

Don't Waste Your Blizzard: A Snowy Meditation on God's Power and Purity

If you use this outline for a family devotion, please read the essay, "Seeing Snow with New Eyes." It will provide the background to best lead your family in discussion. Depending on the age of children, you may want to only select a portion of these verses / questions.

1. With Bible's open to Genesis, answer the following questions:

- a. When are "cold" and "winter" first mentioned in the Bible? (Genesis 8:22)
- b. Why is it significant that snow did not occur before the fall and the flood? (It is part of God's curse, see Genesis 6:1–8; Romans 8:18–22)
- c. What was the world like before the flood? (See Genesis 1:6–10 [water, but no ice]; 2:8–14 [paradise], 24 [naked]; 7:11 [no rain]) – Read the [Discovery News article](#) to show how tropical plants in arctic regions.
- d. If snow is a result of the fall, can it have any redeeming qualities? How can a judgment bring something good? (Consider Babel and the confusion of language; it has resulted in an increase of praise; compare Genesis 11; Acts 2; Revelation 7).
- e. Marvel at how snow/cold is part of God's good plan to humble sinners.

2. Read Psalm 147:15-18 and Job 37:5–13; 38:22–24.

- a. Who is ultimately in charge of the weather?
- b. How does that change the way we think, pray, act?
- c. According to Job 37:13, what role does God play in the weather? Is there any meteorological event that does not occur?
- d. What other observations can you make from these verses? What effect should God's cold produce in our hearts? ("Who can stand before his cold," Ps 147:17)

3. Read Isaiah 1:18 and Psalm 51:7.

- a. How is snow being used in these verses? (As a metaphor)
- b. What property of snow is being used? (Whiteness ~ Purity)
- c. Give examples of how snow is 'pure,' how it covers the physical impurities of earth.
- d. Which verse is the stronger promise? (Isaiah 1:18. David's prayer only longs for purity; Isaiah's prophecy assures us new covenant purity – see Isaiah 53)
- e. What should we see (or be reminded of) when we see a white blanket of snow?

4. Close with prayer

- a. Pray for one another and for eyes to be opened to the wonders of God's creation that point back to salvation truths.
- b. Pray for your church and for God purify his people.
- c. Pray for those who are suffering in the face of God's cold.

5. Make a plan of action

- a. How can you think more biblically about creation?
- b. Who can you assist during the snow storm?
- c. Who can you share the truths of Isaiah 1:18 with?

6. Close in song

- a. Jesus Paid It All
- b. Nothing But the Blood of Jesus