

Rise, Ye Children of Salvation Worksheet

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Verse 1

Rise, ye children of salvation,
All who cleave to Christ the Head;
Wake, awake, O mighty nation,
Ere the foe on Zion tread;
He draws nigh, and would defy
All the hosts of God most high.

Verse 2

Saints and martyrs long before us
Firmly on this ground have stood;
See their banner waving o'er us,
Conquerors through the Savior's blood.
Ground we hold, whereon of old,
Fought the faithful and the bold.

Verse 3

Fighting, we shall be victorious
By the blood of Christ our Lord;
On our foreheads, bright and glorious,
Shines the witness of His Word;
Spear and shield on battlefield,
His great Name; we cannot yield.

Verse 4

When His servants stand before Him
Each receiving his reward,
When His saints in light adore Him,
Giving glory to the Lord;
"Victory!" our song shall be
Like the thunder of the sea.

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

Verse 1: ye, cleave, Ere, foe, Zion, tread, nigh, defy, hosts

Verse 2: saints, martyrs, o'er

Verse 3: witness, yield

Verse 4: adore

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: children of salvation, wake awake mighty nation

Verse 2: saints and martyrs, banner waving o'er us, conquerors, fought the faithful and the bold

Verse 3: we shall be victorious, spear and shield on battlefield, cannot yield

Verse 4: servants stand

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 is the phrase used for Christians in the first line? What are they told to do? To Whom do they “cleave”? What are Christians told to do in the second line? How are they described in the second line (last word)? Have you ever thought of Christians in this manner before? Who is the foe of Zion? What are they attempting to do?

Verse 2: What have saints and martyrs done (line two)? What is waving? How are Christians that came before us termed (first word, fourth line)? Explain and discuss: “Ground we hold, whereon of old, Fought the faithful and the bold.”

Verse 3: Explain and discuss: “Fighting, we shall be victorious, By the blood of Christ our Lord.” What shall be on the forehead of a Christian? What will not be yielded on the battlefield?

Verse 4: How are Christians described in the first line? What will they receive? What will the saints or Christians do? Explain and discuss: ““Victory!” our song shall be, Like the thunder of the sea.”

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.

Caleb (Num 13:30), Joshua (Josh 1:1-11), Jonathan (1 Sam 14:1,6-14), and Daniel (Dan 6:1-28) all seem to take courage seriously. Courage is doing what is right even though one is afraid. Give examples of other individuals in the Bible that demonstrated courage. Give historical examples of courage. After reading the newspaper, listening to the news on radio, or watching the news, can you think of any examples of courage presently? What will you tell your grandchildren about courage? How will you encourage your grandchildren in this character trait?

Discuss this in light of 1 Corinthians 16:13, “Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.”

Relate the message of this poem to education with respect to 2 Corinthians 10:5, “Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.” Do the same for other areas of human activity (e.g., civics, finances, the arts, dance, sports, etc.). Are all these areas equally important to a Christian?

Discuss this poem in light of ...

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 ..."

Continue discussing this poem with respect to ...

Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and ye perish from the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in Him. Psalm 2:11,12

Psalm 53:1 ... The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. Corrupt are they, and have done abominable iniquity: there is none that doeth good.

Psalm 2:1-5 ... Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against His anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: they Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall He speak unto them in His wrath, and vex them in His sore displeasure.

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 Justus Falckner (1672-1723). This son of a Lutheran minister and first ordained Lutheran minister in America was born 22 November 1672 in Langenreinsdorf, Crimmitschau, Zwickau, Sachsen (Saxony), and died 1723 in Newburgh, New York.

Geography

Locate New York on a globe, map and atlas.

Challenge Locate Saxony on a map or in an atlas.

Compare/contrast England's and or Germany's weather with your own for one week.

Make an American and/or German 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, farmers, soldiers, tool makers, designers, architects, homemakers, 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 *Rise, Ye Children of Salvation*.

7) Scavenger Hunt. Go to the library to learn what you can about Justus Falckner (1672-1723) and share it with your family. If possible, discover the story behind this poem.