

What Is Awe? Teacher Guide

Print one copy. Use this guide to lead the students through a discussion about God. You will use the 4 What Is Awe? Mini-posters from the Resource DVD-ROM as you lead the discussion. Pass out the God is Awesome Scripture Strips from the Resource DVD-ROM and have the students read them when appropriate.

? **How many of you use the word awesome?** *Allow discussion.*

When you say something is awesome you are saying you are in awe of it. We don't use the word awe very often. But we sure do use awesome. Awe and awesome are closely related. Let's talk about the word awe. It will help us better understand and properly use the word awesome. The dictionary says that awe can include several feelings. Awe can mean fear, wonder, and respect all at the same time.

Let's do this. Show me what fear would look like. *Have students act out fear. They can lift their hands and open their mouths as if they are really afraid of something in front of them.*

It is also wonder or amazement at something. I want all of you to show me what wonder or amazement would look like. It will look different from fear. *Wonder could be pointing upward, mouths open, eyes wide as though they are looking at something that is amazing!*

Another meaning for awe is respect or honor. What would you do if you wanted to honor someone? Or show great respect? How would that look? Let me see how you would look showing honor or respect. *Students might bow or curtsy at the waist and lower their head and eyes.*

You would talk differently to someone you were wanting to show respect to. You might say, "Yes, ma'am," or "Yes, sir!" You would say, "Please" and "Thank you!" You would probably watch your language so you wouldn't offend the person.

When we talk about being in "awe" of something we are talking about a combination of fear, wonder, and great respect. *Place mini-poster #1 on the board.*

We heard about the visions that Ezekiel, Isaiah, and John had when God revealed some of His glory to them. Let's review how they reacted.

Place mini-poster #2 on the board. Read this verse for me. Assign a reader to read the mini-poster. Ezekiel 1:28.

? **What did Ezekiel do?** *Fell on his face.*

? **Why did he fall on his face? What was he filled with at the sight of God's glory?** You can look at this first poster for the answer. *Awe—fear, wonder, respect.*

? *Place mini-poster #3 on the board. What about Isaiah? Will someone read this verse? Assign a reader. Isaiah 6:5.*

? **What did Isaiah do? What did he say?** *"Woe is me! I am undone."*

? **What was he feeling at the sight of God's amazing glory?** *Refer to mini-poster #1. Fear, wonder, respect—awe.*

? *Place mini-poster #4 on the board. What about John? Will someone read this verse? Assign a reader. Revelation 1:17.*

? **What did John do after he saw Jesus the Son of Man?** *Fell at His feet as dead.*

? **What do you suppose he was thinking or feeling at that moment? Why did he fall down as though dead?** *Refer to mini-poster #1. Fear, wonder, respect—awe.*

These men got a glimpse of God, Jesus, and the glory of heaven! That is AWESOME! And God is awesome. We have talked about many of God's attributes—that He is holy, sovereign, omnipotent, and many more. All of these attributes combine to make God completely awesome and worthy of our fear, wonder, and respect.

And God is truly worthy to be called awesome. But don't take my word for it. Let's see what the Bible has to say. I'm going to pass out these Scripture strips. I want you to line up in front of the class and read the verse you have. Listen carefully. You will hear what the Bible has to say about God.

Pass out the Scripture strips if you haven't done so yet. Have students read the verses.

Deuteronomy 7:21 You shall not be terrified of them; for the Lord your God, the great and **awesome** God, is among you.

Nehemiah 1:5 And I said, "I pray, Lord God of heaven, O great and **awesome** God . . ."

Nehemiah 4:14 Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, great and **awesome**, and fight for your brethren, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your houses.

Nehemiah 9:32 Now therefore, our God, the great, the mighty, and **awesome** God, who keeps covenant mercy.

Job 37:22 He comes from the north as golden splendor; with God is **awesome** majesty.

Psalms 47:2 For the Lord Most High is **awesome**; He is a great King over all the earth.

Psalms 66:5 Come and see the works of God; He is **awesome** in His doing toward the sons of men.

Psalms 68:35 O God, You are more **awesome** than Your holy places.

Psalms 99:3 Let them praise Your great and **awesome** name—He is holy.

Jeremiah 20:11 But the Lord is with me as a mighty, **awesome** One.

Daniel 9:4 O Lord, great and **awesome** God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love Him, and with those who keep His commandments . . .

? What did all of those verses say about God? *He is awesome.*

Yes, God is described as awesome over and over in the Bible. He is awesome and worthy of all of our fear, wonder, and respect. We must take God seriously. He is a holy God. And as we learn more about God, we should have more fear, wonder, and respect for Him. He deserves all of our praise and honor.