

Never Give Up Worksheet

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Verse 1

Never be sad or desponding,
If thou hast faith to believe.
Grace, for the duties before thee,
Ask of thy God and receive.

Refrain

Never give up, never give up,
Never give up to thy sorrows,
Jesus will bid them depart.
Trust in the Lord, trust in the Lord,
Sing when your trials are greatest,
Trust in the Lord and take heart.

Verse 2

What if thy burdens oppress thee;
What though thy life may be drear;
Look on the side that is brightest,
Pray, and thy path will be clear.

Vocabulary

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

Verse 1: desponding, thou, hast, grace, duties, thy

Refrain: Refrain, bid, sorrows, depart, trials

Verse 2: burdens, oppress, thee, drear

Verse 3: morrow, dwell

Verse 4: mercy

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!

Refrain: bid them depart, take heart

Verse 2: burdens oppress, path ... clear

Verse 4: Lean on the arm

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?

Refrain

Verse 3

Never be sad or desponding,
There is a morrow for thee;
Soon thou shalt dwell in its brightness,
There with the Lord thou shalt be.

Refrain

Verse 4

Never be sad or desponding,
Lean on the arm of thy Lord;
Dwell in the depths of His mercy,
Thou shalt receive thy reward.

Refrain

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: What does the author say never to do in the first line? Do you agree/disagree? Why? Did you notice the terms “hast,” “thou,” and “thee”? What do they mean and why do you think the author chose these particular words? What does the author recommend in the last line? Do you agree/disagree? Why?

Refrain: What does the author say to never give in to? Who will force them to go? Who does the author recommend the reader trust? What does the author say to do when the reader’s trials are the greatest? Do you agree/disagree? Why?

Verse 2: Explain and discuss “What if thy burdens oppress thee.” What does the author recommend the reader to do in the last two lines? Do you agree/disagree? Why?

Verse 3: Again, the author repeats the first line from the first verse. Why do you think the author did that? Explain and discuss “There is a morrow for thee.”

Verse 4: Again the author repeats the first line from the first verse. Why do you think the author did that? What does the author recommend the reader do in the second and third lines?

After reading this poem, what character traits did you think of? What does the Bible have to say about these character traits?

What Does the Bible Say?

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

Discuss the message of this poem in light of James 1:2-3, “My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.”

What does the Bible have to say about perseverance? Give Biblical examples of those demonstrating perseverance. Give historical examples, past and present, of those role modelling perseverance.

What is the opposite of perseverance? Give Biblical examples and historical examples of same.

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?

This poem or lyric was written by Frances Jane (Fanny) Crosby (1820-1915). She was born 24 March 1820, in Putnam County, New York, and died 12 February 1915, in Bridgeport, Connecticut. At six weeks, Fanny was blinded by an incompetent doctor, but that did not deter her from writing over 8000 Christian songs.

She wrote under many *pseudonyms* (e.g., Cora Adrienne, Fannie Jane Alstyne, A. E. Andrews, James Apple, Alice Armstrong, Rose Atherton, Carrie Bell, Catherine Bethune, James Black, James L Black, James M. Black, Henrietta Blair, Florence Booth, Charles Bruce, Robert Bruce, Charles Burns, Mary Carlston, Leah Carlton, Fannie Church, Eleanor Craddock, Lyman G. Culyer, Ella Dale, Flora Dayton, D.D., D.D.R., Ryan A. Dykes, Rian A. Dykes, James Eliot, Lizzie Edmonds, Lizzie Edwards, F.A.N., F.J.C, F.J.V.A., Fannie, Fanny, Mrs. Edna Forrest, Carrie Frances, Grace J. Frances, Lillian G. Frances, S. Trevor Frances, Victoria Frances, Jenny Garnet, Jennie Glen, Frank Gould, Mrs. Kate Grinley, G.W.W., Ruth Harmon, Carrie Hawthorn, Frances Hope, Frances Hops, Annie James, Mary James, Sarah James, J.F.O., J.W.W., Myra Judson, Martha Lankton, H.N. Lincoln, W. Robert Lindsay, L.L.A., Minnie B. Lowry, Maud Marion, S. Martin, Sallie Martin, Sam Martin, Laura Miller, A. Montieth, Alice Montieth, Edna L. Park, Mrs. L.C. Prentice, Mrs. Kate Smiling, Sallie A. Smith, Sallie E. Smith, Sally Smith, Sam Smith, J.L. Sterling, Julia Sterling, Ryan Sterling, Victoria Sterling, Victoria Stewart, Ida Scott Taylor, The Children's Friend, Louise W. Tilden, Mary Tilden, Jenny V., Mrs. Van A., Fannie Van Alstyne, Fannie Jane Van Alstyne, Mrs. Van Alstyne, Mrs. Alexander Van Alstyne, Viola, Zemira Wallace, Carrie Wilson, Mrs. C.M. Wilson, ##, ###, '* , and ***).

Why do you think she wrote under so many *pseudonyms*?

Geography

Locate New York and Bridgeport (Connecticut) on a globe, map and atlas.

Challenge Locate Putnam County (New York) on a map or in an atlas.

Compare/contrast the weather of New York and/or Connecticut with your own for one week.

Make a meal from either New York or Connecticut for your family.

Activities

1) Make your own book! Without making an image of Christ, draw pictures representing each verse. (Note: that will be four different illustrations plus the refrain). 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 this poem in your book.

2) Make your own play! Re-enact with your siblings or friends the message discussed in this poem. 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.

3) Radio Drama! With a handheld tape recorder, create your own radio show dramatizing the message of this poem.

4) Be a Reporter! Either with your family camcorder or with a handheld tape recorder, “interview” various individuals that reflect the message of this poem (e.g., Founding Fathers, Charlemagne, Christopher Columbus, 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.

5) 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.

6) Poster. Create a poster illustrating the the author’s view of the impact of *Never Give Up!*

7) Scavenger Hunt. Go to the library to learn what you can about Frances Jane (Fanny) Crosby and share it with your family. If possible, discover the story behind this poem.