



PREVIEW

Our Father in heaven,
Reveal who you are.

Set the world right;

Do what's best—as
above, so below.

Keep us alive with three
square meals.

Keep us forgiven with
you and forgiving others.

Keep us safe from
ourselves and the Devil.

You're in charge!

You can do anything you
want!

You're ablaze in beauty!

Yes. Yes. Yes.

—Matthew 6: 9-13 (*The Message*)

PREVIEW

Dive

Year 2, Unit 6

This low-resolution preview may not be printed or distributed.
To order copies, visit DwellCurriculum.org or call 800-333-8300.

In the Lord's Prayer, what does "hallowed be your name" really mean?

"Hallowed" is not a word we use every day. It means that something is special, known, and set apart—higher and holier than anything ordinary. When we pray to God "hallowed be your name," we are really asking: "God, be God, here and everywhere! Let your blazing glory and holiness shine in the world! Let your awesome power and love be known and felt by everyone! O God, let the whole world know who you really are!"

But that's not all. When we pray "hallowed be your name," we also are asking God to make us part of the answer to our prayer. We are saying, "God, help us live so that all we think, say, and do honors and praises you." For Daniel, that meant keeping his routine of worship and prayer even when the king forbade it. What does it mean for you?

PREVIEW

Q&A

Q: What does "hallowed be your name" mean?

A: Help us to live so that all we think, say, and do honors and praises you.

This low-resolution preview may not be printed or distributed. — Q&A 77, from Q&A: A Summary of Biblical Teachings
To order copies, visit DwellCurriculum.org or call 800-333-8300.



PREVIEW

Illustration by Leonardo Meschini



PREVIEW

In My

As a group, spend the next few minutes talking about what you see. These might be spiritual habits like Daniel's habit of prayer, or following the Sabbath. Follow the steps below.

1. On these pages, list examples of big and small choices you can make to honor God. Consider things like what you watch and listen to; the stuff you do or don't do with your friends/boyfriend/girlfriend; what you say, post, or text; how you interact with your family; and the ways you stand up for what you believe.

2. Use one or more of the examples to create a skit that shows a person being hallowed in a new way.



PREVIEW

Life

Someone your age might do (or not do) in order to honor God.
Things that put you outside the norm or require a tough choice.
Steps below.

Of your examples to
knows God's name
a real-life situation.

3. For Daniel, living the prayer “hallowed be your name” meant facing the lions’ den. But God was with him, and through that experience God’s name was honored by many people who never worshipped God before. Be sure that your skit shows both the good and the hard consequences that might happen today when you try to live so that all you think, say, and do honors and praises God.



PREVIEW

Leader

God, we know that you are the living God.

You will live forever.

Your kingdom will not be destroyed.

Your rule will never end.

God, we know that you set people free and save them.

You do miraculous signs and wonders.

You do them in the heavens and on the earth.

We praise and honor your holy name. Amen.

(adapted from Daniel 6:26-27, NIV)

All

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name!

Amen.

King Nebuchadnezzar

Daniel 2:1-6

Adapted from

Cast: Narrator, Daniel,
Fortunetellers

Narrator: In the second year of his reign, King Nebuchadnezzar started having dreams that disturbed him deeply. He couldn't sleep. He called in all the Babylonian magicians, enchanters, sorcerers, and fortunetellers to interpret his dreams for him. When they came and lined up before the king, he said to them,

King Nebuchadnezzar: I had a dream that I can't get out of my mind. I can't sleep until I know what it means.

Narrator: The fortunetellers, speaking in the Aramaic language, said,

Fortunetellers: Long live the king! Tell us the dream and we will interpret it.

Narrator: The king answered the fortunetellers,

King Nebuchadnezzar: This is my decree: If you can't tell me both the dream itself and its interpretation, I'll have you ripped to pieces, limb from limb, and your homes torn down. But if you tell me

both the dream and its interpretation, I'll lavish you with gifts and honors. So go to it: Tell me the dream and its interpretation.

Narrator: That night the answer to the mystery was given to Daniel in a vision. Daniel blessed the God of heaven, saying,

Daniel: Blessed be the name of God, forever and ever. He knows all, does all: He changes the seasons and guides history, raises up kings and also brings them down, provides both intelligence and discernment, opens up the depths, tells secrets, sees in the dark—light spills out of him! God of all my ancestors, all thanks! All praise! You made me wise and strong. And now you've shown us what we asked for. You've solved the king's mystery.

Narrator: So Daniel went back to Arioch, who had been put in charge of the execution. He said,

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

6 and 19-47

The Message

King Nebuchadnezzar,
Arioch



Daniel: Call off the execution! Take me to the king and I'll interpret his dream.

Narrator: Arioch didn't lose a minute. He ran to the king, bringing Daniel with him, and said,

Arioch: I've found a man from the exiles of Judah who can interpret the king's dream!

Narrator: The king asked Daniel (re-named, in Babylonian, "Belteshazzar"),


King: Are you sure you can do this—tell me the dream I had and interpret it for me?

Daniel: No mere human can solve the king's mystery, I don't care who it is—no wise man, enchanter, magician, diviner. But there is a God in heaven who solves mysteries, and he has solved this one. He is letting King Nebuchadnezzar in on what is going to happen in the days ahead. This is the dream you had when you were lying on your bed, the vision that filled your mind:

While you were stretched out on your bed, O king, thoughts came to you regarding what is coming in the days ahead. The Revealer of Mysteries showed you what will happen. But the interpretation is given through me—not because I'm any smarter than anyone else in the country, but so that you will know what it means, so that you will understand what you dreamed.

What you saw, O king, was a huge statue standing before you, striking in appearance and terrifying. The head of the statue was pure gold, the chest and arms were silver, the belly and hips were bronze, the legs were iron, and the feet were an iron-ceramic mixture. While you were looking at this statue, a stone cut out of a mountain by an invisible hand hit the statue, smashing its iron-ceramic feet. Then the whole thing fell to pieces—iron, tile, bronze, silver, and gold, smashed to bits. It was like scraps of old newspapers in a vacant lot in a hot dry summer, blown every which way by the wind, scattered to oblivion. But the





stone that hit the statue became a huge mountain, dominating the horizon. This was your dream.

And now we'll interpret it for the king. You, O king, are the most powerful king on earth. The God of heaven has given you the works: rule, power, strength, and glory. He has put you in charge of men and women, wild animals and birds, all over the world—you're the head ruler, you are the head of gold. But your rule will be taken over by another kingdom, inferior to yours, and that one by a third, a bronze kingdom, but still ruling the whole land, and after that by a fourth kingdom, iron-like in strength. Just as iron smashes things to bits, breaking and pulverizing, it will bust up the previous kingdoms.

But then the feet and toes that ended up as a mixture of ceramic and iron will deteriorate into a mongrel kingdom with some remains of iron in it. Just as the toes of the feet were part ceramic and part iron, it will end up a mixed bag of the breakable and unbreakable. That kingdom won't bond, won't hold

together any more than iron and clay hold together.

But throughout the history of these kingdoms, the God of heaven will be building a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will this kingdom ever fall under the domination of another. In the end it will crush the other kingdoms and finish them off and come through it all standing strong and eternal. It will be like the stone cut from the mountain by the invisible hand that crushed the iron, the bronze, the ceramic, the silver, and the gold.

The great God has let the king know what will happen in the years to come. This is an accurate telling of the dream, and the interpretation is also accurate.

Narrator: When Daniel finished, King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face in awe before Daniel. He said,

King Nebuchadnezzar: Your God is beyond question the God of all gods, the Master of all kings. And he solves all mysteries, I know, because you've solved this mystery.

What does “your kingdom come” mean?

Rule us by your Word and Spirit so that we obey you more and more. Keep your church strong and add to it. Destroy every force that fights against you until your kingdom is complete and perfect.

— Q&A 78 (Q&A: A Summary of Biblical Teachings)

Your Kingdom Come!

Group 1:

God, blessed be your name forever and ever!

You know all and do all:
you change the seasons and guide history;
you raise up kings and also bring them down.

(If you've made symbols, Group 1 should crush its symbols that show ways God's kingdom is not yet fully here.)

All:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come!

Group 2:

You provide both intelligence and discernment,
you open up the depths, tell secrets, see in the dark
—light spills out of you!

All:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come!

Group 1:

God of our ancestors, all thanks! All praise!

Make us wise and strong.

Give us wisdom and power

to live as part of your kingdom!

(If you've made symbols, both groups pause to hold up as an offering the symbols that show ways that God's kingdom is here.)

All:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come!

Group 2:

Rule us by your Word and Spirit so that we obey you more and more.

Keep your church strong and add to it.

Destroy every force that fights against you until your kingdom is complete and perfect.

(If you've made symbols, Group 2 should crush its symbols that show ways that God's kingdom is not yet fully here.)

All:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come!

Amen.

(From Daniel's prayer in Daniel 2:20-23 (*The Message*), the first two lines of the Lord's Prayer, and Q&A 78)



PREVIEW

12

This article and its contents may not be printed or distributed.
For more information, visit www.nytimes.com or call 1-800-830-8300



Dr. King, the Dreamer

When God's kingdom comes and God rules over everything, people of all races and cultures will live together in justice and in peace. This was the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

It was the middle of the night. Martin went to the counter, poured himself a cup of coffee, and went back to the table. Then he sat there, swirling the coffee around the cup, thinking, “What am I supposed to do?”

It all began with a woman on a bus. In Montgomery, Alabama, and in many other places, people



who were black were treated differently than those who were white. Men who were black and worked side by side with white men doing the same work were paid less. There were separate restrooms and drinking fountains for people who

were black and those who were white. Black people even had to sit in separate sections of theaters, concert halls, and restaurants—if they were allowed in at all. And they were treated very differently on the buses.

On city buses, even though black people paid the same fare as white people, there were certain rows saved just for people who were white. Even if all the seats for black people were filled, they could not sit in the seats for white people. But if all the seats for white people were filled and more white people got on, the black people had to get up and give their seat to the white people.

One Thursday afternoon, after a long day of working and then Christmas shopping, Rosa Parks got on the bus and took a seat. She sat near the front of the section for black people. Then four white people got on the bus. There were no empty seats, so the bus driver ordered Mrs. Parks and three other people who were black to give up their seats. This meant they would have to stand, crowded, behind the last row where white people were seated. The others got up, but Mrs. Parks refused to move.

The bus driver became angry and threatened to call the police. “Well,” said Mrs. Parks, “I guess you’ll just have to do that, then, because I am not getting up.” She remained calm and polite as she sat, refusing to be treated like less than a person.

In a few minutes the police had arrested Mrs. Parks. Within a few hours of the time she was taken to jail, most of the black people in Montgomery knew about it. Mrs. Parks was out of jail on bail in a few hours. But that was not the end of it. The Women’s Political Council began talking about how they could show support for Mrs. Parks and what she had done. They talked to E.D. Nixon,

a black union leader, about what to do. He thought about it for several hours, then said, “I think every Negro in Montgomery ought to stay off the buses for a day in protest of Mrs. Parks’s arrest.” He talked to Ralph Abernathy, pastor of First Baptist Church. Then he called Martin Luther King, Jr., pastor of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church. And the three of them called a rally of black citizens for that night.

At the rally they talked about a boycott of the city buses. Martin helped convince the people to do it. That next Monday morning, Martin and his wife, Coretta, cheered as one nearly-empty bus after another passed their house. At another rally that night, the African-American community agreed to continue the boycott. Rosa Parks was introduced and the crowd cheered. Then Martin stood up and said, “There comes a time when people get tired.

We are here this evening to say to those who have mistreated us for so long that we are tired—tired of being segregated and humiliated, tired of being kicked about.” The people cheered again.

Martin quickly became a leader and speaker that called people to peaceful action. He spoke about his dream for what the United States could be: a place where all men and women, black and white, lived in peace and treated one another with dignity and respect. Some wanted to get even, to teach white people a lesson. Martin pointed to a bigger vision of healing, forgiveness, and reconciliation. He led people to stand up against injustice and peacefully push for equal treatment for African Americans.

But as Martin sat that night with his cup of coffee, he wondered if he should continue leading the boycott. People who were opposed to it had been calling his house all night long. In fact, Martin was up drinking coffee because the phone had awakened him. The callers threatened Martin and Coretta and Yolanda, their baby daughter. He wasn’t sure he could go on.

Finally Martin just started praying out loud. “Here I am, taking a stand for what I believe is right. But now I am afraid. The people are looking to me for leadership, and if I stand before them without strength and courage, they too will falter. I am at the end of my powers. I have nothing left. I’ve come to the point where I can’t face it alone.” From deep inside himself, Martin felt his energy starting up, and he heard in his mind, “Stand up for righteousness, stand up for truth, and God will be at your side forever.”

That was what Martin needed to hear. The dream seemed clear again. Even when a bomb was thrown into his house, Martin was able to be quiet and composed. Again he spoke to a group of angry people and convinced them to put away their guns and knives, because they were going to bring about change in a peaceful manner.

In 1957 Martin made more than 200 speeches about equal treatment for black people. The Montgomery bus boycott lasted 381 days, ending when the U.S. Supreme Court declared segregated busing unconstitutional. As he talked to people, Martin said over and over that sometimes the only way to change bad laws is to bring attention to them by breaking them. And those who break the law must be ready to pay a fine or go to jail.

More and more people, black and white, from the North as well as the South, joined Martin in protesting unjust laws. They participated in sit-ins at restaurants and other businesses that would not serve black customers or mixed groups of black and white people together. Protesters would go to the restaurant when it opened, fill all the seats, and wait to be served. Since the businesses would not serve mixed groups, they would not be able to serve anyone and could not make any money.

Martin didn’t like going to jail, but he did it—many times. Over a period of several years, Yolanda and King’s other children learned what their father stood for. When Martin III asked his sister

Yolanda where Daddy was, she told him, “Daddy’s going to jail to help people.” And each time Martin went to jail, he talked more confidently about the dream. He convinced people it was possible to live in peace and love for one another.

In 1963, a group of black and white leaders decided that change still was not coming fast enough. Martin and the others urged the president of the United States and the representatives in Congress to pass a “civil rights bill,” a law that would make it illegal to treat black Americans and white Americans differently in jobs, housing, or schooling. To show their support for such a law, civil rights leaders organized a “freedom march” to Washington, D.C. People all over the country talked about the march, which was scheduled for August.

None of the leaders really knew how many people to expect. They just went to Washington, D.C. and waited. By ten in the morning, almost 90,000 people had gathered where the march was to begin. By afternoon, when the march ended at the base of the Washington Monument, there were over 200,000 people in the crowd—people from many different cultures, both black and white.

One after another, leaders spoke and entertainers sang. The last to speak was Martin. It was hot and the marchers were tired, but Martin seemed almost to glow as he stood up to talk about his dream.

I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood. . . .

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. . . .

Let freedom ring. And when this happens . . . we will be able to speed up that day when *all*

of God’s children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, “Free at last, free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!”

The Civil Rights Act became law the next year. Martin went to Europe to accept the Nobel Peace Prize for his work. But he knew that passing laws doesn’t change people’s attitudes overnight. There was still much work to be done.

In the next few years Martin helped to organize demonstrations throughout the nation. Black people were registering to vote; they were being accepted into colleges where they had not been allowed before; they were getting better jobs. Sometimes local groups would ask Martin to come and help. He spoke in a way that helped people believe in what they were doing.

In 1968 Martin went to Memphis, Tennessee, to help a group of workers who were campaigning for better wages. While he was there, an assassin shot and killed him. But that was not the end of Martin Luther King, Jr.’s work. He had said from the beginning that justice was God’s will for all people. Martin believed that if he were to die, the work would go on.

And it has. Black people and white people, along with people of all races and cultures in the United States and beyond, are still striving for equal rights for all people and learning how to love and respect each other and treat each other kindly and fairly.

—Adapted and updated from an article in *Pockets Magazine*, July 1991



PREVIEW

Q&A

What does “your will be done on earth as it is in heaven” mean?

Help us and all your people to obey your will as willingly and faithfully as the angels in heaven.

This low-resolution preview may not be printed or distributed.
-Q&A 79 (Q&A: A Summary of Biblical Teachings)
To order copies, visit DwellCurriculum.org or call 800-333-8300.



Your Will Be Done . . .

God has a plan and a purpose for you and for all of creation. Sometimes that plan seems clear. Then it's easy to want what God wants, easy to do what God says. Other times it may be harder to pray "your will be done" and even harder to live that prayer.

Elijah wanted to give up. Even Jesus, before he went to the cross, prayed for another way. But he also submitted. He prayed, "Not my will, but yours be done," and he obeyed (Luke 22:42).

Spend a moment with God, asking him, "What is your will?" Quiet yourself and listen for the whisper of God's voice in your heart or mind. It may come as a thought, a feeling, or a picture. What is God calling you to do? How will you respond?

PREVIEW

Take My Life and Let It Be

Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in endless praise.
Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love.
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice and let me sing,
Always, only for my King.
Take my lips and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee.
Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I withhold.

Take my intellect and use
Every pow'r as Thou shalt choose.
Take my will and make it Thine,
It shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is Thine own,
It shall be Thy royal throne.
Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee.

—Frances R. Havergal, 1874
Public Domain

PREVIEW

Picture This



Read 1 Kings 17:1-16 and decide what stands out to you in the story. Capture one image, scene, or detail and illustrate it below or on a separate piece of paper.

Consider these questions as you decide what to draw:

- What catches your attention in this story?
- What details seem important?
- What is God doing here?
- What might Elijah be thinking and feeling?
- What might the woman be thinking and feeling?

PREVIEW

Q&A

What does “give us today our daily bread” mean?

Help us trust you, the source of everything good, for all our daily needs.

—O&A 80 (O&A: A Summary of Biblical Teachings)

This low-resolution preview may not be printed or distributed.

To order copies, visit DwellCurriculum.org or call 800-333-8300.



OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN,
YOUR KINGDOM COME, YOUR WILL BE DONE
GIVE US TODAY OUR DAILY BREAD,
AND FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS, AS WE
OBSERVE THEM, AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION,

—MATTHEW 6:9-13

PREVIEW

HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME,
ONE, ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.
OUR DAILY BREAD.
ALSO HAVE FORGIVEN OUR DEBTORS.
BUT DELIVER US FROM THE EVIL ONE.

Matthew 6:9-13

PREVIEW

If You Were Elijah

It's been another dry day. You have to cover your head to keep the sand out of your eyes. You can taste the dust on your tongue. Your throat is raw, and all you can think about is how good it would be to have a drink of some cool, clear water—and maybe a small bite of something to eat.

Out of the blue, you receive a message from the LORD. You hear a voice say:

“Leave this dry and dusty place.

Go east and hide in the valley. It is east of the Jordan River.

You will drink fresh water from the brook that is there.

And I have ordered some birds of the air to feed you.”

This isn't the first time that the Lord has spoken to you. You know that what the Lord says is true. And you've learned to obey what the Lord commands. So you do exactly what you were told to do. With tired feet and a dry mouth, you walk and walk and walk, until you reach the valley, east of the Jordan River.

You stay in this place, waiting. And in the morning, sure enough—you are amazed to see a flock of big, black birds swoop down with bits of meat and chunks of bread in their beaks.

You eat and eat and eat. And in the evening, the ravens come again, bringing you food.

With a grateful heart, you dip your hands into the brook and cup some water to your mouth and drink and drink and drink.

But after a while, the brook dries up because it hasn't rained in a really long time.

Again, a message comes to you from the Lord, and you hear a voice say:

“Go right away to Zarephath.

Stay there.

I have commanded a widow in that place to supply you with food.”

So again, you obey the voice and you go. With no canteen to carry any water, and no bag to carry any food, you walk and walk and walk.

Finally, you come to the town gate. And there you see her: a woman bending down over the ground, gathering sticks



to build a fire. You hear her in a loud voice.

“Would you give me a little water in a drink?”

You see that she is going to get you so you call out again.

“Please, could you give me a piece of bread?”

She turns around and says:

“As surely as you live, I don't have so much as a crumb.”

I have a handful of flour and a little oil in a bowl.

Just now you found together some firewood. Last meal for my son and I.

After we eat it, we'll die.

You believe that God will do everything you need, so you say confidently to the woman:

“Don't be afraid. You can't worry about a thing.

Go ahead and do what you can.

But first make a little fire and bring it back here.

In Your Life

Where do you see yourself in this story?
Who is most like you? Least like you?

When have you trusted God to provide
for you?

When has God surprised you by
providing what you needed in big or
small ways?

What is the difference between
believing that God can supply your
needs and trusting that God will meet
your needs?

Which is harder for you?

Make it out of what you have.

**Then go ahead and make a meal
from what's left for you and your
son.**

The Lord is God.

**And this is the word of the Lord to
you:**

**“The jar of flour will not run out
and the bottle of oil will not be-
come empty.**

**You will have flour and oil until
the day the Lord sends rain on the
land.”**

Amazed and a little bit confused, the widow walks away and does exactly what you asked her to do. And it turns out just as you said it would— there is enough food for you every day, and there's enough food for the woman and her family, too.

The jar of flour never runs out! The jug of oil never becomes empty! God's promises are fulfilled!

—Adapted from 1 Kings 17:1-16 (NIRV and *The Message*)

ou call out to
oice and ask:
**bring me a
n a jar? I need**

ne woman is
u some water,
gain:

ou also bring
d?”

swers you,

od lives,
as a biscuit.

our in a jar
ottle.

me gathering
ood to make a
and me.

die.”

provide
you say
n:

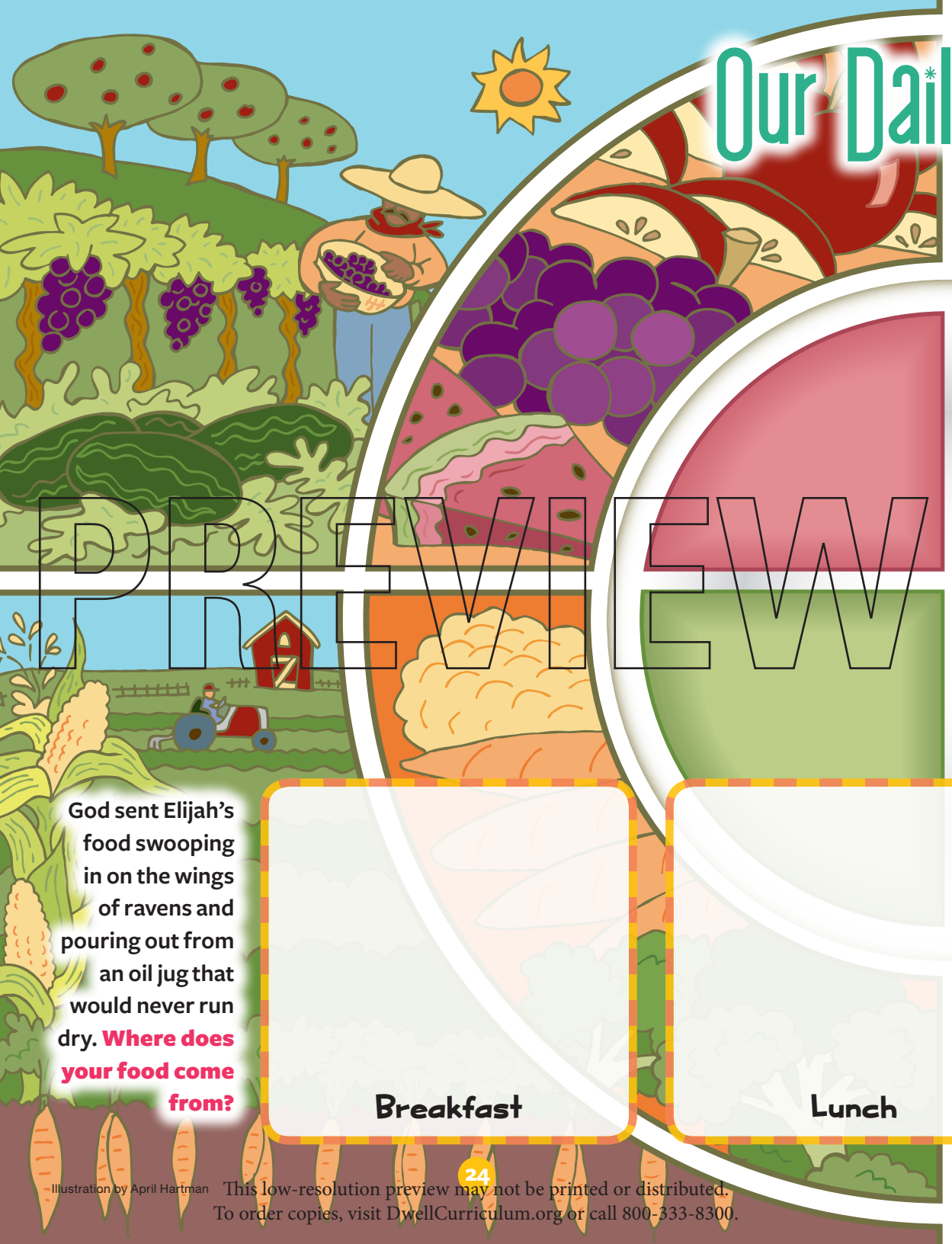
u don't need to

at you've said.

e bread for me
re.

PREVIEW





PREVIEW

God sent Elijah's food swooping in on the wings of ravens and pouring out from an oil jug that would never run dry. **Where does your food come from?**

Breakfast

Lunch

y Bread

PRE

VIEW

W

Blank rounded rectangular box for writing.

Dinner

Blank rounded rectangular box for writing.

Snacks

It All A

Peter got up the nerve to ask, "Master, how many times do I forgive a brother or sister who hurts me? Seven?"

Jesus replied, "Seven! Hardly. Try seventy times seven."

"The kingdom of God is like a king who decided to square accounts with his servants. As he got under way, one servant was brought before him who had run up a debt of a hundred thousand dollars. He couldn't pay up, so the king ordered the man, along with his wife, children, and goods, to be auctioned off at the slave market.

"The poor wretch threw himself at the king's feet and begged, 'Give me a chance and I'll pay it all back.' Touched by his plea, the king let him off, erasing the debt.

"The servant was no sooner out of the room when he came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him ten dollars. He seized him by the throat and demanded, 'Pay up. Now!'

What does "forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors" mean?

For the sake of Jesus Christ, forgive us our sins just as we forgive our neighbors.

This low-resolution preview may not be printed or distributed.
To order copies, visit DwellCurriculum.org or call 800-333-8300.

Q&A

Q&A 81, O&A: A Summary of Biblical Teaching

Adds Up



"The poor wretch threw himself down and begged, 'Give me a chance and I'll pay it all back.' But he wouldn't do it. He had him arrested and put in jail until the debt was paid. When the other servants saw this going on, they were outraged and brought a detailed report to the king.

"The king summoned the man and said, 'You evil servant! I forgave your entire debt when you begged me for mercy. Shouldn't you be compelled to be merciful to your fellow servant who asked for mercy?' The king was furious and put the screws to the man until he paid back his entire debt. And that's exactly what my Father in heaven is going to do to each one of you who doesn't forgive unconditionally anyone who asks for mercy."

—Matthew 18:21-35, *The Message*

"As We Also Have Forgiven Our Debtors"

- Why does God forgive us?
- What is the connection between God forgiving us and us forgiving others?
- Why do you think God takes forgiveness so seriously?
- What makes forgiving others so hard?
- What if you refuse to forgive?

Picturing Forgiveness

Jesus told the parable of the unmerciful servant to give Peter and us a picture of how God forgives us and how that should affect the way we forgive others. Consider two other pictures of forgiveness below as you reflect on what Jesus has done for you.

Pay It Forward

The servant in the story couldn't afford to pay his debt. The merciful king canceled it all so that he didn't owe a dime. It's the same for us. Jesus' death and resurrection cancel our sin so that we can be right with God. We could never repay Jesus for what he did for us on the cross. He doesn't ask us to. But he does ask us to forgive others as God has forgiven us.

Who do you need to forgive?

Why haven't you forgiven that person?

Talk to God about that . . .

Overflow

Imagine God's forgiveness as a river of love that flows from God's heart. Cool and refreshing, it washes over you like a gentle wave. It splashes down like a waterfall. You cup your hands to catch it and it overflows.

Thank God for the love he's given you.

Imagine God's love and forgiveness flowing through you onto others.

Be kind and
compassionate to one
another, forgiving each
other, just as in Christ
God forgave you.

—Ephesians 4:32

HE CAN RELATE

Because he himself suffered when he was tempted,
he is able to help those who are being tempted.

—Hebrews 2:18

Reread the portion of the story assigned to your group and look more closely at the verse that Jesus quoted from the Old Testament. Come up with a caption for your scene and write it in. Talk as a group and jot down all the questions that come to mind about this scene. Be ready to share your caption and discuss your questions with the larger group.



If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.

It is written:
“Man shall not live on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from
the mouth of God.”

PREVIEW

Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands. He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.

—Deuteronomy 8:2-3

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said,
—Matthew 4:1-4

If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written: "He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."

It is also written: "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."

PREVIEW

The Lord is the one who keeps you safe. So let the Most High God be like a home to you. Then no harm will come to you. No terrible plague will come near your tent. The Lord will command his angels to take good care of you. They will lift you up in their hands. Then you won't trip over a stone.

—Psalm 91:9-12, NIV

Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple.
—Matthew 4:5-7

Why do we end the prayer by saying, "For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen"?

Because we know that you, our all-powerful king, will certainly hear our words and will give us everything good. And because your holy name should receive all the praise forever.

—Q&A 83, Q&A: A Summary of Biblical Teachings

To order copies, visit DwellCurriculum.org or call 800-333-8300.

Q&A

All this I will give you,
if you will bow down and
worship me.

Away from me, Satan! For
it is written: "Worship the
Lord your God, and serve
him only."

PREVIEW

Do not forget the Lord, who brought you out
of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. Fear the
Lord your God, serve him only.
— Deuteronomy 6:12-13

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the
kingdoms of the world and their splendor.

Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

— Matthew 4:8-11

Illustrations by Drew Rose

What If It Were Expensive to Be Offensive?

Every day we make mistakes and hurt each other's feelings—sometimes on purpose, sometimes accidentally. We resolve these problems by apologizing and asking for or offering forgiveness. But what if we put a dollar amount on everything that offends or hurts us? What would the penalty be for lying about someone? For making a cruel comment? For ignoring someone? For bullying? What would someone owe you for making you angry or hurting your feelings?

Spend a few minutes making a list of possible offenses—things that people do every day that aren't right, aren't nice, or are just plain wrong. Then assign a dollar amount to each—a fine or fee that shows how you rank each offense. The worst should be the most expensive.

PREVIEW

Dive, Year 2, Unit 6

www.dwellcurriculum.org

© 2011, Faith Alive Christian Resources,

www.faihaliveresources.org

036260

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1