

The background features a light blue gradient with abstract, overlapping shapes in dark blue and orange. These shapes include elongated bars, circles, and hand-like forms, some of which are semi-transparent. The overall aesthetic is modern and clean.

SEASON 2

UNIT 1

PARENT

GUIDE

GOD IS

TEACHING KIDS THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

LESSON 1 AT A GLANCE

In This Unit: **God is**

Holy. Just. Present Everywhere. Eternal. All Knowing. All Powerful. Unchanging. Love.

June 2, 2024

Objective

Teach the kids the meaning and implications of the holiness of God. His holiness is His "other-ness" and His total perfection. There is nothing like Him. Because He is holy, His standard for us is a standard of creaturely holiness. He commands us to be holy, and that command can only be fulfilled through faith in Christ.

Big Question

Ask at the beginning of the lesson; answer at the end.

Question: Why was the ground that Moses stood on holy?
Answer: There was nothing special about that particular ground. The ground was holy because the presence of God was there.

Scriptures

Teach from: Exodus 3:1-17, Acts 17:24-25, 1 Peter 1:16, Hebrews 10:10, & 1 Peter 2:9.
Lesson Key Verse: 1 Samuel 2:2
Unit Memory Verse: John 17:3

Key Takeaways (3 Keys)

Recite at the beginning, middle, and end of the lesson.

1. God is holy.
2. There is nothing like Him.
3. He counts us as holy through Jesus' sacrifice.

Context (HIStory)

Our main text (Exodus 3) takes place after Joseph went to Egypt and before the Israelites began their journey to the Promised Land.

Gospel Connection (Good News)

Use 1 Peter 2:9 to share the Gospel with the kids. Emphasize that God is holy and requires us to be holy, and the only way for us to meet that requirement is through faith in Jesus.

Attribute (God)

Use Exodus 3 to teach that God is holy. He is higher, better, and purer than us in every way.

Catechism (Foundation)

** For younger kids, spreading the catechism across several weeks may be more effective.*

Q. What is God?
A. God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in His being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness and truth.

Application

Just as God's revelation of His holiness to Moses led him to worship Him, we should respond the same way. God is worthy of our worship because He is our Creator, and He is holy; nothing compares to Him.

Unit Memory Verse

And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.
John 17:3

PARENT/TEACHER RESOURCE PAGE - God is holy.

Season 2. Unit 1. Lesson 1. June 2, 2024

Extra Teaching Tip

ABSTRACT THINKING

This season, we will be focusing on the attributes of God. This may be a little challenging because we are pushing the kids to think in the abstract. At this age they are more prone to see things as concrete, black and white. Don't be discouraged by this, however. It is not only good for them to be stretched in their thinking about God but also in abstract concepts in general. God has commanded us to love Him with all our minds. You are helping the kids be better thinkers, which glorifies God. Here are some things that will help: While we want to be careful with analogies when it comes to God (because we don't want to misrepresent Him), any time you can use an analogy that *does* accurately represent what you're communicating, that will help. Personal stories illustrating the concepts you're teaching will also be useful. And lastly, anything that illustrates the idea in a hands on way will greatly benefit your teaching this season. Don't overthink it, though. It's ok if they don't understand everything. Simply being exposed to these ideas at an early age serves a purpose in itself. Finally, remember that all you're really doing is answering the question, "What is God like?" You can do this!

Tough Questions

IF PART OF WHAT IT MEANS FOR GOD TO BE HOLY IS THAT THERE IS NOTHING ELSE LIKE HIM, THEN WHY DOES HE COMMAND US TO BE HOLY?

Man was originally created to be the image bearer of God - that is, show Him to the rest of creation. One way we were meant to do this is by being holy in a **creaturely** way. We can never be holy in the exact same way as God because there is nothing else like Him. However, just as we can reflect a creaturely version of His love, mercy, justice, and other attributes we can reflect a creaturely version of holiness.

He commands us to be holy so that we can represent Him, and that we might walk in our purpose of being image bearers. We know that because of our sin, we are incapable of doing that. We don't have the moral purity that we need to obey God in this. Thankfully, God counts us as holy when we trust in Jesus. After that, He begins changing us to *make us holy* in our daily lives, too. This process of becoming more holy in our lives is called sanctification. We will have a full lesson on sanctification next season.

LESSON 2 AT A GLANCE

In This Unit: **God is**

Holy. **Just.** Present Everywhere. Eternal. All Knowing. All Powerful. Unchanging. Love.
June 9, 2024

Objective

Teach the kids that God is just and always does what is right, including punishing sin. Show them that this is why we need Jesus to be our Savior. God's justice is a good thing, but it is bad news for us, apart from the Gospel, because we are sinners.

Big Question

Ask at the beginning of the lesson; answer at the end.

Question: What does it mean that God is just?
Answer: It means that He always does what is right and fair

Scriptures

Teach from: Genesis 18:22-33 & Romans 3:26.
Lesson Key Verse: Genesis 18:25c
Unit Memory Verse: John 17:3

Key Takeaways (3 Keys)

Recite at the beginning, middle, and end of the lesson.

1. God is just.
2. He will make all things right.
3. By faith in Jesus, we don't have to fear God's justice.

Context (HIStory)

Our main text (Genesis 18) takes place during the time of Abraham and before his descendants (Israel) became slaves in Egypt.

Gospel Connection (Good News)

Use Romans 3:26 to share the Gospel with the kids and explain how the cross shows both God's justice and mercy.

Attribute (God)

God is just. Use Genesis 18 to explain that because Abraham knew God, he knew that God would always do what was right.

Catechism (Foundation)

** For younger kids, spreading the catechism across several weeks may be more effective.*

Q. What is sin?
A. Sin is rejecting or ignoring God in the world he created, not being or doing what he requires in his law.

Application

This lesson should lead the kids to see that there are two appropriate responses to the justice of God: fear for those who have not been made right with God through faith in Jesus and rejoicing for those who have. If we have trusted Jesus, instead of being afraid of God's justice, we can be grateful for it - knowing that one day He will make all things right again.

Unit Memory Verse

And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.
John 17:3

PARENT/TEACHER RESOURCE PAGE - God is just.

Season 2. Unit 1. Lesson 2. June 9, 2024

Extra Teaching Tip

THE JUSTICE OF GOD

Why do we get angry when we hear of a horrible crime being committed against someone that we don't even know? Why do we expect our employees or co-workers not to steal from the company? Why do we expect someone not to cut in line while we are waiting to buy groceries? Why do kids expect their classmates not to wrestle a toy from their hands? Because deep down we all know what justice is. We know that when we do something wrong, consequences should follow. This is not something that has to be taught. I don't imagine a child exists who has never uttered the words "that's not fair." It is also not created by society. While different societies may form different ideas about the application of justice, there is always a universal principle that undergirds it. Keep this in mind as you teach about the justice of God. His justice is not just about punishing sin, though it certainly includes that. His justice is about Him ALWAYS doing what is right. All of those violations of justice listed above are things that offend Him more than they offend us. This attribute of God should not only cause us to fear Him in a reverent way, but it should also cause us to rejoice. An unjust God would be no God at all.

Tough Questions

IF GOD IS JUST, WHY DOES HE ALLOW PEOPLE TO DO HORRIBLE THINGS?

We have answered this in a more general way in other lessons. This falls under the umbrella of "Theodicy." If God is good and all-powerful, then why is there evil in the world?

The short answer to that question is that He has a good purpose for it. We have elaborated on that in the Tough Questions section of our lesson, "God is all-powerful." But more specifically, our question today is, "If God is just, why does He allow people to do horrible things?"

The answer to that question is that those people will not get away with the evil things they do. Unless they repent and turn to Christ, God will judge their sins, and justice will be served. This judgment is one of the things that believers are actually to look forward to. We see this in Rev. 6:10, the martyrs in Heaven are longing for the day that God vindicates them. We also see the psalmist, in Psalm 73, wrestle with this very question of why God allows the wicked to prosper. His comfort was found when he "considered their end." In other words, he remembered that justice would ultimately be served one day. The wicked may temporarily prosper but we know that Jesus is returning to make all things right.

LESSON 3 AT A GLANCE

In This Unit: **God is**

Holy. Just. **Present Everywhere.** Eternal. All Knowing. All Powerful. Unchanging. Love.
June 16, 2024

Objective

Teach the kids that God is always near to them, first because He is present everywhere and second because He lives inside of believers.

Big Question

Ask at the beginning of the lesson; answer at the end.

Question: How does it comfort me that God is present everywhere?

Answer: Because if He is present everywhere, He can be with me always.

Scriptures

Teach from: Psalm 139 in its entirety or just 139:7-12, Jeremiah 23:23-24, Romans 8:31, & Psalm 46:1.

Lesson Key Verse: Psalm 46:1

Unit Memory Verse: John 17:3

Key Takeaways (3 Keys)

Recite at the beginning, middle, and end of the lesson.

1. God is present everywhere.
2. God is separate from His creation.
3. We are never alone.

Context (HIStory)

Our main text (Psalm 139) was written by King David about 400 years after the time of Moses and 1000 years before Jesus was born!

Gospel Connection (Good News)

Use Psalm 46:1 & Romans 8:31 to share the Gospel with the kids, emphasizing "Christ." God is present everywhere but the Good News is that because of Christ He is with *us* and for *us* in a very special way if we trust in Him.

Attribute (God)

God is present everywhere. Teach God's omnipresence from Psalm 139.

Catechism (Foundation)

** For younger kids, spreading the catechism across several weeks may be more effective.*

Q. What does it mean that God is omnipresent?
A. God is everywhere all at once.

Application

The omnipresence of God should fill us with comfort and courage. Comfort comes from knowing He is right there with us when we are hurting, and courage comes from knowing we can do anything He calls us to do since He is with us.

Unit Memory Verse

And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.
John 17:3

PARENT/TEACHER RESOURCE PAGE - God is present everywhere.

Season 2. Unit 1. Lesson 3. June 16, 2024

Extra Teaching Tip

THE GOD WHO IS THERE

Something we often miss when reading scripture is the significance of the Lord's promise to be with us. Many times God comforts His fearful, unbelieving people with nothing more than, "fear not for I will be with you." What we need to see in those simple words is this: When the Creator of the universe is present with you, your circumstances, no matter how challenging, become irrelevant. Imagine yourself hiking along the edge of a perilous cliff. One misstep and your feet might slip in the loose rocks, gravity might pull you to the bottom and the impact might kill you. Now imagine that you're hiking along that cliff with the One who made the cliff, the loose rocks, your feet, the law of gravity and the limits of your body. What happens if you fall? Well that's no longer up to the circumstances. Now, that is up to Him. His presence changes everything. Help your students to see that when God says He is with us, it changes everything!

Tough Questions

IF GOD CAN BE EVERYWHERE AT ONCE BECAUSE HE DOESN'T HAVE A PHYSICAL BODY, DOES THAT MEAN THAT JESUS CAN'T BE EVERYWHERE AT ONCE SINCE HE DOES HAVE A PHYSICAL BODY?

Yes and no. Ever since Jesus took on flesh, He has had a physical body. Because of that, His omnipresence is a little more complicated for us to understand. However, He is still fully God and fully united to the Father and the Holy Spirit. Jesus as the God-man, has a physical body but He *is* still omnipresent through the Holy Spirit. When He promised to be with us always (Matt. 28:20) He meant it. That is possible because the Holy Spirit is so united to Christ that the Bible calls Him the "Spirit of Christ" (Rom. 8:9).

Jesus in His humanity is in a physical body in time and space, but in His divinity, He is omnipresent. He is with us by His Spirit and will be with us always.



LESSON 4 AT A GLANCE

In This Unit: **God is**

Holy. Just. Present Everywhere. **Eternal.** All Knowing. All Powerful. Unchanging. Love.
June 23, 2024

Objective

Teach the kids that God is eternal. He had no beginning and will have no end.

Big Question

Ask at the beginning of the lesson; answer at the end.

Question: When did God begin to exist?
Answer: God did not have a beginning, and He will not have an end.

Scriptures

Teach from: John 1:1-14, Revelation 22:13, Genesis 1:14-19, Psalm 90:2, Jeremiah 31:3
Lesson Key Verse: Psalm 90:2
Unit Memory Verse: John 17:3

Key Takeaways (3 Keys)

Recite at the beginning, middle, and end of the lesson.

1. God is eternal.
2. God had no beginning and will have no end.
3. When God saves, He saves eternally.

Context (HIStory)

Our main text (John 1:1-14) takes place in what we sometimes call “eternity past.” Jesus is being described as existing “in the beginning with God.” This is another way of saying that He is eternal because He is also God.

Gospel Connection (Good News)

Use Jer. 31:3 to share the Gospel with the kids. Emphasize that God’s eternal nature can give us confidence in our salvation. If He is eternal and he loves us, that means He loves us eternally. When He saves us, He saves us eternally!

Attribute (God)

God is eternal. He always was, is, and will be.

Catechism (Foundation)

** For younger kids, spreading the catechism across several weeks may be more effective.*

Q. What does it mean that God is eternal?
A. It means that He had no beginning and will have no end. He always was, is, and will be.

Application

There are things we learn about God that we can’t fully understand. One of those things is God’s having no beginning, no end, and existing outside of time. When we encounter things like this, instead of getting frustrated that we can’t understand, we should marvel. We will never be able to fully comprehend Him, and that’s okay because He is God!

Unit Memory Verse

And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.
John 17:3

PARENT/TEACHER RESOURCE PAGE - God is eternal.

Season 2. Unit 1. Lesson 4. June 23, 2024

Extra Teaching Tip

COMPREHEND VS APPREHEND

This is a helpful distinction to remember as a teacher. To comprehend means to have a firm grasp of a concept. You “get it.” To apprehend means to “see it” even if you can’t quite make sense of it. For example, you probably comprehend the idea of how a bicycle works. The pedals turn the chain, the chain turns the wheels, and the wheels roll to propel the bike forward. But you may only apprehend how the invisible laws of physics move the bike forward instead of floating into the air. You know that the universe works in certain ways, and you accept it even though you don’t fully grasp it. There are truths of God that we can comprehend and some that we can only apprehend. It is enough to have an idea of what “God is eternal” means, and doesn’t mean, without being able to see all the inner workings of that truth. Give the kids some examples of things that they comprehend vs something they can only apprehend.

Tough Questions

IF GOD SAVES ME ETERNALLY, DOES THAT MEAN I CAN LIVE HOWEVER I WANT?

The Apostle Paul faced this same question and answered it for is multiple places in the Bible. One of those texts is Romans 6:1-4, *“What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? 3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.”*

What Paul is teaching us here is that when God saves someone, He doesn’t just forgive them; He also changes them. Someone who has been saved by God has a new heart and will WANT to do what pleases Him. The old you dies when you trust Christ and He makes you new. That’s why Paul says, *“By no means!”*

That doesn’t mean that we won’t have other desires that try to get us to disobey God, but the Bible commands us to resist those desires and He has given us His Spirit to give us the power and the desire to do just that! Philippians 2:13 says, *“For it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.”*



LESSON 5 AT A GLANCE

In This Unit: **God is**

Holy. Just. Present Everywhere. Eternal. **All Knowing.** All Powerful. Unchanging. Love.
July 7, 2024

Objective

Teach the kids that God knows everything and how this fact can comfort us if we trust in Jesus.

Big Question

Ask at the beginning of the lesson; answer at the end.

Question: How many of my sins does God know about, and how many of them does He forgive if I trust Jesus?

Answer: All of them!

Scriptures

Teach from: John 4:1-30, Psalm 139:4, Hebrews 4:13, & Colossians 2:13
Lesson Key Verse: Psalm 139:4
Unit Memory Verse: John 17:3

Key Takeaways (3 Keys)

Recite at the beginning, middle, and end of the lesson.

1. God is all knowing.
2. God knows everything about us, and He loves us.
3. When we put our faith in Jesus, He forgives all of our sins.

Context (HIStory)

Our main text (John 4:1-30) takes place during Jesus' earthly ministry before He was crucified.

Gospel Connection (Good News)

Use Hebrews 4:13 to show the kids that the just, eternal, holy, omnipresent God knows every single sin we have ever and will ever commit, but He chooses to forgive us anyway in Christ because He is so good and so loving.

Attribute (God)

God is all knowing. He never gains new information about the world or about us.

Catechism (Foundation)

** For younger kids, spreading the catechism across several weeks may be more effective.*

Q. What do we mean when we say that God is all knowing?
A. When we say that God is all knowing we mean that He never learns or gains new information; He knows all things.

Application

This attribute of God can give us great comfort when we confess our sins to Him. It can also give us peace when we feel scared or anxious. God sees exactly what we go through. Nothing comes our way that He doesn't know about.

Unit Memory Verse

And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.
John 17:3

PARENT/TEACHER RESOURCE PAGE - God is all knowing.

Season 2. Unit 1. Lesson 5. July 7, 2024

Extra Teaching Tip

FULLY KNOWN AND FULLY LOVED

Our kids are growing up in a culture that is becoming increasingly disconnected from relationships where people truly know each other. Consider how many times you've heard about someone you didn't know or met someone for the first time and then immediately pulled up their social media profile to see what they were like. But are our social media profiles good representations of what any of us are really like? No, in fact, for most of us, they are quite the opposite. We post our "best selves" for the world to see. Then, we have the unintended pressure of living up to that persona. This is going to be a huge challenge for these kids unless we, the church, do something different. One thing that you can do to help is make sure that these little ones know that there is One who fully knows them *and* fully loves them. That they never have to pretend to be something that they are not for God. They can come to Him as they are, be real with Him, and trust Him to make them into their "best selves" - their real "best selves," which is them, in their own individual personalities, following Jesus and becoming more like Him!

Tough Questions

IF GOD ALREADY KNOWS, THEN WHY...?

You could finish that question in so many different ways. It is such an intuitive question because it picks up on a logical dilemma. If God knows the future, or especially if God has planned the future, then what difference will any of our actions make? We could get into the debates among differing theological camps, Arminianism, Calvinism, and the like, but it doesn't make much difference at the heart of the matter. At the end of the day, the question is a difficult one for any theological system to answer. The simple answer is this: God *does* know the future, but our actions still matter because God has chosen to work through *means*.

For instance, God knows what you need, what you will pray for, and how He will answer, but He still commands you to pray. Why? Because in the world He has designed, He has chosen to work *through* your prayers. He has chosen to use your prayers to accomplish His will in the same way He has chosen to use the sun to provide light to the earth. God doesn't need the sun in order to give light. He could just illuminate the earth by His Word. But He has designed the sun as a means for us, something through which He does His work. Your prayers (and just about anything else that you could finish the above question with) work the same way.



LESSON 6 AT A GLANCE

In This Unit: **God is**

Holy. Just. Present Everywhere. Eternal. All Knowing. **All Powerful.** Unchanging. Love.
July 14, 2024

Objective

Teach the kids that God being all powerful means more than “He can do anything.” God being all powerful means that there is NOTHING outside of His power!

Big Question

Ask at the beginning of the lesson; answer at the end.

Question: How can God’s power give us courage?

Answer: Since God has power over all things, nothing can stand against us if we trust in Him.

Scriptures

Teach from: Matthew 8, Colossians 2:15, Jeremiah 32:17, & Psalm 115:3
Lesson Key Verse: Jeremiah 32:17
Unit Memory Verse: John 17:3

Key Takeaways (3 Keys)

Recite at the beginning, middle, and end of the lesson.

1. God is all powerful.
2. Nothing is outside of God’s power.
3. Nothing is too hard for God.

Context (HIStory)

Our main text (Matthew 8) takes place during Jesus’ earthly ministry before He was crucified.

Gospel Connection (Good News)

Discuss how God’s power over all gives us confidence to trust His plan to save us. He has power over sin and death. He uses that power to save everyone who trusts in Him from sin and death. (Jer. 32:17 & Ps. 115:3)

Attribute (God)

God is all powerful. There is no power above God and no power that is not under His rule.

Catechism (Foundation)

** For younger kids, spreading the catechism across several weeks may be more effective.*

Q. What do we mean when we say that God is all powerful?
A. When we say that God is all powerful we mean that He has power over everything. There is nothing and no one that has more power than God.

Application

God’s power should give the believer great courage. Because God has all power and He is with us and for us, then we can boldly and courageously do all that He calls us to do. That doesn’t mean we won’t have troubles, but it does mean that even the troubles we have are victories because God is working them for our good.

Unit Memory Verse

And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.
John 17:3

PARENT/TEACHER RESOURCE PAGE - God is all powerful.

Season 2. Unit 1. Lesson 6. July 14, 2024

Extra Teaching Tip

MIRACLES

Stories of miracles can be hard to believe sometimes. Why is that? They can be hard to believe because they are not something that we see everyday. We might be tempted to try and explain away a miracle by some natural cause that happened, but if it was a natural cause then it wasn't a miracle at all.

We need to make sure that when we teach kids about God performing miracles we are teaching them what miracles really are. They are not superstitious ways that ancient people described natural events and they are not magic. They are displays of God showing His power over His creation. They are events that happen outside of our typical experience with the laws of nature performed by the One who made the laws of nature. If we believe in an all powerful God, miracles should not be hard for us to believe.

Most kids have heard something like this while playing with other kids, "It's my game. I made it up so I can change the rules!" This is exactly how we are to see miracles. God's world, God's rules for us. If He wants to operate outside of those rules He certainly can. In fact, this is one of the ways that He shows Himself to be God - by showing His power over His laws of nature!

Tough Questions

WHY HAVEN'T I EVER SEEN A MIRACLE IF GOD CAN PERFORM THEM?

We often read the accounts of God performing miraculous deeds in the Bible and wonder why we don't see things like this today. Since the Bible is a compilation of accounts and not a complete world history, what we're really reading is sometimes more like a highlight reel. When you watch a highlight reel of a game, you know that the plays you're watching are the exceptional ones, and you don't expect the whole game to be filled with those.

Just so, God's miraculous works were rare in the Bible, too. There were periods of time (like during Jesus' ministry) when miracles were frequent, but that wasn't the norm. They just seem like they happen all the time to us when we read because we forget that, aside from Jesus' ministry, there were sometimes hundreds of years between these wonders. God can do whatever He wants whenever He wants, and He does still perform miracles today, but the absence of miracles doesn't mean that God is not at work.

Can we ask God for miracles? Absolutely! When a loved one is sick, we want to pray that God will heal them. When we share the Gospel with someone, we want to pray that God will cause them to be born again. Just remember that He has a good plan and reason for when He performs miracles and a good plan and reason for when He doesn't.



LESSON 7 AT A GLANCE

In This Unit: **God is**

Holy. Just. Present Everywhere. Eternal. All Knowing. All Powerful. **Unchanging.** Love.
July 21, 2024

Objective

Teach the kids that God does not change. Use the passages in Exodus and John to show that God reveals Himself in the Old Testament and the New Testament and that He is the same God in both. Dispell the modern idea that God in the OT is somehow different from God in the NT.

Big Question

Ask at the beginning of the lesson; answer at the end.

Question: Is God different in the Old Testament than Jesus in the New Testament?

Answer: No! God is unchanging.

Scriptures

Teach from: Exodus 33:18-23, John 14:6-11, & James 1:17.

Lesson Key Verse: Hebrews 1:3

Unit Memory Verse: John 17:3

Key Takeaways (3 Keys)

Recite at the beginning, middle, and end of the lesson.

1. God is unchanging.
2. God is three in one.
3. Jesus shows us what the Father is like.

Context (HIStory)

Our main texts (Exodus 33 & John 14) take place at two different periods in HIStory. One while Moses is leading the children of Israel and the other during Jesus' earthly ministry.

Gospel Connection (Good News)

Use John 14:6-7 to share the Gospel. Emphasize the fact that we need God to reveal Himself in order for us to know and trust Jesus. Thankfully, He loves us so much that He has done just that! He revealed Himself in His Son and in His Word!

Attribute (God)

God is unchanging. He always has been and always will be all that He is in all three persons of the Trinity.

Catechism (Foundation)

** For younger kids, spreading the catechism across several weeks may be more effective.*

Q. What is God?

A. *God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness and truth.*

Application

Another misconception about God in the Old Testament and Jesus in the New Testament has to do with the idea of holiness. Some think that God cared about personal holiness (living in a way that seeks to obey God's commands) in the OT, but the NT is all about grace. This is a misunderstanding of God, holiness, and grace. Teach the kids that God always cares about holiness and that it is His grace that helps us live holy lives, not so that He will save us but because He has saved us.

Unit Memory Verse

And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.
John 17:3

PARENT/TEACHER RESOURCE PAGE - God is unchanging.

Season 2. Unit 1. Lesson 7. July 21, 2024

Extra Teaching Tip

TIPS ON THE TRINITY

It's helpful to focus on the words "**being**" and "**person**." A table has **being**, but it does not have **personhood**. A human is one being in one person.

God is ONE **BEING** in THREE **PERSONS**.

The three persons; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are three distinct persons, but they are all one being - God. They are co-equal and co-eternal.

God is not $\frac{1}{3}$ of each. God does not just show Himself in three different ways.

It's best to refrain from analogies. Let it be ok if this is hard to understand. He is not like us. It shouldn't be easy to understand.

Tough Questions

IF GOD BECAME A MAN, THEN DOESN'T THAT MEAN HE CHANGED?

When we say that God is unchanging, we mean something very specific. The Westminster Shorter Catechism says, "God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, **in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.**"

The statement, "God is unchanging," is meant to communicate something about the nature and character of God. He cannot be good today and evil tomorrow. He cannot be trustworthy today and a liar tomorrow. God taking on flesh in the person of Jesus the Son does not create a change in God since He remained just as perfectly God as He had always been. He did something that He had not done before, but He did not cease to be Himself in doing so.

A way that this is often summarized by theologians is, "Remaining what He was, He became what He was not."

LESSON 8 AT A GLANCE

In This Unit: **God is**

Holy. Just. Present Everywhere. Eternal. All Knowing. All Powerful. Unchanging. **Love.**

July 28, 2024

Objective

Teach the kids that love is essential to who God is. We don't simply describe Him as loving because He loves; rather He is loving because He *is* Love. Give them a Biblical definition of love and show them that love is defined by God and not us.

Big Question

Ask at the beginning of the lesson; answer at the end.

Question: Does "God is love" mean that whatever we think love is, that's what God is?

Answer: No, whatever God is, in the Bible, is what love is.

Scriptures

Teach from: Luke 10:25-37, 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, 1 John 4:8, & 1 John 4:16

Lesson Key Verse: 1 John 4:16

Unit Memory Verse: John 17:3

Key Takeaways (3 Keys)

Recite at the beginning, middle, and end of the lesson.

1. God is love.
2. We have to define love the way God does.
3. God loved us while we were still sinners.

Context (HIStory)

Our main text (Luke 10:25-37) takes place during the earthly ministry of Christ. The others take place shortly after Jesus ascended to Heaven while the Apostles were spreading the Gospel.

Gospel Connection (Good News)

Use Romans 5:8 to share the Gospel. Emphasize the fact that in the Gospel, God doesn't just reveal His love, but His love for sinners.

Attribute (God)

God is love. If we want to have an accurate view of love, we will find it by looking at the nature and character of God.

Catechism (Foundation)

** For younger kids, spreading the catechism across several weeks may be more effective.*

Q. How did God demonstrate His love for you?
A. God demonstrated His love for me by sending Christ to die for me while I was still a sinner.

Application

God commands us to love. He doesn't give us that command simply because it's a nice thing to do. He gives us that command because, ultimately, He wants us to be like Him. We were made to reflect Him. When we love, we show the world what God is like, and we can find out what it looks like to truly love by looking at God's character.

Unit Memory Verse

And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.
John 17:3

PARENT/TEACHER RESOURCE PAGE - God is love.

Season 2. Unit 1. Lesson 8. July 28, 2024

Extra Teaching Tip

REVIEWING THE UNIT:

Holy - Moses and the burning bush. There is no one like God!

Just - Abraham counted on God's justice. God always does what is right!

Present Everywhere - The psalmist recognized that there was nowhere he could go where God would not be.

Eternal - Creation and John 1 were examples we used. God did not have a beginning and He will never have an end.

All Knowing - Jesus knew the whole life story of the woman at the well. We are fully known and fully loved by Him!

All Powerful - Jesus showed His power over everything in Matt. 8. Miracles are a way that God displays His rule over creation.

Unchanging - Jesus told His disciples that seeing Him is seeing the Father!

Love - Today's lesson!

Tough Questions

IF WE LOVE PEOPLE, SHOULDN'T WE JUST ACCEPT THEM AS THEY ARE?

"Love is acceptance." This is the reigning view in our culture today. The irony is that people only practice this view when it could cause conflict, persecution, or discomfort to refuse to accept others the way they are. For instance, if your friend came to you and said that they had decided that they wanted to be a bank robber, what would you tell them? Would you say, "Yes! I support you! You do you. Be the best bank robber you can be!"

Of course not. You would warn them of the dangers of breaking the law, tell them that stealing dishonors God, and try to talk them out of it. If they said, "This is just who I am, and if you don't accept me, then you don't love me!" You would recognize that as foolish. You know that loving them means seeking what's best for them, even if that goes against what they think they want for themselves.

BUT DOESN'T JESUS ACCEPT US AS WE ARE?

Yes and no. In the sense, that He does not require us to clean ourselves up and try and be good enough to earn salvation, then yes, He accepts us as we are. We can't clean ourselves up or make ourselves good enough.

But if you mean, does He approve of us as we are and allow us to remain as we are? Then no, He does not. Jesus receives us as sinners, not to leave us as sinners but to change us. The most loving thing Jesus can do for us is to restore the image of God in us, and that's exactly what He begins doing by His Spirit when He saves us.

