



Self-Sufficient

MAIN IDEA

- **God does not need anything.**

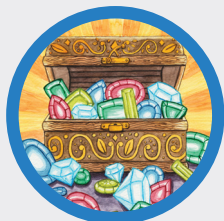
MEMORY VERSE

...nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.

—Acts 17:25

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Isaiah 44:24b
- 2) Acts 17:24-25



LESSON SUMMARY

In the previous lesson, the children learned that we need many things in order to exist. Ultimately, it is God who provides for these needs, giving us life and breath and everything else (Acts 17:25b). What then does God need? Absolutely nothing! He alone existed from all eternity, fully complete in Himself. When God revealed His name, Yahweh—"I AM WHO I AM"—it conveyed His self-sufficiency.

This lesson went deeper into the meaning of Acts 17:25 by emphasizing the first portion of the verse, "nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything," in order to emphasize God's self-sufficiency. The children were led to observe the following examples: God created all things by Himself—He didn't need helpers. God did not create people because He was lonely and needed our love. God does not need others in order to fulfill His purposes.

In this truth, there is great freedom. For those who trust in Christ, we can freely receive all of the benefits that flow from the self-sufficiency of God. We need not toil as if we need to "fill up" any deficiencies in God. His is an everlasting, never-exhausting fountain of life, who delights in supplying us life and breath and everything else.

PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *that God would use the truths in this lesson to help your child see his or her own insufficiency, and then humbly run to the One who has no needs.*
- *that the Lord would protect us from hearts that feel we need to "work for" God. Pray that we would find perfect rest in Him.*



AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Take a minute and quickly make list of things God does not need. **Should people be on that list? Would it be true that God does not need people? Did God exist before He created people? Yes.** He didn't need people in order to exist. **If God does not need anything, including us, why did He create everything?** [for His glory, to show His greatness and worth; to share the wonders of Himself with His creatures; especially people; etc.]

Note: If your child expresses the idea that God was lonely before He created people, explain that God is not like us—He is a Trinity.

Within the Trinity there was triune fellowship between God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit from all eternity.

- Do you think that some people feel like they must help God because He has needs? What might this look like in someone's life? Why is it good that God is self-sufficient? Will He ever "run out" and not be able to provide for His people? Will He ever need our strength in order to defeat His enemies? Will we ever need to comfort Him because He is sick or lonely? Lead your child in a time of prayers of praise and thanksgiving to God for His sufficiency.
- Recall some biblical examples in which God demonstrated His self-sufficiency in

accomplishing His plans. For example: taking down the walls of Jericho; defeating Pharaoh and parting the Red Sea; providing food and water for Israel in the wilderness; etc. **But are there also examples in which God accomplished His plans by commanding His people to do some special job?** [Noah built an ark; David went to battle against Goliath; etc.] **Did God need this help?** No. He is self-sufficient. **Then why does God command His people to do certain jobs?** [God has decided to accomplish many of His plans through the jobs that He gives people. This is for our good, not because of any need in God has.]

ACTION STEP

This week use The ABCs of God Game Cards to review the words, meanings, and verses for Creator, Almighty, Sovereign, Provider, and Self-Sufficient.

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

This verse needs some more letters. Fill in the missing letters. Then complete the statement below.

...nor is he ser__ed by __uman hand__,
 as th__ugh he __eeded any__hing,
 sin__e he him__elf giv__s to all
 ma__kind l__fe and b__eath and
 everythin___. — Acts 17:25

“What does God need? God needs

_____ !”

1 2 3 4 5 6 7