

## The Big Question

### Why do those who disrespect God seem to get away with it?

There's no shortage of people who disrespect or dishonor God and seem to get away with it. How do you react when you hear someone disrespecting God? Perhaps you've said, "If I were God, I would strike that disrespectful person with a bolt of lightning right now!" Though God at times has judged people immediately, He usually withholds His response and sometimes even prospers those who disrespect Him. That seems strange.

Asaph wrestled with the prosperity of the wicked. He wrote Psalm 73 to question why God permits some evil-doers to do well. The prophet Habakkuk asked God why He would punish Israel for her sins while apparently giving the wicked Babylonians free reign to do whatever they wanted (Habakkuk 1:12–17).

The Bible tells us that God's responses to the disrespectful are rooted in His character. First, God allows them to prosper because He is gracious. Giving gifts to people who don't deserve them is part of His nature (Matthew 5:43–45). Jesus used the weather as an example of God's common grace. The righteous farmer gets the same sun and rain as his wicked neighbor because God is gracious to all people. Everyone gets a measure of God's grace every day.

Second, God is longsuffering. He postpones His judgment to give people more time to repent and place their trust in Christ (2 Peter 3:9). God's desire is for all people to be saved—even those who mock and ridicule Him. He endures their wickedness so they might eventually respond to His saving grace. Some do respond.

Third, God is just, meaning He will eventually punish sinners who do not trust in Jesus as their Savior (Ecclesiastes 12:14; Hebrews 9:27). God's final judgment of the lost of all the ages will happen after Christ's earthly Kingdom and before the launch of the eternal state (Revelation 20:11–15). God's judgment will be final. He will cast unbelievers into the Lake of Fire to suffer for eternity for their sins. No one will escape the Lake of Fire.

When you hear people disrespect or dishonor God, remember that God graciously sent His Son to die for the people, that God is giving them time to be saved, and that God wants you to witness to them before they die and face His final judgment.

## Amazing Facts

### Look out below!

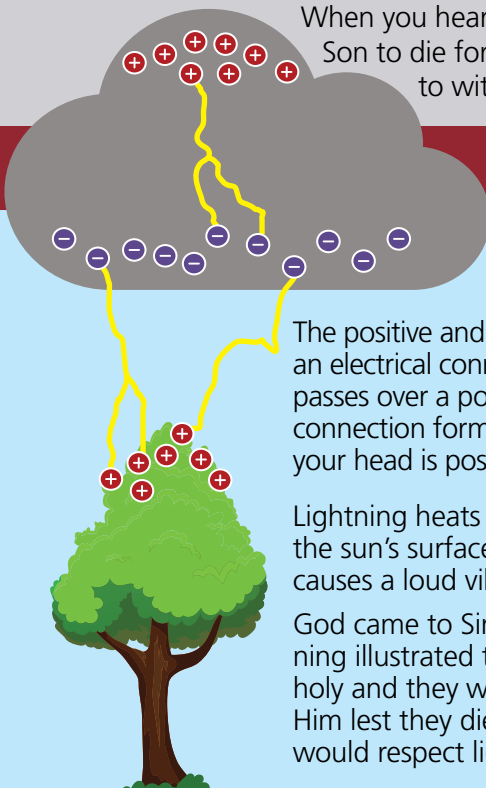
The positive and negative charges in a cloud sometimes cause an electrical connection we call lightning. When a storm cloud passes over a positively charged tree, sometimes an electrical connection forms between the tree and cloud. Like the tree, your head is positively charged, so stay indoors during storms!

Lightning heats the air to about 5 times the temperature of the sun's surface. The heated air expands so rapidly that it causes a loud vibration we call thunder.

God came to Sinai in a cloud filled with lightning. The lightning illustrated the difference between God and Israel. He is holy and they were sinners. God told Israel not to come near Him lest they die. God wanted Israel to respect Him like they would respect lightning during a thunderstorm.

### Ponder Points

1. Do you respect the power of lightning? What do you do when you see it?
2. How do you show your fear, or respect, for God?
3. The next time you see or hear lightning, remember that God deserves your highest respect.

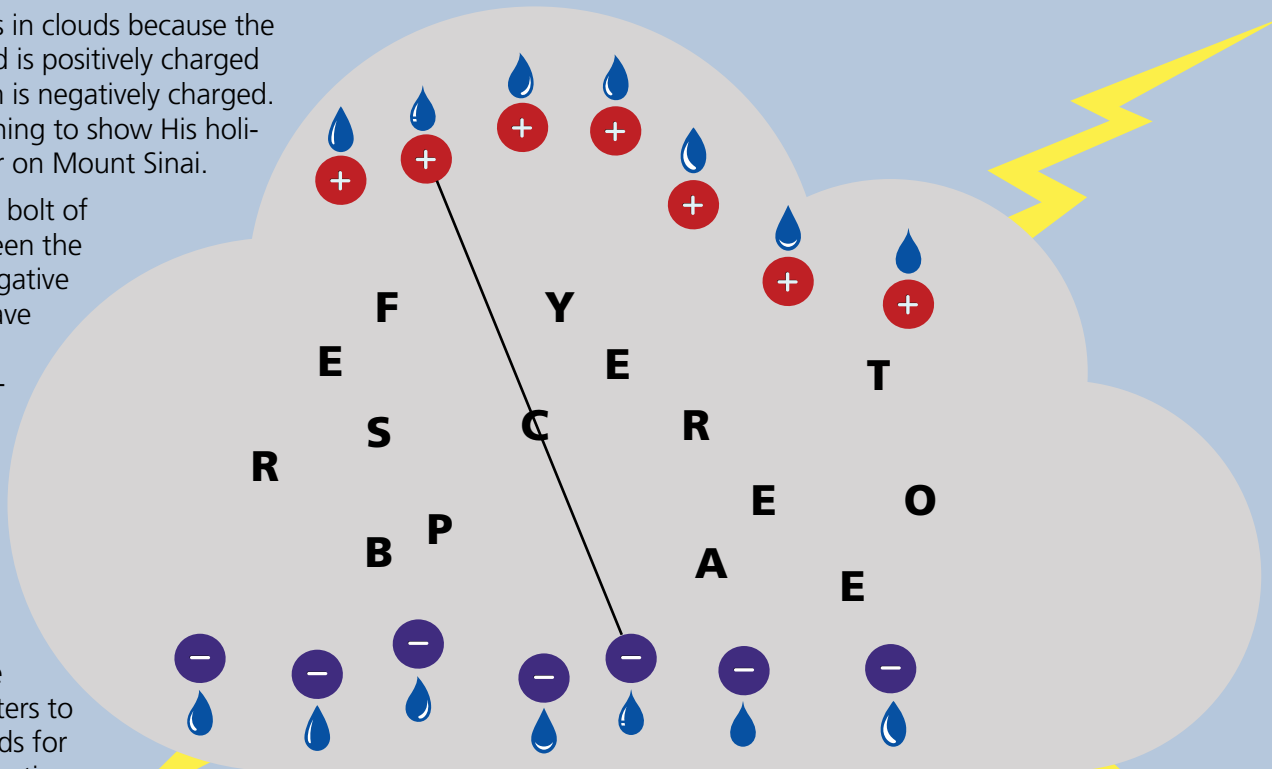


# Connect the Drops

Lightning forms in clouds because the top of the cloud is positively charged and the bottom is negatively charged. God used lightning to show His holiness and power on Mount Sinai.

Draw a straight bolt of lightning between the positive and negative symbols that have matching rain-drops. Then unscramble the 7 letters crossed in the middle to finish the summary statement for this week's lesson.

Unscramble the remaining 8 letters to form the 2 words for the lesson instruction. The answer is below the puzzle.



**SUMMARY:** GOD WANTS YOU TO \_\_\_\_\_ HIM.

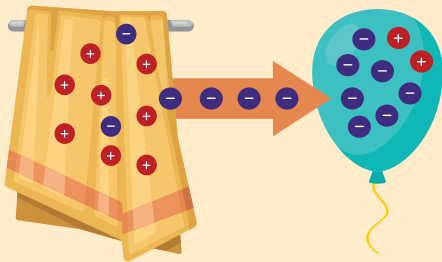
**INSTRUCTION:** LEARN TO \_\_\_\_\_ GOD BY LEARNING TO \_\_\_\_\_ HIM.

ANSWER: God wants you to respect Him. Learn to obey God by learning to fear Him.

## Charging Experiments

There are several activities you can do to show positive and negative charges attracting or repelling each other.

1. Rub a balloon with a towel to negatively charge the balloon. Put the balloon next to a wall and let go. The balloon will stick to the neutrally charged wall.
2. Rub two balloons with a towel. The balloons will repel each other because they are both negatively charged.
3. Rub a plastic grocery bag on your shirt, and rub a balloon with a towel. Try to keep the bag in the air by repelling it with the similarly charged balloon.



When rubbed together, the balloon collects negative charges from the towel.

Let these activities remind you that sin will keep you from God and that Jesus is the only solution to your sin!

## Measuring Growth

### Measurables

Look for the following indicators that your child is learning to fear God.

1. My child shows respect for God in how he or she talks about Him.
2. My child participates in worship with reverence for God.
3. My child prays to God with humility and a sense of awe of God's majesty.



The Junior lesson for this week presented God's arrival on Mount Sinai. He came in power and glory to teach Israel to respect Him. They were afraid of Him instead. Your child was encouraged to have a respectful, humble fear of God. Talk with your child about the spiritual growth measurables.



**STRONG**  
kids