

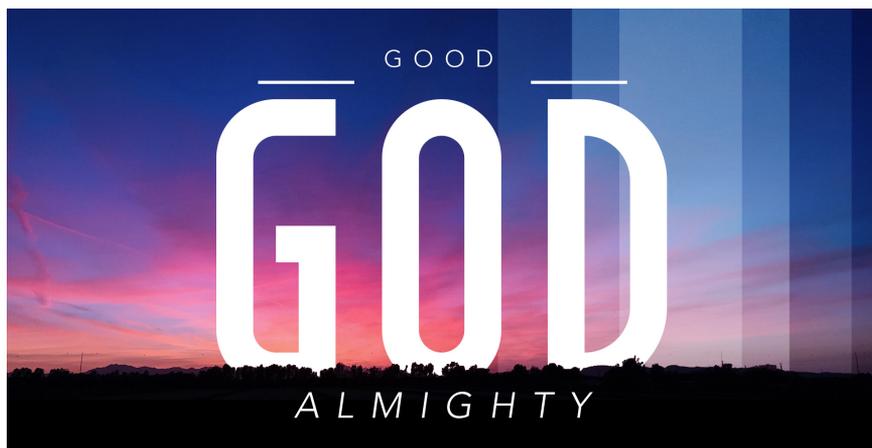


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GOOD

GOD

ALMIGHTY



Who is God? What is He like? Can I trust Him?

The answers to these questions are more important than you might think. In fact, they play a huge role in the decisions that we make, and they help set the course for every area of our lives. In this study, we will explore the character of God. As we discover more about who He truly is, we'll look at how to hear **from** and respond **to** our amazing **Good God Almighty**.

To access videos that go along with this study, scan QR code.



or go to

thebridge.me/join-a-5-week-group

SMALL GROUP GROUND RULES

This should be a safe place.

PLEASE:

- Keep things that are shared confidential.
- Respect those with different backgrounds, thoughts, and beliefs. We are not all the same, and that is a good thing.
- Discussion involves everyone. Be ready to participate as a listener and as a speaker.
- Let opinions submit to what the Bible has to say.

GOOD GOD ALMIGHTY

WEEK ONE: IS THERE A GOD?

"What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us."

A.W. Tozer



Let's Get Started

Share about a place you've visited that made you feel a sense of wonder.

Does God exist? That is a question people have wondered about for ages. This week, we'll look at ideas and evidence that will help us grow in our faith and that will also help us be able to share with others.



View

Watch the video for **Week 1: Is There a God?**

VIDEO NOTES:



Read Aloud

Acts 17:22-26

So Paul, standing before the council, addressed them as follows: “Men of Athens, I notice that you are very religious in every way, ²³ for as I was walking along I saw your many shrines. And one of your altars had this inscription on it: ‘To an Unknown God.’ This God, whom you worship without knowing, is the one I’m telling you about.

²⁴ “He is the God who made the world and everything in it. Since he is Lord of heaven and earth, he doesn’t live in man-made temples, ²⁵ and human hands can’t serve his needs—for he has no needs. He himself gives life and breath to everything, and he satisfies every need. ²⁶ From one man he created all the nations throughout the whole earth. He decided beforehand when they should rise and fall, and he determined their boundaries.



Discuss

3. Paul mentions the altar inscribed “TO AN UNKNOWN GOD” in verse 23. What does this reveal about the spiritual condition of the Athenians, and how does Paul use this to introduce the true God?
4. As you look at these verses, what key points does Paul make about God’s nature and our relationship with Him?
5. Reflecting on Paul’s message, how do you understand the presence and role of God in your own life? In what ways can you relate to the Athenians’ search for the divine, and how has your own understanding of God evolved over time?

4 WAYS GOD SPEAKS TO US

FIRST CAUSE: Imagine a row of dominoes standing up in a line. When you push the first domino, it falls and knocks over the next one, and then the next one, and so on. Now, think about this: what made the first domino fall? In our world, everything that happens is like one domino knocking over another. But for the dominoes to start falling, something had to push the first one. The idea of the First Cause is like that first push. It means that something (or someone) had to start everything in the world. God is the First Cause.

INTELLIGENT DESIGN: This line of thought suggests that all of creation testifies to an intelligent designer. Just as if you were walking through the desert and stumbled upon a car, you would immediately recognize that it was not naturally formed by the elements but rather designed and built by someone. Similarly, the universe exhibits signs of design that point to an intelligent creator. For instance, the earth is specifically situated in our galaxy and solar system to allow life to exist, gravity and natural laws work in precise ways that sustain life, and the complexity of DNA reveals intricate patterns and information that suggest intentionality. All of this evidence of design points to the existence of a designer, an intelligent supreme being like God.

MORAL COMPASS: The moral compass argument for God's existence says that God exists because He is the best explanation for the fact that across all of the people groups, tribes, and cultures there are objective moral truths.

RELIGIOUS ENCOUNTER: There are people all over the world who believe in some form of God. These religious encounters are widespread and involve similarities even across cultures.



Discuss

6. Which of these arguments for the existence of God resonates most with you? Why?
 7. Have you ever had a time when you doubted that God existed? What helped you during that period of time?
-

Acts 17:27 says that God “is not far from any one of us.” Look up the following passages to see how close God is to each of us.

Matthew 28:20:

Jeremiah 31:33:

Psalms 139:7-8:

Psalms 145:18:



Discuss

8. What are the times that you most need to know that God is present in your life? How does the assurance of His presence impact you in the areas of: anxiety, depression, anger, loneliness, joy, peace, etc.?



Apply it!

Take a few minutes to think through what might be different in your life if you didn't have a personal relationship with Jesus. Pray and thank God for His closeness and His care for you.

And if you do not have a personal relationship with Jesus yet, ask God to reveal Himself to you. Jeremiah 29:13-14 says:

"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all of your heart. I will be found by you," declares the Lord, 'and will bring you back from captivity.'"

To learn more about following Jesus, check out www.thebridge.me/know-god.



Pray

Take time to pray and ask God to move in each of your lives over the course of this study.

NOTES:

GOOD GOD ALMIGHTY

WEEK TWO: WHAT IS GOD'S NAME?

"Our understanding of God's name shapes our perspective of Him and our relationship with Him."

John Mark Comer



Let's Get Started

What is the story behind your name? Have you ever asked your parents or guardians why they chose your name? Does it have a special meaning or significance in your family or culture?

This week we will look at the moment when God shared His personal name for the very first time. As we learn His name, we will discover so much more about who He truly is!



View

Watch the video for **Week 2: What is God's Name?**

VIDEO NOTES:

¹⁵ *God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel: Yahweh, the God of your ancestors—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you. This is my eternal name, my name to remember for all generations.*



Discuss

1. In these verses, God reveals His name to Moses as "I AM WHO I AM" (Yahweh). **Why** do you think He chose this timing to reveal His name?
2. What is the significance of this name, and how does it reflect God's nature and character?
3. Consider the cultural and religious context in which the Israelites were living in Egypt, surrounded by numerous gods and deities. How might God's declaration of His name as "I AM" have been received by the Israelites and contrasted with the Egyptian gods?
4. God's name "I AM" suggests His eternal existence and unchanging nature. How does this understanding of God's eternal presence influence your faith and daily life? Can you share a personal experience where the knowledge of God's unchanging nature brought you comfort or strength?
5. What attributes of God's nature and character are revealed by His name "I AM"? (For example, He is eternal and all-powerful.)

Later in Exodus, Moses asked to be allowed to see God's presence. God agreed, but warned Moses that he couldn't look directly at God. In the passage below, God not only passed by Moses as He kept him protected in the crevice of a rock, but He also shared more about His character.



Read Aloud

Exodus 34:5-7a

Then the Lord came down in a cloud and stood there with him; and he called out his own name, Yahweh. ⁶

The Lord passed in front of Moses, calling out, "Yahweh! The Lord!

The God of compassion and mercy!

I am slow to anger

and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness.

⁷ I lavish unfailing love to a thousand generations.

I forgive iniquity, rebellion, and sin."



Discuss

6. Looking carefully at these verses, what can we learn about God? What impact do you think this had on Moses? (Hint - You can see the immediate impact in Exodus 34:8-10.) How does knowing this about Yahweh affect how you view Him and how you trust Him?



What about Jesus?

Where does Jesus fit in with God and His personal name of Yahweh?



Read Aloud

Colossians 1:15-17

Christ is the visible image of the invisible God.

He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation,

¹⁶ for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth.

He made the things we can see

and the things we can't see—

such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world.

Everything was created through him and for him.

¹⁷ He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together.



Discuss

7. From these verses, what can we learn about Jesus the Christ? How does this line up with Jesus being Yahweh?



Read Aloud

John 8:58

Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, before Abraham was even born, I AM!"



Discuss

8. What very clear claim does Jesus make in this statement? What does Jesus' statement reveal about His identity and nature?
9. How does understanding Jesus as the eternal "I AM" impact your personal faith and relationship with Him?

God's Word speaks often about the importance of not following other gods. (Exodus 20:3) While we may not be tempted to follow gods from other religions, our problem is that we often pull other gods in with the one true God. This is a mindset of **"Jesus and ..."**

10. What competes with Jesus in your life? Share a time when something took precedence over your relationship with Jesus



Apply it!

How can understanding the true meaning of God's personal name Yahweh help you combat the temptation to have a "Jesus and" mindset in your own life?



Pray

GOOD GOD ALMIGHTY

WEEK THREE: DOES GOD STILL SPEAK?

"We often miss hearing God's voice simply because we aren't paying attention."

Rick Warren



Let's Get Started

Lip-Reading: Write down several short phrases on index cards. (have a great day, let's go to dinner, etc.) Fold the cards and put them in a bag or bowl. Have one person in the circle choose a card and, making no sound, read it to the group. Everyone else in the group tries to lip-read the phrase. The first one to get it right gets the point for that round. Play rotates around the circle, and the person with the most points when the cards run out wins!

Sometimes it can feel so challenging to hear from God. This week we'll be exploring whether God still speaks to people and, if He does, how we can amplify the sound of His voice in our lives.



View

Watch the video for **Week 3: Does God Still Speak?**



Read Aloud

Job 33:14

For God speaks again and again, though people do not recognize it.



Discuss

3. According to Job 33:14, God speaks to us "again and again". What are some things that might keep us from recognizing His voice?

4 WAYS GOD SPEAKS TO US

- a. God speaks through **HIS WORD**
- b. God speaks through **GIFTED TEACHERS**
- c. God speaks through **IMPRESSIONS**
- d. God speaks through **PAIN**



Discuss

HIS WORD

4. In 2 Timothy 3:16-17, we read that *"All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. ¹⁷ God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work."* From these verses, what qualities do you see in Scripture that would help us hear from God?

5. How has reading the Bible helped you understand God's voice more clearly? Reflect on a recent situation where you needed guidance. How did you or could you use Scripture to seek wisdom and direction in that moment?

GIFTED TEACHERS

Paul, Silas, and Timothy established the church in Thessalonica on Paul's second missionary journey. In this verse, we see how the people received their Christ-centered teaching at that time.



Read Aloud

1 Thessalonians 2:13

"Therefore, we never stop thanking God that when you received his message from us, you didn't think of our words as mere human ideas. You accepted what we said as the very word of God—which, of course, it is. And this word continues to work in you who believe."



Discuss

6. Describe a time when a sermon or teaching influenced your understanding of God. How do you discern whether a teacher is truly speaking from God's Word?

IMPRESSIONS



Read Aloud

John 14:26

But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you.



Discuss

7. How does the Holy Spirit work in the lives of Christ-followers? (Galatians 5:22-23, Romans 8:26, 1 Corinthians 3:16, John 15:26, John 16:13, Romans 8:14)

Galatians 5:22-23:

Romans 8:26:

1 Corinthians 3:16:

John 15:26:

John 16:13:

Romans 8:14:

8. Why is it important to test impressions? (1 John 4:1)
How can you test an impression to see if it may be from God?

QUICK TEST FOR IMPRESSIONS

Does it line up with Scripture?

Is it consistent with God's character?

PAIN



Read Aloud

Psalm 119:71-72

*My suffering was good for me,
for it taught me to pay attention to your decrees.
⁷² Your instructions are more valuable to me
than millions in gold and silver.*



Discuss

9. In what way has God used painful experiences in your life? How did it ultimately bring you closer to God?



Apply it!

As you reflect on the ways that God speaks to us, identify any distractions or barriers in your life that might be hindering you from hearing God's voice. What steps can you take to minimize these?



Pray

GOOD GOD ALMIGHTY

WEEK FOUR: IS GOD REALLY GOOD?

"Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God."

Corrie ten Boon



Let's Get Started

Good Vibes: What would you consider a "good day"? What would that involve? Is there something that can turn a tough day around for you?

The circumstances of life often challenge our belief in God's goodness. Yet, understanding and believing the truth of the absolute goodness of God can transform every area of our lives.



View

Watch the video for **Week 4: Is God Really Good?**

VIDEO NOTES:

Psalm 34:8

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in him!

James 1:17

Whatever is good and perfect is a gift coming down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow.



Discuss

2. What can we learn about God in these verses? Share as many attributes as you can find.
3. Psalm 136:1 encourages us to give thanks to the LORD because He is good. How might practicing gratitude for God's goodness impact your spiritual life, especially during difficult times?
4. Why does it sometimes seem easier to believe in Jesus' goodness instead of God's goodness?



Read Aloud

Hebrews 1:3

The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God, and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command. When he had cleansed us from our sins, he sat down in the place of honor at the right hand of the majestic God in heaven.



Discuss

5. What do we learn about Jesus (the Son) in this verse?

6. We see here that Jesus “radiates God’s own glory and expresses the very character of God.” How might this challenge your perception of God’s goodness?

In the creation account in Genesis, God created everything and “it was good”. Then sin entered the world through Adam and Eve. They were tempted and, because they questioned God’s goodness, they gave in to that temptation. Ironically, the challenging circumstances in our lives that can cause us to question God’s goodness are a result of their act of defiance against God that brought sin into the world.

7. In what ways are you tempted to question God’s goodness in your own life because you feel like you know better? In the choices you make? In your relationships? How might your life look different if you lived in true humility and trust in the goodness of God?

Psalm 103 is an incredible passage where David paints a beautiful picture of who God is and what our response should be.



Read Aloud

Psalm 103:1-12, 22

- Let all that I am praise the Lord;
with my whole heart, I will praise his holy name.*
- ² *Let all that I am praise the Lord;
may I never forget the good things he does for me.*
- ³ *He forgives all my sins
and heals all my diseases.*
- ⁴ *He redeems me from death
and crowns me with love and tender mercies.*

- 5 He fills my life with good things.
My youth is renewed like the eagle's!*
- 6 The Lord gives righteousness
and justice to all who are treated unfairly.*
- 7 He revealed his character to Moses
and his deeds to the people of Israel.*
- 8 The Lord is compassionate and merciful,
slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love.*
- 9 He will not constantly accuse us,
nor remain angry forever.*
- 10 He does not punish us for all our sins;
he does not deal harshly with us, as we deserve.*
- 11 For his unfailing love toward those who fear him
is as great as the height of the heavens above the
earth.*
- 12 He has removed our sins as far from us
as the east is from the west.*
- 22 Praise the Lord, everything he has created,
everything in all his kingdom.
Let all that I am praise the Lord.*



Discuss

8. What does this passage tell you about who God is? What surprises you about this? What brings you joy?
9. If someone asked you what God thinks about you, what would you say? Has there been a time in your life when that would have been an uncomfortable question for you?
10. Look back at this passage. What does it tell us about how God sees us? How might that picture of God's love and care for you impact the way you relate to Him?

GOOD GOD ALMIGHTY

WEEK FIVE: HOW DO I RESPOND TO GOD?

"True worship is obedience to God for no other reason than that you delight in God."

J.D. Greer



Let's Get Started

Finish the Sentence: Let's play a quick game of Finish the Sentence. Everyone take an index card and write the beginning of a sentence. (Example: I took a walk by the ocean . . .) Now pass your card to the left. That person will respond to what is written and continue the sentence. Pass it down once more, and that person will finish the sentence. Share your creations with the group. High five to the most creative sentence!

This week, we're focusing on the question: "How do I respond to God?" True worship goes beyond rituals; it's about obedience and delight in God. We'll explore Isaiah's vision of God's throne room to get a clearer picture of His holiness and majesty. As we discuss these passages, think about how your perception of God shapes your worship, prayers, and actions.



View

Watch the video for **Week 5: How Do I Respond To God?**

Isaiah was a major prophet in the Old Testament. He made many prophecies about Jesus 700 years before Jesus was born. He gives a detailed visual of the throne room of God. Isaiah 6 is one of the most descriptive passages about God Himself.



Read Aloud

Isaiah 6:1-4

It was in the year King Uzziah died that I saw the Lord. He was sitting on a lofty throne, and the train of his robe filled the Temple. ²Attending him were mighty seraphim, each having six wings. With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³They were calling out to each other,

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Heaven’s Armies!

The whole earth is filled with his glory!”

⁴ Their voices shook the Temple to its foundations, and the entire building was filled with smoke.



Discuss

3. What do you see in this passage? What strikes you about the throne room of God?
4. If you could describe God with only one word after reading Isaiah 6, what word would you choose?
5. Was there a time where you personally encountered the power of God? What was that like? What made it so powerful to you?



Read Aloud

Isaiah 6:5-8

Then I said, "It's all over! I am doomed, for I am a sinful man. I have filthy lips, and I live among a people with filthy lips. Yet I have seen the King, the Lord of Heaven's Armies."

⁶ Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal he had taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷ He touched my lips with it and said, "See, this coal has touched your lips. Now your guilt is removed, and your sins are forgiven."

⁸ Then I heard the Lord asking, "Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us?" I said, "Here I am. Send me."



Discuss

6. According to verse 5, why did Isaiah feel doomed in that moment? Have you experienced God's holiness in a way that made you realize your own sin? How did you respond in that moment?



Read Aloud

Isaiah 57:15

"The high and lofty one who lives in eternity, the Holy One, says this: 'I live in the high and holy place with those whose spirits are contrite and humble. I restore the crushed spirit of the humble and revive the courage of those with repentant hearts.'"

HOLINESS

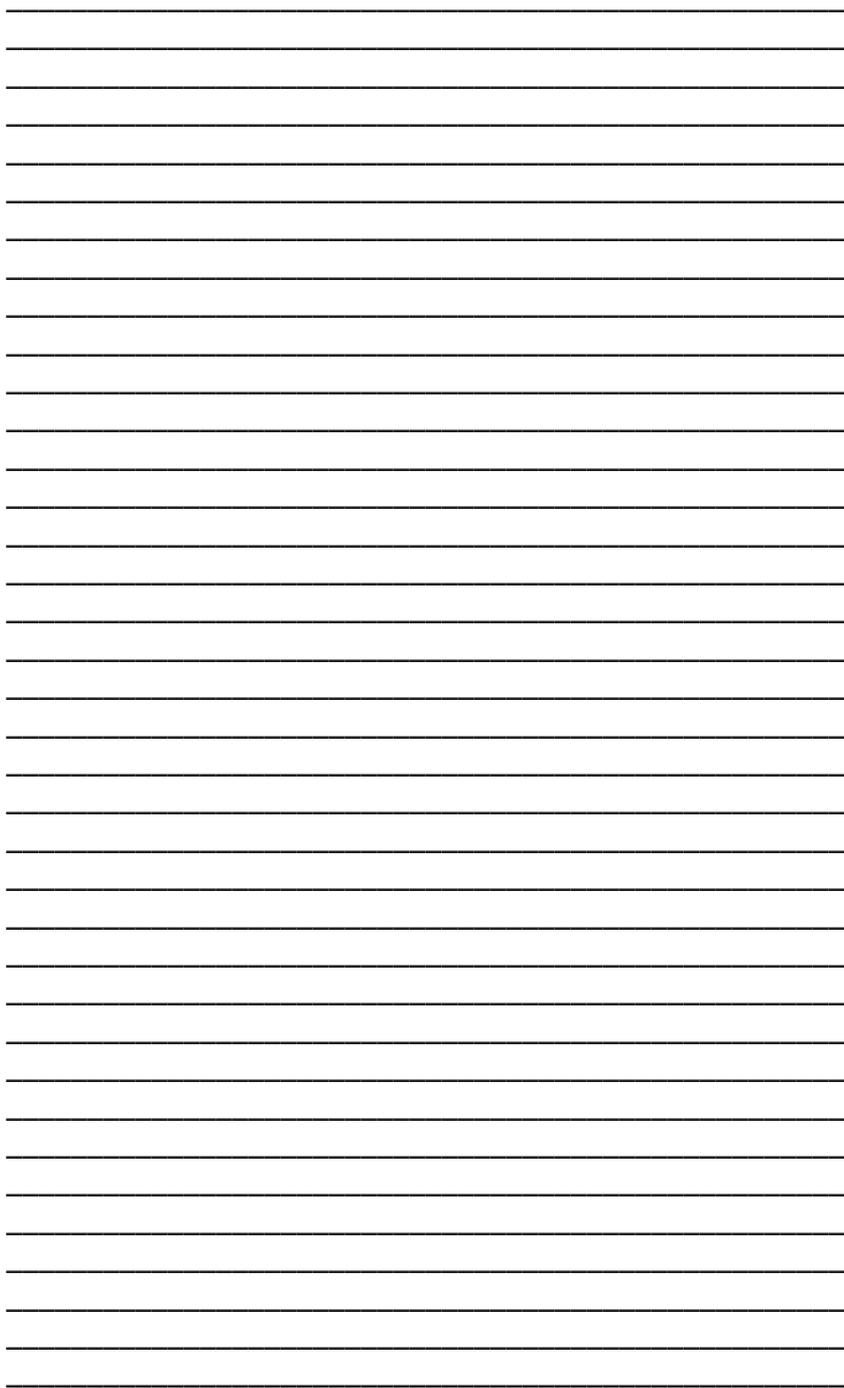
God's holiness means He is perfectly pure and completely free from sin, standing above everything else in His goodness and power. When we come to God, we should do so with deep reverence and humility, understanding how special and perfect He is, and aiming to live in a way that honors His holiness.

Look back at Isaiah 6:7. We see the seraphim touch Isaiah's lips with the coal and tell him "your sins are forgiven." **If you are a Christ-follower, you share this experience with Isaiah. Your sins are forgiven through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross!**



Discuss

7. What was Isaiah's answer to God when He asked "Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us?"? What do you think influenced Isaiah's response?
8. How have you responded and how are you continuing to respond to Jesus in light of His holiness and in light of His gift of salvation and eternal life?
9. Have you ever felt called to something by God? What was it? What was your initial response when you felt that calling?





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