (Exod. 20:4–6)? **We should not make any images to bow down to.**
- ➊ What does the second commandment teach us? **We must worship God in a proper manner and avoid idolatry.**
- ➊ Why did the three Hebrew men refuse to obey the king's command? **God's law commands that He alone should be worshiped; their fear of God was greater than their fear of man.**
- ▶ What two things did the king do at the end? **He promoted the three faithful men and made a new law that nobody should speak against their God.**
- ➊ What do you think King Nebuchadnezzar and his officials would have thought of the Hebrews' God if the three Hebrew men had bowed to the image? **Possible answers include that the Babylonians would have never seen or believed that God's power or importance was above any other god's.**
- ➊ How can you obey God when everyone else seems to be disobeying God? **Possible answers include purposing in your heart to obey God no matter what the circumstances are; thinking through possible situations of intense peer pressure and deciding on a plan of action; above all, remaining in constant fellowship with God through prayer and reading, studying, and meditating on His Word.**

Read aloud Acts 20:24, explaining that Paul spoke these words to encourage Christians who might have to endure what the world would call unbearable tragedies and tortures. Remind the students of Job's reaction to trials: "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him" (Job 13:15). Challenge the students to think about how they might respond to a difficult trial God might use to purify them.

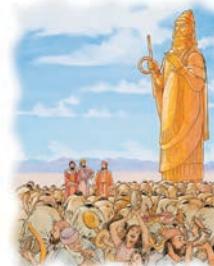
## Worktext page 138

Determine whether statements about the Bible account are true.

### Continuing to Stand

Daniel 3

Name \_\_\_\_\_



After Daniel interpreted King Nebuchadnezzar's dream, he was made a ruler over the province of Babylon and governor over the wise men of the land. Daniel had then advised the king to place Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego over the affairs of the province of Babylon. Although Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were now in positions of authority, they still had to choose to obey God and follow His Word. The idol Nebuchadnezzar constructed was three score or sixty cubits high and six cubits wide. A regular cubit equals about eighteen inches. Sixty cubits equals approximately ninety feet.

On the graph draw a rectangle representing the height of the image. Each cell represents two cubits.

Read the sentences below. Write **T** if the statement is true and **F** if the statement is false. If the statement is false, write a true sentence on the line below it.

- F** 1. All the people in the land were to bow in worship before the image each time they heard the herald shout.  
**They were to bow at the sound of the music.**
- T** 2. Some Chaldeans went to the king and reported that the Jews over the province of Babylon did not bow because they worshiped another God.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- T** 3. The punishment for not bowing was to be thrown into the fiery furnace.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- F** 4. Nebuchadnezzar was pleased that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego chose to follow their God.  
**Nebuchadnezzar was in a rage.**
- T** 5. God protected the three men in the furnace by sending His Angel to protect them.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- T** 6. Nebuchadnezzar recognized that only God could have delivered them from the fire.  
\_\_\_\_\_



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138 Lesson 92

Redemption: God's Grand Design

LESSON

93

## Faith for Life

### Music

Review the song and develop higher-order thinking skills by asking application questions.

### Memory Verses: Ecclesiastes 3:1–3

Practice the memory verses. Select a student to read aloud Ecclesiastes 3:1–3.

- ➊ What two verses are good filters for viewing all that comes into our lives? **Romans 11:33 and Proverbs 21:30**
- ➊ Knowing that through hard times God is working for our good, what should our response be to Him? **thankfulness, cooperation, submission**

## Faithful Follower: Gaspard de Coligny

### Preview Background Information

#### Catherine de Medici

Catherine de Medici (mĕ'dă chĕ) (1519–89) was the queen of France from 1547 to 1559, coming to the throne after her husband, Henry II, died suddenly. Three of her sons became kings of France—Francis II, Charles IX, and Henry III. When they reigned, their mother was their main counselor. The country was leaning

toward civil war, and Catherine de Medici's main goal was to maintain the monarchy's power. Part of that process included trying to keep peace between Protestants (the Huguenots) and Catholics. Some historians blame her entirely for the massacre of several thousand Huguenots in 1572, but others record that she instigated the death of only Coligny, not the widespread slaughter that followed.

### Introduce the Biography

**Discuss the Huguenots.** Point out that the term *Huguenots* is a name given to French Calvinists, or French Protestants, of the sixteenth through eighteenth centuries. Explain that these people endured severe persecution under King Henry II of France. Although many were burned at the stake for their faith, Calvinism still spread; the number of martyrs only increased. In 1715, the Huguenots organized an underground church and toward the end of the century gained limited civil rights. In the 1900s, most French Calvinists united as the Reformed Church of France.

### Teach for Understanding

Read or tell the following story based on the life of Gaspard de Coligny (kô lē nyé'). Listening question: Who ended Gaspard's life? **An enemy soldier killed him, but God allowed it to happen.**

### Faith for Life

As a boy, Gaspard de Coligny loved to sword fight with his brother d'Andelot (dōn'dā lō). As the years passed, Gaspard's love for the military grew. He entered the army as a teenager and became known as one of the best soldiers in the French army. King Henry II nominated him to the powerful position of Admiral of France, second only to the Constable of France.

In 1557, Coligny was instructed to defend the city of Saint Quentin, which was being attacked by the Spaniards. Although Coligny fought courageously, he was defeated, taken prisoner, and held for ransom.

In prison, Gaspard de Coligny read the Bible and thought about his relationship with God. The more he read, the more he wanted to know. Meanwhile, his brother d'Andelot received Christ as his Savior and became a Huguenot. D'Andelot was faithfully praying for his brother's salvation. Soon Gaspard trusted Christ as his Savior. When Gaspard was finally released from prison, he shared his testimony with his brother.

D'Andelot said, "I have come to Christ too. I have asked His forgiveness for my sins, and I have enlisted as His soldier with the Huguenots."

After his conversion, Gaspard de Coligny resigned all of his titles and honors except the rank of admiral. He returned to his home and spent a lot of time in God's Word and with his family.

Meanwhile, Queen Catherine de Medici and her son Charles were planning to kill all who rejected the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church.

D'Andelot de Coligny was the leader of the Huguenots and believed that their only choice was to fight. D'Andelot asked Gaspard to join forces with him. Gaspard was reluctant to fight against the country that he had dedicated his life to serve.

"I do not wish to fight against my king," Gaspard said. "Do you wish to give up your faith?" asked d'Andelot. Gaspard shook his head. "No, of course not! But perhaps I can help by peaceable means. I will send explorers and establish places of refuge in America for the Huguenots." But Gaspard's plan failed.

In 1560, Queen Catherine invited him to court to advise her, and he tried a different approach.

"Your Majesty, I feel that I must demand tolerance for the Protestants," he said. "All we wish is peace in which to worship." Gaspard de Coligny became a spokesman for the Protestants. He delivered speeches and presented petitions for freedom of worship. But this approach also failed.

Finally, Gaspard realized that his only choice was to fight. He joined the Prince of Conde's army to fight for freedom of worship. Although another man was the leader of the army, Gaspard became the backbone of it. He organized volunteer fighters, drilled them, fought beside them in battle, prayed for them, and preached to them.

In March of 1569, Gaspard took over as chief commander. He demonstrated his abilities so clearly that even his enemies admitted his genius as a commander.

In October of the same year, half of Gaspard's army was destroyed, he suffered a serious injury, and his brother d'Andelot was killed in battle. "This is the blackest hour of my life," Gaspard said. "My men are tired and want peace, peace at any price. But I cannot accept that. After all of this sacrifice, we cannot stop until we gain religious freedom." Gaspard recovered and went to the capital with his largest force of Huguenots.

Catherine de Medici agreed to a treaty granting religious freedom. Gaspard de Coligny was overjoyed, but friends said, "It is a trick, Admiral; she wants only to kill you."

Gaspard answered, "I would rather give my life than see my country suffer another civil war."

Two years later, the king and queen invited Coligny to the celebration of the marriage of their daughter. He went against the wishes of his friends and other Protestant leaders. "Perhaps my influence can help our cause," he said.

One day on his way back to his hotel, an assassin, hired by Catherine de Medici, attacked Gaspard and critically wounded him. Since Catherine's first plan failed, she formed another plan, and the next night, almost all of the Protestants in Paris were attacked and killed in what came to be called the St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre.

Gaspard de Coligny was too weak to be taken to safety, so he calmly awaited death. He told his friends, "Save your lives if you can; you cannot save mine. I commend my soul to the mercy of God."

Minutes later, a soldier burst into the room. "Ah, so here you are—the Admiral, aren't you?" He drew his sword and approached Gaspard.

Gaspard replied, "I am; but it is not you who makes my life shorter."

The soldier thrust his sword through Gaspard's body, saying, "I think it is."

Gaspard said, "It is God who ordains when men shall live and . . . die."

**There Is a Season**  
Ecclesiastes 3:1–3

Name \_\_\_\_\_

God is all-knowing. He has a plan for His creation. As you read His Word, you will discover His way and purpose.

God's creation is orderly and timely. As the Creator, God set the seasons in motion so they occur regularly each year. Christ often used planting and harvesting as illustrations to teach Christians to spread the gospel to others.



**God had a purpose for each event recorded in the Bible to happen when it did.**

**Write the letter of the correct phrase to complete each sentence.**

- Christ said the blind man had been born blind **B**, not because of the sin of his parents (John 9:1–3).
- Christ knew that God had appointed a time for Him to die **E** (John 12:27–33).
- God commanded that every Israelite family kill a spotless lamb **C** (Exod. 12:5–7, 13–14).
- Jesus healed the son of the nobleman **F** (John 4:50–53).
- God commanded the Israelites to break down pagan altars when they entered the promised land **A** (Exod. 34:12–14).
- Nehemiah told the Jews that they should build up the walls of Jerusalem **D** (Neh. 2:17).

**Think About It** God has a purpose for each event in your life. Do you see everything as coming from Him? What about when things seem to go wrong? Perhaps God is trying to teach you (or someone watching you) a lesson through the trial. Ask God to help you be faithful through what He is doing in your life. You can always trust Him (Prov. 3:5–6).

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**Purged for Purity**  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

From Bible times to the present, metals found in the earth have been valuable to people. Over the centuries, people have devised various methods to remove metal from rock (ore) and to purify the metal so it can be used. Metallurgy (mēt'äl'jərē) is the scientific process of separating metals from their ores and preparing them for use.

Scripture uses some of the terms of metallurgy to describe the process God uses to prepare believers for His service. Several different methods are used to extract metal from ore. The processes of extracting metallurgy are compared to God's refining process.

**Write the reference that correctly matches the step of God's refining process.**

Psalm 119:11	Proverbs 27:9–12, 17	Jeremiah 33:7–8	Zechariah 13:9
<b>Extractive Metallurgy</b>	<b>God's Refining Process</b>		
<b>Step 1: Mineral Dressing</b>	In <b>Jeremiah 33:7–8</b> , God's Word shows Christians that God let the Jews become captives of other nations so that the Jews would repent and receive forgiveness for their sin. God sends events and people into the lives of Christians so that they might look to God for cleansing and separation from sin.		
<b>Step 2: Roasting</b>	In <b>Psalm 119:11</b> , God's Word shows Christians that memorizing Scripture helps each believer recognize sin and remove it from his life.		
<b>Step 3: Sintering</b>	In <b>Proverbs 27:9–12, 17</b> , God's Word tells Christians to value their godly friendships. When trials and pressures come, close relationships with other believers help Christians avoid sin and make right choices.		
<b>Step 4: Smelting</b>	In <b>Zechariah 13:9</b> , God's Word shows Christians that the Israelites were tried with the fire of captivity and refined to become people who would honor the Lord. In the same way, the heat and pressure of trials should draw Christians closer to God and His Word and further from their sin. Through this process, Christians become ready for the Lord to begin using them and molding them for His service.		

What is the benefit to a Christian's being "refined by fire"?

**It will help the Christian become ready for use or for service.**

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Gaspard de Coligny served the Lord faithfully, defending the faith to the end. God used him to help secure religious freedom for Protestants in France. Gaspard once said, "There is one thing more a man has to give for his faith—his life." He willingly gave his own life so that believers could have freedom to worship God.



- ➊ How did God prepare Gaspard de Coligny for his important future task? **He gave him a love for the military and many experiences in battle.**
- ➋ Why did Gaspard give his life? **so that others could have freedom to worship God**
- ➌ How can you give your life to serve God? **by meeting others' needs in Jesus' name (Matt. 25:34–40)**
- ➍ What were some things Gaspard was sure of? **Salvation is through faith in Jesus Christ; people should have the freedom to worship; God is the one who ordains life and determines how long it is.**
- Who ended Gaspard's life? **An enemy soldier killed him, but God allowed it to happen.**

## Worktext page 139

Develop further understanding of the memory verses.

## Worktext page 140

Interpret meaning from Scripture.

## LESSON 94 Pressure That Perfects

### Music

Review the song and develop higher-order thinking skills by asking application questions.

### Memory Verses: Ecclesiastes 3:1–3

Practice the memory verses. Review questions from Lessons 91–93, and choose volunteers to recite the verses.

### Application Story

#### Introduce the Application Story

Discuss pressure. Point out that pressure can produce either good or bad results.

- ➊ What good things are formed with pressure? Possible answers include that diamonds are formed when coal is compressed through a specific process; surfaces can be cleaned with a high-pressure spray of water; some flowers can be pressed to be preserved; stringed musical instruments create different sounds when the strings are pressed; God has created the earth's atmosphere with a certain pressure for His creatures to exist; food can be cooked quickly in a pressure cooker.

## Teach for Understanding

Read or tell the following story. Listening question: **What was Leslie's decision at the end? She wanted to visit Charlotte's church with her.**

### Pressure That Perfects

"Come on; my mom's one of the teachers," Leslie said. "I always get something when she stays after school." She held the refrigerator open and glanced around.

"Are you sure we're allowed to?" Charlotte asked. "I mean, has your mom given you permission?"

"Everyone just takes it for granted that faculty rules apply to their families too," Leslie said. "Maybe it was different at your Christian school, but that's just the way things work around here."

Charlotte raised her eyebrows.

"Wow! Look at this!" Leslie said. "They have my favorites! What do you want? The teachers always have soda and candy to go along with their lunches."

"So, they would probably never miss any if someone took a few every week?" Charlotte asked.

Leslie heard something and quickly shut the refrigerator. "Hey, Charlotte—I said it's OK, all right? I was just trying to be friendly and share with you."

Charlotte shrugged her shoulders. "I'd better not ruin my supper. Besides, I need to get a book from the library before my mom comes. See you tomorrow," Charlotte said as she turned to leave quickly.

"Wow," she thought, "this public school sure is different from the Christian school I went to last year."

The following day during recess, Leslie came up behind Charlotte on the swing. "Hey, Charlotte," Leslie said. "I just wanted to let you know that I wasn't doing anything wrong yesterday." She gave the swing a push.

"Then why didn't you leave the lounge door open when we went in?" Charlotte asked.

"Well, the other kids, you know; I didn't want anybody to get jealous," Leslie said.

"Here. I brought you something." Leslie tossed a candy bar onto Charlotte's lap.

The candy bar slid off Charlotte's lap as Leslie ran off. Charlotte stopped the swing. "Now what am I supposed to do?" she murmured. The whistle blew, and the students hurried to line up. Charlotte picked up the candy bar and shoved it into her pocket. Leslie was at the front of the line.

During lunch, Charlotte approached Leslie's table. "I really shouldn't have this if the others aren't allowed to," she said softly and put the candy bar beside Leslie's sandwich.

Leslie nervously glanced around and quickly stashed the candy bar in her lunch bag. "We can talk after school," Charlotte said.

Charlotte found a seat by herself and could hardly swallow her lunch. "Lord, please help me to know what to say and do," she prayed.

After classes were over, Charlotte found Leslie and said, "Look, I just couldn't eat the candy bar without knowing for sure that it's all right with those in authority."

Leslie looked around nervously. "Why don't we go outside?"

Charlotte nodded, and they walked out to the empty playground. "Is there something I can do for you, Leslie?" she asked.

Leslie looked away and sighed. She turned back to Charlotte and looked at her intently. "Do you know what it's like to have to stay here day after day when all the other kids go home?" Leslie said. "And when we do go home, there's no time for doing anything fun. We all just get whatever to eat, do chores, do homework, and try to be the first one to the television."

"What do you do on the weekends?" Charlotte asked.

"Do the shopping and then go to visit Grandma in the nursing home," Leslie answered softly.

"Do you go to church anywhere?"

"We went a few times, but it was boring," Leslie said.

"Would you go with me this weekend?" Charlotte asked. "On Saturdays we have a really great fun time for kids our age, and on Sundays there's a class for our age too!"

Leslie cocked her head. "You're different, you know." She looked away and twisted her gold chain. "I might just give it a try," she said and paused. "In fact, yes, I'll go with you."



➲ Why do you think Leslie kept talking to Charlotte and trying to give her the candy? Possible answers include that she was intrigued by Charlotte's insistence on doing right. Maybe she felt guilty about doing wrong and wanted to include others to ease her conscience.

➲ How did Charlotte find out about Leslie's home? She asked questions and listened.

➲ What could you do if others pressure you to do wrong? I should always do right no matter what (Prov. 8:13; 16:6; Mic. 6:8). Other possible answers: I could get advice from a mature Christian adult; I could explain why I choose not to do wrong, perhaps including presenting the gospel; I could take an interest in their lives apart from the immediate problem and ask whether I can help them in any way.

➲ Read Colossians 4:6. How were Charlotte's responses gracious and seasoned with salt? Possible answers include that she was kind, interested in Leslie, honest, direct, uncompromising, and principled, but not judgmental or condemning; she directed Leslie in the right direction where she could learn about God.

► What was Leslie's decision at the end? She wanted to visit Charlotte's church with her.

➲ Why do you think Leslie decided to go to church with Charlotte even though she had found it boring before? Because of Charlotte's consistent testimony, pure speech, interest in her, and Charlotte's invitation.

**What Does God Say About Being Different from the World?**

Name \_\_\_\_\_



Although Christians get sick, hungry, and tired like everyone else, their souls have been saved by the blood of Jesus Christ. They are destined to spend eternity with God. This should make a difference in the way Christians live while on earth. They know that this world is not their final home. They also know that heaven's glory is beyond anything they can imagine.

**Read 1 Peter 2:9 and answer the questions.** *Answers will vary.*

1. What was God's purpose for setting apart Christians as a chosen, royal people that belong to God? **to show or proclaim God's praises or excellencies to others**
2. According to this verse, what has God done for the Christian that motivates him to show God's praise to others? **God has called him from darkness into His light.**

**Being a Christian is not always easy.**

*You are called by God to make a difference in this world. Therefore, YOU must be different too.*

**Read Matthew 5:14–16 and describe how each verse challenges you to affect the lives around you.** *Answers will vary.*

5:14 **I should be a light to others and be unashamed of my testimony.**  
 5:15 **I should share my testimony rather than hiding it from others.**  
 5:16 **I should live my life in such a way that others will see the difference in me and glorify my Father in heaven.**

One of the major differences Christ will make in your life is that you will begin to think like Him. You will love what He loves, and you will hate what He hates. Most of all, you will be transformed more into the image of your heavenly Father. Ask God to make you more like Him (2 Cor. 3:18).

**Match the verse to the correct statement about what Christians should love and hate. The verses can be used more than once.**

A \_\_\_\_ 3. They should love God.  
 B \_\_\_\_ 4. They should hate pride.  
 B \_\_\_\_ 5. They should hate perverse talk.  
**A, B, or C** 6. They should hate evil.  
 C \_\_\_\_ 7. They should love what is good.

**A. Psalm 97:10**  
**B. Proverbs 8:13**  
**C. Amos 5:15**

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**Something to Think About**

Being Different from the World

Name \_\_\_\_\_



Loving God and hating evil go together. You cannot separate them. It is easy to understand that a holy and righteous God hates evil. All Christians will say that they love God and hate evil. However, the real test of what they love the most is demonstrated by their actions.

**Read each scenario and decide if the person was demonstrating a love for God or a love for evil. If a love for evil was demonstrated, write what a Christian should have done in that situation. If a love for God was demonstrated, tell how the person demonstrated it.** *Answers will vary.*

Scenario	Love for God	Love for Evil	What should have been done? (or) How was God pleased?
Elena wanted the other girls to accept her, but it seemed like they were always gossiping about other people. Elena decided to gossip with them rather than be the one they gossiped about.		X	<b>Elena should never gossip about others no matter what the other girls are doing.</b>
Cole found out that his older brother had some magazines containing indecent pictures hidden under his bed in their room. Cole did not want to make his brother mad, but he knew that his brother was sinning against God by loving evil things. Cole asked his brother to throw the magazines away and ask for God's forgiveness.		X	<b>Cole's desire to love his brother and obey God made him bold enough to confront his brother even if his brother became angry with him.</b>

**What About Me?**

In John 8:12, Jesus says that He is the light of the world. He also says in Matthew 5 that Christians are the light of the world. As Christians, we do not have a light of our own to shine. We lived in darkness before Jesus saved us and shined His light on us. This makes us grateful and especially willing to share His light with others. Sometimes we may suffer persecution for hating and opposing darkness, but God promises His presence and eternal blessing when we walk in the Light.



**Take time at home to think about the following questions.**



Would your friends say that you are a light to people around you?  
 Are you too scared to kindly confront someone for doing wrong?  
 Are you willing to take whatever persecution might come from doing right?  
 Do you hate evil the way God hates evil?

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## Worktext pages 141–42

(Note: These pages may be saved for use with Lesson 95 to allow time for in-depth discussion.)

**Develop principles for being different from the world.** Point out that the world is defined here as anything that does not reflect the holiness of God. Read page 141 and discuss what God says about being different from the world. Select volunteers to read aloud the Scripture passages.

### Evaluate and comment on personal choices about friends.

Read page 142 and discuss the scenarios together. Encourage the students to read the "What About Me?" section at home and think about the friends that they have chosen.

LESSON

95

## Unit 6a Activity

### Materials

- Chart 22 ("God's Word: The Gospels")
- Bible book cards (Gospels)

### Preview Background Information

#### Matthew (Christ the Promised King)

Matthew presented Christ as King and included many references to the Old Testament because he was writing for Jewish

readers. Christ came to earth to offer His life as a sacrifice for mankind and to establish His kingdom in human hearts.

#### Mark (Christ the Suffering King)

Mark, who traveled with Paul and then assisted Peter, presented Christ the King as a servant. Through Christ's suffering and death, it is evident that He came to serve and to help others.

#### Luke (Christ the Perfect Man)

Luke was a medical doctor and coworker of Paul. He wrote to show the humanity of Christ, focusing on Christ's relationship as a human dependent on God as His heavenly Father.

#### John (Christ the Son of God)

John focused on specific miracles that Jesus Christ did to show that He was the Son of God.

### Teach for Understanding

**Review the Gospels.** Select students to read each book name and theme from page 278. Display Chart 22 ("God's Word—The Gospels"). Share the background information about Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John (optional).

**Practice naming the Gospels in order.** Explain that knowing the books that come immediately before and after each book is helpful when looking up Bible verses. Display the Bible book cards for the Gospels. Explain that when you cover one of the bottom corners, the students should tell which book comes before or which book comes after the book named at the top.

# Pride

## Unit 6b

### PREVIEW

#### Doctrines

- **96:** God is righteous (Ps. 116:5).
- **97:** God is merciful (Ps. 86:15).
- **98:** God is holy (1 Pet. 1:16).
- **99:** God is faithful (1 Cor. 1:9).

#### Skills and Applications

- Learn Ecclesiastes 3:4–6
- Use a glossary
- Recall facts and details
- Identify character traits
- Read a timeline
- Sequence events
- Complete a study of a Scripture passage
- Beware of the danger of pride
- Know that it is good to fear God
- Develop a Christlike attitude toward fear
- Realize that God is in control of all things
- Learn to be faithful when tempted to sin
- Know that those who put their trust in God will not have sinful fear
- Apply Bible knowledge to everyday life

LESSON

96

## Prophet Focus: Ezekiel

#### Materials

- Timeline and picture of Ezekiel

#### Music

Review the song and develop higher-order thinking skills by asking application questions.

#### Memory Verses: Ecclesiastes 3:4–6

**Principle:** Emotions should be expressed at the appropriate times. Locate and read aloud Ecclesiastes 3:1–6 as the students read silently. Select a volunteer to read 3:4–6 aloud.

⌚ **What thoughts might 3:5–6 help us think about the possessions we have? Do not hold on tightly to what you own; it**

**may not be wrong to have them now, but most of what we have will not be ours very long.**

⌚ **How would 3:4 help someone whose loved one has just passed away? He would know that it is normal and biblical to cry and to hurt deeply.**

Instruct the students to read the memory verses responsively with you, phrase by phrase. Direct them to mark the location with their Unit 6 bookmarks and to highlight the verses in their Bibles (optional).

## Prophet Focus: Ezekiel

#### Introduce the Biography

**Discuss Ezekiel's time frame.** Point out that Daniel and his friends were taken to Babylon during the first captivity, and Ezekiel was among those taken away during the second captivity. Because the sequence of the books of the Bible is not chronological, Ezekiel appears before Daniel.

## Teach for Understanding

Read or tell the following account based on the life of the prophet Ezekiel. Listening question: In one sentence, how would you summarize God's message to Israel through Ezekiel? Possible answers may include "If you continue to sin, I will punish you," or "After punishing My people for their sin, I will bless them."

## Leave and Turn

When God allowed Israel to be captured by the Babylonians, Ezekiel was among the captives taken to Babylon. It was during this time of the Israelites' captivity that Ezekiel said, "The heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God." God used this prophet to give His message to the rebellious nation of Israel.

God sent Ezekiel a vision of a whirlwind from heaven bringing four living creatures and four wheels. The Lord told Ezekiel that He was sending him to the people of Israel. They were a rebellious nation that had rebelled against God, and Ezekiel was God's watchman over Israel to warn them of coming punishment if they continued to disobey God.

God gave Ezekiel specific instructions that would be signs for the Jews in Babylon. First, God told Ezekiel to shut himself in his house, indicating that Ezekiel would not be able to speak except when God allowed him to. Next, God told Ezekiel to draw the city of Jerusalem on a tile and to portray it being under siege. With an iron pan between himself and the drawing of the city, he was to lie on his left side for 390 days and on his right side for 40 days. During that time, Ezekiel was to eat and drink only the things that God specified. This pictured the details of Babylon's siege against Jerusalem. God gave Ezekiel many other signs to warn Israel about future judgment, and Ezekiel obeyed everything that God told him to do.

After learning about the fall of Jerusalem, Ezekiel asked God if this would be the end of the remnant of Israel. God gave Ezekiel hope by telling him that He would gather His people together again and give them a new spirit to obey God. After the people heard about the destruction of Jerusalem, only some of them turned back to God. Ezekiel understood that judgment would still be on those who continued to sin.

Then God sent Ezekiel to prophesy against false prophets who were saying that God had shown them visions and given them messages. These false prophets were lying and would be judged because God had not sent them.

God said to His people through Ezekiel, "Repent, and turn yourselves from your idols; and turn away your faces from all your abominations" (**Ezek. 14:6**). If the people would leave their sins and return to God, He promised to return them to their own land and to give them "showers of blessing." A new temple and a new city would be built, and once again the Israelites would be His people, and He would be their God.



### Prophet Focus

Ezekiel (ca. 597 BC)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Ezekiel, a priest in Judah, was taken to Babylon during the second captivity. God sent a vision in the form of a whirlwind to Ezekiel. In this vision, God placed Ezekiel as a watchman for the children of Israel. Through these prophecies, Ezekiel was to sound the alarm of God's coming judgment. To emphasize that Ezekiel was to speak for Him only, God caused Ezekiel's tongue to stick to the roof of his mouth. From then on, Ezekiel could speak only when God gave him the ability and the words to say.

Ezekiel received signs from God to help the people understand what would happen to Jerusalem. Many of these signs were like small dramas for Ezekiel to act out before the people. The first set of signs pictured details of Babylon's siege before and during the destruction of Jerusalem. God wanted the people to repent and be saved. Punishment would come to those who did not repent. The people did not think it was right for God to punish sinners. They did not want to hear Ezekiel's messages, so they tried to harm him.

After Ezekiel had been prophesying for years, the news came that Jerusalem had been conquered.

#### Answer the questions.

1. Where were the people of Israel when God began speaking through Ezekiel? Babylon
2. Did the people believe God's messages? no
3. What event caused some of the people to begin to believe that Ezekiel was speaking the truth? the destruction of Jerusalem
4. Did this event cause the people to repent of their sins? no
5. Why do you think the people did not repent? Answers will vary.
6. What should you do when God reveals sin in your life? Answers will vary but should include repenting and asking forgiveness.

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Ezekiel's prophecies had come true; now some of the people began to believe his messages from God.

Most of the people living in Israel did not follow God. Even the destruction of Jerusalem did not bring them to repentance. Ezekiel now prophesied God's message revealing that blessings would come to the remnant of people who survived the captivity and remained faithful.

God used a vision of a field of dry bones that grew flesh and returned to life to picture the hope that some people who were dead in their sin would one day return to God and receive life. Later, God instructed Ezekiel to take two sticks and hold them together to become one to demonstrate the promise that the divided kingdoms would be reunited. Ezekiel's final vision from God gave hope that a new temple and a new city would be built some day.

Ezekiel prophesied for about fifty-two years. During this time, he was ridiculed and humiliated as he proclaimed and demonstrated God's truth. Ezekiel remained faithful to God and claimed the promises of eternal life and the kingdom to come.

Redemption: God's Grand Design

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► **What did Ezekiel do as a watchman for God? He warned the people of future punishment if they continued in disobedience.**

► **What hope did God give Ezekiel about Israel? God told Ezekiel that God would once again gather the people of Israel and give them a spirit to obey God, a new temple, and a new city.**

⌚ **Since God continues to punish sin, why do evil people continue to live among us? God is patiently allowing people to have the opportunity to turn from their sin and be saved. God's timing is not always the same as ours. Eventually God will punish evil, and all will know that God is the Lord.**

⌚ **In one sentence, how would you summarize God's message to Israel through Ezekiel? Possible answers may include "If you continue to sin, I will punish you," or "After punishing My people for their sin, I will bless them."**

## Timeline

Place Ezekiel on the timeline. Select a student to attach the card for Ezekiel (ca. 597) to the large classroom timeline. Direct each student to glue the Ezekiel picture to his individual timeline.

## Worktext page 143

Reinforce facts about Ezekiel's life and ministry.

## I'm Accountable for Me

Bible Study of Ezekiel 18:14–32

Name \_\_\_\_\_



When was the last time you heard someone say, "That's not fair"? Sometimes people say that about even God and His punishment of sin. God talks about this in His Word. Is God fair? Does He enjoy punishing sin? The people of Judah were asking these questions as they were held captive in Babylon. God gave Ezekiel His answers to share with the people.

Read Ezekiel 18:14–32 and answer the questions.

Ezekiel 18:14–19

1. If a son has a wicked father, what choices does the son have concerning his own life? (18:14)

**Answers may vary but should include that the son can choose either to follow his father in wickedness or follow God.**

2. What blessing will come to the son that follows God? (18:17b) **He will not die for the sin of his father but will live.**

3. What will happen to the sinful father? (18:18) **He will die in his sin.**

4. Should the son bear the punishment of the father's sin? (18:19) **no**

Ezekiel 18:20–22

5. What clear statement is made about a person who sins? (18:20) **He will die.**

6. Is it fair for God to say that a righteous person experiences the results of his own righteousness and a wicked person experiences the results of his own wickedness? (18:20) **yes**

7. What hope does a wicked person have for eternal life? (18:21) **If he turns from his sin, he will live.** What is this verse talking about? **salvation**

8. Will believers' sins be remembered against them after they ask forgiveness? (18:22) **no**

Ezekiel 18:23–25

9. In your own words, what are the people saying in 18:25? **Answers should include that God or God's way is not equal/fair/just.**

10. Have you ever thought it was unfair for God to send unbelievers to hell? \_\_\_\_\_ Do your thoughts and feelings change the truth of God's Word? **no**

Ezekiel 18:26–32

11. God once again shows the people that He is fair. But what do the people say in 18:29? **God's ways are not equal/fair/just.**

12. What does God want His people to do? (18:30) **repent**

13. As they repent, what will God make new? (18:31) **their hearts and spirits**

14. When sinful people die, what is God's response? (18:32) **God has no pleasure in their death.**

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- cry after, cry, or call out (3a)

- lift or raise your voice (3b)

- seek (4a)

- search out (4b)

💡 Which of these words describes your usual pattern of reading God's Word?

## Bible Account

### Preview Background Information

#### Nebuchadnezzar's Time of Insanity

Nebuchadnezzar's dream may have taken place about twenty-five or thirty years after the fiery furnace incident. Nebuchadnezzar had already realized God's power, but he had not recognized his own weakness and lowly position before God. There is no Babylonian record of governmental activity between 582 and 575 BC. Eastern leaders were very careful to flaunt their achievements and hide their embarrassments, so it seems likely that those years were probably the time of Nebuchadnezzar's insanity.

#### Diseases

Boanthropy is a mental illness in which a person believes he is an ox or a cow. A modern-day case of boanthropy was reported in a twenty-year-old man in 1946 in Britain. He was hospitalized for five years, during which time he lived on and ate grass around the hospital grounds. Zoanthropy is a similar disease in which a person takes on characteristics of an animal, including killing and eating prey.

### Introduce the Bible Account

**Discuss lowliness of mind.** Point out that human wisdom and power are incomparable to God's wisdom and power. Christ is God and is equal to the Father, but He humbled Himself when he came to earth, allowing Himself to be made the lowest of all—a servant. Remind the students that Christians are commanded to be like Christ. Select a volunteer to read aloud *Philippians 2:5–8*.

### Teach for Understanding

Read *Daniel 4* or use the following retelling of the passage.

Listening question: **What was King Nebuchadnezzar's view of God after being humbled? He recognized and praised God as the King of heaven, the one who is totally worthy to be praised. God acts according to truth, and His judgment is right.**

## Humbled Pride

King Nebuchadnezzar was resting in his house and had a dream that troubled him and made him afraid. So he called all the wise men of Babylon to come to interpret his dream. The magicians, astrologers, Chaldeans, and those who made predictions came. The king told them his dream, but they could not explain its meaning.

Then Daniel came, and Nebuchadnezzar told him the dream. He had seen a huge tree that reached to the sky and was visible to the whole earth. The leaves and fruit were beautiful and abundant. The tree provided shade for the



## Worktext page 144 (optional)

Complete a Bible study about one of Ezekiel's messages (Ezek. 18:14–32).

LESSON

97

## Humbled Pride

### Music

Review the song and develop higher-order thinking skills by asking application questions.

### Memory Verses: Ecclesiastes 3:4–6

Practice the memory verses. Select a volunteer to read aloud Ecclesiastes 3:4–6.

► According to Proverbs 28:5, what can help us understand what is going on in our lives? **seeking and knowing God**

💡 Which verbs in Proverbs 2:1–5 show how a person can learn to fear the Lord? [Lead the students in specifying what the verbs are in this passage verse by verse.]

- receive or accept (1a)

- hide, treasure, or store up (1b)

- incline your ear, make your ear attentive, listen carefully (2a)

- apply or incline your heart (2b)

animals, nesting places for the birds, and food for everyone. Then the king saw in his dream a messenger who came down from heaven. This messenger ordered that the tree be cut down, the branches cut off, the leaves shaken off, and the fruit scattered, but the stump and roots were to be left. The stump was to be wet with dew.

When King Nebuchadnezzar had told his dream, he asked Daniel, who was called Belteshazzar, to give its interpretation. When Daniel realized what the dream meant, he was alarmed and troubled. King Nebuchadnezzar assured Daniel that he shouldn't be troubled. Daniel said he wished the dream were for the king's enemies and not for the king himself.

Daniel said that the tree in the dream represented the king because he had become very strong. Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar that his greatness would come to nothing because he would live in the field and eat grass like an animal. Dew would fall on him for seven years until the king understood that the most high God rules in human affairs and gives power to whoever He desires to give it to.

Daniel urged the king to change his sinful ways and live a righteous life so that he might avoid this judgment.

But a year later, King Nebuchadnezzar was still proud. One day he was walking on the roof of his palace and thinking about the greatness of his kingdom. He said to himself, "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?" (**Dan. 4:30**).

No sooner were the words out of his mouth than a voice came from heaven, "O King Nebuchadnezzar, your kingdom is taken away from you until you understand that the Most High rules over earthly kingdoms and gives them to whoever He chooses."

That same hour all the events of Nebuchadnezzar's dream began to be fulfilled. He left his beautiful palace and started to eat grass like an ox. He was covered with dew every day. His hair looked like eagles' feathers, and his nails were like birds' claws.

At the end of seven years, Nebuchadnezzar looked up to heaven, and his reasoning returned. He blessed, praised, and honored God. He realized that only God's kingdom is everlasting and that humans are nothing without God. King Nebuchadnezzar praised God, saying that God does His will in heaven and on earth. Nobody can keep God's hand from doing His will, nor can anybody legitimately question God's desires.

At that same time, King Nebuchadnezzar's power was restored to him, and his subjects were again willing to serve him. His kingdom now was even greater than it was before.

So the king praised the Lord, "Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to [humble]" (**4:37**).

### Pride Broken

Daniel 4

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Nebuchadnezzar, the powerful king who overthrew the mighty Assyrians and who destroyed Jerusalem, had to face a situation he could not control. Many years had passed since his first dream and its interpretation by Daniel. Nebuchadnezzar experienced a new dream that made him afraid. He called on his wise men to help him, but they could not interpret the dream.

Daniel was called, and through God's power he explained the meaning of the dream: If Nebuchadnezzar puffed himself up in pride because of his great kingdom, then God would take away his kingdom. This powerful king would become like a beast in the field and realize that God rules over all the earth.

#### Answer the questions.

1. Since Daniel had accurately interpreted Nebuchadnezzar's first dream, why do you think the king waited before calling Daniel this time? *Answers may vary but could include that Nebuchadnezzar might have guessed that it was not good news.*
2. Nebuchadnezzar was fearful about his dream. He was seeking peace. What characteristic about Daniel did the king notice as he requested an explanation of his dream (Dan. 4:5, 9)?  
*that secrets/visions/dreams did not trouble (did not baffle or were not too difficult for) Daniel*
3. Why do you think Daniel was not worried about the unknown? *Answers may vary but could include that Daniel's trust was in God. God is all-knowing and in control. Daniel had no reason to worry.*
4. Think about situations when you are fearful. Are you fearful because you are not in control? What should you do when you find yourself in a frightening situation?  
*Possible answers include asking God for guidance and protection.*

Number the events in the life of King Nebuchadnezzar in order. Read Daniel 4:19–37 for help.

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2 He boasted about himself and his power as he walked through the palace.  
1 His dream was a warning to repent and recognize that God rules.  
4 He lived for seven years in the fields, grazing like an animal.



- 5 As his understanding returned, he praised God and recognized that God is in control.  
3 A voice from heaven told him that his kingdom was taken from him.

Redemption: God's Grand Design

Lesson 97 145

- **Why did God punish Nebuchadnezzar? Nebuchadnezzar became proud and claimed that his success and fame were a result of his own efforts and for his own glory.**
- **Why did God return Nebuchadnezzar to his position and possessions? He humbled himself before God and acknowledged God's power and preeminence.**
- **What was King Nebuchadnezzar's view of God after being humbled? He recognized and praised God as the King of Heaven, the one who is totally worthy to be praised. God acts according to truth, and His judgment is right.**
- **Read Proverbs 21:30. How do you view God; is your view of God according to truth, or do you imagine some false accusations against God?**
- **How can you humble yourself daily before God? Possible answers include reading Scripture that praises God; confessing and forsaking sin; realizing that without God I can do nothing; noticing, talking about, and writing down evidences of God's power and position in nature, in my life, and in the lives of others.**

### Worktext page 145

Recall facts and sequence events of the Bible account.

 Music

Review the song and develop higher-order thinking skills by asking application questions.

 Memory Verses: Ecclesiastes 3:4–6

Practice the memory verses. Locate Ecclesiastes 3:4–6 and select a volunteer to read the verses aloud.

Review questions from Lessons 96 and 97.

 Bible Account

## Preview Background Information

## Belshazzar's Father

In Hebrew, there are no words that mean either “grandfather” or “ancestor,” so the Jews referred to all older male relatives as *father*. Belshazzar’s actual father was Nabonidus, and his grandfather was Nebuchadnezzar.

## Introduce the Bible Account

**Introduce Belshazzar.** Explain that Nebuchadnezzar was king of Babylon for approximately forty-seven years. The events in the following Bible account took place after Belshazzar, the grandson of King Nebuchadnezzar had been king of Babylon for about fourteen years.

## Teach for Understanding

**Read Daniel 5** or use the following retelling of the passage. Listening question: **How did Daniel describe Belshazzar? He was a proud, selfish idolator.**

 Condemned Pride

King Belshazzar held a large banquet for a thousand lords of his kingdom. While the king was drinking wine, he commanded that the gold and silver vessels that Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the temple of the Lord in Jerusalem be brought out so that he and his guests could drink from them. The vessels from God’s house were brought, and the people “drank wine, and praised the gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood, and of stone” (**Dan. 5:4**). At that same time, the fingers of a man’s hand appeared writing on the wall near the lampstand. When the king saw this, his countenance changed, and he was alarmed. He was so troubled that his joints became loose and his knees knocked against each other.

King Belshazzar called for his wise men—the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the diviners. He promised, “Whoever can read this writing and tell me what it means, I’ll reward you with expensive clothing, a gold chain around your neck, and I’ll make you the third ruler of the kingdom.” All the royal wise men came in, but not one of them could read or interpret the writing. King Belshazzar was very

troubled, and the lords of the land were astounded at what had just happened.

When the queen heard about it, she came in and told the king to not worry because she knew a man who lived in the city who had the spirit of the holy gods in him. She told King Belshazzar how King Nebuchadnezzar had made Daniel chief over all his wise men because of his great wisdom. The queen suggested that they call for Daniel to interpret the handwriting on the wall.

Daniel, probably in his sixties by this time, was brought in and King Belshazzar asked him, “Are you Daniel, the one who is a captive from Judah? I’ve heard about you, that the spirit of the gods is in you. They say that you have light, understanding, and excellent wisdom.” The king promised Daniel the same rewards that he had promised the others if he could interpret the handwriting on the wall.

Daniel said that he would read it and tell the king what it meant, but that the king could keep the gifts for himself and give the rewards to somebody else.

Daniel reminded King Belshazzar that God had given King Nebuchadnezzar a great position and kingdom. But because Nebuchadnezzar became conceited and hardened his heart because of pride, God removed him from his throne, and he lived like an animal for seven years.

Daniel told Belshazzar, “Even though you knew all of that, you have not humbled your heart. You’ve lifted yourself up against the Lord of heaven and worshiped the gods of silver, gold, brass, iron, wood, and stone, which cannot see, hear, or know anything. Furthermore, you have failed to glorify the God of heaven who holds your breath in His hands and lets you do what you do.”

Daniel interpreted the writing on the wall. The words meant, “God has numbered your kingdom and finished it. You are weighed in the balances and are found wanting. Your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.” Belshazzar then commanded that rewards be given to Daniel.

But that same night King Belshazzar was killed, and Darius the Mede took over the kingdom.



 **How were King Nebuchadnezzar’s and King Belshazzar’s sins and responses to God similar and different? They both committed the sin of pride, but only King Nebuchadnezzar repented of his sin.**

- ▶ **What did Daniel say that Belshazzar failed to do? glorify God—the God who gave him life and power**
- ▶ **What was the last thing Belshazzar did that brought God’s wrath? He used the vessels from God’s temple at his banquet in praising his gods.**
- ▶ **How did Daniel describe Belshazzar? He was a proud, selfish idolator.**
- ▶ **How can Christians guard themselves against pride? Possible answers include memorizing Scripture about pride and humility; daily learning about God and asking Him to guard them against sin and to strengthen them to obey Him; immediately recognizing and asking forgiveness for any proud thought, word, or action.**

**Message for the King**  
Daniel 5

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Answer the questions. Refer to Daniel 5 in your Bible for help.

1. What vessels did King Belshazzar use to drink wine at the banquet?  
vessels from the temple in Jerusalem

2. Who did the men praise as they drank?  
the gods of gold, silver, brass or bronze, iron, wood, and stone

3. How did God deliver His message to King Belshazzar?  
by fingers of a hand writing on the wall

4. What was the king's reaction to the writing?  
He was afraid.

5. Who remembered that Daniel had the power of God to interpret?  
the queen

6. Daniel reminded Belshazzar of another king that God had humbled. Which king was he speaking about?  
Nebuchadnezzar

7. Who did the message say would take away the kingdom?  
the Medes and the Persians

8. When did the attack take place?  
that night

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146 Lesson 98

Redemption: God's Grand Design

Read **1 Corinthians 4:7**, and emphasize that all we are, have, and do are from God.

## Worktext page 146

Recall details about the banquet of Belshazzar.

## Worktext pages 147–48

(Note: These pages may be saved for use with Lesson 100 to allow time for in-depth discussion.)

**Develop a Christlike attitude toward fear.** Read page 147 and discuss what a person should do when he is afraid. Explain the right kind of fear. Select volunteers to read aloud the Scripture passages.

**Evaluate personal fears.** Read and discuss page 148 together. Encourage the students to read the “What About Me?” section at home and think about what makes them fearful and whether they fear God.

LESSON  
99

## Prayer Versus Pride

### Music

Review the song and develop higher-order thinking skills by asking application questions.

## What Does God Say About Being Fearful?

Name \_\_\_\_\_



What makes you fearful? Deep water? Heights? Low grades? New people? Being alone? Fear is that feeling of being afraid or scared of something. It is an emotion with the power to control you—but only if you let it!

Read **2 Timothy 1:7** and answer the questions.

1. What kind of spirit has God given Christians?

a spirit of power, of love, and of a sound mind or discipline

2. What does *not* come from God according to this verse? a spirit of timidity or fear

3. Where do you think the feeling of being scared or afraid comes from?

You may have heard of people who have phobias. This word is from the Greek word *phobos*, which means “fear.” A **phobia** is a fear that is so strong that it controls your actions. Allowing your fear to control you comes when you focus on yourself or your circumstances. God has given Christians reminders about allowing their thoughts and actions to be controlled not by fear, but by Him.

Read each verse. Write in your own words God’s instructions to you about being fearful. Answers will vary.

4. Proverbs 3:25 I shouldn't be afraid of disaster or sudden fear or when wicked people are punished.

5. Psalm 23:4 Even when I face death, I don't need to fear evil because God is with me.

6. Isaiah 51:7b I should not be afraid of other people who look down on me or insult me.

God wants you to learn to trust Him instead of being fearful. He loves you and will always do what is best for you. Every time you find yourself tempted to be afraid, ask God to help you to trust in Him and His protection.

Use the glossary to write the definitions for the noun and verb forms of *trust*. Answer the question.

7. Noun: firm, unchanging belief in the power, love, or truthfulness of a person or thing; faith and confidence

8. Verb: to have faith in; to depend on

9. Question: In your own words, what does it mean to trust in God?

Redemption: God's Grand Design

Lesson 98 147

## Memory Verses: Ecclesiastes 3:4–6

**Practice the memory verses.** Locate Ecclesiastes 3:4–6 and select a student to read the verses aloud. Invite students to recite the verses.

## Bible Account

### Introduce the Bible Account

Review the previous Bible account.

► **What happened to King Belshazzar?** He was killed.

► **Who ruled over Babylonia after Belshazzar?** Darius the Mede

### Teach for Understanding

Read Daniel 6 or use the following retelling of the passage.

Listening question: **How was God glorified in the end?** He was seen as powerful and righteous, and many people heard about Him since the king commanded everyone to fear Him.

## Prayer Versus Pride

After Belshazzar’s death, Darius the Mede ruled the kingdom and appointed 120 officers who were accountable to three leaders—one of whom was Daniel. The king considered setting Daniel over the entire kingdom because

### Something to Think About

Not Being Fearful

Name \_\_\_\_\_



When you become fearful about something, you worry about it. You spend time thinking about something you cannot control. God is in control of what happens in your life, and He wants you to trust Him. He gives Christians the ability to make wise decisions with the help of His Holy Spirit. He expects them to make responsible decisions about where they go and what they do. He also expects you to believe Him when He says that He will take care of you.



Match the verse to the correct statement about what you should do when you are fearful.

- |          |                 |  |
|----------|-----------------|--|
| <b>C</b> | 1. 1 Peter 5:7  | A. I should stop being afraid because I trust in God.                              |
| <b>B</b> | 2. Proverbs 3:7 | B. I should not trust myself. I will fear the Lord and stay away from evil things. |
| <b>A</b> | 3. Psalm 56:3-4 | C. I should tell Jesus all about my cares and anxiety because He cares.            |

### The Right Kind of Fear

It may surprise you to find out that God says that there is a good kind of fear that you *should* have. Sometimes people are confused about the different ways God uses the word *fear* in the Bible. **One kind** of fear means being so afraid of something that someone cannot do what God wants him to do. This kind of fear is a sin because the person is not trusting God to take care of him.

### What About Me?



Take time at home to think about what things make you fearful and whether you fear God. How do you deal with the wrong kind of fear? Do you have the right kind of fear? Follow the directions.

4. List several things you are fearful of.
  
5. Write one way you can trust God in how you handle your fear.
  
6. Write about an area in which you need to learn to trust God and how you are going to depend on Him.
  
7. List three attributes of God that cause you to fear Him. **Possible answers:**  
**holiness**      **power**      **wrath against sin**

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Lesson 98

Redemption: God's Grand Design

he was preferred over all the officers and leaders and had an excellent spirit.

The officers and the other two leaders tried to find some fault in Daniel concerning his dealings in the kingdom, but Daniel fulfilled his responsibilities with excellence. They couldn't find the slightest error in him.

"We won't find any fault in this Daniel unless it's something concerning the law of his God," they said.

All the officers and leaders developed a plan. They flattered the king by saying that they wanted him to make a royal decree: For the next thirty days, if anyone made a request of any god or of any man except the king, that person would be thrown into the lions' den.

King Darius signed the law and said that it could not be changed. Daniel heard about the law, but he made no change in his schedule. As always, Daniel prayed in his house three times each day.

Daniel's windows were open toward Jerusalem, and he knelt and prayed just as he did every day. The men who had proposed the law were watching Daniel and saw him praying to his God. Then they went straight to King Darius and reminded him of the new law he had signed.

They told King Darius that Daniel, a captive from Judah, had no regard for the king or for the king's new law but still prayed to his God three times each day.

King Darius was upset at himself for signing this law. He wanted to rescue Daniel, so all day he tried to come up with a plan to deliver him from being thrown into the lions' den.

Those same men who were trying to get rid of Daniel came to the king again and reminded him that the law he signed could not be revoked. So King Darius commanded that Daniel be thrown into the lions' den, but he told Daniel, "May the God you serve so faithfully deliver you."

A stone was put over the den's opening, and the king sealed it so that no one would move it. King Darius returned to his palace and fasted all night. He didn't want any entertainment, and he couldn't sleep. He got up very early the next morning and hurried to the lions' den.

"Daniel," the king called out, "has the God you serve all the time been able to deliver you from the lions?"

Daniel replied that his God had sent His angel to shut the lions' mouths. They hadn't hurt him at all because Daniel was innocent before God and had done nothing against the king either.

King Darius was overjoyed and commanded that Daniel be taken out of the den. Not a scratch was found on Daniel because he had trusted God. Then King Darius commanded that Daniel's accusers and their families be thrown into the lions' den. Before they even fell to the floor, the lions killed them.

Then King Darius made a public declaration that everyone in his kingdom should fear Daniel's God. "For he is the living God, and stedfast for ever, and his kingdom ... shall not be destroyed. He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions" (**Dan. 6:26-27**).



What sins led to Darius's signing the new law? **The officers and leaders of the land were jealous of Daniel, and the king himself was proud.**

Direct the students to think about how they react when someone else succeeds. How can Christians battle against pride in situations like this? **Possible answers include memorizing Scripture that addresses pride and commands humility; asking God for grace to be glad for the person succeeding; and making an effort to tell that person that they are glad for him.**

Read **Hebrews 12:1-3**. Explain that God gives each person his own race to run. No two individuals' races will ever look the same. God will always treat us with lovingkindness, justice, and righteousness no matter what circumstances we encounter in our "race." A Christian has Christ; therefore, we should not be jealous of anyone else's possessions or privileges (**Heb. 13:5**).

How do you think the new decree affected King Darius's pride? **Possible answers include that he was probably very flattered that people would honor him that way.**

► What did Daniel do when he heard that his life was endangered by the new decree? **He prayed openly as he did every day.**

**Darius, Daniel, and the Den**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Daniel's relationship with God was seen by the king and other officers and leaders. King Darius loved the good character he saw in Daniel and placed him over all the officers and leaders. These men hated Daniel and tried to use his testimony to bring him harm.

Write the corresponding character trait next to each description.

concerned	deceitful	encouraging	faithful
grieved	humble	jealous	obedient

<b>jealous</b>	the attitude of the other leaders toward Daniel after he was placed over them	
<b>deceitful</b>	the way in which the other leaders caused the king to create the new law restricting prayer	
<b>grieved</b>	how King Darius felt when he found that Daniel's regular prayers to God caused Daniel to break the new law	
<b>encouraging</b>	the king's words to Daniel, expressing his hope that God would deliver him	
<b>concerned</b>	shown by the king's thoughts for Daniel throughout the night	

**Did You Know?** A Persian or Median king was the supreme ruler and authority over the land. It would have been seen as a sign of weakness for a king to change his mind. As a result, laws established under the Medes and Persians could not be amended or changed. A new law had to be made in order to reverse an old one.

**Think About It** What character traits do you think describe you? What character traits would you like to have for God's glory?

Redemption: God's Grand Design

Lesson 99

149

**Unit 6a–6b Review**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Circle the letters of the correct answers.

- Daniel and his three friends were captives of King Nebuchadnezzar in Babylon. They determined that they would not defile themselves by eating the king's required food. If we want to be like Daniel, what is the main factor we should consider in each decision we make? [Lesson 91]
  - Will this make me look good?
  - Will this make me feel good or comfortable?
  - Will this please my friends?
  - Will this be in obedience to God?
  - Will this help me get ahead?
- The three young Hebrew men refused to bow to King Nebuchadnezzar's idol even though they knew the punishment would be death. Why did they risk the punishment? [Lesson 92]
  - They knew God would spare them from punishment because they were being obedient.
  - They knew Nebuchadnezzar needed their knowledge, so he would not actually throw them into the fire.
  - They were hoping others would join them in complaining against the king's unrealistic expectations.
  - God deserved obedience, and only God should be worshiped.
  - Many religions were represented by the large international crowd. They thought the king would be tolerant of other religions.
- Circle all of the conclusions King Nebuchadnezzar came to after his seven-year humiliation. [Lesson 97]
  - God is worthy of being blessed, praised, and honored.
  - Because God is merciful, He will not be hard on those who disobey Him.
  - God's kingdom is everlasting, and humans are nothing without God.
  - All that God does is right, and His ways are ways of judgment.
  - God is able to humble all who are proud.
- What can we learn from Ecclesiastes 3:1–6?
  - If we listen carefully, we can know why God allows everything in our lives.
  - There is an appointed time for things in our lives.
  - If we thoroughly obey God, we will not suffer times of weeping and pain.
  - God enjoys confusing us by allowing both good and bad things into our lives.
- Using the fingers of a man's hand, God wrote on the wall that Belshazzar's life did not meet God's approval. Why was Belshazzar found wanting (deficient)? [Lesson 98]
  - He was a proud, selfish idolater.
  - God liked the Babylonians better than He liked the Medes.
  - He did not rule as consistently as his grandfather Nebuchadnezzar did.
  - He did not treat God's people with respect.

Half-Unit Reviews

Bible 6

Lessons 91–100

Why did Daniel have no fear? He trusted that God would do what was right, and since God makes no mistakes, Daniel had peace.

How was God glorified in the end? He was seen as powerful and righteous, and many people heard about Him since the king commanded everyone to fear Him.

Point out that when Daniel heard of the decree, the temptation could have been great to pray in private for thirty days to conform to the decree and maintain his high position before the king. God sustained Daniel to remain faithful when confronted with his coworkers' jealousy and pride.

## Worktext page 149

Identify character qualities of Daniel, King Darius, and the other leaders.

LESSON

100

## Unit 6b Activity

**Study pride and humility.** Challenge the students to memorize as many of the following verses as possible or to write them out and keep them in places where they will see them every day. (Note: Even though it would be easy to cut-and-paste the text from Bible software and to print out the verses, students may benefit from thinking through what the verses mean as they copy them by hand. A copy of the list may be printed out from the TE Tables section of the Teacher's Toolkit CD.)

Pride Versus Humility		
1 Samuel 2:3	2 Chronicles 7:14; 33:10–13; 34:27	Nehemiah 9:28–29
Psalms 12:3; 86:12–14; 119:21, 69, 78; 138:6	Proverbs 6:16–17; 8:13; 11:2; 16:19; 18:12; 29:23	Ecclesiastes 7:8b
Isaiah 2:11–12; 5:15–16	Micah 6:8	Zephaniah 2:10–11
Mark 7:22–23	Luke 14:10–11; 18:13–14	1 Timothy 6:3–6
James 4:6–7	1 Peter 5:5	1 John 2:16

Direct students to study the verses and to write down any other characteristics, punishments, and rewards that relate to these two heart conditions. Challenge the students to apply to their lives what they find—to follow after what is good and to turn away from what is evil. As time permits, choose several students to share their discoveries with the class, or assign a different passage to each student, allowing him to share what he has learned.

## Unit 6a–6b Review

**Guide a review of Lessons 91–100.** A reproducible copy of the review questions (without answers) is available on the Teacher's Toolkit CD under Half-Unit Reviews. The answers are also provided there.