



2

God Is Awesome

Key Theme

- God is awesome.

Key Passages

- Ezekiel 1:1, 1:4, 1:26, 1:28; Isaiah 6:1–5; Revelation 1:12–17

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Describe Ezekiel's response to God's presence.
- Compare the reaction of Ezekiel, Isaiah, and John to God's glory.



Lesson Overview



Come On In

page 5

Students will put the Memory Verse Cards into order and then practice saying the verses together and/or with a partner.



Activity 1: God Is Awesome Class Notes Booklet

page 5

Students will fill out the God Is Awesome Class Notes Booklet as you study the lesson. Pass out the booklets before you begin to teach.



Studying God's Word

page 5

The prophet Ezekiel was privileged to experience a vision from God that gave him a glimpse of God's glory. Isaiah and the Apostle John had similar visions. In all three cases, the men of God reacted with complete awe as they saw God's glory. God alone is truly awesome!



Activity 2: Only God is Awesome

page 10

Students will look at things they might really like—but remember that only God is truly awesome.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



COME ON IN

- If you haven't done this, print and cut out the Memory Verse Cards from the Resource DVD-ROM for every 2–3 students.
- If you want to do this as an individual activity, make one set per student.
- Put complete sets into envelopes or plastic bags.

- Memory Verse Poster
- Memory Verse Cards in envelopes or plastic bags



GOD IS AWESOME CLASS NOTES BOOKLET

- Print, cut out, collate, and staple one God is Awesome Class Notes Booklet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.
- Print the God Is Awesome Class Notes Answer Key from the Resource DVD-ROM for your use.

- God is Awesome Class Notes Booklets cut, collated, and stapled
- God Is Awesome Class Notes Answer Key
- Pencils



STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.

- Student Take Home Sheets



ONLY GOD IS AWESOME

- Print and cut out one set of Only God Is Awesome Cards (12 total) from the Resource DVD-ROM.
- Color the cards before class to add impact to the activity.
- Print and fold the Only God Is Awesome Response Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.
- Print the Only God Is Awesome Answer Key from the Resource DVD-ROM for your use.

- One set of Only God Is Awesome Cards (color to add impact to the activity)
- Only God Is Awesome Response Sheet for each student
- Only God Is Awesome Answer Key



Memory Verse

Proverbs 21:1 The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.

► **Pace your lesson!** Use the clocks to mark the time you want to finish each section. This will help you stay on track and finish on time. You may need to shorten or drop sections as necessary.





Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages listed above with this background.

Ezekiel was a prophet in Judah for more than 20 years. He ministered at the same time as the prophets Daniel and Jeremiah.

He was among the captives that Nebuchadnezzar took from Jerusalem in the second wave of the captivity, Jehoiachin's captivity, in 599 BC (2 Kings 24:13–16). There is no other information about Ezekiel outside of his book. His death is not recorded in Scripture, but Jewish tradition says that he was killed at the hands of a prince he was rebuking. Ezekiel was called by God to be a priest and a prophet. His role was to deliver messages of both encouragement and calls to repentance to the captives in Babylon. He also told of the coming destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple in 588 BC. He lived along the Chebar River in modern-day Syria—Babylon—with the other captives from Judah. There he saw the heavens open and visions of God (Ezekiel 1:1–3).

This vision was significant! Ezekiel was brought into the very presence of God where he witnessed amazing creatures beyond description. In fact, as he wrote down what he experienced, you will notice that Ezekiel referred to the different parts of the vision as looking “like” something. He was at a loss to articulate in words what he was seeing and was left to use the pale and weak things in this world to describe the glories of the heavenly realm. What Ezekiel saw was surely awesome!

After describing the creatures around God's throne and the wheels that accompanied them (Ezekiel 1:4–25), Ezekiel shifted his focus to the place where God was. “Above the firmament over their heads was the likeness of a throne, in appearance like a sapphire stone; on the likeness of the throne was a likeness with the appearance of a man high above it” (Ezekiel 1:26). God appeared like amber on fire with brightness all around. The brightness appeared as a rainbow on a rainy day. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord! Can you even begin to picture this in your mind? The glory of God is surely more than we can put into mere words. Ezekiel did the best he could—but this experience left him astonished as to how to properly describe this amazing vision of the holy God.

In response to this awesome scene, Ezekiel fell on his face as he realized the magnitude of what he

was witnessing—an appropriate response to appearing before the King of kings.

As a prophet of God, Ezekiel was being called to a difficult and disheartening task; he was to deliver a message to a rebellious people, whether or not they would listen (Ezekiel 2:3–7). Ezekiel was encouraged by the vision of God and strengthened by the Holy Spirit (Ezekiel 2:2). And so, he was able to stand, hear God's message, and with courage and power from the Holy Spirit, deliver the message of judgment to God's people.

And this wasn't Ezekiel's only vision. God was pleased to reveal His glory and majesty in other ways as Ezekiel warned of the destruction of the Jewish nation to come. Ezekiel's prophecies were realized when Jerusalem was burned and the Temple destroyed in 588 BC, seven years after his first vision.

Looking back in history 150 years before Ezekiel, we see that God had given Isaiah a similar vision. Isaiah, too, was commanded to deliver a message of judgment, one the Israelites would not heed. But before that, Isaiah, like Ezekiel, was brought to the holy throne room of God (Isaiah 6). Isaiah witnessed creatures similar to those Ezekiel saw. He heard them crying out before the throne, “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!” (Isaiah 6:3). Isaiah's response to seeing the glory of God was similar to Ezekiel's—he was undone and recognized his sinfulness in the presence of a holy God (Isaiah 6:5). Like Ezekiel, Isaiah's vision not only humbled the prophet, but also equipped him with strength and courage to persevere in the job he had been given—to call the people to repent or face the destruction of Jerusalem.

God did not reveal Himself in this way to many humans. But the Apostle John experienced a similar vision hundreds of years later. The book of Revelation tells us that John heard a loud voice—the Alpha and the Omega. He turned to see the voice and saw one like the Son of Man. John attempted to describe what he witnessed—Jesus in all of His heavenly glory—in the limited language of this world (Revelation 1:11–16). Like Ezekiel and Isaiah before him, the glory of the Lord humbled him. And when he saw the Lord, he fell at His feet as dead (Revelation 1:17).

Through their visions of God's glory, all three of these men were humbled, strengthened, blessed, and equipped by God to give His message to His people. And God had the visions recorded in His holy Word so we could hear of them.

God has given us a way to see His glory—not through visions like Isaiah, Ezekiel, and John saw. But

God has given us “the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ” (2 Corinthians 4:6). Jesus brought the glory of God to earth as a man. Our reaction to Christ and His glory should be similar to those of Isaiah, Ezekiel, and John.

HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

Awestruck! That is what Isaiah, Ezekiel, and John were—filled with awe in the presence of God’s glory and holiness. What happened to them? The wonder of what they saw left them weak, humbled, contrite, and face down before the holiness of God. Awe is a word that is not very common in Western culture, but one of its forms can be found everywhere. “This cheeseburger is awesome!” “That movie was awesome!” “So-and-so is an awesome actor!”

Really? Do those entities really deserve the description “awesome”? Webster defines awe as “an emotion variously combining dread, veneration, and wonder that is inspired by authority or by the sacred or sublime.” A cheeseburger did that for you? If so, you have turned the cheeseburger into something that it shouldn’t be. God, however, should rightly inspire awe in us and the things He does or has created might do the same. You may have experienced awe at a sunset over the mountains as the colors explode through the clouds, or at the birth of a child. Remember the awe you experienced at salvation or during moments of fellowship with God. It is God and His wonderful works that should inspire such feelings in us.

If we use a word like *awesome* to refer to everything around us that is remotely better than average,

we risk losing an appreciation for the distinctive nature of God and confusing unbelievers when we refer to Him as awesome. Surely when we sing of the awesomeness of God, we are not comparing Him to a cheeseburger, so maybe we could find a different word for the cheeseburger and reserve the word awesome for the One who truly is and His works that truly are.

Think about it. You may find yourself wanting to restrict “awesome” in your vocabulary to the holy God of the universe and His mighty works. And take the opportunity to share the real meaning. Explain the awe that made Isaiah, Ezekiel, and John fall on their faces in the presence of God. Explain the awe you have for God because of what He did for you through Christ Jesus, our Redeemer and Lord.



BEFORE THE THRONE

You are awesome, Lord—truly awesome! I don’t say that enough. The word awesome is so overused in our culture. But as I ponder the true meaning of the word, I realize that you alone inspire wonder and dread and reverence—pure awe because of your holiness and greatness. That’s what I want my students to see in this lesson, Lord. I want them to keep using the word awesome. But when they use it, I want it to be about you. Change their focus. May the Holy Spirit, through your Word, reveal to them that only you are truly awesome. Please give them the desire to know more about who you are through your holy Word.

► Because of the age and ability of 1st and 2nd graders to read and comprehend, we encourage you to read the Scriptures to the students. However, if you have strong readers, by all means have them participate by reading God’s Word.



COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- They will put the Memory Verse Cards in order and recite the verses together and/or to each other. They may work individually or in teams.

This time at the beginning of class should be used to review the memory verse. We have provided this activity on the Resource DVD-ROM for you to use. You may have other ideas and ways to encourage your students to memorize the verse.



After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.



REVIEW

Using the Lesson Theme Posters provided with each lesson, quickly review the previous lesson(s) with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Theme Posters. Reflect briefly on the passages you read, bringing the objectives and themes back into focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



God Is Awesome Class Notes Booklet

MATERIALS

- God Is Awesome Class Notes Booklet, cut, collated, and stapled for each student
- God Is Awesome Class Notes Answer Key
- Stapler
- Pencils

INSTRUCTIONS

Print, cut out, collate, and staple the four pages of the God Is Awesome Class Notes Booklet for each student. Students will complete the sentences in the booklets as you teach the lesson and take the booklet home to color and share with family. Use the God Is Awesome Class Notes Answer Key as you review the lesson later. You may want to write the

answers in random order on the board. This will help with spelling as students fill in the booklet.

Our class notes are a little different today. They're in booklets. You will fill in the blanks, and then take the pages home to color and share with your family.

After filling out each point on the class notes, have the students re-read the statement together or call on individual students to read it.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

As we study and fill in our class notes today, we'll learn that God showed Ezekiel, Isaiah, and John His awesome glory!



Studying God's Word

READ THE WORD

Refer to the Lesson Theme Posters, Quarter 3, Lessons 10, 11, and 12. God used prophets to speak for Him before the Bible was written. Quarter 3, Lesson 10 Lesson Theme Poster. The prophet Jeremiah had warned the people of Judah, but they

➤ Use the History of Israel Poster included with your teacher kit to show your class where the biblical accounts you study chronologically fit into this timeline.

would not listen. *Quarter 3, Lesson 11 Lesson Theme Poster.* God finally sent the Babylonians to capture Judah. The people were moved away from their homes to Babylon. *Quarter 3, Lesson 12 Lesson Theme Poster.* But God gave the people hope when Jeremiah spoke for Him again and told the people that God would bring them back to their home after 70 years of captivity.

Today we are going to hear about another prophet of God—Ezekiel. Ezekiel had also been taken to Babylon as a prisoner. Today we are going to see that God used Ezekiel to reveal His glory. Ezekiel saw a vision of God that very few men have ever seen!

Ezekiel 1:1

We get to hear about it in God's Word. We'll start reading in Ezekiel 1:1. Listen carefully. I'm going to ask some questions about what Ezekiel saw. *Read Ezekiel 1:1b emphasizing visions of God.*

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

- ? What opened up to Ezekiel? *The heavens.*
- ? And what did Ezekiel see? *Visions of God!*

Ezekiel was a prophet of God. God allowed Ezekiel to see something very special. The heavens opened and Ezekiel saw visions of God! Look at #1 on your class notes. Someone read it for us. How will you answer it? *Assign a reader. God.*

Ezekiel 1:4

Ezekiel saw a vision of God! This was some vision! Listen as the Bible describes more about it. I'm going to read Ezekiel 1:4. *Read Ezekiel 1:4.*

- ? What was the first thing Ezekiel saw when he looked up? *A whirlwind.*
- ? Yes. A whirlwind from the north. And then a great... what? *A great cloud.*
- ? And what did he see with this great cloud? *Fire.*
- ? So, there was a whirlwind, a cloud, fire. And there was something else. Listen! What was it? *Re-read Ezekiel 1:4. Brightness.*
- ? And out of that brightness what did Ezekiel see? *The color amber.*

The Bible says there was a bright amber color coming out of the midst of the fire! *That is a color like orange and yellow!*

Ezekiel went on to try and explain other things about this vision. He saw creatures that he really couldn't describe though he tried. They looked like men, lions, oxen, and eagles—all at the same time! He mentioned bright torches, fire, and lightning. He described what sounded like it might be a giant chariot of sorts. There were bright colors, loud noises, creatures with

➤ Re-read the verses, if necessary, so students can answer your questions from the Scriptures.

wings—and then, a loud voice! And then Ezekiel saw something. Something amazing. It appeared over the heads of the creatures he was looking at.

Listen as I read about it now! It is in Ezekiel 1:26. *Read Ezekiel 1:26.*

Ezekiel 1:26

? Wow! What a vision! What did Ezekiel see up in the air over their heads? *A throne!*

? What did Ezekiel see on the throne according to the end of verse 26? *Something that looked like a man high above it.*

Yes, up in the sky, Ezekiel saw something that looked like a sapphire throne. And on the throne was something that looked like a man.

Ezekiel described it another way in Ezekiel 1:28. Listen carefully. He tells us what it looked like! *Read Ezekiel 1:28.*

Ezekiel 1:28

? What did this throne and vision look like? *A rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day.*

? And what was all of this Ezekiel was getting to look at? *Re-read Ezekiel 1:28b enthusiastically. The likeness of the glory of the Lord!*

? And when Ezekiel saw all of this amazing stuff and realized it was the glory of the Lord, what did he do? *He fell on his face.*

? Yes! Ezekiel fell on his face. And then, what did he hear? *He heard the voice of the Lord.*

? Look at #2 on your class notes. Who can read that for me? What word goes in there? *Assign a reader. Fell.*

Discover the Truth

What an amazing vision. Ezekiel saw the likeness of the Lord sitting on His throne! And he fell down on his face when he saw it and heard the Lord speak! This is a vision that only a few people have ever seen. God is holy, awesome, powerful, and amazing! Ezekiel could do nothing but fall on his face in worship, fear, and praise! God wants us to respect Him in the same way! He deserves all of our praise and honor. We should always humbly come before Him with respect. God alone is awesome!



READ THE WORD

Ezekiel wasn't the only one who had a vision like this—a vision of God and all His glory! God also showed a glimpse of his glory to two other men in the Bible, Isaiah and John. Let's read about what Isaiah saw and how he reacted. Isaiah was a prophet who spoke for God. And his vision happened 150 years before Ezekiel's vision. *Read Isaiah 6:1–5 enthusiastically emphasizing the answers to the questions below.*

Isaiah 6:1–5

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

► Re-read the verses as you ask these questions so the students can answer from the Scriptures.

? This starts right off with Isaiah's vision. Who was sitting on the throne?
Isaiah 6:1. The Lord.

? And what was filling the temple? *The train of His robe.* The train of the robe is the long part that goes behind the person.

? Isaiah also had a vision. Who can read #3 on your class notes? It is page 2 of your booklet. How will you answer that? *Assign a reader. Lord.*

Yes, he saw the Lord. Listen as I read Isaiah 6:2 again. *Re-read Isaiah 6:2.*

? What did Isaiah see above the throne? *Seraphim.*

? What do you think seraphim are? *Allow discussion.*

Some people think that seraphim are angels. But the Bible doesn't say that specifically. They are only mentioned here in Isaiah's vision. And from what we read here, we know that they are creatures who worship God in heaven.

? The seraphim were worshipping God. What were they saying in Isaiah's vision? *Re-read Isaiah 6:3b. Holy, holy, holy.*

They were calling God holy! They said the earth is full of His glory!

God revealed part of His glory to the prophet Isaiah. What an amazing vision this must have been! Remember very few people have seen anything like this. Ezekiel had a vision—we just read about it. And so did God's prophet Isaiah.

? What was the first thing Isaiah said? *Re-read Isaiah 6:5a. Woe is me, for I am undone.*

What does this mean? Isaiah was undone! It means he was broken. He didn't know what to do. He said woe is me. I have unclean lips. I live with people who have unclean lips. Isaiah knew he was a sinner. And the people he lived with were sinners. And he knew he was seeing the Lord! He was amazed and overwhelmed by the seraphim, the throne, and the Lord's voice!

? Can someone read #4 on your class notes please? It is on page 2 of the booklet. How will you answer that? *Assign a reader. Me.*

Ezekiel fell on his face at the glory of God. Isaiah was undone, he didn't know what to do when he saw the glory of God. These great prophets were humbled before our awesome God. We are going to look at one more biblical account of a vision like the others. This vision was of the Son of Man—Jesus. It happened many years after Isaiah and Ezekiel. Turn to the book of Revelation—the very last book of the Bible. It was written by Jesus's apostle and very close friend, John.

Turn to Revelation 1:12–17. Let's read about John's vision. Read Revelation 1:12–17 with enthusiasm!

- ? What John saw was a little different from the others. Let's start with Revelation 1:12. What did John see? *Revelation 1:12. Seven golden lampstands.*
- ? And who stood with these lampstands? *Revelation 1:13. One like the Son of Man.*
- ? Who is the Son of Man? *Allow discussion.*
- The Son of Man is Jesus! Jesus often called Himself the Son of Man during His time on earth. John's vision was of Jesus!
- ? Turn to page 3 of your booklet. Someone read # 5. How will you complete that? *Assign a reader. Jesus.*
- ? The Son of Man is described in these verses. What did John say His hair was like? *Revelation 1:14. White like wool.*
- ? How were His eyes? *Revelation 1:14. Like fire.*
- ? What about His feet? *Revelation 1:15. Like fine brass.*
- ? What did His voice sound like? *Revelation 1:15. The sound of many waters.*
- The Bible goes on to say that He held seven stars in His hand and a two-edged sword came out of His mouth. His face was bright and shining like the sun.
- ? This was another incredible vision. What did John do when he saw and heard this amazing sight? Listen again as I read Revelation 1:17. *Re-read Revelation 1:17. He fell down at Jesus's feet as though he were dead.*
- Yes. John was completely in awe and probably a bit afraid of what he was seeing and hearing and he fell down at Jesus's feet as though he were dead!
- ? Look at #6 on your class notes. It is on page 3 of your booklet. Will someone read it please? What did John do? *Assign a reader. Down.*

Discover the Truth

Refer to Lesson Theme Poster. Our God is an awesome God! God does not show Himself to many people. Ezekiel, Isaiah and John all loved and served God and saw His glory. And what did each of them do when they saw the Glory of the Lord? Ezekiel fell on his face when he saw the vision of God! Isaiah saw the Lord and said, "Woe is me! I am undone." And John saw Jesus and fell down at His feet as though he were dead!

God is holy. He demands our respect and love. He alone is to be worshipped and adored. He alone is truly awesome.





Only God is Awesome

MATERIALS

- 12 Only God Is Awesome Cards
- Only God Is Awesome Response Sheet folded in half for each student
- Only God is Awesome Answer Key

INSTRUCTIONS

Print and cut out one set of the Only God Is Awesome Cards (total 12) from the Resource DVD-ROM. Color the pictures before class to add impact to this activity. Print and fold one Only God Is Awesome Response Sheet per student. Students will hold these up to show their answer.

As you play the game, you will hold up and describe each picture. Students will hold up their Response Sheet to indicate what they think of the picture. If the response should be "awesome" have all of the students say, "Only God is awesome!" If the answer is not awesome, have a student choose his response to the picture using the other words on his card—either fun, delicious, cool, or exciting. Continue through all of the cards.

We heard today of some very awesome visions of God and His glory. But we use the word *awesome* too often to describe too many things. I think the word awesome should be reserved for God alone. That is how God describes Himself in the Bible.

We are going to play a game today that will help us stop using the word awesome to describe things we like and teach us to

save that word for God alone. As I show you these pictures, I want you to hold up your response card. Either the picture is awesome, or it is fun, delicious, cool, or exciting.

Remember, only God is awesome. If the picture is something that is truly "awesome" we will repeat together, "Only God is awesome!"

If the picture is not truly awesome but is something we might really like, hold up the other side of the response card and tell me how you would describe the picture using one of the four words there.

Let's get started! *Hold up the pictures. Call on students to describe the picture and tell how they would describe it using the words on the response card.*

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Only God is truly AWESOME! The visions we learned about today were awesome visions of an awesome God. And as we learn more about our awesome God, we will gain more fear, wonder, and respect for Him. Remember, only God is awesome. And only He deserves all of our praise and honor.



Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

Refer to Lesson Theme Poster. When Ezekiel saw the vision of God, His throne, the fire, the whirlwind, the great cloud, the brightness, the colors, and heard God's voice, he fell on his face in fear, wonder, and respect for the holy God. The prophet Isaiah also had a vision of God's glory. God was sitting

on a throne and the seraphim were singing, “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!” Isaiah was overwhelmed with the glory he saw. He cried out, “Woe is me!” He didn’t know what to do as he remembered all of his sins before a holy God. And then the Apostle John had a vision. When he saw the Son of Man—Jesus, John fell at Jesus’s feet as though he were dead.

GOD’S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

Isaiah, Ezekiel, and John were given a glimpse of God’s glory. It was a truly awesome experience for all three of them. They were in the presence of God’s glory and holiness. They fell down on their faces. They were amazed. They were completely undone. They were filled with awe!

Awesome is a word used in the Bible to describe God! No words can possibly explain who God is, but awesome is what God used in His Word—and it is a good word to use. But, we use the word awesome more than we should. For example, we might say, “Wow! That movie was awesome!”; “Wow! That game is really awesome!”; “This pizza is awesome!”; “That shirt is awesome!”; “That band is awesome!”

Really? I don’t think so. There are other words we can use to describe those things, just like we did in our activity today. Isaiah, Ezekiel, and John saw something truly awesome. They saw the power, holiness, and glory of God! That was AWESOME! And it made them fall on their faces in worship and praise. Awesome is a word God uses to describe Himself in the Bible.

I wonder if we could save the word awesome to only describe our holy, omnipotent, mighty, sovereign God. Remember that nothing we buy, own, eat, wear, play, or watch can be described in the same way as our AWESOME God, the AWESOME Creator, our AWESOME Savior.

Turn to page 4 in your booklets. Let’s read that together.

Only God is awesome!



➤ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children to practice the memory verse this week.



MEMORY VERSE

Proverbs 21:1 The king’s heart is in the hand of the Lord, like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.



GROUP PRAYER TIME

- Praise God because He is awesome.
- Thank God for His Word that helps us to know Him better.
- Pray that we would worship and praise Him as the awesome Creator of all things.

