

FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT WITH ALL THY MIGHT Worksheet

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Verse 1

Fight the good fight with all thy might;
Christ is thy Strength, and Christ thy Right;
Lay hold on life, and it shall be
Thy joy and crown eternally.

Verse 2

Run the straight race through God's good grace,
Lift up thine eyes, and seek His face;
Life with its way before us lies,
Christ is the Path, and Christ the Prize.

Verse 3

Cast care aside, upon thy Guide,
Lean, and His mercy will provide;
Lean, and the trusting soul shall prove
Christ is its Life, and Christ its Love.

Verse 4

Faint not nor fear, His arms are near,
He changeth not, and thou art dear.
Only believe, and thou shalt see
That Christ is all in all to thee.

Vocabulary In one or two words define the following terms from the poem.

Verse 1: eternally

Verse 2: thine

Verse 3: Cast

Verse 4: art, dear

Word Pictures Word pictures is another way of saying *imagery*. *Imagery* or *figurative language* helps us form a picture of what the author is trying to present. Discuss what these word pictures mean and, perhaps, draw your idea of the *imagery* or *figurative language* the author uses!

Verse 1: Fight the good fight, lay hold on life

Verse 2: Run the straight race, Lift up thine eyes, seek His face, Christ is the Path

Verse 3: cast care aside

Verse 4: faint not

Mechanics Verbally discuss

Who is the speaker?

What does the poem reveal about the speaker's character?

Is the speaker addressing someone in particular or is it to anyone?

Does the poem have a setting?

Is the poem about a particular event? Is the event past or present? If it is about a past event, does the remembrance of the event have a particular meaning to the speaker?

Is the theme of the poem stated directly or indirectly?

What point of view or perspective is the speaker?

How did you respond to the poem when you read it the first time?

Comprehension Questions Verbally discuss

Verse 1

The old-fashioned term *muscular Christianity* comes to mind with the first line of this verse, “Fight the good fight with all thy might.” Why do you think this is so?

What is the source of the strength and right according to the author? Why?

Explain the phrase, “Lay hold on life.”

According to the author, what will attend the reader if they follow his recommendations?

Verse 2

When you think of a race, what is the first thought that comes to mind? Why do you think the author used that word picture?

To “cast down” one’s eyes in literature frequently means to be very sad, disheartened and ashamed. What do you think “lift up thine eyes” means? Why do you think the author uses this phrase?

According to the author, who or what is the “Path” and the “Prize”?

Verse 3

What does the author tell the reader to do in the first line of this verse? Why?

According to the author, who or what is “Life” and “Love”? Do you agree/disagree? Why?

Verse 4

What should the reader not do in the first line according to the author? Why?

Who or what “changeth not”? Do you agree/disagree? Why?

What does the author admonish the reader to do in the third line of this verse?

What Does the Bible Say?

Find Scripture proofs for each of the assertions or statements made for each of the five verses and the refrain.

The author mentions “love.” How does the Bible define love? For Scripture verses help, check out this internet web page at <http://www.lovetolearnplace.com/SpecialDays/Valentines/Bible.html>

Discuss this poem in relation to 1 Timothy 6:12, “Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.”

The Author/Poet

Based on what you have studied about this poem so far, would you guess that the author was a Christian or a humanist? How did you arrive at your decision?

The author’s name for this poem or lyric is John Samuel Bewley Monsell (1811-1875). He was born 2 March 1811, at St Columb’s, Londonderry, Ireland, and died on 9 April 1875, in Guilford, Surrey, England. This poem first appeared *Hymns of Love and Praise for the Church’s Year*, 1863. Mr. Monsell’s father was archdeacon of Londonderry, Ireland. Hearing the call to the ministry, he attended Trinity College in Dublin and was ordained in 1834. From the 11 volumes of poetry Monsell published almost 300 were hymns. Samuel Monsell fell from the roof of the church as it was being rebuilt.

Geography

Locate Ireland and England on a globe, map and atlas.

Challenge Locate Londonderry, Ireland, and Guilford, Surrey, England on a map or in an atlas.

Compare/contrast the weather with these areas and your own for one week.

Make a meal from England or Ireland to serve your family.

Activities

- 1) Read about Samson, David, Gideon, Paul and other historical figures in the Bible that fought the good fight.
- 2) Make your own book! Without making an image of Christ, draw pictures representing each verse. (Note: that will be four different illustrations). With construction paper and other items readily available at home, make a title page with the name of the song and the author's name which will be your book's cover. You may want to illustrate your cover and include the poem for your book.
- 3) Make your own play! Re-enact with your siblings or friends the message discussed in this poem. You may want to do this from an historical perspective (e.g., interviewing Alfred the Great, Charlemagne, Oliver Cromwell, Gideon, Patrick Henry, Sir Francis Drake, the Pilgrims, the Western Settlers, WWI / WWII soldiers, etc.) Keep it lively, simple, and short. You may want to end your play with singing a rousing chorus of this poem or reading Scripture verses. Videotape your creation.
- 4) Radio Drama! With a handheld tape recorder, create your own radio show dramatizing the historical event this poem reported.
- 5) Be a Detective! Either with your family camcorder or with a handheld tape recorder, "interview" various individuals that have fought the good fight (e.g., relatives, friends, Robert E. Lee, John Whitterspoon, explorers, theologians, etc.). In order to have the fast paced style of a reporter, watch and/or listen to the news with your parents' permission. Keep the interviews lively, quick, and to the point.

Remain objective! Being objective means just reporting the facts and not giving your opinion of the situation.
- 6) What is one of the things you most enjoy? Is it literature? math? science? sports? cooking? Take that area of interest and relate that to this poem. If you enjoy dance, for example, develop a dance routine that physically expresses the sentiments of this poem. If you enjoy shop, create something out of wood that helps to clarify this poem. Do you enjoy creating stories? Write a story based on any time period you desire that expresses the sentiments of this poem. Do you enjoy creating things in the kitchen? Make an ancient meal from this time or develop your own meal that symbolizes the many different points this poem makes.

7) Design a Poster! Either draw pictures or paste pictures from magazines on to a poster that illustrates fighting the good fight with all thy might.

8) Scavenger Hunt. Go to the library and learn what you can about John Samuel Bewley Monsell and share it with your family. If possible, discover the story behind this poem.