



Like A Jewel On Black Velvet

Daniel 10: 8

Items Needed

- ✓ Bible with marked scripture
- ✓ Pencils/Markers
- ✓ Bag of Rhinestones from Craft Store or Piece of cleaned jewelry with faceted gemstone in setting
- ✓ Piece of black velvet cloth
- ✓ Copy of photo illustration of gemstones on black velvet
- ✓ Copies of coloring sheet
- ✓ Copies of Take Home Overview



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Objective of Lesson

The objective of this lesson is to teach what an attribute is and why it is important for us to learn about them and to know them.

Scripture Reference

Daniel 10:8 Therefore I was left alone, and saw this great vision, and there remained no strength in me: for my comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength.

Lesson Instructions

1. I have a short scripture today. I want to read it to you briefly and we are going to try to demonstrate what Daniel is talking about here. Here a man named Daniel sees our Lord God in a vision. When he sees him he says, "I have lost all strength, and all my goodness I saw in myself just melted into a pile of corruption." That means when he saw the glory of God against the blackness of his heart, he realized just how black his heart really was. That is going to be our topic for today. I am going to try and demonstrate to you what Daniel saw in this vision. I hope this will help us understand and picture in our minds a little better what this means and why it is important to know.
2. First, let me ask you; how many of you have heard the word "attribute"? That is a big word! Each week we come in here to Sunday school class and



learn something about God. Each week we learn who God (The Father, The Son and the Holy Spirit) is. Each week we talk about what our Lord is like. Each week we talk about what our Lord does and how He acts. (2 Tim. 3: 16) Each of these things we talk about is called an "attribute" of God. Now we are not going to go through all the attributes (words that describe) of God today. We could spend an entire lesson on that subject, and we might do that some day, but today I just want you to understand: 1. WHAT an attribute is, and 2. WHY do we talk about them and learn about them?

3. First let's talk about what an attribute is. Here is an example... Let's all think of our mother or father. If you had to use words to describe what your mother or father is like, what would those words be? (Point to the first child) Give me some words that tell me what your mother (or father) is like. (Short, tall, kind, loving, funny, etc..) All of the words you just used to tell me about your mother are "attributes" of your mother (or father). An attribute is just a fancy word for "a word that describes someone". God has attributes too. The Bible teaches us words that describe God. The Bible teaches us words that tell us who God is. These words are called, "the attributes of God," or "words that describe" God.
4. Can any of you tell me some words that we have learned that describe God? The Bible tells us God is love. (Deut. 17: 19, 1 John 4: 8) We all know what love is, right? To love someone is to treat someone with kindness and to always tell them the truth and to think of them always and be there for them. Another attribute of God is that He is always just. (Deut. 32:4) That means He ALWAYS does the right thing. He never does anything that is not fair or that is bad. An example of being just is when you are playing a game and someone changes the rules on you in the middle of the game and you say, "Hey! That is not fair!" What you are saying is, "That is not just! That is not right! That is not a good thing to do!" God is not that way. He is always fair and just. To be just means you always follow the rules. To be just is to always do the right thing.

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5. Those are just two examples of attributes. God has many other attributes, or words, that describe who He is. (Hold up coloring sheet illustration of a faceted diamond ring) An attribute of God is like a facet on a jewel. How many of you have seen a jewel before, a diamond, or maybe a beautiful ruby, or sapphire? This is a photo of a diamond ring. Does anybody know what these straight sides are called on a cut jewel? They are called facets. A facet is a flat surface that is polished into the stone and it reflects light. That is what makes the jewel so shiny and sparkling. Some of your mothers or grandmothers may have a diamond ring they wear as their wedding ring. If you look very closely you will see these flat sides on their jewel in their ring. When you hold it up to the light, the light bounces off those surfaces and that is what makes the diamond look like it is sparkling and shining. This picture of a jewel is a good way for us to picture what an attribute is. Let's say each one of these flat sides on this jewel is an attribute or a word that describes this stone. Even though they are individual sides, as a whole they make up one beautiful and glittering gem. If you take away one of its sides or facets, or if you take away one of its attributes, it is no longer a glittering gem. It becomes dull and lifeless and there is no beauty or shining glory to the stone. Those flat facets describe the stone. Those facets are the attributes of the stone. Without them there is not a sparkling gem.
6. How many of you have been to a jewelry store? When you walk into a jewelry store and you ask to view a piece of jewelry the first thing the jeweler will do is pull out a black velvet cloth. (Hold up photo illustration of diamonds on black cloth) Do you know why he does that? It is because glittering gems look most beautiful and brilliant when laid against a black velvet cloth. I have this bag of rhinestones I purchased at the craft store. (If you don't have access to this, use a piece of cleaned jewelry you own) Let's hold it up to the light. It sparkles a lot, but it is hard to see all its facets, right? What if I lay it on the table - same thing - sort of hard to see the facets, but now what if I pour these rhinestones out on this black velvet cloth. Wow! All of a

sudden you can see all the sparkle and light coming through the stones. It was pretty enough before - but NOW they become something more beautiful and desirable!

7. This is exactly how *God* reveals to us His beauty and His goodness! If I just talk about *God's* attributes - how He is love and how He is just, we say uhhhh... okay, but we can't REALLY see it and understand it. What if I tell you about those things and compare them to the blackness of what we are. Ah ha! Then His beauty shines! He becomes altogether more desirable and sparkling and bright!
8. Do you remember what happens if we take away a facet on this gem? It loses its beauty and glitter. What happens if we take one of *God's* attributes away? What if we tell you *God* is love but he is not just; then He is no longer *God*. It's just like taking away that facet on a gem; it is no longer a beautiful sparkling gem. It becomes dull and lifeless. No, *God* is complete in all His attributes. With all the words describing who He is, nothing can be left out. He can't show love without being just and he can't be just without showing love. That is why *God* cannot just wipe away sin. In order for *God* to be right and do the right thing, sin must be punished.
9. This demonstration pictures what we do here every single time we come to church and listen to the sermons and go over our Sunday school lessons. We can't see very well the attributes of *God*, and we can't understand the words that describe *God*....UNTIL we see and understand it against the blackness of our own hearts and our own nature and our own attributes. (Daniel 10: 8) We are the opposite of *God*. (1 Sam. 16:7, Psalm 14:3) He is love; we are hate. He is just and we are unjust. It is important that we not only talk about who *God* is, but we need to talk about OUR attributes too. Our Lord reveals to us the blackness of our hearts, the blackness of our sin, the darkness of our minds, and....THEN He shows us the jewel! That Jewel is *God's* Son, Jesus Christ!!! How wonderful it is to hear what Christ did when you learn what we have done. How wonderful it is to hear about who Christ is when you learn of



our horrible sinful nature. How wonderful it is to hear about how Christ paid for the sins of His people when you learn that you have no hope of saving yourself. Do you see your blackness of sin? Do you see your own dark heart? Do you see the anger of God hovering over your head? Oh, this is good news! Behold God's jewel and pearl of great price! (John 6: 37, Luke 7: 22) Run to Christ! See Christ's goodness and love in saving His people from their blackness. See Him paying for the sins of His people with His own blood and making it right for God to forgive them for their sins. All those who are in need of a savior shall not go away empty handed! All those that come to Him, He will not send away! May the Lord show us Christ Jesus, God's jewel!!!

Lesson Activities

- Jewels on Black Velvet
- Coloring Sheet

Take Home Lesson Overview



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Scripture Reference:

Daniel 10: 8

Lesson Overview:

Today we learned about what an attribute is and why it is important for us to learn about them. Our scripture was a short verses in Daniel 10:8. Here a man named Daniel sees our Lord God in a vision. When he sees him he says, "I have lost all strength, and all my goodness I saw in myself just melted into a pile of corruption." That means when he saw the glory of God against the blackness of his heart, he realized just how black his heart really was. That was our topic for the lesson today.

What is an attribute of God? Each week we come to worship service and learn something about God. Each week we learn who God (The Father, The Son and the Holy Spirit) is. Each week we talk about what our Lord is like. Each week we talk about what our Lord does and how He acts. (2 Tim. 3: 16) Each of these things we talk about is called an "attribute" of God.

If you had to use words to describe what your mother or father is like, what would those words be? (Short, tall, kind, loving, funny, etc..) All of the words you use to tell me about your mother are "attributes" of your mother (or father). An attribute a word that describes someone. God

has attributes too. The Bible teaches us words that describe God. The Bible teaches us words that tell us who God is. These words are called, "the attributes of God," or "words that describe" God.

The Bible tells us God is love. (Deut. 17: 19, 1 John 4: 8) Another attribute of God is that He is always just. (Deut. 32:4)

Those are just two examples of attributes. God has many other attributes, or words, that describe who He is. An attribute of God is like a facet on a jewel. A facet is a flat surface that is polished into the stone and it reflects light. That is what makes the jewel so shiny and sparkling. When you hold it up to the light, the light bounces off those surfaces and that is what makes the diamond look like it is sparkling and shining. A facet on a jewel is a good way for us to picture what an attribute is. Let's say each one of these flat sides on this jewel is an attribute or a word that describes this stone. Even though they are individual sides, as a whole they make up one beautiful and glittering gem. If you take away one of its sides or facets, or if you take away one of its attributes, it is no longer a glittering gem. It becomes dull and lifeless and there is no beauty or shining glory to the stone. Those flat facets describe the stone. Those facets are the attributes of the stone. Without them there is not a sparkling gem.

When you walk into a jewelry store and you ask to view a piece of jewelry the first thing the jeweler will do is pull out a black velvet cloth. Do you know why he does that? It is because glittering gems look most beautiful and brilliant when laid against a black velvet cloth. Take a gem and hold it



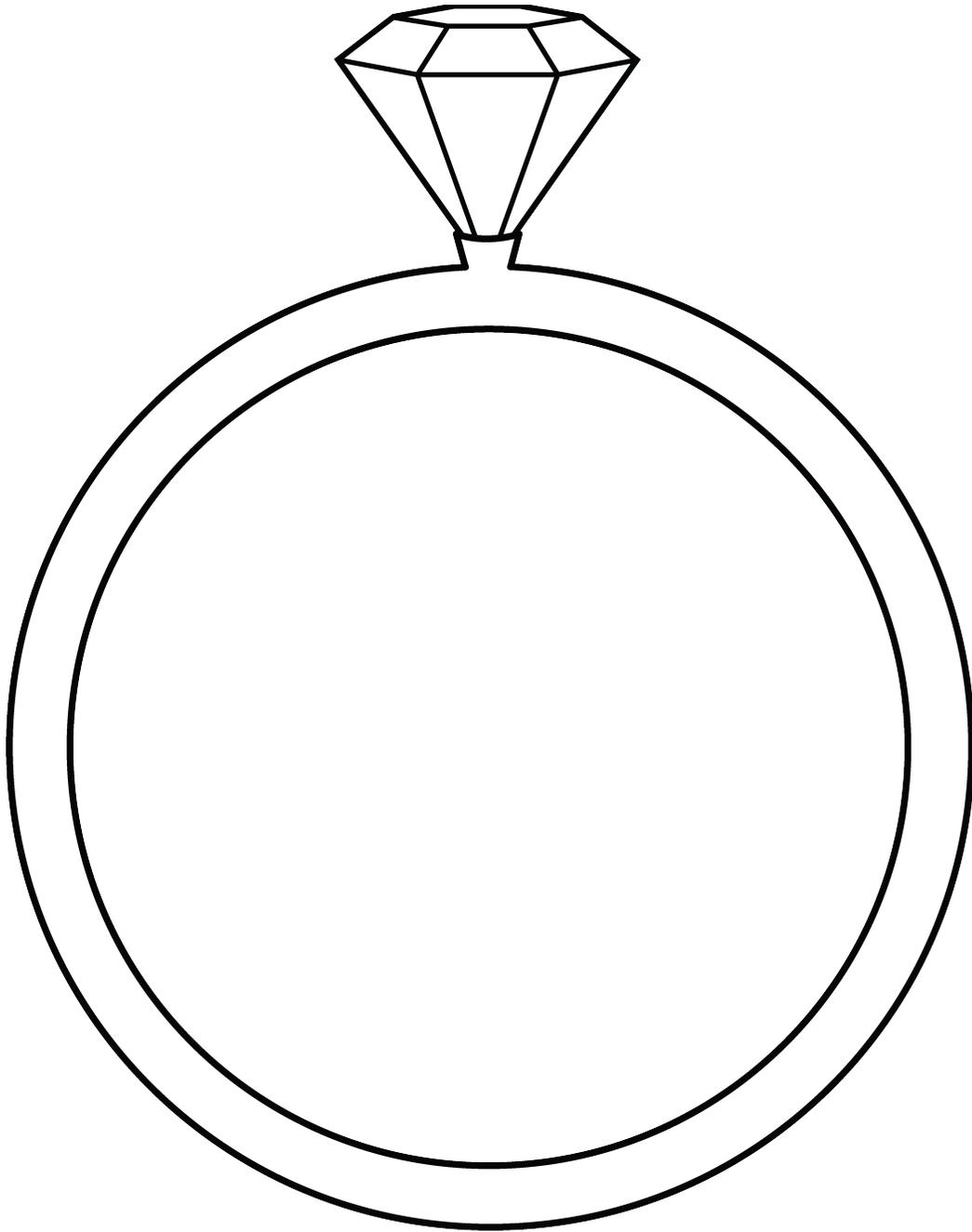
up to the light. It sparkles a lot, but it is hard to see all its facets. Take that same gem and lay it out on a piece of black velvet cloth. All of a sudden you can see all the sparkle and light coming through the stone. This is exactly how God reveals to us His beauty and His goodness! If we just talk about God's attributes - how He is love and how He is just, we can't REALLY see it and understand it. However if I tell you about those things and compare them to the blackness of what we are? Then His beauty shines! He becomes altogether more desirable and sparkling and bright!

What happens if we take one of God's attributes away? What if we tell you God is love but he is not just; then He is no longer God. It's just like taking away that facet on a gem; it is no longer a beautiful sparkling gem. It becomes dull and lifeless. God is complete in all His attributes. With all the words describing who He is, nothing can be left out. He can't show love without being just and he can't be just without showing love. That is why God cannot just wipe away sin. In order for God to be right and do the right thing, sin must be punished.

This demonstration pictures what we do here every single time we come to church and listen to the sermons and go over our Sunday school lessons. We can't see very well the attributes of God, and we can't understand the words that describe God.....UNTIL we see and understand it against the blackness of our own hearts and our own nature and our own attributes. (Daniel 10: 8) We are the opposite of God. (1 Sam. 16:7, Psalm 14:3) He is love; we are hate. He is just and we are unjust. It is important that we not only talk about who God is, but we need to talk about OUR



attributes too. Our Lord reveals to us the blackness of our hearts, the blackness of our sin, the darkness of our minds, and....THEN He shows us the jewel! That Jewel is *God's Son, Jesus Christ!!!* How wonderful it is to hear what Christ did when you learn what we have done. How wonderful it is to hear about who Christ is when you learn of our horrible sinful nature. How wonderful it is to hear about how Christ paid for the sins of His people when you learn that you have no hope of saving yourself. Do you see your blackness of sin? Do you see your own dark heart? Do you see the anger of *God* hovering over your head? Oh, this is good news! Behold *God's* jewel and pearl of great price! (John 6: 37, Luke 7: 22) Run to Christ! See Christ's goodness and love in saving His people from their blackness. See Him paying for the sins of His people with His own blood and making it right for *God* to forgive them for their sins. All those who are in need of a savior shall not go away empty handed! All those that come to Him, He will not send away! May the Lord show us Christ Jesus, *God's* jewel!!!



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