

I Know My Redeemer Lives Worksheet
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Verse 1

I know that my Redeemer lives,
And ever prays for me;
A token of His love He gives,
A pledge of liberty.

Verse 2

I find Him lifting up my head,
He brings salvation near,
His presence makes me free indeed,
And He will soon appear.

Verse 3

He wills that I should holy be,
What can withstand His will?
The counsel of His grace in me
He surely shall fulfill.

Verse 4

Jesus, I hang upon Thy Word;
I steadfastly believe
Thou wilt return and claim me, Lord
And to Thyself receive,

Verse 5

Joyful in hope, my spirit soars
To meet Thee from above,
Thy goodness thankfully adores;
And sure I taste Thy love.

Verse 6

Thy love I soon expect to find,
In all its depth and height;
To comprehend the eternal mind,
And grasp the Infinite.

Verse 7

When God is Mine and I am His,
Of paradise possessed,
I taste unutterable bliss,
And everlasting rest.

Verse 8

The bliss of those that fully dwell,
Fully in Thee believe,
'Tis more than angel tongues can tell,
Or angel minds conceive.

Verse 9

Thou only knowst, Who didst obtain,
And die to make it known;
The great salvation now explain,
And perfect us in one!

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

Verse 1: Redeemer, token, pledge, liberty

Verse 2: salvation

Verse 3: holy, withstand

Verse 4: Thy, steadfastly, Thou, Thyself

Verse 5: Thee, adores

Verse 6: comprehend, eternal, Infinite

Verse 7: paradise, possessed, unutterable, bliss, everlasting

Verse 8: dwell, 'Tis, conceive

Verse 9: knowst, didst, obtain

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: pledge of liberty

Verse 2: lifting up my head

Verse 3: I should holy be

Verse 4: steadfastly believe

Verse 5: my spirit soars

Verse 6: Thy love I soon expect to find

Verse 7: paradise possessed, unutterable bliss

Verse 8: more than angel tongues can tell

Verse 9: great salvation now explain

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, 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.)

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: What does the author know in the first line? What does the Redeemer do for the author? Explain and discuss: “A token of His love He gives, A pledge of liberty.”

Verse 2: What does He bring to the author? Explain and discuss: “His presence makes me free indeed.” How can His very presence bring freedom?

Verse 3: What should the author be (first line)? The author states, “What can withstand His will?” What does this mean? Explain and discuss: “The counsel of His grace in me, He surely shall fulfill.”

Verse 4: Why do you think the author used the terms “Thy” and “Thyself.” Why is Word capitalized and what does it stand for? Explain and discuss: “Thou wilt return and claim me.”

Verse 5: What causes the author to be joyful (see line 1)? Why do you think the author used the terms “Thee” and “Thy”? What does the author adore?

Verse 6: What does the author expect to find?

Verse 7: Explain and discuss: “When God is Mine and I am His.” What does the author mean by tasting “unutterable bliss”?

Verse 8: Why do you think the author used the term “’Tis”?

Verse 9: Why do you think the author used the terms “knowst” and “didst”? What is the author’s message in this verse? Why is this important?

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 nine verses.

Discuss this poem in light of ...

Psalm 47:7, 8 ... For God is the King of all the earth: sing ye praises with understanding.
God reigneth over the heathen: God sitteth upon the throne of His holiness.

Proverbs 21:1 ... The king’s heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of waters: He turneth it whithersoever He will.

John 15:16a ... Ye have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you ...

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>

What does the Bible have to say about joy? What does the Bible have to say about being cheerful? Give older and newer testament examples of those that experienced joy and were cheerful. Site historical examples of joy and cheerful individuals. Give current examples of joy and cheerfulness. How is joy related to being cheerful? What will you tell your grandchildren about being joyful and cheerful? How will you encourage your grandchildren in these character traits? Would you rather be around someone that has joy and is cheerful or around someone that chronically says “I can’t” or complains, etc.?

What does the Bible say about complainers, murmurers and those that say “I can’t”? What will you tell your grandchildren about being complainers, murmurers and those that say “I can’t”? How will you encourage your grandchildren not to have these non-God honoring character traits?

The Author/Poet

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

The author’s name for this poem or lyric is Charles Wesley (1707-1788). He was born on 28 December 1707 in Epworth, Lincolnshire, England. He died on 29 March 1788, London, England, and was buried at Marylebone Parish Church, London. It is estimated that he wrote over 6000 Christian songs or hymns in his lifetime (possibly more). *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* first appeared in *Hymns and Sacred Poems*, 1739.

Geography

Locate Bethlehem, London, and England on a globe, map and atlas.

Challenge Can you find Epworth or Lincolnshire 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 Bethlehem 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 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, William Marshall, Patrick Henry, St. Patrick, Esther and Ruth of the Bible, Joshua and Caleb 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 *I Know My Redeemer Lives*.

7) Scavenger Hunt. Go to the library to learn what you can about Charles Wesley (1707-1788) and share it with your family. If possible, discover the story behind this poem.