

## Amidst Us Our Beloved Stands Worksheet

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### *Verse 1*

Amidst us our Belovèd stands,  
And bids us view His piercèd hands;  
Points to the wounded feet and side,  
Blest emblems of the Crucified.

### *Verse 2*

What food luxurious loads the board,  
When at His table sits the Lord!  
The wine how rich, the bread how sweet,  
When Jesus deigns the guests to meet!

### *Verse 3*

If now, with eyes defiled and dim,  
We see the signs, but see not Him;  
O may His love the scales displace,  
And bid us see Him face to face!

### *Verse 4*

O glorious Bridegroom of our hearts,  
Your present smile a heav'n imparts!  
O lift the veil, if veil there be,  
Let every saint Your glory see!

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

*Verse 1:* Amidst, Belovèd, bids, piercèd, blest, emblems, crucified

*Verse 2:* luxurrious, deigns

*Verse 3:* defiled, dim, displace

*Verse 4:* Bridegroom, heav'n, imparts, veil, saint

**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, without drawing a picture of Christ, draw your idea of the *imagery* or *figurative language* the author uses!

*Verse 1:* blest emblems

*Verse 2:* food luxurrious

*Verse 3:* eyes defiled and dim

*Verse 4:* Bridegroom of our hearts, lift the veil

**Mechanics** 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, perserverance, 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.)  
How did you respond to the poem when you read it the first time?

***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:* Who do you think “our Belovèd” is? Why do you think the author put an accent on the second “e” in “Belovèd”? Why would the hands be “piercèd”? Why do you think the author put an accent on the second “e” in “piercèd”? Why were the feet and side wounded? Why do you think the author referred to these wounds as “blessed emblems”?

*Verse 2:* Explain and discuss: “What food luxurious loads the board.” Why would the wine be richer and the bread be sweeter in His presence? Explain: “Jesus deigns the guests to meet”?

*Verse 3:* What are defiled and dim? Explain and discuss: “O may His love the scales displace, And bid us see Him face to face!”

*Verse 4:* Who is the Bridegroom and why is it capitalized? Explain and discuss: “O lift the veil, if veil there be, Let every saint Your glory see!”

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.

Discuss this poem in light of the following verses.

Matthew 22:37 " ... Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind."

Luke 10:27 "... Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind."

Deuteronomy 6:5 "And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might."

Mark 12:30 "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength ..."

Identify Biblical characters that loved God keeping the previous Bible verses in mind. Can you think of anyone else in history that demonstrated this type of love? What will you tell your grandchildren about honor and loving God? How will you encourage your grandchildren to honor and love God?

### **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 the author for this poem or lyric is Charles Haddon Spurgeon (1834-1892). He was born 19 June 1834 in Kelvedon, Essex, England, and died 31 January 1892 in Montone, France. Spurgeon was one of the best known preachers of the 19th century. His work still influences Christian believers today.

### **Geography**

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

*Challenge* Locate Essex (England) and Montone (France) on a map or in an atlas.

Compare/contrast England's weather 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 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 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 this poem could illustrate (e.g., family members, Alfred the Great, George Mason, Ruth and Esther in the Bible, 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 *Amidst Us Our Beloved Stands*.

7) Scavenger Hunt. Go to the library to learn what you can about Charles Haddon Spurgeon (1834-1892) and share it with your family. If possible, discover the story behind this poem.