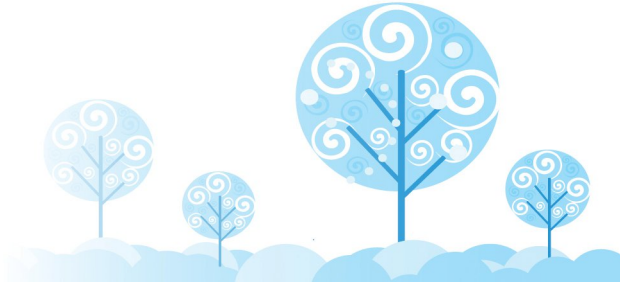


LESSON 1

ONE TRUE GOD



OBJECTIVES

1. To establish an understanding of the nature of God and His presence in our everyday lives.
2. To help the students understand how to build up a personal relationship with God.

MEMORY VERSE

"Jesus said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.'

This is the first and great commandment."

(Matthew 22:37-38)

PRAYER

1. Thank God for being with us every single moment of our lives.
2. Thank God for bringing us together as a spiritual family and guiding us to gather for today's lesson.
3. Ask God to give us wisdom so that we can understand who He is and how much He does for us every day of our lives.



Overview

1. The Nature of God: Who is God?

- God is omnipotent: we need to rely on His power.
- God is omnipresent: God is always watching over us.
- God is omniscient (Mt 6:8): God knows what is best for us.

2. God and Man—Why is God in my life?

- God as a parent, teacher, and friend.
- He is in our lives because we need Him.

3. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—One True God

We must prioritize God because everything He has done has been for us.

4. Life Application—Treasuring and Building Up Our Relationship with God

5. Activity—Door Hanger



Background Knowledge for Teachers

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,' says the Lord. 'For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.'" (Isa 55:8-9). Who is God? It is difficult to comprehend God's nature, and the Athenians in Acts 17 embody this complication with their altar, dedicated "TO THE UNKNOWN GOD." In response, Paul explains to them exactly who God is and why He is God. It is impossible to fully comprehend who God is, but these things at least we can understand: God is the creator of all things; He is Spirit and not a physical being; and He is the one who sets the time and place for all things, including our own redemption.

Understanding these things is a step towards comprehending God's salvation for us, the very tenet of our belief: the death of Jesus Christ on the cross. Only God has the power to bring all of us to life, and only God has the power to redeem us. Knowing this, He is the only one worthy of our praise, and the only one we should worship.



Reaching Out to Your Students

At this age, your students will probably still have some difficulty trying to understand God, who they cannot see. For them to truly value God in their life, you should aim to illustrate how God can be seen in different facets of their life, such as through a parent, teacher, friend, or even a hero. God's value can be emphasized and more realistically explained to the students when described in something more visible to them. Children at this age also struggle to find a personal place for God in their lives. With their faith very much still based on their parents' faith and family altars, they should begin to learn how to include God in their thoughts and actions in their everyday life. This lesson on the one true God is a prime opportunity to help students begin to prioritize God as number one in their lives.



Opener

5 Minutes

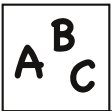
What does God do in your life today? We may think that He simply listens to our prayers and watches over us, but in reality, God's involvement with our lives is so much more than that.

[Prepare three placards, divide the class and assign each group a role: **Parent; Teacher; Friend**]

Here are three different roles of people around us. In your groups, brainstorm and create a mind map using two different markers that includes two things:

- What this person does: the duties this person must perform
- What kind of characteristics this role requires from a person

[Stick the completed mind maps on the board/wall after each group has briefly presented.] As we go through today's lesson, try to think of all the characteristics and duties that we brainstormed together, how they are related to God's nature, and why He is in our lives.



Vocabulary

omniscient: all-knowing

omnipotent: all-powerful, able to do anything

omnipresent: present everywhere at all times

attribute: a quality, feature, or characteristic of a person

redemption: the act of saving or redeeming; paying a price

priority: something you value as more important than other things



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

FOR TEACHERS

To help students with the logical process of the lesson, teachers can choose to use the headings of "Who" and "Why," as outlined in the overview. Focus should be spent on extrapolating the meaning and nature of God from the verses provided.

Before we begin referring to Bible verses, let's all turn to the back of our hymn books where the Ten Basic Beliefs of our church are written. Let's read the first one together. As the very first article of faith, we must understand in whom

we believe, and why, before we learn about things like the Sacraments of Water Baptism or Holy Communion. When we first meet someone, we become friends with them by learning more about them, such as their background or their hobbies. Maybe we also become friends with them because they're particularly nice to us, or because we think they're kind of cool. Today, we're going to learn more about God, the best and closest friend we have, who He is, and why He is the one true God.

Who is God?

Unlike many of the so-called gods people worship today, our True God is not man-made. On the contrary, He is the one who created each and every single one of us. Paul explains who God is to the Athenians in **Acts 17:24-27**. [For this passage, NIV will probably be easier for the students to understand.]

From reading this passage we can learn a few things about who God is.

- God made the world and everything in it, and is Lord of heaven and earth (v. 24)
- God doesn't live in a physical place (v. 24)
- God is the one who sets the time and place for all things (v. 26)

Let's go through the different attributes of God.

God is omnipotent.

It's hard for us to explain exactly who God is because we have difficulty understanding Him ourselves. But if anyone ever asks you, "Who is God?", remember that the very first thing Paul proclaimed was that He is the One who "made the world and everything in it [and] is Lord of heaven and earth" (Acts 17:24).

We often describe God as an "omnipotent being." Does anyone know what the word "omnipotent" means? This word means "all-powerful." God is all-powerful and can help us in any situation, especially when trouble comes. We can rely on God. But exactly how powerful is "all-powerful"? It's difficult for us to imagine, but anything that you can think of, God can do. Can you think of a miracle that occurred in the Old or New Testament? It was God's power that allowed that miracle to happen. Paul also calls God the Lord of heaven and earth, because He is the One who made them in the first place. There are also many miracles today that show God's power: your family, your home, even your brains and your looks are all from God. Can you think of a particular skill or strength that you have? That is something that God gave you, with His power. He also saved us from death and gave each of us the opportunity to obtain eternal life, something no person could ever accomplish. So, since we know that God is so powerful, don't you think it makes sense to rely on Him whenever we are in trouble or need strength to overcome something? Let's review a Bible story that demonstrates God's mighty power.

One day, Jesus was with many people in a deserted area in the mountains. They had followed Him there to receive healing and listen to His teachings. Moved with compassion for them, He healed those who were sick. When night fell, the disciples suggested to send the people home so they could find their own food. Jesus refused and asked the disciples to bring Him the only food they had: two fish and five loaves.

After blessing and breaking the bread, Jesus asked the

disciples to distribute the food. When the people had finished eating to their satisfaction, there were still twelve full baskets of food left over. That night, more than 5,000 people were fed using only two fish and five loaves. Isn't Jesus' power amazing?

So now that we know that God is all-powerful and able to help us in any situation, what can we do in return?

God is omnipresent.

Although many people worship man-made objects today, Paul says clearly that God is not a physical being. Jesus also teaches us about this in **John 4:24**. Let's read this verse together. "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

Here, Jesus teaches us that God is Spirit, which means that we can't see Him. When we can't see something, it's very difficult for us to understand it. The same is also true of God. Because He is not a physical being, it's hard for us to understand who He is. But we do know that because God is Spirit, He exists everywhere. Does anyone know a word that describes how God exists everywhere at the same time? (Omnipresent.) God is never far away from us, and we can pray to Him whenever we want or need to. He is always there to listen. In fact, He's right next to us, this very moment. This means that we can talk to Him whenever we want to, no matter where we are or what time it is. When Paul was preaching and faced adversity, God was always there with him, as he wrote in **2 Timothy 4:17**, "But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me."

Since we know that God is always by our side, what can we do in return?

God is omniscient.

The last thing we learned from this passage is that God is the one who decides on everything that happens. Because He is the one who determines everything, He is also all-knowing, or "omniscient." He knows everything about us, and always knows what is best for us, including what we need and how to help us. God knows anything there is to know about everything, from the time of our birth and the number of hairs on our head, to the names of all the stars in the skies.

Since God knows everything about us, He knows everything that we have done, both good and bad. Not only that, He also knows the best way to raise us. Let's read **Matthew 6:8**. "Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him." According to this verse, God knows exactly what we need, even if we haven't asked it of Him. All of us learn in different ways. Some of us might prefer to read a book; others might prefer to learn through activities, or with pictures.

God knows the best way for us to learn and grow, and knows exactly what we need at every single point in our lives. What can we do for Him in return?

Why is God in my life?

So we've learned that God's power has saved us, that He is always with us wherever we go, and that He knows everything about us and what's best for us. **But why has God involved Himself in our lives?** To answer this question, let's first think about what He does in our lives, and what kinds of roles He plays.

Do you remember the three mind maps we made at the beginning of class? Which characteristic or role do you think fits God best? As a friend, He has the power to help us in times of trouble (omnipotent). As a parent, God is able to stay with us to take care of us (omnipresent). As a teacher, He knows all that there is to know, even the best way for each one of us to learn (omniscient). Doesn't that

make Him the best parent, the best teacher, and the best friend we could possibly have?

So going back to our original question, if you think about it, all of these roles God plays are beneficial to us. God isn't the one who needed salvation; it was we humans who needed it. Everything He does is for our sakes, because He loves us so much. So, the reason God is in our lives is because we need Him.

Let's open our Bibles to **Psalm 9:1-2**. Let's read it together, as if we're talking directly to God. So, the next question we need to think about is, **how much do we do for God in return for all that He has done for us?** Now let's review the "What I can do in return" column. [Ask volunteers to share their answers.]



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

The first step for every worshipper of God is to believe in Him. Accordingly, the first of our Ten Basic Beliefs is the very first message that we give to truthseekers, and what we as members must always remember. [Have the students copy the first Basic Belief from the back of their hymn books, then pick out and highlight the key words as a group, making sure all of them understand what it means.]

"Jesus Christ, the Word who **became flesh, died** on the cross for the **redemption** of sinners, **resurrected** on the third day, and **ascended** to heaven. He is the **only Savior** of mankind, the **Creator** of the heavens and earth, and the **only True God.**"

This belief is the very foundation of our faith. We must always remember that Jesus Christ is our Savior who died and resurrected for us, and is the only True God. Even now, He is constantly taking care of us every day. Because of this, **we must always prioritize Him above everything else**. We must never turn away to worship idols such as our computers or the Internet, money, or even friends or family. Putting God first is part of what it means to be a member of True Jesus Church.



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

1. **What is the first thing Paul says, when explaining who God is?** He is the creator of all things, and is Lord of heaven and earth.
2. **How is God an omnipresent being?** God is Spirit, and therefore exists all around us.
3. **Is it possible to hide anything from God? Why not?** No, because He is an omniscient being and knows everything.
4. **What are some things that God has done in our lives? How can we repay Him?** Answers may vary; e.g.: He has taught us, taken care of us, raised us, etc. We can repay Him by serving Him in church, praising Him, prioritizing Him before anything else, praying every night, etc.
5. **What are the key points in our first Basic Belief?** Jesus became flesh and died, redeemed our sins, resurrected, and ascended to heaven. He is the only Savior, the Creator, and the only True God.



Life Application

10 Minutes

Treasuring and Building Up Our Personal Relationship with God

A Brother's Reflection—Examining Our Faith

On a recent trip to China, I marveled at how God had led His church through extremely difficult times. I visited places where our church has hundreds of thousands of believers in a single county.

Deeply intrigued by how the church survived the Cultural Revolution, I inquired of an elderly minister who had witnessed and experienced the ordeal. He told me that when the church went underground, Bibles were burned and ministers were arrested.

Yet when the church seemed to have been destroyed, many brave women risked their lives and visited the members from house to house to care for their spiritual lives. They stood tall in the harshest of times and the work of God triumphed in the face of oppression.

Deprived of the freedom to worship, believers hungered for spiritual nourishment. When persecution was lifted from the church in China and the material life of the people went on a climb, this minister realized that the trials the church suffered were actually good for the faith of her members. He lamented that, as the people in China began to enjoy the freedom of worship, their hunger for God's word and fervor to serve Him also sadly dwindled.

As I listened to his words, I couldn't help but reflect on how we haven't taken our freedom to worship and to serve God for granted. How ironic it is that people yearn to serve God and to draw close to Him the most only when they are deprived of the opportunity! The experience of the church in China has taught us the often forgotten value of the freedom in our relationship with God and our ministry.

Question: What can we learn from this brother's reflection?

From this testimony, we learned that during persecution, many Bibles were burned, ministers were arrested, members couldn't hold services in public, and they had to risk their physical lives in order to care for their spiritual lives. Don't wait until our lives are persecuted; start cultivating a personal relationship with God now!

How can I have a personal relationship with God?

[Say to the students: God desires to give us a new life, eternal life, through His Son Jesus Christ.]

***Believe that God loves you. This is the beginning of any great relationship. You believe that God does have your best interest at heart. God says that He has loved us with an everlasting love, one that never ends and will not change because of our circumstances. The world may love us when things are going well, but God loves us always.**

Jeremiah 31:3, "The Lord has appeared of old to me, saying: 'Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.'"

***Know that God desires to have a personal relationship with you.**

Jeremiah 24:7, "Then I will give them a heart to know Me, that I am the LORD; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God, for they shall return to Me with their whole heart."

***Trust that Jesus died on the cross in order to have a relationship with you.**

John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

How I can build a personal relationship with God?

A personal relationship must start with having a devotion with God every day.

[Write the word, "devotions" on the board. Ask, "When I say 'devotions,' what do you think of?"]

Devotions are times in which people get to know God. These times usually involve prayer and Bible reading in some way. There is an old saying that there are three kinds of people: those who make things happen, those who watch things happen, and those who wonder what happened. Which type do you want to be? That's right; we should be those who make things happen!

Did you know that spending time along with God was a regular event on Jesus' schedule? Mark 1:35, "Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed."

[Pause and ask students.] What do you think He got out of it? That's right! He received strength, wisdom, and power from God! Jesus has a very close relationship with God.

Now, what are some rules we need to keep in mind when it comes to devotions. **Write these words on the board:**

1. Devotions should be consistent.
2. Devotions are best done early in the morning (before we go to school).
3. Devotions should last for at least 10 minutes (reading the Bible and prayer).
4. Devotions should make you feel close to God.

Devotions are opportunities we have to know and build a personal relationship with God. Devotions are also when you set aside "quiet time" to spend with God. We need devotions because no one can meet all our needs as **God** can. Our parents care for us, but when you draw close to and experience God, He is the one who really loves you and cares for you unconditionally. When you experience that, you build a strong relationship with Him.

I want you to imagine that you're a middle school student. You come into class and find a list of impossible assignments on the board. You go home thinking that you will never get your homework done! It is too hard!

You sit down to do your homework and someone knocks at the door. It's a tutor (the Holy Spirit) who says, "The Teacher sent me to help. The Teacher and I will supply what you need to finish the assignments."

Don't you desire that kind of help from God daily? That's God Himself who helps you! God's wisdom and God's power!

God is our Father; He delights in our praise and companionship (e.g., He walked with Adam in the garden of Eden). Like any parent, He would like to hear from us when we pray to Him frequently, and He would like to see that we desire to read the Bible daily to get to know Him. That's how we build a strong and close relationship with God!

Now, let's turn to the Life Application worksheet! Let's see what happens when we have devotions with God every day!

5 Easy Steps to Doing Daily Devotions!

- 1) My personal devotions have to be a choice.
- 2) Do devotions as soon as I wake up. Get a good start on a day!
- 3) Start by reading the Bible, and then spend time meditating and praying to God.
- 4) Memorize one verse. Use flash cards or index cards.
- 5) Keep a devotional journal. It can be a very useful tool for remembering how things touched you and for reflecting further or at a later date. A dedicated notebook and pen are useful for this and should be kept with your Bible.

Enjoy the relationship. What a great way it is to start the day by conversing with God!



Activity

Door Hanger

10-15 Minutes

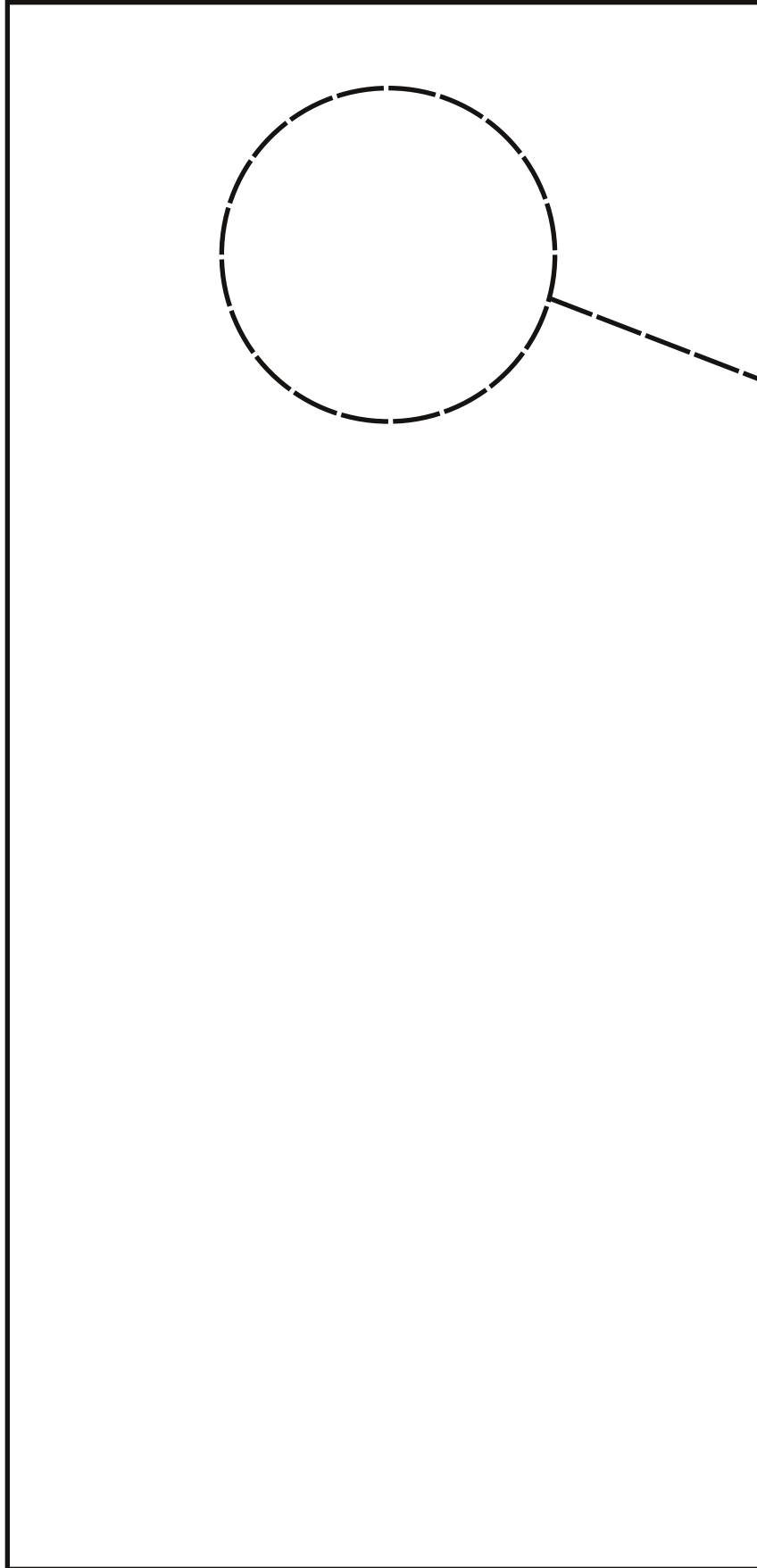
Objective: To remind students to prioritize God in their lives.

Materials

- Door hanger template
- Scissors
- Construction paper
- Decorations (construction paper, markers, etc.)

Instructions

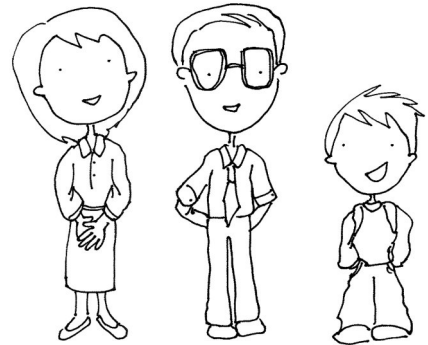
1. Cut out the door hanger and glue it to the construction paper. Cut the circle along the dotted line.
2. On the front, write the first Basic Belief. Below it, write Matthew 22:37-38. (Write it on the back if there is no space.)
3. Decorate as you wish, and then bring it home to hang on your bedroom door.



Who Is God?

Read Acts 17:24-27.

1. God made _____
_____. (v. 24)
2. God doesn't _____
_____. (v. 24)
3. God is _____
_____. (v. 26)



Attribute of God	What I can do in return
God is omni_____. This is important to me because it means that...	
God is omni_____. This is important to me because it means that...	
God is omni_____. This is important to me because it means that...	

Why is God in my life?

Read Psalm 9:1-2 and fill in the blanks.

I will praise you, O LORD, with my _____;
I will tell of all Your _____ works.

Treasuring and Building Up Our Personal Relationship with God

A Brother's Reflection—Examining Our Faith

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Question: What can we learn from this brother's reflection?

How can I have a personal relationship with God?

A personal relationship must start with having a _____ with God every day.

Devotions are times in which people get to _____ God. These times usually involve prayer and Bible reading in some way. There is an old saying that there are three kinds of people: those who make things happen, those who watch things happen, and those who wonder what happened. Which type do you want to be? _____

Did you know that spending time alone with God was a regular event on Jesus' schedule? Let's look up **Mark 1:35**, "Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He _____."

What do you think He got out of it? That's right! He received _____, _____, and _____ from God! Jesus has a very close relationship with God.

Now, what are some rules we need to keep in mind when it comes to devotions?

1. Devotions should be _____.
2. Devotions are best done early in the _____ (before we go to school).
3. Devotions should last for at least _____ minutes (reading the Bible and prayer).
4. Devotions should make you feel _____ to God.

Devotions are opportunities we have to know and build a personal relationship with God. Devotions are also when you set aside "quiet time" to spend with God. We need devotions because no one can meet all our needs as **God** can. Our parents care for us, but when you draw close to and experience God, He is the one who really loves and cares for you unconditionally. When you experience that, you build a strong relationship with Him.

I want you to imagine that you're a middle school student. You come into class and find a list of impossible assignments on the board. You go home thinking that you will never get your homework done! It is too hard!

You sit down to do your homework and someone knocks at the door. It's a tutor (the Holy Spirit) who says, "The Teacher sent me to help. The Teacher and I will supply what you need to finish the assignments."

Don't you desire that kind of help from God daily? That's God Himself who helps you! God's wisdom and God's power!

God is our Father; He delights in our praise and companionship (e.g., He walked with Adam in the garden of Eden). Like any parent, He would like to hear from us when we pray to Him frequently, and He would like to see that we desire to read the Bible daily to get to know Him. That's how we build a strong and close relationship with God!

Now, let's turn to the Life Application worksheet! Let's find out what happens when we have devotions with God every day!

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- 2) Do devotions as soon as I _____ up. Get a good start on the day!
- 3) Start by reading the _____, and then spend time meditating and _____ to God.
- 4) _____ one verse. Use flash cards or index cards.
- 5) Keep a devotional _____. It can be a very useful tool for remembering how things touched you and for reflecting further or at a later date. A dedicated notebook and pen are useful for this and should be kept with your Bible.

_____ the relationship.

What a great way it is to start the day by conversing with God!

Who Is God?

Read Acts 17:24-27.

1. God made the world and everything in it, and is Lord of heaven and earth. (v. 24)
2. God doesn't live in a physical place. (v. 24)
3. God is the one who sets the time and place for all things. (v. 26)

Attribute of God	What I can do in return <i>(Answers in this column may vary.)</i>
<p>God is omni <u>(potent)</u> .</p> <p>This is important to me because it means that... <i>(God is all-powerful and can help me in any situation, especially when trouble comes. I can rely on God.)</i></p>	<p><i>Every day I will pray for...</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. God's guidance 2. God's protection 3. God's wisdom 4. God's power to say "no" to ungodly things
<p>God is omni <u>(present)</u> .</p> <p>This is important to me because it means that... <i>(God is never far away from me, and I can pray to Him whenever I want or need to. He is always there to listen.)</i></p>	<p><i>Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness. I can repay Him by doing my best to pray every day, and by trying to prioritize Him in my daily life. I will be very careful of what I choose to:</i></p> <p><i>...watch with my eyes</i> <i>...listen with my ears</i> <i>...do with my hands</i></p>
<p>God is omni <u>(scient)</u> .</p> <p>This is important to me because it means that... <i>(He knows everything about me, and always knows what is best for me, including what I need and how to help me.)</i></p>	<p><i>I can listen more carefully to my parents and RE teachers, since God has entrusted them to teach me through their words. I should also not complain when I encounter hardships, but try hard to overcome them with help from God and learn what God wants to teach me.</i></p>

Why is God in my life?

Read Psalm 9:1-2 and fill in the blanks.

I will praise you, O LORD, with my _____ ;
I will tell of all Your _____ works.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

Fill In the Blank

1. Jesus Christ, the Word who became flesh, died on the cross for the redemption of sinners, resurrected on the third day, and ascended to heaven. He is the only Savior of mankind, the Creator of the heavens and earth, and the only True God.
2. "Jesus said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment." (Matthew 22:37-38)

Short Answer

1. Omnipotent/all-powerful, omnipresent/exists everywhere, and omniscient/all-knowing.
2. Parent, teacher, and friend. He plays these roles because we need Him.
3. We would reject idols, think only of Him, and prioritize Him in our lives.
4. Answers may vary.
5. Answers may vary.

E2 Year 1 Book 2 Lesson 1—One True God

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Reading: Please put a checkmark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

Prayer: Please put a checkmark in the space on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. **(Matthew 22:37-38)**

Fill In the Blank

(resurrected, Savior, Jesus, True God, ascended, redemption, Creator, died)

1. _____ Christ, the Word who became flesh, _____ on the cross for the _____ of sinners, _____ on the third day, and _____ to heaven. He is the only _____ of mankind, the _____ of the heavens and earth, and the only _____.

(heart, love, commandment, soul, God, mind, first, Lord)

2. "Jesus said to him, 'You shall _____ the _____ your _____ with all your _____, with all your _____, and with all your _____.' This is the _____ and great _____." (Matthew 22:37-38)

Short Answer

1. What are three attributes of God?

2. What kinds of roles does God play in your life? Why?

3. If we truly love God, what are some things we would do/not do?

4. What are some idols in your life that may be preventing you from prioritizing God?

5. Write down at least four actions you're going to take in order to improve your relationship with God. (This can be anything from listening to your parents, playing fewer games, to praying every night. Think about your own habits, the idols in your life, and your lifestyle both at home and at school, and consider things you do that God might not condone.)