

Goals

In this section, we will study the various qualities of the true God. The students will learn that our God is everlasting, merciful and truthful. He is the one who created the world and everything in it. He is omnipotent, omnipresent and omniscient. He is a God set apart from others because He is the one and only.

Through these lessons, the students will be encouraged to remember who God is and what He means to them. More importantly, they should ponder how they can be made more into His likeness. It is easy to get caught up while living in this world. We have different responsibilities and obligations. It's difficult to find time to just think about God and nothing else. But it is also during those times of devotion that we can truly connect with Him and know what He wants for us. Let's use these lessons to steer the students in the right direction.

unit 1

Teacher Devotional

The following are the lyrics to a hymn presented by Maranatha! Music. It is entitled, "I Stand In Awe."
I stand in awe, so amazed
Totally changed by
Your presence forever
Every time I look into Your eyes
I see a glimpse of what
I always wanted to be
Let me be changed
Let me be changed
In Your presence

Take a moment and really soak in the words to this song. When was the last time we thought about God and felt in complete awe of Him? Do we catch a glimpse of what we want to be when we think about our heavenly Father? Let us pray that we may be transformed by Him.

Living a Transformed Life

"And be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness." (Eph 4:23-24)

Lesson 1

The Qualities of the True God

Listed Scriptures

Num 16:22, 27:16; Heb 7:3; 1 Tim 6:16; Gen 21:33; Deut 33:27; Deut 6:4; Mark 2:29; 1 Tim 2:5; 1 Cor 8:6; Jas 2:19

Lesson Aim

- 1) To be able to describe the qualities that set God apart from all other false gods
- 2) To be ready and equipped to preach whenever the occasion arises by practicing in simulated settings

Memory Verse

"God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." (Jn 4:24)

Bible Reading For This Week (for students and teachers)

Psalms 1-5

B I B L E B A C K G R O U N D

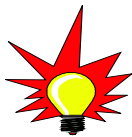


Job's good friend Eliphaz once said, "Now acquaint yourself with Him, and be at peace; thereby good will come to you. Receive, please, instruction from His mouth, and lay up His words in your heart. If you return to the Almighty, you will be built up; you will remove iniquity far from your tents" (Job 22.21-23). Many people in this world have yet to know the One True God. They include people who worship idols, people who act against their consciences and those who just refuse to admit that there is a God in this world. But whether they acknowledge God or not, He will judge justly and reward each according to his deeds (Ps 7:11, 9:8; Rom 2:6). On the other hand, those who know God must fear Him and keep His commands. This way, they may live under God's care, receiving peace on earth and eternal blessing in Heaven. We see that knowing God is the most important pursuit in a person's life.

For this quarter, we will study the theme of "God and Salvation." Through

the Bible, we will get to know God and His characteristics. We will see His greatness compared to our minuteness. We will strive to become like the wise man who respects the word of God, walks in His path, seeks holy perfection and gains salvation. In this lesson, we will learn about the qualities that set God apart from all others.

W A R M U P



What is the first word that comes to your mind when you think of the word "God"? Likely each of us has a different word. This tells us that God has many facets and plays various roles in our lives. However, as great and vast as He is, there are some qualities about Him that remain constant, things that set Him apart from all else in this universe.

B I B L E S T U D Y



Part 1

God is Spirit

This is a very critical quality that God possesses. Many gods that other people worship can be seen with the naked eye because they are in the form of a carved image or resting in temple grounds. God's Spirit is beyond the material world. It is not limited by space and time; it has no shape, size, weight, color or scent. In the New Testament, God is praised as the "Father of spirits" (Heb 12:9). In the Old Testament, Moses calls Him the "the God of the spirits of all flesh" (Num 16:22, 27:16). Because God is the source of human life, He also gives the spirits of men. Thus, He is "one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all" (Eph 4:6), and we should revere and serve Him. Here are some characteristics of the Spirit.

- a. The Spirit cannot be seen with the naked eye; it has no bone or flesh. After Jesus Christ died on the cross and resurrected, He came in **spirit form** and appeared to the disciples, "Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have" (Lk 24:36-40). From this, we see that a spirit form can appear to man while a spirit is fleshless, boneless and cannot be seen (1 Tim 6:16).

- b. Jesus Christ said, "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth" (Jn 4:24). God is the creator of the universe and all things in it. Since He is the Lord of heaven and earth, He does not dwell in temples made by human hands (Acts 17:24-25). Neither do we need to sacrifice bulls and goats when we worship Him (Ps 50:12-13). Instead, we worship God with spirit and truth.
- c. God's Spirit is omnipresent. God fills the Heaven and the Earth (Jer 23:24, Eph 1:23). From Proverbs, we know that "The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good" (Prov 15:3). Human beings cannot hide from the Spirit of the Lord; in heaven or hell, He will find us (Ps 139:7-8). Therefore, those who recognize God as a spirit should constantly pray to Him and seek His help. They should also be careful of their words and guard their hearts, so that they may be righteous, God-fearing people who shun evil.



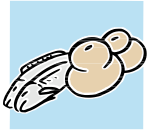
Part 2

God is Everlasting

This is a quality that none other possesses. Every one of us has a beginning. We were all born from our parents and each of us will have an end because we will all pass away. But God has no beginning and no end.

- a. God has been in this universe even before the beginning. Although it is difficult for us to grasp what that means because our understanding of time and space is limited, we know that everything created in the universe must have a creator. That creator is God (Heb 2:10). The Bible says, "For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever" (Rom 11:36).
- b. God will be forever because He has neither beginning nor end (Heb 7:3). He is immortal (1 Tim 6:16) and has everlasting life (Gen 21:33, Deut 33:27). He neither faints nor is weary (Isa 40:28), and He inhabits Eternity (Isa 57:15). He is incorruptible (Rom 1:23), and His years are throughout all generations (Ps 102:24-28). He is the eternal King (1 Tim 1:17). The Bible says, "For a thousand years in Your sight are like yesterday when it is past, and like a watch in the night" (Ps 90:4). In the eyes of the everlasting God, a thousand years for man is like a day

or a watch in the night. Therefore we can see that the true God has unchanging life. He can also give the believers everlasting life (1 Tim 6:12), everlasting consolation (2 Thess 2:16) and the eternal weight of glory (2 Cor 4:17; 5:1).



Part 3

The One and Only

Many people in this world today worship some kind of a god. Although they may have good intentions, their devoutness is in vain because the Bible clearly says that there is only one True God. Our God is the one and only Lord (Deut 6:4; Mark 2:29; 1 Tim 2:5; 1 Cor 8:6; Jas 2:19). He is the only true God in many places (Gal 3:20; Rom 3:30; Jude 24; Jn 17:30). On Mount Sinai, the LORD commanded, "You shall have no other gods before me" (Ex 20:3). This was one of the Ten Commandments. He also declared, "Now see that I, even I, am He, and there is no god besides Me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; nor is there any who can deliver from My hand" (Deut 32:39). Thus, we know that there is only one God between heaven and earth (1 Kgs 8:60). There are also people in the world who spend an enormous amount of time worshiping other kinds of idols, things that have taken the place of God in their hearts. In the sermon on the Mount, Jesus Christ said, "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other; or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and Mammon" (Mt 6:24). If we are to worship the Lord in spirit and truth, then we cannot continue to love the world and its treasures, including the "lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life" (1 Jn 2:15-17). If a person loves the world, then the love of the Father will not be in him. If a person's heart lusts for the world, then he makes the world his god and breaks the first commandment. Therefore, we must love the Lord with all our might so we may prove that we are His children and triumph over the material world.

C H E C K F O R U N D E R S T A N D I N G



1

Describe some of the characteristics of the Spirit of God.

2

How can you best describe God's "foreverness"?

3

What are some of the idols in this world that may be putting a barrier between God and men?

4

Read Jeremiah 10:1-16 closely. Write down the differences between the true God and false gods.

5

Food for Thought: Understanding the Trinity

The idea of the Trinity is commonly accepted by the Roman Catholic Church and most other Christian denominations. In the Trinity, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit can exist separately. The idea originated from the Lord Jesus' command: "Go, therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" (Mt 28:19). Believers in the Trinity do not necessarily believe that there are three gods. They believe that there is one God in three forms (Jn 10:30, 14:9-10, 17:21-22). The three forms have the same godliness, status and glory. They also have the same unlimited power. Thus, they combine to become one God. Although people who argue for the Trinity do not believe that there are three gods, they do not deny the Bible's recording that describes the coexistence of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Thus, the term, "Trinity" was coined to describe the unique characteristics of God. In fact, no matter if a person believes the Trinity or the "three separate bodies of God," the idea of the One True God remains. However, because the Trinity involves the idea of three separate beings, we cannot endorse the theory.

Teaching Tips

For the Life Application section, try to invite a pastor, a deacon or a brother or sister who has had a lot of experiences with preaching to truth-seekers to share their stories. Ask them share the kinds of questions they are often asked and how they go about explaining who the One True God is. They are also likely more prepared to answer the questions the students might have due to their wealth of knowledge.



Truth-Seekers

At some point in time, each of us will encounter a truth-seeker, whether a friend or a relative. Although we would all prefer to find a pastor or some other adult to speak to them, that isn't always a possibility. Besides, Jesus Christ commanded us to all spread the gospel and so it is our duty to be equipped with the necessary knowledge. Think about how you would explain the concept of the One True God to truth-seekers by looking at the following questions.

Questions to think about:

1. What is the best approach to explain to an atheist that there is a God?
2. Is it wise to be familiar about other religions so that we will be better able to counter their questions? Do you know anything about any other religion? If so, share your knowledge with the rest of the class.
3. What is the best approach to explain to someone who is religious (i.e., a Buddhist, a Catholic) that there is only one true God?
4. Is it ever okay to say to someone that he is a sinner and that he needs to repent as a means to preaching the gospel? Why or why not? Is there a better way to say the same thing?

R E F L E C T I O N & P R A Y E R



God is a Spirit, and He fills the universe. He is omnipresent, evaluating people at all times. Thus, believers should worship God with a truthful heart, and be cautious with their minds, actions and words. God is the everlasting God, so believers ought to recognize their own limits, understanding that the Lord is the source of all life. We should also seek the everlasting life in Heaven. God is the one and only. Besides Him, there is no other God. Therefore, we should not make any person, thing, or object as our god. Instead, we should concentrate our efforts on serving the One True God in Heaven.

Lesson 2

How to Live a Life of Faith

Listed Scriptures

Ps 99:9; Isa 45:21; 1 Jn 4:16-17; Ps 33:4, 146:6

Lesson Aim

- 1) To study the characteristics of God and how we may learn from His examples
- 2) To make it our goal to have the likeness of God

Memory Verse

"And be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness."
(Eph 4:23-24)

Bible Reading For This Week (for students and teachers)

Psalms 6-10

B I B L E B A C K G R O U N D



When man was created in the image of God, he had the likeness of God within him. However, after our ancestors sinned, we no longer had the characteristics of God. Instead, we are born in iniquity with the thought of evil in our hearts (Ps 51:5; Gen 8:21). Therefore, some people say that man is by nature a sinner. However, now that we have found God again, we should try to be like Christ in every way possible. Through the Bible, we will come to learn and know the characteristics of God. Then we can become the children of God through Jesus Christ. It is important to have the likeness and virtues of the Lord Jesus so that we can some day receive our inheritance from our Father in heaven.