

11/27:

1. Why do prophets like John and Ezekiel avoid giving detailed descriptions of God's features, instead referring generally to colors or using vague terms of resemblance?
2. In our desire to know God, why is it better to focus on the words that he has spoken to us, rather than on pictures or statues?
3. For which attributes of God do the four living creatures praise him?
4. Since these are not attributes of an uncaring dictator king but qualities of the personal Father who made us and loves us, how should appreciating God's purity, power, and permanence influence how you think and feel about him?
5. How does it help you respond to the circumstances in your life which he controls completely (power) for your good (purity) as the Lord who sees and directs the end from the beginning (permanence)?
6. Read Psalm 104; Romans 1:19-20. Do you take time to look at God's creatures, both on earth and in the starry heavens? What do God's creatures show you about the God who designed, made, and sustains them - and you?
7. The elders also cast their golden crowns at the foot of God's throne. From whom had they received those crowns?
8. What attitude was expressed by their actions of falling and casting those crowns before their Creator?
9. Is their attitude reflected in the way you think about and use the resources that you have received from God the Creator? How would a deeper sense of awe and thanksgiving toward the Creator change the way you use his gifts?

Answers:

1. God's greatness and glory are so wonderful that they cannot be fully understood or described by any human being.
2. God has revealed himself in his Word. God knows us and knows that words, not pictures are what we need to know him and worship him.
3. The four living creatures praised God for his purity ("Holy, holy, holy") power ("the Almighty") and permanence ("who is and is to come").
4. Answers will vary
5. Answers will vary
6. Answers will vary but might include the beauty, magnificence, and creativity of God are revealed in creation. God weaves all creation to work together in amazing ways, etc.
7. The elders had received their crowns from God.
8. The attitude of gratitude and humility was expressed by the elders.
9. Answers will vary