

LIVING  
THE WORD

CARIBBEAN BIBLE LESSONS



# Leaders

Adults • Ages 19 and Up • Learner Guide

January • February • March • April • 2023



**Adult • Age 19 and Up • Learner Guide**

The learning activities suggested in this book are used as part of the teaching plan provided in the *Adult Teacher Guide*. It is strongly recommended that each church provides a copy of the *Adult Learner Guide* for each adult and adult teacher.

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# EDITOR'S CORNER

Dear Brothers and Sisters,



Happy, blessed and Jesus-conscious New Year! It is an honour to begin this new year, this new chapter of life with you as we sojourn through this quarter's pages of the **Caribbean Bible Lessons (CBL) Bible Leaders Learner Guide**, covering January – April 2023.

Thank God for keeping us through 2022 and we look forward to His keeping care, love, grace and mercy in 2023. None of us can make it on our own; it is by the grace of God that we are here. Let us seek the Almighty's guidance to take better care of ourselves mentally, emotionally and spiritually. Let us seek to be made whole by our Creator and Saviour (John 5:6), so that we may honour and obey Him with all our heart, soul, mind and strength (Mark 12:30). Let us not only hear the Holy Spirit but be obedient as well, being not only hearers of God's Word but doers, who apply it to our daily lives as led by the Holy Spirit (James 1:22-25). May we heed the charge not only to be wholly but holy servants in trusting obedience to God. May we also be our sister's and brother's keeper in genuine neighbourliness. Thus we will, "Trust and obey, for there is no other way to be happy in Jesus but to trust and obey."

We continue with the theme of **Living the Word**, for the CBL Bible Leaders Learner Guide. In this issue we will examine the sub-themes of worship, family, relationships and Easter. **Unit 1** will lead us off with, **Honouring God**. The fact that God is the only one to be worshipped, adored and glorified will be reinforced.

**Unit 2** we will explore positive and negative ways of responding to emotional pain and the causes and expressions they may take. **Healing—Matters of the Heart** may be challenging emotionally as it encourages healing and deliverance in all aspects of life. **Unit 3**, is entitled, **Worshipping through the Word**, here we will explore God's Word and how it helps us to worship God.

In **Unit 4, Easter—Receiving Jesus' Ministries**, we will be taught about Jesus' redemptive ministries of reconciliation, redemption, forgiveness, commissioning and preparation.

We invite you to read our articles they are: Balancing Mental & Spiritual Health and Mission Point. We hope you find them informative and inspirational.

May you be richly fed and blessed from this quarter's issue. The God of peace be with you.

Jetu Green

# MEET OUR WRITERS

## UNIT ONE: Kenneth Dubissette, Grenada

Rev. Dubissette is a past president of the Grenada Baptist Association and former pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in St George's, Grenada. Rev. Dubissette is committed to showing others the positive difference that God can make in their life. In his teenage years, he was shaken by the death of two friends. This caused him to face the fact of eternity in hell. He accepted Christ as his Saviour and has been serving Him since.



## UNIT TWO: Cheryl Strachan, The Bahamas



Dr Cheryl Strachan resides in Nassau, Bahamas. She has an Associates of Science and Theology, Masters in Theology and Doctorate in Theology. The entrepreneur and poet is a member of New Destiny Baptist Cathedral in Nassau Bahamas where she is the Director of Christian Education, Worship Team member, member of the Women's Fellowship and involved in children's ministry.

## UNIT THREE: Arcelio Hartley, Panama

Mr Hartley has been a Christian for over 40 years. He is vice president of the Panama Baptist Convention and retired chairman of the Board of Inspectors of the Panama Canal Authority. He serves as a church planter, lay preacher, deacon and Sunday School teacher. He is passionate about leading people to commit to serving the Lord. Deacon Hartley believes that the more a person comes to understand God's Word, is the more that individual will worship God, and will be more likely to serve God sacrificially.



## UNIT FOUR: Douglas McHenry, USA



Rev. McHenry has been a minister of religion for forty-nine years. He, and his wife Rebecca, have served as missionaries to the Caribbean. He currently gives dedicated service to the music, mission and communication ministries of the First Baptist Church where he worships in Dallas, Georgia. Rev. McHenry treasures the theological rigour required in his preparation for writing Caribbean Bible Lessons for adults. He is grateful to God for the opportunity to inspire adults to grow in their Christian life through the Sunday School literature.



## God With Us Every Year

A new year has dawned  
What will this year bring for us?  
More worry, more fuss?  
God knows, God sees, God guides

Hope springs eternal  
We should never give up hope  
We will want to give up  
But faithful is our God

Life has its challenges  
That's a fact  
But God helps us overcome

Wisdom needed now  
To discern life's decisions  
God is our shepherd

We face ups and downs  
But we are never alone  
God, the Lord is there

Jehovah Jireh provides  
We shall make it through this year  
Again with God's help  
Immanuel is faithful every year

by Jetu Green  
November 1, 2022©



# Revering Almighty God

## BIBLE FOCUS



Psalm 89:5-15; Isaiah 29:1-3, 13; 1 John 4:18

## KEY VERSE

*In the council of the holy ones God is greatly feared; he is more awesome than all who surround him.*

– Psalm 89:7 NIV

## BIBLE TRUTH

When we revere God we believe in Him with all our heart and by our lifestyle.

## LIFE QUESTION

Do I always revere God as the Almighty?

## THAT'S LIFE

Rick always has great anticipation for the praise and worship exercise at the church he attends, Real Life Temple, especially after the lockdown period due to Covid-19. He enjoys his church's praise and worship because it helps him focus more on worshipping God each week.

However, Rick reflects that the behaviour of congregants immediately before church starts each week is not conducive to worship. There are too many loud greetings, laughter and idle chatter as worshippers gather. Rick is so frustrated with the problem, that he has decided to begin this New Year by bringing the

matter to the attention of Pastor Lawrence.

As Rick thinks about worship at Real Life Temple, his musings are interrupted by glimpses of his own behaviour. Since he became a Christian three years ago, he has been living an exemplary life. Well, that is true, with the exception of the times when his male friends from his high school alumni are around. He recalls that he uses profanity and drinks alcohol, when he meets with them once per fortnight. Additionally, he always laughs at their lewd jokes.

**What actions and attitudes do Rick and the other worshippers need to change?**

**Why? What is the relationship between honouring God and being a Christlike witness?**

## WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH?

Honour begins in our hearts and refers to the value we place on someone or something. We honour God by demonstrating the high regard we have for God, by worshipping Him and by reflecting His holy character.

When we honour God our approach to Him is one of reverence—deep respect, holy fear and awe.

To fear the Lord does not mean to be afraid of Him. Holy fear moves us to live a life that honours God and be completely devoted to Him. We should fear His punishment when we disobey Him.

### 1. Reverential Awe – Psalm 89:5-15

God is holy. When we understand Who God is, we will honour Him in awe and great respect with our words, actions and life. In this passage, the psalmist reveals aspects of God's moral attributes, which manifest His holiness.

Understanding God's attributes means to be reflective on His nature—Who God is, having an attitude of reverence to Him and seeking to reflect His nature. Understanding Who God is determines how we worship Him. The "holy ones" in heaven understand Who God is and they worship Him, praising His wonders and His faithfulness (v. 5).

The psalmist praised God for: ☞ His moral nature including, His faithfulness, righteousness, justice and love (vv. 5, 14); ☞ the physical manifestations of His might (vv. 8, 10), ☞ God's sovereignty (v. 9), ☞ His work as Creator (vv. 11-12), ☞ His power (v. 13) and ☞ the light and favour of God's presence (v. 15).

God is supreme and incomparable. The heavenly beings fear Him because He is more awesome than anyone and everyone (vv. 6-8). How do you esteem God? Do you revere Him for His greatness and glory? God exhibits absolute power over all His creation (vv. 9-13). His greatness is also seen in His direction of His people's affairs. He fought their battles and destroyed their enemies (v. 10). The writer personifies the mountains to show that all God's creation praise Him (v. 12).

The psalmist testifies of God's absolute moral perfection (vv. 14-15). God cannot do wrong, nor can He make a mistake. He is absolutely just and fair. Those who acknowledge God's glory and greatness will revere Him by walking in the light of His presence and, therefore, are blessed (v. 15). They will live in holy fear of Him and in obedience to Him.

## 2. Irreverence Brings Judgement – Isaiah 29:1-3, 13

*Ariel* meant *the altar of God* and was the place where true worship of God should have been maintained. King David, a godly ruler, had lived and ruled from Ariel, Jerusalem and he had taught the citizens to fear God. But they were disobedient. The Jews were God’s chosen people and they had experienced His grace in every way through His power and His providence; yet, they failed to obey God and to honour Him.

God’s awesomeness seemed to mean nothing to the people. They disregarded the All-knowing, All-seeing sovereign LORD by their ungodly activities. Their worship was mere lip service (v. 13). The LORD described their reverence as mere tradition and lacking in sincerity. There was no evidence of holy fear. The prophet, Isaiah, proclaimed God’s promise of disaster to the city of Ariel, Jerusalem (vv. 1-3). People who do not honour God will have to bear His condemnation and punishment.

## 3. No Fear in Love – 1 John 4:18

To have a spirit of fear is not the same as having a holy fear or reverence of God. A spirit of fear is fear of God’s judgement and punishment with eternal death. A spirit of fear causes one to be anxious, to have a sense of danger and to feel threatened.

1 John 4:18 explains that there is no fear, dread or trepidation, where love exists, especially where someone loves God. The person who is afraid of God has not grown into sufficient understanding of how to love and honour God.

Growing, maturing Christians constantly demonstrate God’s love in their relationships. They do not have a spirit of fear because they know that Christ bore the punishment for their sins. They will fear, however, breaking their fellowship with God because of sin. They will fear the spiritual and practical consequences if they lack holy fear or reverence for God. True love of God and God’s love in us—perfect love—drives away the spirit of fear. Love for God creates holy fear for a holy God.

## Reality Check

The first step in having a holy fear of God is to repent of your sin. Next, make Jesus Christ, Lord of your life, trust God and devote your life to Him. As long as you dedicate your life to God, you will revere Him; you will not need to be afraid of Him. Walk in God’s salvation, grace and strength, as you start another New Year with which He has blessed you.

# Giving God the Glory



## BIBLE FOCUS

1 Chronicles 16:29; Exodus 32:1-14; John 1:9-14; 3:36

## KEY VERSE

*Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering and come before him. Worship the LORD in the splendour of his holiness.*

– 1 Chronicles 16:29 NIV

## BIBLE TRUTH

Believers should give God the glory due Him at all times because His glory is manifest throughout life, even in ordinary things.

## LIFE QUESTION

Do I always give God the glory due to Him?

## THAT'S LIFE

Sister Carmen has a sweet, melodious, velvety voice, which captivates you when she sings. She enjoys doing solos at church and is also one of the leaders of the praise and worship team.

Recently, however, Sister Carmen has found herself arguing a lot with the other members of the praise and worship team. She is always very irritated when they do not sing the songs properly or when they want to sing songs of which she does not approve.

Sister Carmen sings on the choir when she feels like it. She hardly attends choir rehearsals,

despite the pleadings of Sister Andrea, the choir director. Sister Carmen has become disgusted with Sister Andrea's frequent reminders to her to come to choir rehearsals. Sister Carmen thinks that the choristers are lucky to have her sing with them.

She reached boiling point in church today, when Sister Andrea said to her privately, "Remember this is a ministry, not entertainment. Who is getting the glory from your talent?"

**What advice would you give Carmen?**

**How does the use of your spiritual gifts and talents glorify God?**



## WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH?

Glory may be defined as “manifested excellence”. God created the universe and everything and everyone in it (Isaiah 42:5). God and His works are supreme, manifested excellence. God alone is perfect (Psalm 19:7). He alone deserves to be glorified.

### 1. Do Not Deny God the Glory – Exodus 32:1-6

Glorifying God begins with agreeing with everything God says about Himself through the Scripture and His prophets; and acknowledging the grandeur we observe about God through His creation. God is excellent in greatness and there is none like Him. He has proclaimed His greatness and those who love the Lord recognise and admit His greatness and give glory to God (1 Chronicles 16:28-29). When we refuse to glorify God by giving adoration to other people and things, we commit idolatry.

The Israelites practised idolatry when Moses, who had led them out of slavery in Egypt, was delayed on Mount Sinai. Moses was on Mount Sinai, in response to a call from God to receive a set of laws (Exodus 31). Possibly, the people feared that Moses would not return. They probably felt that they needed a substitute god to lead them through the desert. They asked Aaron, who was deputising for Moses, to make them gods (32:1).

Instead of responsibly leading his fellow Israelites to honour God, Aaron agreed to their request. The people supplied the material with which he made a calf-shaped idol (vv. 2-4). He built an altar and ordered a festival (vv. 5-6). The object of the Israelites’ worship was not the true and living God. They shifted their focus from the One true and infinite God of their experiences to the finite images of their pagan worship—a practice they had previously in Egypt. Their worship suited only their finite, human desires and understanding. Are we denying God the glory due to Him by having idols in our life? Are we glorying self in our accomplishments, when the glory belongs to God?

### 2. Recognise God’s Glory – Exodus 32:14; John 3:36

The Israelites’ sacrilegious worship angered God (vv. 7,10). God was so angry that He refused to refer to the Israelites as His people. Instead, He sent Moses from Mount Sinai to attend to his, Moses’, idolatrous people. *Then the Lord said to Moses, “Go down, because your people, whom you brought up out of Egypt, have become corrupt. They have... made themselves an idol cast in the shape of a calf”* (vv. 7-8).

The Israelites' moral depravity, idol worship and stubbornness (vv. 7-9) showed they had turned away from giving the glory to God. The people sinned not only by worshipping an idol but by ascribing God's goodness, His works and His name to a false god. By not recognising God's glory, they grossly insulted Him.

Moses pleaded with God to have mercy on "your", God's, people (v. 11). Moses argued that: **1)** God's power had delivered the Israelites from Egypt. **2)** The Egyptians would think that God had evil intentions for rescuing the Israelites (v. 12). **3)** It would seem that God had broken His promise to the forefathers of Israel (v. 13). Moses wanted to see God's glory proclaimed by the people whom He restored and all those who witnessed the restoration. God granted mercy because of Moses' appeal.

Jesus also intercedes for mercy on our behalf. God's salvation is for all who accept Christ (John 3:36). He rewards them with eternal life. Those who reject Christ have not recognised God's glory. They will experience God's wrath. Yet, He will extend mercy to repentant people so that they can glimpse His glory in this life and, then, fully when we stand in His presence.

### **3. Surrender to our Infinite God – John 1:9-14**

Jesus Christ, a member of the Triune God, came into the world as the Light Who would shine on all of humankind to reveal their imperfections caused by sin. But sadly, the world did not recognise or honour Him as their Saviour (v. 10). Instead, humankind saw Him as another mere human and perceived Jesus to be at their level.

Christ came to the Jews, but they rejected Him (v. 11). As God's chosen people, the Jews knew of the prophecies about Messiah and they were waiting for Him. The Jews had experienced God's miracles and should have known that He keeps His promises (Isaiah 46:11b). Yet, they refused to accept Christ as God's revelation and they crucified Him.

All people, however, who do believe Christ's claims as God and Saviour, receive Him, are rewarded with the right to become God's children (John 1:12-13). When we accept Christ's offer of salvation, we are *born again* and have the opportunity to begin a new life. In this born-again-life, we have a constant yearning to recognise, acknowledge and exalt God for all His glory.

### **Reality Check**

Have you paid scant regard to God's glory? How are you giving God the glory He deserves, in your conduct and in your choice of values which guide your life? True worship of God is based on the leading of the Holy Spirit and on our understanding of God's power, majesty and infinity. Sincere response to God must be marked by humility, reverence and giving the glory to God.

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