



YOUTH INSTRUCTION CLASS

LESSON 5: OUR PRESERVING FATHER

Opening

- God created us, but He also protects us. What are two ways God can carry out His work of *protection*?
- God not only creates and protects, but He also *preserves* His creation. To preserve something means *to maintain or take care of it*. See Psalm 145:15-16 (506) or Psalm 147:7-9.

Bible History

There is an example of God preserving His creation in Exodus 16.



Exodus 16

Listen to the account of the manna and quail in the wilderness. Follow along in your Bibles.



Illustration 1: "Gathering Manna"
by Alexander, c. 1430

What was *the Exodus*?

How did God preserve His people on their way to Canaan?

Why was it important that God took care of these people?

What special purpose did God have for Israel?

God Preserves Us

God does not always take care of us (preserve) us in the same way. Write down two ways God can preserve us:

_____	John 6:3-13	(510)
_____	Psalm 104:14 2 Thess 3:10-12	(512)

- What about miracles? While it is not wrong to pray for a miracle of God, it is wrong to expect a miracle and for that reason reject the normal and natural means God gives us to preserve our lives. For example, we should not refuse to work and then expect God to feed us. We should not refuse medicine and doctors and then become angry if God doesn't heal us with some miracle. This is like tempting God (see Mat 4:5-7). Consider Christian Scientists, Jehovah's Witnesses, and Faith Healers.
- List some things that our Heavenly Father gives us in order to preserve us . . . To what extent does God give us these blessings? _____ and _____ (Philippians 4:19 and Matthew 6:11). What things does God give to preserve the rest of His creation?
- What has God done for us to preserve our lives *forever*? *Why* does God preserve us?

John 3:16-18

Bible Activity

Psalm 144:10-15 lists a number of different things that are given for our preservation. Find them and underline them.

Psalm 144:10-15 (NIV). To the One who gives victory to kings, who delivers his servant David from the deadly sword. ¹¹ Deliver me and rescue me from the hands of foreigners whose mouths are full of lies, whose right hands are deceitful. ¹² Then our sons in their youth will be like well-nurtured plants, and our daughters will be like pillars carved to adorn a palace. ¹³ Our barns will be filled with every kind of provision. Our sheep will increase by thousands, by tens of thousands in our fields; ¹⁴ our oxen will draw heavy loads. There will be no breaching of walls, no going into captivity, no cry of distress in our streets. ¹⁵ Blessed are the people of whom this is true; blessed are the people whose God is the LORD.

Luther's Catechism

- Read the First Article with Luther's explanation on p. 97 of your catechisms. Where does Luther speak of *creation*? Where does he speak of *protection*? Where does he speak of *preservation*?
- Our reaction to God's loving creation, care, and protection is to *thank, praise, serve, and obey* Him. In what ways can we carry out these activities?
- Luther's *Large Catechism* includes more commentary on God's preservation. "I believe that God has given and constantly sustains my body, soul, life, my members great and small, all the faculties of my mind, my reason and understanding, and so forth; my food and drink, clothing, means of support, wife and child, servants, house and home, etc. He makes all creation help provide the comforts and necessities of life - sun, moon, stars in the heavens, day and night, air, fire, water, the earth and all that it brings forth, birds and fish, beasts, grain and all kinds of produce. Moreover, He gives all physical and temporal blessings - good government, peace, security . . . None of us has his life of himself, or anything else that has been mentioned here or can be mentioned, nor can he by himself preserve any of them, however small and unimportant."

**Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your justice like the great deep.
O LORD, you preserve both man and beast.
- Psalm 36:6 -**