

**FAMILY THEME**

Omniscience

# ENDLESS SUPPLY OF KNOWLEDGE

**STUDY TEXT**

Matthew 26:1-16

**6-DAY BIBLE READINGS**

Monday	Psalm 139:1-6
Tuesday	Mark 5:21-43
Wednesday	Mark 8:31-33
Thursday	John 6:66-70
Friday	Acts 2:14-23
Saturday	Matthew 26:17-30

**CHECKLIST**

- Bibles, paper, and pens or pencils
- Dry-erase board or newsprint pad and markers
- Direction Essential 1-1* (“When Divinity Meets Depravity”)\*
- Direction Essential 1-2a* (“Know-It-All”)\*
- Direction Essential 1-2b* (“Know-It-All”—answers)\*
- Direction Essential 1-3* (“Life Lessons”)\*
- Direction Essential 1-4* (“A Proper Response”)\*
- Direction Essential 1-5* (“Omniscience”)\*
- Direction Essential 1-6* (“What’s Up?”)\*
- Small plastic bottles or old perfume bottles (Respond)

\*All are from *Direction Teaching Essentials*—call 800-877-7030 or an affiliate bookstore to order

**WHAT IT’S ALL ABOUT**

To help students understand God knows all things

**INSPIRATION FOR TEACHERS**

Ah, young teens! Don’t you just love everything about them? What? You think they are loud and immature? Well, of course they are! That is the way God made them! As you begin this new quarter, take a fresh look at your students. Try to see them the way God sees them. He doesn’t look at the external. He sees what is on the inside: their hearts. He sees their insecurities, their need to feel accepted, and their desire to “fit in.” God recognizes that they transition from hyperactive to apathetic several times throughout the day.

He also knows, however, that your students are at a critical juncture in their lives. They are trying to figure out who they are and what their purpose is. Because of their unique struggles, young teens, possibly more than any other group, need the guidance of strong role models. They need men and women in their lives who will love them unconditionally. That is where you enter the picture. You are that role model; God chose you! Before you teach this week’s lesson, pray that God will conform you into an example worth following.

**THE CLEAR VIEW**

- CONNECT:** Decide what you’d like to have an endless supply of or find out who the know-it-all is
- LEARN:** Identify ways Christ used His omniscience
- EXPLORE:** Understand life lessons we can learn from Christ’s crucifixion
- APPLY:** Realize what it means for God to have knowledge of all things
- RESPOND:** Identify a way to worship God extravagantly

**Option 1:** Ask your students to consider something of which they would like to have an endless supply. They should not answer the question aloud; instead, ask them to draw a picture of it or act it out until their classmates correctly guess what it is. After everyone has shared and discussed the things they would like to have an endless supply of, transition to Learn by saying something like the following: *If we asked that question to people in the world today, most would probably wish to have an endless supply of money. It is a commonly held belief that money solves all of life's problems. Although money can be very useful, there is something even better than material wealth: knowledge. In today's lesson, we will learn about God's omniscience, which is His complete knowledge of everything that has happened in the past, what is happening now, and everything that will happen in the future.*



TE 1-2a



TE 1-2b

**Option 2:** Distribute copies of *Direction Essential* 1-2a (“Know-It-All”) and writing utensils. Give students a few minutes to try and answer the nine questions that deal with meaningless facts. When everyone has finished, reveal the correct answers, which are provided on *Direction Essential* 1-2b (“Know-It-All”—answers). Have students determine how many questions they answered correctly. Give the title “Know-it-all” to the student who answered the most correctly. If no student answered any correctly, explain that no one can know everything—that is, no human can know everything. Transition to Learn by saying something like the following: *Don't be discouraged if you didn't know the answers to many of these questions; they concerned useless facts. Yet, there is one who knows everything. In today's lesson, we will learn about God's omniscience, which is His complete knowledge of everything that has happened in the past, what is happening now, and everything that will happen in the future. He truly is the one and only “Know-it-all.”*

## LEARN

### CHECKUP

Before you teach this lesson, be sure each student has a copy of the new *Direction* student magazine (December-February). Encourage your students to complete the devotions for Week 1 during the upcoming week. These devotions are meant to further their understanding of today's lesson and help them be prepared for the next lesson. Don't forget to ask your students about their devotions during the previous week.

### STUDENT LINK

In the Respond section of the previous lesson (Fall 2009, Lesson 13), students were challenged to strike up spiritual conversations and discussions with friends and people they know. Their goal was to listen to others to find out what makes them who they are. Find out what your students learned about the people they talked to and how that knowledge might open a door to share God's message of salvation.

One of the most significant character traits of Jesus is His omniscience. It is difficult for the human mind to conceive that a person can know all things; however, it should also be an encouragement to know that God knows everything that has happened and will happen. Because of Christ's omniscience, He could teach the disciples about the crucifixion and true worship as well as realize one of His inner circle members would reject Him. From this, we can learn to live and worship.

### Jesus Used Foreknowledge to Teach About the Crucifixion (Matthew 26:1-5)

Matthew 26 opens after Jesus had been teaching parables relating to His return and the final judgment (verse 1). He reminded His disciples it was only two days until the Passover, the time when He would be handed over to be crucified (verse 2).

The high priest at that time was Caiaphas, and according to verse 3, he and the others priests and elders met together in his palace for an important discussion. They plotted to arrest Jesus and discover a creative way to have Him killed (verse 4). Apparently, there was some discussion about when to carry out the plan. The men determined they should not arrest Jesus during Passover because the people might riot against them (verse 5).

Because of Jesus' omniscience, He was fully aware of what would happen to Him. He knew when and how He would die, and He wanted to make sure His disciples knew what was coming as well. He did not want them to be taken by surprise and left wondering. Instead, He chose to teach them about not only *what* would happen, but also *why* it needed to happen. There was a purpose for Jesus' death, and He desired to help His followers understand that purpose.

### **Jesus Used Foreknowledge to Teach About True Worship (Matthew 26:6-13)**

Jesus visited His friends in Bethany and spent time in the home of Simon the Leper (verse 6). While there, a woman, came to Him and poured expensive perfume from an alabaster jar on His head as He was reclining at a table (verse 7). When the disciples saw this they were furious (verse 8). They were angry because they thought the woman's act was wasteful. Since the perfume was worth a lot of money, they thought it could have been sold to feed the poor instead of being used in a careless way (verse 9).

Jesus knew what they were saying and thinking and spoke to them about it. He questioned them as to why they were upset with the woman and the beautiful thing she had done (verse 10). Jesus told them there would always be poor people to help, but He would not be on earth forever (verse 11). The perfume was an act of love. She had poured the perfume as a preparation for His burial (verse 12).

It may seem odd that Jesus reprimanded the disciples for wanting to help the poor, but it is important to realize He was not implying we should neglect the poor. He simply wanted to ensure the disciples' priorities were in place. God wants us to help the poor in His name, but if we miss the point of giving Him heartfelt worship when we do these things, then all of it will be worthless. Our motive in worshiping God should not be a desire to be seen and recognized by others; we should worship God because we love Him.

Jesus noted that any time the gospel was preached throughout the world, people would hear of the wonderful act of worship performed by this woman (verse 13). These words of Jesus proved to be true. Everyone who has the Bible today knows the story about the woman who poured the expensive perfume on her Savior's head. Just as Jesus used this instance to instruct His disciples, He still uses it to teach us about true worship today.

### **Jesus Had Foreknowledge That He Would Be Rejected (Matthew 26:14-16)**

As the day of His death approached, not only did Jesus know all of the events that would happen, He also knew who would be responsible for setting them in motion. Verse 14 relates that one of Jesus' very own disciples went to the chief priests with a plan. The disciple was Judas Iscariot, and he asked the priests a devastating question. He wanted to know what they would give him if he delivered Jesus to them (verse 15). Judas and the priests struck a deal. Judas agreed to betray his Master for a mere 30 pieces of silver. Once the deal had been made, Judas looked for the perfect opportunity to have Jesus arrested (verse 16).

Although it is easy to become angry with Judas for his flagrant betrayal of the man he claimed to love, it is helpful to realize this was not a surprise to Jesus. He knew not only that He would be arrested, but also who would betray Him and why. Even though He knew Judas would turn Him in, He continued to



TE 1-1

Be sure to display *Direction Essential* 1-1 ("When Divinity Meets Depravity") somewhere in your classroom. This unit poster illustrates the quarter's theme and is designed to remain on display throughout the quarter.

#### **STUDENT LINK**

On Monday in the upcoming week's 6-Day Bible Study in *Direction* student magazine, students will study more about God's omniscience. Ask students if they consider it a good thing or a bad thing that God knows everything about them. Why does this bother some people?

# EXPLORE

love him unconditionally. Jesus knew the only way for us to receive salvation was through His death on the cross, and He was willing to pay the price. Judas was a small piece of the puzzle, and regardless of his part in Christ’s death, Jesus loved him.



TE 1-3

The few days leading up to Christ’s death, along with His crucifixion, are often viewed in Christian circles as dark times. However, what came about because of His death provided more benefits than any human could have imagined—it provided life. It also helps to know that Jesus was aware of everything that would happen to Him. Take a few minutes to allow students to think about the crucifixion and what it means to them. Distribute pens or pencils, along with *Direction Essential* 1-3 (“Life Lessons”), and have students work in pairs or small groups to answer the questions from the first part of the essential. Give students several minutes to answer what happened, why it happened, and what it means to them. Once groups have finished, take a few minutes to discuss their answers. Try to let them take the lead and do most of the talking.

After each group has had a chance to share, try to summarize the responses before moving on to the next question. Most of your students are aware of what occurred prior to and during the crucifixion, but if their facts are not right, be sure to correct them politely. After talking about what happened, take some time to talk about why it happened. Remind students that Jesus had a choice; He could have called a host of angels down to deliver Him in the midst of the event. Instead, He *chose* to die for us.



TE 1-4

As students discuss why Christ chose to die, most will mention that it was so we could be forgiven. Christ died for our sins; He took our payment, and now He offers forgiveness to us each and every time we sin. There are other lessons to be learned from the crucifixion. One basic lesson is a life lesson. Christ’s death on the cross has much to say about how we should live. Have your students ever thought about that aspect of the crucifixion? Have they considered how they should respond to Christ’s sacrifice? In their small groups, have students discuss and answer the question on the second part of the handout.

After allowing a few minutes for students to list three actions Christians should take because of the crucifixion, bring the class back together to talk about their answers. Again, let each group share their thoughts. Then, take a few minutes to discuss the points listed on *Direction Essential* 1-4 (“A Proper Response”).

# APPLY

The woman who poured perfume on Jesus’ head provided us with an excellent example of worship. After considering what Jesus did for us on the cross (and understanding He did it knowingly), we certainly should recognize He deserves honor and praise. Ask your students to name the characteristic of God that has been discussed in today’s lesson (omniscience). To help them put God’s omniscience into perspective, take a few minutes to talk about some people who are really smart. Ask your students to name the smartest person they know. Have them describe that person and explain why he or she is considered to have such a great mind.

Consider telling your students about Christopher Langan. According to the media, he is actually “the smartest man in America.” His IQ is reported as being somewhere between 195 and 210. He has been in magazines and on television shows because of his undeniable brainpower. When he was four years old, he

taught himself to read. Later in life, he taught himself physics, philosophy, Latin, and Greek. He made a perfect score on the SAT. Humanly speaking, the man is bright, to say the least.

Even though Christopher Langan is considered to be a genius, he does not know everything. He cannot tell us how many stars are in the sky or how many grains of sand are on a beach. People all over the world might respect and revere him for the amount of knowledge he has, but we know someone who is even more knowledgeable than this man.

God knows every answer to every question. He even knows all of the questions—questions that puzzle you and me, and questions that puzzle Christopher Langan. God knows how many hairs we have on our heads, and He knows when each one will fall out. God knows it all. It is difficult for us to even begin to imagine the extent of God's knowledge, but we can be sure there is no limit to what He knows.

Display *Direction Essential* 1-5 ("Omniscience"). Read the verse referenced on the poster (Job 38:4). Ask, *According to this verse, how insignificant is our knowledge when compared to God's?* If time allows, consider having a volunteer read Job 38:1-30 while the rest of the students follow along in their Bibles. As the passage is read, have students list the areas in which God's knowledge far exceeds our own. Write their answers on the board. When you have finished, your list should be fairly long, demonstrating that we are ignorant about many things that are no mystery to God.

How can we demonstrate honor and respect to the One who died for us in spite of our sins and knows everything there is to know? The best and most adequate way is through worship. God wants us to worship Him, and what is more, we should *want* to worship Him. It is exciting to realize we can have one-on-one time with the God of endless knowledge who is never surprised.

There has never been a more extravagant expression of love than when Jesus was crucified on the cross for our sins. He desires that we believe in Him, love Him, and surrender our lives to Him. When we truly worship Christ with our lives, it is likely we will be considered crazy, foolish, strange, over the top, extravagant, or even uncool. This is what happened when the woman expressed her love for Jesus in the best way she knew how. Yet, in light of eternity, it is the opinion of Christ, not others, that matters.

Ask students to think of an extravagant way they can express their love for Christ. It could be something they do for Him, something they give to Him, or something they give up for Him. It may not be something that will cause them to receive praise from others; that should never be the goal of worship. Remind students God desires true worship from His followers. Have students write down their act of worship on a piece of paper, fold the paper, and place it in a small plastic bottle or an old perfume bottle. Encourage them to place this bottle in a place where they will see it every day so it will challenge them to worship God extravagantly.

Close by having silent prayer. Encourage the students to pray, acknowledging the power of God and worshiping Him for who He is. Tell them to spend this time in worshipful prayer rather than presenting their needs and wants to God.



TE 1-5

## RESPOND

Encourage your students to complete this week's daily devotions in *Direction* magazine. The devotions are designed to reinforce and apply the principles you teach in class.



TE 1-6

*Direction Essential* 1-6 ("What's Up?") is a two-page parents' newsletter. Photocopy it front and back on a single sheet of colored paper, add your own note, and mail or hand-deliver it to your students' parents. This is a great tool for ministering to parents by helping them do the hard job of parenting a teen.