

## Happy the Home When God is There Worksheet

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### *Verse 1*

Happy the home when God is there,  
And love fills every breast;  
When one their wish, and one their prayer,  
And one their heavenly rest.

### *Verse 2*

Happy the home where Jesus' Name  
Is sweet to every ear;  
Where children early speak His fame,  
And parents hold Him dear.

### *Verse 3*

Happy the home where prayer is heard,  
And praise each day does rise;  
Where parents love the sacred Word  
And all its wisdom prize.

### *Verse 4*

Lord, let us in our homes agree  
This blessed peace to gain;  
Unite our hearts in love to Thee,  
And love to all will reign.

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

*Verse 2:* prayer

*Verse 2:* fame

*Verse 3:* sacred, wisdom

*Verse 4:* blessed, unite, Thee, reign

**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:* one wish, one ... prayer, one heavenly rest

*Verse 2:* sweet to every ear, children early speak His fame, parents hold Him dear

*Verse 3:* the sacred Word

*Verse 4:* in our homes agree, unite our hearts

**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:*** How is a happy home defined in line one? Do you agree / disagree? why? Explain and discuss: "When one their wish, and one their prayer, And one their heavenly rest."

***Verse 2:*** What Name is sweet to every ear in a happy home? Why this particular Name? Why is Name capitalized? According to the author, when should children learn about this name (line three)? How do parents respond to this Name?

***Verse 3:*** What is heard in a happy home? Do you agree/disagree? Why? Explain and discuss: "Where parents love the sacred Word, And all its wisdom prize." Why is Word capitalized?

***Verse 4:*** What is asked in the first line? What is gained in a happy home (line two)? Explain and discuss: "Unite our hearts in love to Thee, And love to all will reign." Why do you think the author used the term "Thee"?

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.

What does the Bible say about love? Identify Biblical characters that were demonstrated love. Can you think of anyone else in history that demonstrated this character trait in the Biblical sense? What will you tell your grandchildren about love? How will you encourage your grandchildren in this character trait? For more scriptural helps in learning what the Bible says about love, go to the internet page

<http://www.lovetolearnplace.com/SpecialDays/Valentines/Bible.html>

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 ..."

### **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 Henry Ware, Jr. (1794-1843). He was born 21 April 1794 in Hingham, Massachusetts, and died 25 September 1843 in Framingham, Massachusetts.

### **Geography**

Locate Massachusetts on a globe, map and atlas.

*Challenge* Locate Hingham and Framingham on a map or in an atlas.

Compare/contrast either Massachusetts' and/or New England's weather with your own for one week. Make a New England 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, Christian families, farmers, merchants, soldiers, sailors, ministers, heads of state, 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 *Happy the Home When God is There*.

7) Scavenger Hunt. Go to the library to learn what you can about Henry Ware, Jr. (1794-1843) and share it with your family. If possible, discover the story behind this poem.