



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.



In the Bible, it records that God made us in His image. Have you ever thought about what that really means? Does it mean that there are parts of us that actually look like God if we could see Him? It's hard to say, since God is a spirit. But we can be pretty certain that, if nothing else, being created in His image means that God wants us to possess His characteristics, in other words, to be like Him in as many ways as possible. Of course, we will not be perfect but that shouldn't stop us from pursuing after what is good. Often, we makes excuses for our not-so-good characteristics because we feel we are "only human." While that may be true, it should give us even more motivation to strive to be more God-like. Let's take a look at some of the godly characteristics we should pursue after.

B I B L E S T U D Y



Part 1
A Holy God

In the book of Psalms it is written, "Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at His holy hill; for the LORD our God is holy" (Ps 99:9). It is vital for us to pursue holiness because only holy people can see and worship a holy God.

- a. The Holy Lord hates uncleanness. In the time of Noah, God saw that the wickedness of man was great. The Bible records, "The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart" (Gen 6:5-6). God detests evil because "God is light and in Him is no darkness at all" (1 Jn 1:5). When the Israelites camped at Acacia Grove, they began to commit harlotry with the Moabite women. They also participated in the ceremonies and sacrifices to other gods. Thus, God's anger was aroused toward Israel. He allowed 24,000 of them to die in a plague. Just as Joshua said, "He is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions nor your sins" (Josh 21:19). Because God hates unclean things, people who perform evil are an abomination to the Lord (Deut 25:16; Prov 15:9, 26).

- b. We cannot see God unless we are holy. The Bible tells us, "Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the word" (Heb 12:14). In addition to pursuing after peace, God also told us the importance of being separate and holy. Therefore, we must restrict our hearts, be sober and rest our hope on Christ alone. We should act as obedient children and live a holy lifestyle. When we are holy, we can see our holy God (1 Pet 1:13-16).
- c. God wants us to be holy. God told His people, "And you shall be holy; for I am holy" (Lev 11:44). He also said, "You shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation" (Ex 19:6). Paul also wrote in his letters, "For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness...may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Thess 4:7; 5:23). All of God's people are chosen for salvation through sanctification of the spirit (2 Thess 2:13).

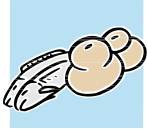


Part 2
A Just God

God said, "And there is no other God besides Me, a just God and a Savior; there is none besides Me" (Isa 45:21). God does no unrighteousness (Zeph 3:5) because the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous (Ps 19:9).

- a. God's judgments are fair. He will come to judge the earth with righteousness. The Bible records, "For He is coming to judge the earth. With righteousness He shall judge the world, and the peoples with equity" (Ps 98:9, 9:4, 8). Although God has abounding love and forgives people for their sins of ignorance and weakness, He "does not clear the guilty" (Ex 34:6-7). Instead, He will repay each according to what he has done (Rom 2:6) to show that He is a just and righteous God. When God's judgment days arrive, eternal life will be given to those who seek for glory, honor and immortality. But those who continue to sin will suffer His wrath (Rom 2:7-10).
- b. God wants us to treat everyone with equality. Since God is just, those who walk with Him must also be just. God says Himself that He wants people to "do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah

6:8). We should also not judge by appearances and discriminate against the poor (Jas 2:1-6). When we judge, we must not be unjust. We should not show partiality. We should not uphold the rich because of their wealth and look down on the poor because of their poverty (Prov 24:23; Lev 19:15).



Part 3

A Kind and Loving God

In the Bible, it tells us that “God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him. Love has been perfected among us in this...because as He is, so are we in this world” (1 Jn 4:16-17). We also know that His mercy endures forever (Ps 118:1-4).

- a. God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in mercy (Ps 103:8). He created the world and all things in it. He gave life and breath unto all creatures (Acts 1:24-25). He makes the sun rise on the evil and on the good and sends rain on the just and the unjust (Mt 5:45). He gave mankind the breath of life, so that we may be living beings with souls, wisdom and knowledge (Gen 2:7; Job 32:8, 33:4). Everything He has made contains His love.
- b. God especially loves those who fear Him. The Bible says, “The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him, in those who hope in His mercy” (Ps 147:11). He shows mercy to those who love Him and keep His commandments (Ex 20:6). Because God is the Heavenly Father, we should revere and love Him. God is the ruler of heaven and earth, and we should worship Him and acknowledge His greatness. It is promised that those who fear God will be blessed for generations (Deut 5:29).
- c. God wants us to love each other. We love, because God first loved us. “If a person says, ‘I love God’ but hates his brother, then he is lying. ‘For he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?’” (1 Jn 4:19-21). That is why Jesus Christ told His disciples, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another” (Jn 13:34).



Part 4

A Truthful God

The True God is righteous and upright (Deut 32:4). All His work is done in truth (Ps 33:4) and He keeps the truth forever (Ps 146:6).

- a. God’s words are true. God’s truth is holy and remains forever. The Bible says, “The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether” (Ps 19:9). It also describes the words of the LORD as “silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times” (Ps 12:6). God never breaks His promises or changes what comes out of His mouth (Ps 89:34). This is why His chosen people have hope for the eternal life that was promised before time began (Titus 1:2).
- b. God’s truth is solid. Although there are many promises of God, we know that they are all solid in the Lord (2 Cor 1:18). The truth that our faithful God wants us to preach does not change or fluctuate. We know this because all who believe in it will accept the promised Holy Spirit as a seal of salvation (Eph 1:13-14).
- c. We should firmly believe God’s promises. God is true and unchanging. Before we believed in the Lord, we were non-believers in our flesh. We had nothing to do with Christ. All non-Jewish people were considered gentiles without God or hope. But today, in Christ, we can be saved through the blood of Jesus Christ. Through the blood, we can be close to God (Eph 2:11-13). We can be His people and receive the Holy Spirit as proof of our promised inheritance. Therefore, we should believe in God’s promises in the Bible so we may inherit blessings from heaven (Eph 1:3-14).

Teaching Tips

For the Bible study, the students can be divided into four groups so that each can look at the four different characteristics examined in this lesson. You can provide them with some relevant verses from each section and ask them to prepare a short presentation of each characteristic. The students can also brainstorm other characteristics not mentioned here and provide their own relevant Bible support.

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



- 1 Why is it important to pursue after holiness?
- 2 What does it mean to treat people with equality?
- 3 The Bible says that God loves those who fear Him. What does it mean to fear Him? What should our attitude be? What should our actions reflect?
- 4 Describe one concrete thing you have done this past week to show love towards one other person.
- 5 How do we know that God's words are true and believable?
- 6 Which of the four characteristics we studied today do you feel is the hardest to attain? Why?
- 7 Find four people in the Bible who best personify each of the four characteristics discussed today (i.e., someone who is truthful, someone who is just, etc.) and explain your reasons for choosing these people.

L I F E A P P L I C A T I O N



Pretty Good

Pass a piece of blank paper out to each of the students. Ask them to write their names on the top of the paper. Now ask everyone to think about each of their classmates and one particular characteristic that stands out about them. It could be anything at all but it should be a positive quality. It could be something as simple as always smiling. After giving them several minutes to think about it, ask them to pass their own paper clockwise to the person next to them. Now each student should have someone else's paper. Give them a minute to jot down one characteristic about the person whose name appears at the top of the paper. When they have finished, ask them to fold the paper in such a way that what they have written is covered up, but leaving enough room

for others to write down their responses (i.e. fold the paper like a paper fan). Then the paper is passed on to the next person. Continue this process until every student has had a chance to write down something about each of their classmates. When the paper is returned to the student, have each of them open it up and read quietly what others have written about them. How does it feel to read the list? Is there anything written that surprises them? More importantly, is there any characteristic on the list that can also be used to describe God? Why or why not?

Each of us has great qualities. It certainly makes us feel good to read about them and to know that others appreciate them. God created us in that manner so that we can shine in various ways. But more importantly, we need to possess God's qualities. It is not always easy to be honest or pursue after holiness, but that does not mean we should stop trying. If those characteristics are not on your list, what can you do to add those qualities to make your list more complete? We felt great when we read the list. Imagine what God would feel if He knew we possessed His likeness.

NOTE: Encourage the students to keep their papers to remind them that they do have special qualities about them. It can also serve as a small spark to help them attain an even higher goal: to pursue after the likeness of God.

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



Throughout our lives, we will have many goals. It may be that we want excellent grades, a good career or a compatible spouse. Those are important things to work hard for. But spiritual perfection isn't something we can just work hard at and obtain. For example, we want to be holy but just can't seem to do it. It's as Paul said when he wanted to do what was right but couldn't bring himself to do what he knew to be good. However, that doesn't mean we don't have hope. Because we believe in Jesus Christ and are the children of God, we can depend on the truth and the Holy Spirit to seek spiritual perfection, to strive for the likeness of God. With God's help, we should aim for His holiness, justice, mercy and truth so that we may be able to enter His kingdom.