

The Heavens Declare

Psalm 19

Psalm 19:1-14 NIV

Bible Lesson & Activities for Children



THE SUNDAY SCHOOL STORE

Handmade Gifts



God has made the Earth and everything in it. Like a handmade gift tailored to a specific purpose, He has created all things with love and precious meaning. This lesson celebrates the care and creativity of God, who governs the universe. When we consider His mighty works, there is nothing for us to do but glorify Him with our lives, praising Him with word and song and following His rules and His ways.

It might sound strange to think about rules as being “richer than gold” and “sweeter than honey.” In the context of Psalm 19, though, we see how these rules establish order. Just as God governs the heavens and commands the sun to complete its course like a champion, He rules and plans our lives, as well. If nature is willing to obey His command, we can, too. If the Heavens declare His glory, we should gladly do the same! He makes and rules all things not as a tyrant, but out of love. The same God who controls nature cares for and loves us, and gives us His rules so that we can experience blessing and peace from Him.

Passage: Psalm 19:1-14

Target Audience: Kindergarten-6th grade

Materials Needed: Handmade items; pictures or representations of nature; construction paper or cardstock; markers or crayons; decorative supplies; paper plates; honey-themed treats; bags; Bibles.

More Resources Online

- Watch the [video demonstration of the object lesson](#).
- Watch the [video example for the craft projects](#).
- Watch the [video Bible story “God is With Us”](#) from Saddleback Kids Club
- Watch the [video Bible story “Psalm Song”](#) from Crossroads Kids
- For more free illustrations, visit [Christian Clip Arts](#) and [Ministry-To-Children](#)

Object Lesson (5 minutes)

Greet children and challenge them to discuss handmade items...

Hello, Children of God!

Have you ever received a gift from someone that was handmade? It's really special when people give you things they've made themselves, isn't it? I have some items here that people made for me. Show some items that are handmade, describing them and why they're special or useful. These items are precious because I know someone took the time to make them just for me. When I see them or use them, I can be thankful for the person who made them with me in mind, crafting them from their own hands. I will take good care of these things knowing how special they are and what care went into making them.

Where else do we see things that were handmade for a specific and wonderful purpose?

Well, the answer is, actually, everywhere! Anywhere you look in creation, you see God's work on display. His hands have crafted all things and done so with specific purpose.

Psalms 19 says that "the heavens declare the glory of God and the sky proclaims His handiwork." That means that the sky and all that is in it point to a Creator. Everything in nature points to Him. Hold up pictures or examples of natural objects. Beautiful plants, animals, the seasons and weather, everything is handmade by God for specific purposes. He has given us all things to enjoy and take care of. And looking at them should make us remember and celebrate God's awesome power! If the sun and stars are singing praises to God's glory, how much more should we?

Here's another amazing thing, though: that same God who made and controls all things in the universe also made YOU! He made each person with unique purpose and ability. He loves you and cares for you and wants what is best for you. He gives us all that we have, including His rules. That same Psalm describes how God's rules are richer than gold and

sweeter than honey. We should want to follow the law of God not out of fear or obligation, but because we know how great He is and how much He loves us. We know that when we follow His ways, blessing will come out of it. He wants what is best for us and promises to lead us in the ways we should go.

So when you look at the beauty of creation all around you, remember Who it all points to. God governs all things...including people! Seeing His handiwork reminds us of His power, creativity, and care. Our response should be genuine worship and praise of such a mighty master. Not only did God make all things, which now point back to Him and His work, but He also loves us and gives us all we have. We can give thanks to Him and give Him the glory in our thoughts, words, and lives. The heavens declare His glory! We can declare it, too!

Prayer: (Invite the children to repeat each line)

Dear God,

Thank you for the beauty of your creation.

Your hands have made all things wonderful

And those hands made me!

Help me to love and serve you

And help me to be thankful.

Thank you for your love.

We love you, God!

In Jesus name, Amen!

Game & Activities Suggestions (10 minutes)



This passage looks to God’s great power and might as seen throughout creation. The skies and nature proclaim Him, and so can we! God is amazing and we can glorify Him through worship and praise as we follow His laws. Start with an activity that uses these themes and gets kids thinking:

- The heavens declare... look at pictures of outer space and study some constellations. Describe how the stars are made and controlled by God. They “tell” of His marvelous work!
- “Sunrise Race”: Have a relay to celebrate how the sun “runs its course with joy” like a champion. Have students line up and race relay-style across a playing area. Each student should carry a picture/representation of a sun, run across and swap it for a picture of a moon or stars, and then come back for the next runner to do the same.
- God in All Nature: have students bring in or describe some of their favorite plants and animals. Discuss how God made all of those and wants us to enjoy and appreciate His handiwork.
- Rich Rules: Write out some of God’s laws and commands on the back of play money. Pass them out and have students read and discuss the rules, emphasizing how they can help and bless us in our daily lives.
- Sweeter than honey: God’s rules are also described as “sweet!” Have students taste some sweet things (honey sticks, caramels, graham crackers, etc.) and rank them according to flavor and sweetness level. Talk about why God’s rules are sweet and can provide for us.
- Handmade: Show off gifts or items you have that were made by hand. Talk about how special handmade things are, and remind children that everything around us (including us!) is handmade by God.

Explain that today’s lesson celebrates the might of our Lord and how we see His handiwork on display throughout creation.

Main Bible Teaching (15 minutes)



This passage is a beautiful and memorable psalm that offers powerful reminders of God’s majesty and strength. It’s a good one to go through a few verses at a time, pausing to consider what the psalmist communicates. Older students can read out loud, and teachers can read and discuss with younger ones.

Psalm 19:1-4a NIV *The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. (2) Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. (3) They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. (4) Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.*

These verses paint such a wonderful picture of God’s hand as seen in creation. The sky proclaims His handiwork. Where do we see God in the world around us? Everywhere! His power is evidenced by His work in all the universe. When we gaze upon the miracle of a night sky, how can we not recognize an intelligent master of things? And if the sky is proclaiming His work, we should be, too!

Ask: What are some things you see in nature that remind you of God’s power and creativity?

Psalm 19:4b-6 NIV *In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun. (5) It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, like a champion rejoicing to run his course. (6) It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other; nothing is deprived of its warmth.*

We don't usually think of the sun as a "strong man running," but it's fun to imagine it this way. God controls and commands the sun. He also makes us with ability and allows us to do His work and will. Whatever He has for us, we can do it with joy knowing that God is in charge!

Ask: What activities do you enjoy? Have you thought about how God has controlled them?

Psalm 19:7-11 NIV *The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple. (8) The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes. (9) The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. The decrees of the LORD are firm, and all of them are righteous. (10) They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb. (11) By them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward.*

These verses consider how marvelous God's laws are. We might think of rules as something to obey or make our lives harder. Rules don't normally seem "rich" or "sweet" as described here. But we know that God's rules are there for a reason. He wants things to have order. He knows that rules make our lives better and more blessed in the long run. He gives them to us to help us and keep us on His path. Because we know that He loves us and wants what's best for us, we can joyfully follow his rules, not out of rigorous duty but out of love for Him. He gives us His love and His laws so that our lives can be complete.

Ask: How can we remember and try to follow God's laws?

Psalm 19:12-14 NIV *But who can discern their own errors? Forgive my hidden faults. (13) Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. Then I will be blameless, innocent of great transgression. (14) May these words of my mouth*

and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.

The close of this psalm is a great thing for us to remember as we seek to serve God. We want the words of our mouths and thoughts of our hearts to be from Him and for Him. We want to remember that God is our rock and redeemer no matter what comes.

Psalm 19 begins with a declaration of how all of nature worships the Lord (and we should, too!). It goes on to describe how perfect are His rules, and finishes with a reminder that He is good above all things. When we consider all of this, it is only fitting that we praise and glorify God's name. We can do this in words, prayers, and the ways we live our lives, obeying His rules and trusting in Him for guidance.

Craft Activities (15 minutes)

Psalm 19 describes God's power and creativity. His hands have made everything in creation, and we are called to praise and glorify Him as we follow His ways. These crafts celebrate the verses of the Psalm. A "Sweeter than Honey Bag" offers a treat and bookmark that can be given as a gift. A "Heavens Declare Plate" reminds us that God governs the sky. Let's get crafty!

Craft one: "Sweeter than Honey Bag"

You will need:

- Ziploc or cellophane bags
- Sweet items, especially with a "honey" theme (golden grahams, honey nut cheerios, caramel, etc.)
- Construction paper or cardstock
- Markers or crayons
- Decorative items (stickers, ribbons, etc.)



Procedure:

1. Place the sweet items in the bag.
2. As desired, add decorations to the bag (or string or ribbons).
3. On a paper or cardstock piece, write captions or verses to go with the treat.
4. Add decorations as desired.
5. Give the treat away as a gift or keep it as a special reminder of Psalm 19!



Craft Two: "Heavens Declare Plate"

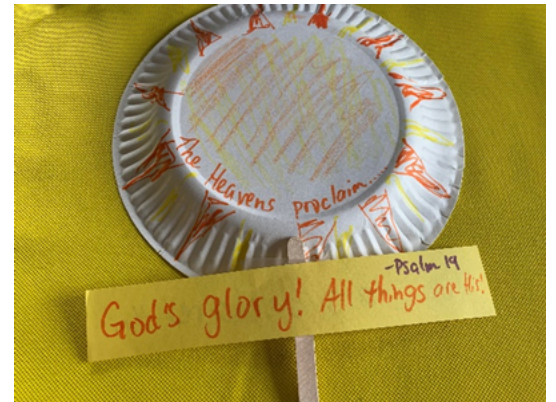
You will need:

- Paper plate
- Aluminum foil
- Glue or tape
- Crayons or markers
- Construction paper/cardstock
- Scissors



Procedure:

1. Decorate one side of the plate to resemble the sun. Use colors and/or paper to make it "sunny."
2. On the reverse side of the plate, use aluminum foil to make a moon shape.
3. Add stars and other "night sky" decorations as desired.
4. Attach verses and captions with glue or tape.
5. Attach a popsicle stick or a string/pipe cleaner to display the reversible plate and remember how God controls the Heavens.



Psalm 19:1 NIV

*The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies
proclaim the work of his hands.*





Word Search Puzzle

Heaven - Declare - Glory - Bridegroom - Knowledge - Voice

Precept - Testimony - Commandment - Lord - Honey - Reward

C H E N R C D E T H A S
V O I C E W M V A T Y G
W K N O W L E D G E F Z
C O M M A N D M E N T L
V T A Z R M L K E B B A
U D P G D C O B H V S I
H B R I D E G R O O M F
U T E S T I M O N Y R P
D E C L A R E I E A P P
W B E U G L O R Y R Q M
L M P D Q T H E A V E N
I D T Z Q V R R L O R D

Word Search Answers

C H E N R C D E T H A S
V O I C E W M V A T Y G
W K N O W L E D G E F Z
C O M M A N D M E N T L
V T A Z R M L K E B B A
U D P G D C O B H V S I
H B R I D E G R O O M F
U T E S T I M O N Y R P
D E C L A R E I E A P P
W B E U G L O R Y R Q M
L M P D Q T H E A V E N
I D T Z Q V R R L O R D