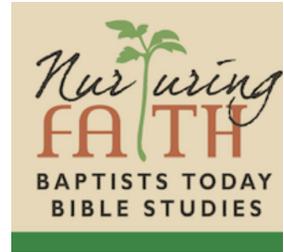


Youth Teaching Resources

January 3, 2015



A Good Way to Begin — Psalm 147:12-20

Jesus: The Curtain Rises

Of Water and Fire — Luke 3:15-22 (RCL 3:15-17, 21-22)

Of Water and Wine — John 2:1-11

An Old Scroll and a New Mission — Luke 4:14-21

A New Prophet and an Old Response — Luke 4:21-30

www.baptiststoday.org

Subscribe to *Baptists Today* to access the core Bible content for this lesson.

www.nurturingfaith.net

Find links and videos related to this lesson.

A Good Way to Begin

Psalm 147:12-20

YOUTH Teaching Guide

by Jeremy Colliver

This youth teaching outline is designed to support THE BIBLE LESSON by Tony Cartlege, printed in *Baptists Today*. You can subscribe to either the digital or print edition of *Baptists Today* to access the lessons. Please also ensure that each person in your class has a copy of *Baptists Today* so they can prepare before the lesson.

TEACHER PREPARATION: YOUTH AND THIS LESSON

The new year is here and resolutions have been made. This is time of year when people think about beginning anew. What a great time to think about renewing our relationship with God. Psalm 147 reminds us of the personal relationship that God wants to have with each of us. There is no promise that our lives will be full of health, wealth, and wisdom, but there is a promise that it will be done with God. Continually remind your students of this and practice it by being present with your students.

TEACHING THE LESSON

Fellowship

Begin your session by showing the clip “Young Baseball Fan’s Act of Generosity” from *ABC News*. If you are unable to show the clip, summarize it to the best of your ability and then facilitate a discussion using questions like the following:

- 1) Would you give the ball away?
- 2) Why was his act so admirable?
- 3) Ian says, “If you do good things, good things will happen to you.” and then the announcer says, “Far more than what you give, delivers far more in return.” Do you believe this? Explain.
- 4) What promises does your faith make to you if you do good things? What promise does God give to you?
- 5) What should you do with this promise that you receive from God?

Information

Transition to the next section of the session by reading Psalm 147:1-20. Allow the students to ask any initial questions they have about the text. As you answer their questions, you may want to provide some of the information from THE BIBLE LESSON, printed in *Baptists Today*.

When the students have had an opportunity to share their initial thoughts, continue the discussion by facilitating a discussion using questions like the following:

- 1) Psalm 147 was written during a rough and tumble time. How does knowing this influence how you read the psalm? Explain.
- 2) What attributes of God do you gather from reading Psalm 147?
- 3) What does this psalm call the reader to do?
- 4) What joys are there in a relationship with God? What challenges?
- 5) What place does Israel have with God? How do you think that relates to today?

If your group would like to continue their discussion on this passage, share some of the insights provided in “Digging Deeper” (NF Online Adult Teaching Guide). You may want to use some questions like the following to facilitate your discussion:

- 1) Why would multiple psalms be put together to form one psalm?
- 2) Why did the temple have to be rebuilt?
- 3) Why was the temple so important to the people of Israel?
- 4) Why is it important to date the writings of the psalms?

You may also want your group to discuss “The Hardest Question” (NF Online Adult Teaching Guide): What was God’s “word” to Israel?

Transformation

Conclude your session by again reading Psalm 147:1-20. While the passage is being re-read, post a large piece of paper at the front of the meeting space that your students can draw on. When you have finished reading the passage, challenge your students to draw the different parts of creation listed in the passage or write different attributes of God they heard in the passage on the large piece of paper at the front of the room. Facilitate a discussion with the group when everyone has had the opportunity to respond by using questions like the following:

- 1) How does seeing all of this make you want to respond?
- 2) How can it be overwhelming to think about all that God has done?
- 3) What do you do to give thanks to God?

Close with a prayer thanking God for wanting to have a relationship with each of us and walking with each of us through all of creation.