**International Bible Lesson**
Uniform Sunday School Lessons Series
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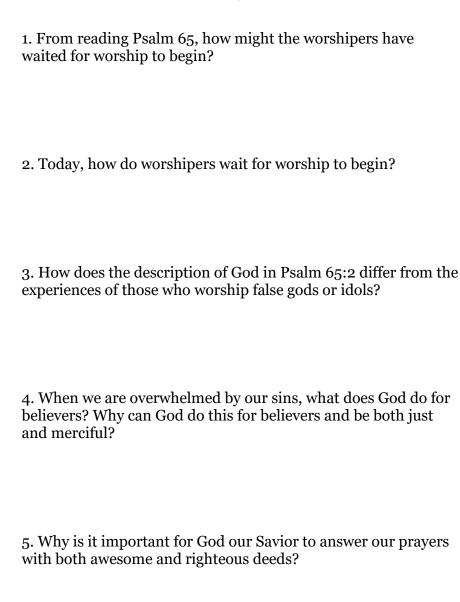# Our God Answers Prayers!
## January 15, 2017
## Psalms 65:1-13

*"You answer us with awesome and righteous deeds, God our Savior, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas"* (Psalms 65:5).

The Bible gives many reasons to pray. Because God answers prayers so often, one reason to pray became a title for God: "You who answer prayer" (Psalms 65:2). The Israelites waited expectantly for worship to begin at the temple to pray and praise God because they knew that God answers prayers. As they waited for the service to begin, they could think about the marvels of God's creation and many provisions for them; they could consider the promises that God had made to their ancestors and had fulfilled; they could reflect on their freedom to worship God openly because God had freed them from slavery. They rejoiced, because they knew that God's answers to their prayers would always be awesome and righteous. God's answers were awesome, because despite their overwhelming sins, God forgave their transgressions. They did not know fully how awesome God's forgiveness was, for in the distant future, for God to remain righteous and forgive them, God's own Son would die as a sacrifice in their place and rise again from the dead to grant them eternal life. They prayed to God as "God our Savior," not knowing that someday the Apostle Paul would preach about Jesus at "the command of God our Savior" and write about "Jesus Christ our Savior" (Titus 1:3-4). In John 14:14, Jesus promised, "You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it," but remember that He will only "do righteous deeds." Therefore, the good news of Jesus Christ is "the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas."

## Thinking Further

1. From reading Psalm 65, how might the worshipers have waited for worship to begin?

2. Today, how do worshipers wait for worship to begin?

3. How does the description of God in Psalm 65:2 differ from the experiences of those who worship false gods or idols?

4. When we are overwhelmed by our sins, what does God do for believers? Why can God do this for believers and be both just and merciful?

5. Why is it important for God our Savior to answer our prayers with both awesome and righteous deeds?