

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL Worksheet

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Verse 1

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Verse 2

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
Who orderest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go.

Refrain

Verse 3

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save,
And give them victory over the grave.

Refrain

Verse 4

O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

Refrain

Verse 5

O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.

Refrain

Verse 6

O come, O come, great Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times once gave the law
In cloud and majesty and awe.

Refrain

Verse 7

O come, Thou Root of Jesse's tree,
An ensign of Thy people be;
Before Thee rulers silent fall;
All peoples on Thy mercy call.

Refrain

Verse 8

O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace.

Refrain

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

Verse 1: Emmanuel, ransom, captive, mourns, exile

Refrain: rejoice

Verse 2: Thou, Wisdom

Verse 3: Rod of Jesse, tyranny, victory

Verse 4: Day-spring, Thine, advent, disperse

Verse 5: Key of David, misery

Verse 6: Thy, tribes, majesty, awe

Verse 7: Root of Jesse's tree, ensign, Thee, mercy

Verse 8: Desire of nations, bind, bid, divisions, Thyself, King of Peace

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 (without drawing any pictures of God)!

Verse 1: ransom captive Israel; mourns in lonely exile

Verse 2: Wisdom from on high; path of knowledge

Verse 3: Rod of Jesse; Satan's tyranny; depths of hell Thy people save; victory over the grave

Verse 4: come and cheer; Disperse the gloomy clouds of night; put to flight

Verse 5: Key of David; close the path to misery

Verse 6: tribes on Sinai's height

Verse 7: Root of Jesse's tree; rulers silent fall

Verse 8: Desire of nations; sad divisions cease

Mechanics are the nuts and bolts of a poem. Verbally discuss.

Who is the speaker? (Does the speaker have a specific personality or has the author remained in the background so the message of the poem will be more clear?)

What does the poem reveal about the speaker's character? (Sometimes, poems reveal nothing about the speaker's personal thoughts, feelings, or attitudes. Yet, the poem may demonstrate those character traits that are important to the author like courage, loyalty, perseverance, etc.)

Is the speaker addressing someone in particular or is it to anyone? (Sometimes poems are not directed to anyone in particular, but to anyone that may read it.)

Does the poem have a setting? (Does the author tell where the poem occurs? Is the poem about a specific event?)

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? (Some poems are straightforward and are meant to be taken literally. In songs, the theme may be presented in the refrain or in the last few lines. Sometimes the theme is a little bit more difficult to discern as it is made with figurative language or symbols.)

What point of view or perspective is the speaker? (What meaning do you think the poem has for the author?)

How did you respond to the poem when you read it the first time? (Did your thoughts and feelings change after you took time to study it?)

Comprehension Questions Verbally discuss

Verse 1: Why does the author use the term “Emmanuel”? What does this mean? Explain and discuss: “ransom captive Israel.” How will the Son of God’s appearance stop captivity and pay the ransom?

Refrain: Why should we “rejoice”? Who shall come?

Verse 2: Who is “Thou Wisdom from on high”? Did you notice the terms “Thou” and “Widom” were capitalized? Why? Why do you think the author opted to use the term “Thou”? Explain and discuss: “Who orderest all things mightily” The author makes reference to the “path of knowledge.” What does this mean? Since God created all things, how will math, science, literature, music, art, civics, and all things lead to the “path of knowledge”? Relate same to 2 Corinthians 10:5. Explain and discuss: “teach us in her ways to go.” Relate same to Matthew 28: 19-20.

Verse 3: Why do you think the author used the phrase “Rod of Jesse”? What does this mean? Why do you think the author used the term “Thine”? Why is it capitalized? What is meant by “Satan’s tyranny”? Can you think of any examples of this? From what are “Thy people” being saved? What does the author mean by “victory over the grave”?

Verse 4: What does “Day-spring” mean and why is it capitalized? Why should we “come and cheer”? What, according to the author, “Disperse[s] the gloomy clouds of night”? Do you agree/disagree with the author? Why? Give Scriptural proofs for your stance. Explain and discuss: “death’s dark shadows put to flight.”

Verse 5: Explain “Key of David.” Why do you think the author used this phrase? Explain and discuss: “Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to misery.” To Whom does the author make this request?

Verse 6: Explain and discuss the phrase: “great Lord of might.” Why do you think the author used this phrase? To what historical event is the author referring to with respect to the Law on Sinai’s height? When was the Law given? Explain and discuss: “In cloud and majesty and awe.”

Verse 7: Why do you think the author used the phrase “Root of Jesse’s tree”? What does it mean? Explain and discuss: “ensign of Thy people be.” Did you notice the use of the term “Thee”? Why do you think the author opted to use this term? Why is it capitalized? Why should rulers fall silent? Explain and discuss: “All peoples on Thy mercy call.”

Verse 8: To what or to Whom does “Desire of nations” refer to? What should “cease”? Why? Did you notice the use of the term “Thyself”? Why do you think the author used that word and why is it capitalized? Explain and discuss: “Thyself our King of Peace.” Why are the various words capitalized?

Did this historical event or message become more real to you after reading this poem? Why? 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 eight verses and the refrain.

Re-read the Gospel accounts of the Nativity along with Isaiah 53.

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 name of this 9th century poem is unknown. However, John Mason Neale (1818-1866) translated this poem from Latin to English in the publication entitled *Mediaeval Hymns* in 1851. Neale translated many ancient and medieval hymns. He was born in London, England.

Geography

Locate England on a globe, map and atlas.

Challenge Locate London on a map or in an atlas.

Compare/contrast weather from England with your own for one week.

Make an English meal for your family.

Activities

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

2) Make your own play! Re-enact with your siblings or friends the event or 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 historical event or message of this poem.

4) Be a Reporter! Either with your family camcorder or with a handheld tape recorder, "interview" various individuals connected with this poem (e.g., shepherds, Lady Rebecca (aka Pocohontas), John Calvin, Martha Washington, Mary, repentant sinner, 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 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*.
- 7) Scavenger Hunt. Go to the library to learn what you can about John Mason Neale (1818-1866) and share it with your family. If possible, discover the story behind this poem.