

"Your word is a lamp to my feet  
and a light to my path."  
-Psalm 119:105

God's Story  
OUR STORY



## "Developing Gifts for Joyful Service"

*Your dead shall live; their bodies shall rise. You who dwell in the dust, awake and sing for joy! For you dew is a dew of light, and the earth will give birth to the dead. Isaiah 26:19 (ESV)*



### **Easter Chapel**

With everything going on around CoVid 19 precautions, the Easter season may have snuck up on you. Easter is a wonderful time to be reminded of the power of the cross, the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and the hope we have as a result.

On the morning on Thursday, April 9, ICES will release an audio/visual version of our ICES staff led Easter chapel (link in the email message) "He has risen indeed!"

### **Navigating our "Remote Learning Set up"**

We feel we are now a little farther along the process in terms of providing "Remote Learning Activities" at ICES. Having said that, we continue to evolve with what we offer (ie. the next week will be better than the last). Over the Easter break, students and families will still have access to our microsite pages, but specific "lessons for the day" will not be produced. Having said that there should be additional material on the sites that the students can continue to work on if they / families are so inclined. Families can also look to our Tft information on "God Worshipping" for activities that kids can do over the Easter Break.

We will resume sharing specific lessons on Tuesday, April 21 (Monday will be a professional learning day in which we finally get to stop, look at the work that has been done so far and take stock of the approaches we want to adopt moving forward).

We want to thank parents for being engaged, yet patient with us in this process. You are doing great! The focus is on continuing to help your child grow. Keep doing what you can! To teachers and staff, thanks for your incredible determination in continuing to provide our students with meaningful learning experiences. This has involved an incredible learning curve for staff, but never did they flinch at the task. Their passion was and is evident.

As we move into the Easter Break, we want to wish you meaningful time together to rest, to connect with one another and to reflect on the ultimate reason we have hope in all circumstances!



### **With Easter Break on the horizon, we want to wish a lot of Happy Birthdays!**

**Aiden VandeMunt – April 8**

**Ava Hirtle – April 10**

**Oliver Nagtegaal – April 15**

**Khloe Hirtle – April 16**

**Mataya DeHaan – April 18**

**Jesse Klingenberg – April 9**

**Darren Heins – April 13**

**Benjamin Ferrie – April 16**

**Dani Neels – April 16**

### Accessing ICES Online Learning content:

1. Go to the ICES webpage: [ices.lethsd.ab.ca](http://ices.lethsd.ab.ca)
2. At the top of the page click on "Community Learning Page"

3. Just click on the grade you are interested in and start exploring!
  - you will find learning activities for your child
  - the government of Alberta is recommending one hour of school (focused mainly on numeracy and literacy) per day. In light of this, don't feel you need to do everything. There are multiple options to help keep your child engaged.
4. Parents can also access the **General learning page** (at home learning videos, counseling info, Teaching for Transformation info and other supporting documents).
5. Parents can also access the **ICES Devotions page** and hear recordings of staff devotions, Spring Program songs and Staff singing (including our Easter chapel).

**Parents please note:** If you are struggling with accessing the online learning or if you need help or have questions about your child's learning program – please contact your child's homeroom teacher! We can offer hard copies of materials and we have limited technology resources to share.

Most days (unless it is raining or snowing), we have tables set up outside our front door with learning resources and library resources on them. If you would like this, please contact your child's homeroom teacher!



**Remember to find ways to enjoy the outdoors: play in the yard, collect outdoor items, go for a walk etc.**

# WEEK 3 - GOD WORSHIPPING

## SUMMARY

Students understand that worshipping God is about celebrating who God is, what God has done and is doing, and what God has created. It is literally about standing in awe and wonder of knowledge of him and his promises. Students see this worship as a way of life.

## GOING DEEPER

Glorifying and praising God is a joyful duty of being an image bearer. In fact, Christ says that if we don't praise God, the rocks themselves will cry out. And they do! Upon seeing the Grand Canyon for the first time, Hendrik Von loon exclaimed: "I came an atheist - I leave a believer." Praising God is not an option - or an elective or "frill"

God loves every part of this world. Our God is a God who loves diversity, complexity, and creativity. When we look at the world around us, the plants, rocks, animals, sea creatures, insects, the skies and beyond, and especially people and their intelligence and capabilities... we can't help but be awestruck.

God obviously takes delight in chickadees, giraffes and northern lights, but also wants us to delight in Creation. That's one of the reasons why we teach - to draw attention to God's creation and its wonder and weirdness. Albert Einstein once said, "There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as if everything is."

God gave us this world to enjoy, to play in, to explore. We worship God when we enjoy the delicate complexity of a butterfly wing and a tiny seed pod, or the immense awe of a sharp edged mountain ridge, and a towering thundercloud. We also realize, when we see this beauty, how much God loves us. Together, in community, we join in worship of our God.

## BIBLICAL REFERENCES **Could be used for devotions or memory work.**

### Colossians 1:10-13

"And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."

- This passage not only tells us something about what worship is (bearing fruit, being strengthened by God's glorious might, joyfully give thanks) it also gives us the reason why (we have been rescued!)

### Romans 12:1 (The Message)

"So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering."

### Other Passages to Ponder:

- Psalm 68:3 (many of the Psalms are worship poems)
- Acts 17:28
- Colossians 3:11 (Christ is all!)
- I Samuel 12:24
- John 4:24

## SONGS

You can use these as part of your morning devotions or to play in the background during work

- [AMAZING GRACE](#) (JUDY COLLINS)
- [MIGHTY TO SAVE](#) (HILLSONG WORSHIP)
- [JESUS PAID IT ALL](#) (KRISTIAN STANFILL)
- [CORNERSTONE](#) (HILLSONG WORSHIP)
- [LET ALL THINGS NOW LIVING](#) (LEBANON COUNTY YOUTH CHOIR)
- [LIFESONG](#) (CASTING CROWNS)

## ACTIVITIES

Ideas that you can connect to the learning that is happening or encourage in your student's free time.

- Discuss, "What is Worship?" - [Discussion starter](#)
- List the miracles in your life
- Write a Psalm
- Try a [Listening Prayer](#)
- Create a mural - What images draw you to God?
- Ask someone older to teach you a [hymn](#)
- Start an online prayer group with friends
- Plan & lead a class/family devotions
- "Attend" an online church service
- Memorize a [Psalm of Praise](#)
- Create a daily prayer journal
- Write a song/poem based on a nature walk
- Paint a depiction of a song
- Joshua & Crossing the Jordan [lesson plan](#) (a number of reinforcement activities - check out "Find 12 Stones")
- Read a whole book of the Bible in one sitting
- Create, collect & publish inspiring quotes/Bible verses

## FORMATIONAL LEARNING EXPERIENCES (FLEX)

These are experiences that connect our learning/work to real people/problems (to go beyond our normal classroom walls). These are authentic opportunities for students to practice living the Kingdom story.

Send your pastor and/or worship leaders an email of gratitude for their work during this challenging time. Older students can connect with their church leaders to see if there are ways they can use some of their skills to help their "online church" (e.g., tech skills, worship, setting up a youth Bible study online, joining prayer groups, writing a Psalm of praise to be shared during a service, creating a Youtube channel of children's messages for kids at your church to watch, etc).

## REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS / SENTENCE STARTERS

It is said that we don't learn from doing, but from reflecting on what we do. Give students time and space to reflect on their experiences and learning this week.

- How can we worship God without singing or praying?
- What did you learn about God this week?
- Why should we worship God?
- Who is somebody you know that lives a life of worship?
- When was a time when you found it difficult to worship God?
- Where is your favourite place to be in wonder of God?

## What's Life Without Levity?

We received this text describing a "God Worshipping" reflection of an "anonymous" grade 1 student:

"We went down to the valley to see God's great Creation. My mom says we were made to worship God, if we don't even the rocks will cry out!...but I didn't hear anything so we must be doing a good job!"

Thanks to Sarah Sutton for sending that in 😊.