

SESSION 4

WHO IS GOD?

God&Me&Us

Focus Point

God is a person who has a particular character and attributes.

The Key Truths

God revealed His character and His attributes to us through the life of Jesus, His Son, during His short time on earth. When Philip requested that Jesus show them (the disciples) the Father, Jesus replied, *"Whoever has seen me has seen the Father..."* (John 14:9, ESV). Our minds are finite or limited; God is infinite! We therefore cannot fully understand what God is like. If we were able to understand Him completely, He wouldn't be God.

The Scriptures below describe some of God's nature. Jesus chose to set aside that nature when He came to earth as a human, to reunite us with the Father by dying on the cross

Scriptures to Consider

Even though God is indescribable, below are some words that describe the character of God. Use the Scriptures referenced alongside them to introduce the preteens to this vocabulary, which they may hear in and around church.

1. Self-sufficient - He does not need anyone to do anything for him.

Acts 17:25 (NLT) - *"...and human hands can't serve his needs—for he has no needs. He himself gives life and breath to everything, and he satisfies every need."*

2. Omnipotent - God's power surpasses all powers.

2 Corinthians 4:7 (ESV) - *"But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us."*

3. Omniscient – God knows our thoughts and what we say even before we say it.

Psalm 139:2-4 (ESV) – *“You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether.”*

4. Immutable – God’s attributes and character never change.

Malachi 3:6 (NIV) – *“I the LORD do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed.”*

Hebrews 13:8 (ESV) – *“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”*

5. Omnipresent – Because God is everywhere, we cannot hide from him.

Psalm 139:7-12 (NIV) – *“Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?...”*

Jonah 1:10 (ESV) – *“Then the men were exceedingly afraid and said to him, “What is this that you have done!” For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them.”*

6. Uncreated – He created absolutely everything and therefore He could not have been created Himself.

Genesis 1:1 (NIV) – *“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”*

7. Eternal – Only someone who is eternal by nature can grant eternal life to someone else.

John 5:24 (ESV) – *“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.”*

8. Holy – God instructs us to be holy, even as He is holy.

Leviticus 19:2 (NIV) – *“...Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy.”*

Group Discussion Questions

Question 1: We know that God is a loving and kind God. How can these attributes (characteristics) of God be relevant to you in your situation where you might be struggling or confused?

Answer: We don't have to try and explain our struggles to God – He already knows what we have to deal with each day – how we feel, our thoughts, and our fears. He wants us to be honest with Him and ask Him to search our hearts. When we become aware of His characteristics it puts our lives and what we are struggling with into perspective. He is big enough and powerful enough to be in control of our situation.

Word of the Day

Omniscient

Verse of the Day

"To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honour and glory forever and ever."
- 1 Timothy 1:17 (ESV)

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