

LIVING
THE WORD

CARIBBEAN BIBLE LESSONS

Bible

Enquirers

Youth • Age 13-18 • Teacher Guide

September • October • November • December • 2022



**Youth • Age 13-18 • Teacher Guide**

The *Youth Teacher Guide* provides in-depth Bible study with suggestions for teacher preparation and a step-by-step teaching plan for the youth Bible studies. Each teacher needs a copy of the Youth Learner Guide in addition to this Youth Teacher Guide.

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Evangelistic Teacher

Sister Faith is a Sunday School teacher. She teaches the youth age group. Sister Faith loves God, is passionate about teaching and always prepares before each Sunday School session. She thinks of creative ways in which she can keep youth engaged. She is known as the “fun teacher”. Although Sister Faith’s class is fun and informative, there is still something missing. Sister Faith rarely prays for youth’s salvation and never invites youth to give their lives to Christ.

Consider these conditions for evangelism that need to take place before, during and after Sunday School.

Before Sunday School

- Know the spiritual condition of the youth in your class.
- Know how to share your testimony.
- Know how to share the plan of salvation.
- Be aware of the evangelistic potential of the biblical material you teach.
- Pray for lost youth by name and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you.



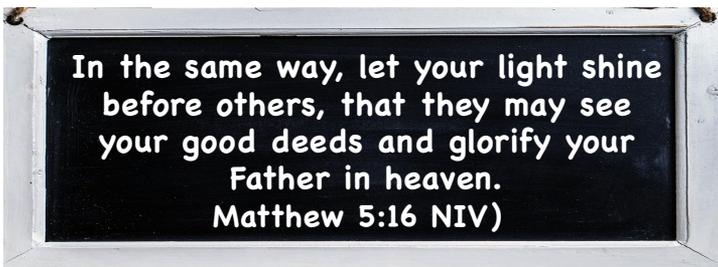
**... Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.
(Romans 10:17 NIV)**

During Sunday School

- Find times to explain what it means to become a Christian.
- Follow up questions youth may ask.
- Explain the plan of salvation regularly.
- Use the teaching suggestions to involve youth in evangelistic responses.
- Offer occasions for youth to respond to Christ during class time.

After Sunday School

- Encourage lost youth to attend worship services.
- Express your willingness to “walk the aisle” with a youth during a worship invitation.
- Talk with parents or guardians about your concern for their youth’s salvation.
- Be available for youth who may have questions.
- Counsel youth who have indicated an interest in learning more about how to be saved.
- Ask the minister of youth, director of the youth ministry or pastor to make a follow-up visit.
- Train youth in the class to share their testimony and be sensitive to lost youth.

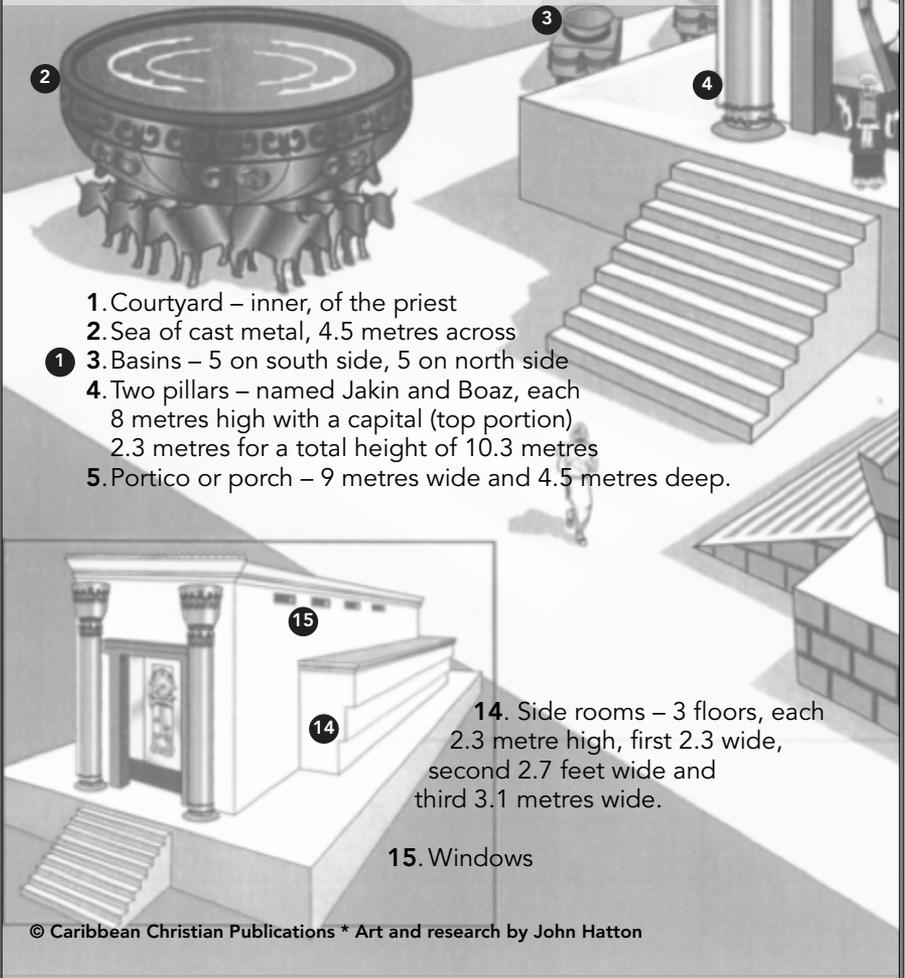


Adapted from Item 24: Class-Style Evangelism. Teaching Youth the Bible Resource Kit. © Copyright 1991, Convention Press.

THE TEMPLE THAT KING SOLOMON BUILT FOR THE LORD

The Temple was about 27 metres long, 9 metres wide and 13.5 metres in high (1 Kings 6:2).

- Solomon spent seven years building the Temple in all its details according to its specification (1 Kings 6:38).
- King David, designed the Temple by divine inspiration (1 Chronicles 28:9 – 29:9).
- The Temple was based on the Tabernacle and had the same function, with the Ark of the Covenant and its main feature; it was twice as long and wide and three times as high as the tabernacle (1 Kings 6:19; 8:21; 6:2).
- As part of the Davidic covenant, confirmed to Solomon and conditional to obedience, God promised: "I will live among the Israelites"(1 Kings 6:12-13; 2 Chronicles 6:2, 41; 7:16-22).

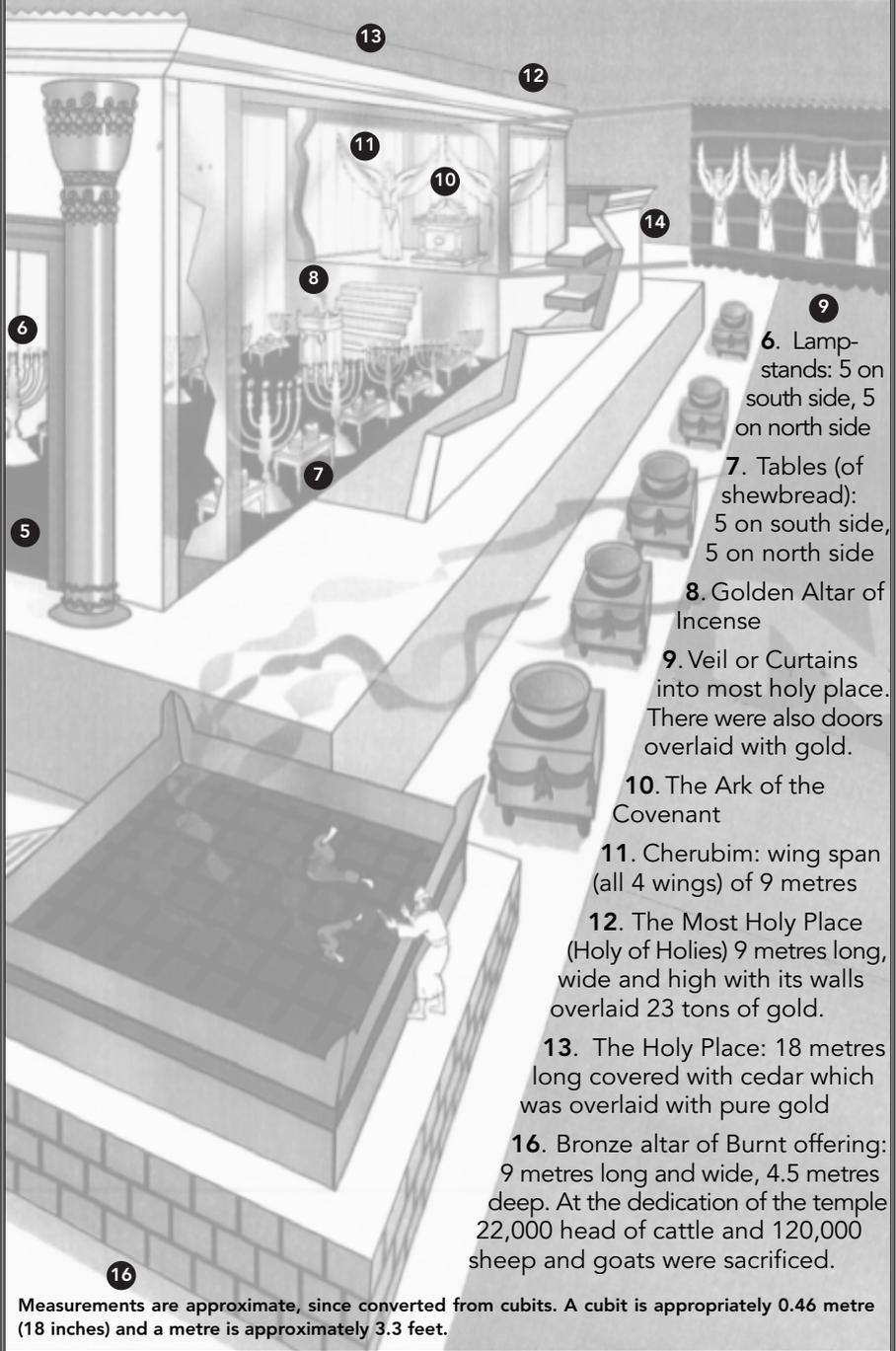


1. Courtyard – inner, of the priest
2. Sea of cast metal, 4.5 metres across
3. Basins – 5 on south side, 5 on north side
4. Two pillars – named Jakin and Boaz, each 8 metres high with a capital (top portion) 2.3 metres for a total height of 10.3 metres
5. Portico or porch – 9 metres wide and 4.5 metres deep.

14. Side rooms – 3 floors, each 2.3 metre high, first 2.3 wide, second 2.7 feet wide and third 3.1 metres wide.

15. Windows

THE TEMPLE THAT KING SOLOMON BUILT FOR THE LORD



6. Lamp-stands: 5 on south side, 5 on north side

7. Tables (of shewbread): 5 on south side, 5 on north side

8. Golden Altar of Incense

9. Veil or Curtains into most holy place. There were also doors overlaid with gold.

10. The Ark of the Covenant

11. Cherubim: wing span (all 4 wings) of 9 metres

12. The Most Holy Place (Holy of Holies) 9 metres long, wide and high with its walls overlaid 23 tons of gold.

13. The Holy Place: 18 metres long covered with cedar which was overlaid with pure gold

16. Bronze altar of Burnt offering: 9 metres long and wide, 4.5 metres deep. At the dedication of the temple 22,000 head of cattle and 120,000 sheep and goats were sacrificed.

Measurements are approximate, since converted from cubits. A cubit is appropriately 0.46 metre (18 inches) and a metre is approximately 3.3 feet.

Worshipping God



September 4
In His House

September 11
With Thanksgiving

September 18
In an Orderly Way

September 25
Through Willing Service

Unit Overview: Some youth do not seem excited about worship. Some who attend worship services infrequently claim that they are bored when they go. Youth who are not active in worship services may resort to doing school work and gossip during worship.

As you teach the lessons in this Unit, encourage the youth to delight in attending worship services. Guide them to value gathering with others who want to develop a personal relationship with God. The lessons should help youth to understand the meaning and benefit of Christian fellowship and a lifestyle of worshipping God.

Unit Central Truth: When we worship God, we get a clearer understanding of who God is, what He does for others and what He would like us to do.

Unit Teaching Aims: Youth will:

- express some benefits they get from worshipping regularly in God's house;
- give thanks to God for specific personal and national benefits;
- identify and take steps to eliminate and replace elements of disorder and irreverence in worship services;
- identify areas of service for which God may want to prepare and involve them.

Unit Youth Needs:

- To delight in worshipping in God's house
- To thank God for all His blessings
- To create order and reverence in worship
- To respond positively to God's call

Photo: Segun Osunyomi

WORSHIPPING GOD

In His House

Bible Focus:	Psalm 84
Memory Verse:	Psalm 84:10 (NIV)
Central Truth:	We receive blessings when we worship in God's house which is a symbol of God's presence.
Teaching Aim:	Youth will demonstrate their understanding of blessings derived when they worship in assembly in God's house, by listing some of the benefits.



TEACHER BIBLE STUDY

This psalm deals with the psalmist's delight not only in God's house, but also in the corporate worship there. God's house refers to Solomon's splendid Temple, built in 1000 BC, in Jerusalem. It modelled the pattern of the tabernacle built during the time of Moses.

The Temple was organised for people to experience the presence of God. Worshipers were expected to make a decisive journey from the sinful world (outer court) into the presence of God (inner court and Holy of Holies). In the inner court, they were encouraged to admit their sinfulness and accept God's forgiveness and cleansing.

In worship, forgiveness and cleansing were symbolised by the altar of burnt offering and the laver (bronze basin). On the Sabbath and on feast days, worshippers could focus on the perfect life of heaven. They looked into the Holy Place. There God was believed to dwell. Worshipers were expected to move towards the perfect life symbolised by the holiest place.

Being in God's Presence (Psalm 84:1-4)

The psalmist confessed that God's house was lovely. By that he meant it was physically beautiful and also that he loved it. He had great attachment to it. The psalmist prized the Temple as the place set apart for God. It was there God uniquely revealed Himself. Being in God's presence was so integral to the psalmist's life that his body yearned for it (v. 2). Perhaps, the psalmist mentioned the birds nesting in the Temple to suggest how blessed they were to be in God's presence (v. 3).

Not only were the birds blessed but also the people who dwelt in the Temple (v. 4). Many priests and Levites served the Lord in the Temple. Some of their duties included baking bread, singing and playing music, offering sacrifices, praying for fellow Jews and caring for the rooms and courtyards (1 Chronicles 23:28-31).

Strengthened and Revived (Psalm 84:5-7)

"Pilgrimage" to God's presence is viewed by some scholars as

literal and figurative. The journey the worshippers took implied their dependence on God. Their hearts were set on the presence of God. Though it is common for travellers to get weary, the pilgrims were strengthened along the way.

The reference to the Valley of Baca likely implies a sun-parched area, times of affliction and struggle. However, even here the pilgrims *make it a place of springs* (v. 6 NIV). It suggests that on the journey, the pilgrims were not only blessed with strength but were also refreshed and revived. So it is, when we worship God together we are strengthened and refreshed.

Prayer, Security and Favour (Psalm 84:8-12)

Those who dwelt in or visited the Temple prayed for God's blessing on their king. The psalmist prayed for the king, God's representative. He, too, needed God's blessing in order to protect (shield) the nation. It was natural for one who focused on the beauty and importance of the Temple to remember the king with gratitude. Two main things linked king and Temple. First, the palace was near the Temple and second, King Solomon had built and dedicated the Temple to God.

The psalmist depended on God for his security and for favour. He stated that it was better to be stationed at the entrance of the Temple than to share in evil practised by those who dishonour God. The Lord favours and honours those who worship Him and He withholds no good thing from them. The psalmist ended with the observation that all who trust in the Lord will be truly blessed.



PLANNING

Plan to Meet These Youth Needs:

1. To delight in worshipping in God's house with God's people
2. To experience inner strength through worshipping with others
3. To be grateful for God's forgiveness
4. To know that God blesses them when they trust Him

Prepare to Teach

- Make a **Unit Poster** displaying the **Unit Title** and all the **Lesson Titles** for the month of September.
- Work with youth from your class to set up a display of items related to worshipping God. Display items such as hymnals, pictures of people praying and visiting the sick, and musical instruments. Refer to the display during **Get Class' Attention**.
- Enlist a youth to read Psalm 84 during **Examine Bible Lesson**.
- Prepare a summary of the information in **Teacher Bible Study** to share during **Examine Bible Lesson**.
- Prepare to play the song "House of the Lord" by Phil Wickham during **Apply Bible Truth**. Also, provide the words of the song.
- Complete the **Weekly Preparation Checklist** on page 32.



WORD STUDY

Korah: First cousin to Moses. He and his descendants were Temple musicians.

Gittith: An instrument for which the psalms were written.



GUIDE THE SESSION

STEP 1 Get Class' Attention

Welcome youth as they join the class. You can say: *Welcome to God's house. Let us worship God together.* Refer youth to the **Unit Overview** on page 6 in the *Learner Guide*. Using the **Unit Poster**, introduce the **Unit Title, Worshipping God**. Invite youth to be servants and guests in God's house for the duration of the session.

Invite youth to look at the items displayed. Discuss how the items are related to or used in worship.

STEP 2 Examine Bible Lesson

Have the selected youth read **Psalm 84 (NIV)** dramatically. Ask youth to tell what they know about Solomon's Temple. Look at the picture of Solomon's Temple on pages 4-5 **Teacher Guide (TG)** and pages 6-7 **Learner Guide (LG)**. Discuss the various divisions of the Temple.

Discuss **Psalm 84** using information from **Teacher Bible Study**. Have youth complete **Bible Search** activity in pairs. Correct responses: 1) F, 2) T, 3) F, 4) T, 5) T, 6) T, 7) F, 8) T, 9) T, 10) F.

Have youth identify some of the blessings to which the psalmist referred. Include the following: receiving renewal and strength, singing thanks and praise to God, talking and listening to God, waiting on God, giving to God, learning God's principles for life.

STEP 3 Apply Bible Truth

Discuss the ways in which worship in church is similar to worship in the Temple as suggested in **Personal Learning Activity A**. Read Martin's story in **A Leaf from Life**. Discuss the answers to the questions that follow the story.

Have volunteers share their response to **Personal Learning Activity B**. Invite youth to listen to or watch the video of the song, "House of the Lord". Lead youth in the singing of the song.

STEP 4 Commit to Action

Repeat the **Memory Verse, Psalm 84:10 (NIV)**. Urge the youth to imitate the attitudes of the psalmist, the songwriter and the mature Christians whom they interviewed.

Invite youth to complete **Personal Learning Activity C**. Here are some of the benefits they can include: learning about Jesus, making Christian friends, learning to pray and discovering and using skills. Ask youth to share their creation with persons in their community and school.

Have youth read together **The Lesson and Me**. Pray thanking God for the freedom and opportunity to gather in His house for worship.

Encourage youth to commit to attending corporate worship regularly.

WORSHIPPING GOD

With Thanksgiving

Bible Focus:	Psalm 103
Memory Verse:	Psalm 103:1-2 (NIV)
Central Truth:	We always should express gratitude to God for His mercy and love.
Teaching Aim:	Youth will express thanks to God for specific personal and national benefits.

TEACHER
BIBLE STUDY

A study of the psalms can help us to develop a thankful heart. Psalm 103 is a good example of thanksgiving to God. The psalmist expressed personal and universal thanks to God.

Thanks for Personal Blessings
(Psalm 103:1-5)

The writer of the psalm expressed thanks for benefits he received from God. Such personal testimonies were included in public worship in ancient Israel. The psalmist emphasised the depth of his gratitude through the repetition of the opening phrase. He urged himself to thank God with his whole being.

Specifying benefits for which he was grateful, the psalmist mentioned forgiveness, healing, redemption from premature death, love, mercy and the renewed life. The eagle is used as a symbol of renewal. It lives long and it moults every year. God is thanked because He is the Great Physician who constantly brings youthfulness to the whole being.

Thanks for Communal
Blessings (Psalm 103:6-18)

God's goodness was also experienced in His dealing with the nation (vv. 6-7). Therefore, the psalmist's call to praise God was made in reference to specific national benefits. These were both spiritual and material. National political freedom from Egypt and other super powers aroused a feeling of gratitude. The speaker was thankful that God had revealed God's self and ways to Moses (Exodus 20). God's ways mean the principles for a lifestyle which pleases Him.

Another reason for which the psalmist was grateful to God was that God had continuously shown mercy to Israel. The writer was thankful that God never held a grudge against Israel. He recalled that even when Israel disobeyed God, He never punished them as they deserved, but loved them instead and showed them mercy (vv.11-12).

The writer expressed thanks to God for His great love. He spoke of God's constant fatherly care (v. 13).

For all the nation's needs which God had met, He deserved heartfelt thanks. The psalmist was grateful

that God showed that He fully understood their weakness. God's love extended beyond this life.

God's blessings of love and righteousness were other gifts for which the psalmist was grateful. These blessings would be given to the future generations (v. 17). Perhaps, the psalmist was recalling God's covenant with Abraham (Genesis 22:15-18), as, he was assured that the people of the covenant relationship would survive.

Thanks for Universal Blessings (Psalm 103:19-22)

The psalmist affirmed that God is in heaven. That fact did not make God distant. Rather, it spoke to God's ability to govern and control all of creation. The psalmist referred to angels as one means through which God sent heavenly blessings to His world. The angels were *mighty ones who do His bidding* (v. 20 NIV). The writer considered angels *mighty* because they accomplished God's will on behalf of humankind.

Calling on angels to join in expressing adequate thanks to God, the psalmist considered that for all that God is and what He had done, all of God's creatures should join in a chorus of thanksgiving.

Like the psalmist, Christians today have experienced God's many blessings. We, as a region, should thank God for emancipation and political independence. We should thank God also for the overall success in our personal, family and national life. Let us thank God for past, present and future blessings.



PLANNING

Plan to Meet These Youth Needs:

1. To understand the importance of thanksgiving to God as an aspect of worship
2. To thank God for all His blessings
3. To be grateful especially for God's forgiveness
4. To identify some qualities of God

Prepare to Teach

- Work with youth from your class to add some new elements to the display of items related to worshipping God. Add to the display, examples of songs, poems, pictures and prayers of thanksgiving to God. Mount the display before the session begins.
- Provide the words of the chorus, "Bless the Lord, O My Soul" for use during **Get Class' Attention**.
- Prepare a summary of the information in **Teacher Bible Study** to share during **Examine Bible Lesson**.
- Prepare to share an expression of gratitude, a statement which can be repeated daily to God. Share this with the class during **Commit to Action**.
- Provide the words of the hymn, "Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven!" for use during **Commit to Action**.
- Plan to sing the doxology.
- Complete the **Weekly Preparation Checklist** on page 32.



GUIDE THE SESSION

STEP 1



Get Class' Attention

Greet youth and open in prayer. Sing together the chorus "Bless the Lord, O My Soul". Talk about ways in which people show gratitude. Say: *Today, we will focus on thanksgiving to God. Giving thanks is one of the ways in which we worship God.*

Have a volunteer read the story about Timmy in **A Leaf from Life**. Invite responses to questions listed below the story. Talk about ways in which people today show gratitude and ingratitude to God.

STEP 2



Examine Bible Lesson

Read aloud Psalm 103. Ask for a volunteer to read the Introduction under the **Bible Focus** section.

Divide the class into two groups. Have **Group 1** complete **Bible Search A** and have **Group 2** complete **Bible Search B**.

Correct responses to **Bible Search A**: forgiveness, healing, redemption, love.

Correct responses to **Bible Search B**: righteous, compassionate, gracious, slow to anger.

Allow ten minutes for the groups to complete the **Bible Search** activities. Have the groups share their responses with the class.

STEP 3



Apply Bible Truth

Invite youth to name personal blessings for which they can thank God as suggested in **Personal Learning Activity Ai**. Some of these blessings may include living in a Christian home, owning a Bible and the ability to read. Invite youth to complete **Personal Learning Activity Aii**. Ask for volunteers to share their poems with the class.

Have youth share responses to **Personal Learning Activity B**. Some of these blessings may include freedom to worship and absence of war.

Have youth share their responses to **Personal Learning Activity C**.

STEP 4



Commit to Action

Repeat the **Memory Verse**, Psalm 103:1-2 (NIV). State that singing is a way of thanking God. Together, list some thanksgiving songs. Sing the hymn, "Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven!"

Read together the **Central Truth**. Help youth to write a pledge to thank God daily. Encourage youth to make it a habit to thank God.

Read together **The Lesson and Me**. Pray giving thanks to God for the truths learnt from Psalm 103. Sing the doxology.

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