



**BIBLE  
STUDIES  
FOR LIFE®**

*Personal*

Study Guide

ADULTS • CSB  
SPRING 2026

**GOD IS: UNDERSTANDING THE CHARACTER OF GOD**

**SEIZE THE DAY: EMBRACING A MISSION WITH PURPOSE**

## GOD IS . . . LIFE.

We have all made mistakes. You have. I have. And, no matter how great our intentions or how hard we might work, we can't make things right. The Bible uses a much stronger word than "mistake." Scripture uses the word sin to describe how we have failed to live according to God's perfect standard (Rom. 3:23). The result of our sin is death (Rom. 6:23).

Thankfully, we do not have to stay in this condemned state. In spite of our sin and rebellion against God, He loves us and made a way for us to be forgiven and receive a new, eternal life, freed from the consequences of our sin. That way is Jesus Christ, who paid the penalty for our sin and brokenness with His own death (John 3:16; Rom. 5:8). When we turn away from our sin in repentance and turn to Christ in faith, He gives us a new life, freed from the penalty of sin. We are made new in Him (2 Cor. 5:17).

God's promise is the best guarantee we can be offered. "For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (Rom. 10:13).

To receive a new life in Christ, you can pray a prayer like this:

**"Dear God, I know I am a sinner. I believe Jesus died on the cross to forgive me of my sins and rose from the dead to give me new life. I'm sorry for all the wrong I've done and ask You to forgive me. I now accept Your gift of eternal life. Thank You for Your love, forgiveness, and a new life in Jesus Christ. From this day forward, I choose to follow You. In Jesus's name, Amen."**

Share your decision to follow Jesus with a pastor or those in your Bible study group. Be baptized as an expression of your faith. Get involved in a church that will help you grow in your faith.

# CONTENTS

## GOD IS: UNDERSTANDING THE CHARACTER OF GOD

Suggested for the week of		Introduction .....	9
March 1	Session 1	<b>God Is Holy</b> .....	11
March 8	Session 2	<b>God Is Love</b> .....	19
March 15	Session 3	<b>God Is Just</b> .....	27
March 22	Session 4	<b>God Is Omnipotent</b> .....	35
March 29	Session 5	<b>God Is Faithful</b> .....	43
April 5	Session 6	<b>God Is Life-Giving</b> .....	51
April 12	Session 7	<b>God Is Eternal</b> .....	59

## SEIZE THE DAY: EMBRACING A MISSION WITH PURPOSE

		Introduction .....	67
April 19	Session 1	<b>A Mission Full of Opportunities</b> .....	69
April 26	Session 2	<b>A Mission with a Message</b> .....	77
May 3	Session 3	<b>A Mission Met with Courage</b> .....	85
May 10	Session 4	<b>A Mission Soaked in Prayer</b> .....	93
May 17	Session 5	<b>A Mission Outside Your Comfort Zone</b> .....	101
May 24	Session 6	<b>A Mission Without Boundaries</b> .....	109

## DON'T FORGET TO REMEMBER

		Introduction .....	117
May 31	Special Focus	<b>Don't Forget to Remember</b> .....	119
	Article	How to Pray for Our Military and Their Families .....	126
		<i>Bible Studies for Life's Discipleship Plan</i> .....	129
		Coming Next Quarter .....	130

## DON'T MISS THIS

### SOCIAL MEDIA

Connect with a community of *Bible Studies for Life* users. Post responses to questions, share teaching ideas, and link to great blog content. [Facebook.com/groups/biblestudiesfl](https://www.facebook.com/groups/biblestudiesfl)

### eBOOK

*Bible Studies for Life* is also available as an eBook. The eBooks can be accessed at [lifeway.com/bsflebook](https://www.lifeway.com/bsflebook).

### COMMENTARY

Dig deeper into Scripture with the *Bible Studies for Life: Advanced Bible Study*.

### FAMILY CONNECTION

*Family Connection* helps parents connect with their students and kids by talking about what they're learning in their different Bible study groups. *Family Connection* is available at [BibleStudiesforLife.com/FamilyConnection](https://www.BibleStudiesforLife.com/FamilyConnection).

### PODCAST

Get free weekly insights for every session of *Bible Studies for Life: Adults* with our podcast. Each 20-minute episode will help you get the most out of your upcoming study. Listen at the gym, on the drive home, or wherever is best for you. Just search "*Bible Studies for Life Adults*" on your favorite podcast app to start listening today.

For ordering or inquiries, visit [lifeway.com](https://www.lifeway.com) or write Lifeway Customer Service, 200 Powell Place, Suite 100, Brentwood, TN 37027-7707. For bulk shipments mailed quarterly to one address, email [orderentry@lifeway.com](mailto:orderentry@lifeway.com), fax 615-251-5933, or write to the above address.

Send questions/comments to: Content Editor by email at [BSFL.adults@lifeway.com](mailto:BSFL.adults@lifeway.com); mail to Content Editor for Bible Studies for Life: Adults, 200 Powell Place, Suite 100, Brentwood, TN 37027-7707; or make comments on the web at [BibleStudiesforLife.com](https://www.BibleStudiesforLife.com).

---

Bible Studies for Life:  
Adult Personal Study Guide

Volume 13, Number 3  
Spring 2026

Ryan J. Sanders  
Team Leader

R. Brian Gass  
Content Editor

Cassie N. Lung  
Production Editor

Chad Hunter  
Graphic Designer

Dwayne McCrary  
Manager, Adult Ongoing Bible Studies

John Paul Basham  
Director, Adult Ministry

Ken Braddy  
Director of Sunday School

*Bible Studies for Life: Personal Study Guide* (ISSN: 2330-1988; Item 005562227) is published quarterly by Lifeway Christian Resources, 200 Powell Place, Suite 100, Brentwood, TN 37027-7707. © 2026 Lifeway Christian Resources.

We believe that the Bible has God for its author; salvation for its end; and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter and that all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. To review Lifeway's doctrinal guideline, please visit [lifeway.com/doctrinalguideline](https://www.lifeway.com/doctrinalguideline).

CSB—All Scripture quotations are taken from the Christian Standard Bible®. Copyright © 2017 by Holman Bible Publishers. Used by permission. Christian Standard Bible® and CSB® are federally registered trademarks of Holman Bible Publishers.

Printed in the United States of America.

©Copyright 2026 Lifeway Press®

No part of this work may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and recording, or by any information storage or retrieval system, except as may be expressly permitted in writing by the publisher.



## WELCOME

Where I've called home for the last fifteen years, we get all four seasons. Winter snow falls, Summer humidity sweats, Fall changes color, and Spring—well—it's in the Spring we enjoy the cherry blossoms blooming. The pink blossoms are a quick reminder that Winter's cold has ended and a warmer life has returned.

There's something special about Spring. Life seems to make a comeback—bushes bud, days get longer, and the air seems fresher. It's interesting how God is always doing something new. It's in this season of renewal that *Bible Studies for Life* is diving into two powerful Bible studies and a special focus session.

In "God Is: Understanding the Character of God," we'll take a closer look at who God is—holy, loving, just, faithful, powerful, and eternal. These aren't just truths to know; they're truths worth building your life on.

Then, in "Seize the Day: Embracing a Mission with Purpose," we'll be challenged by the early church in Acts to live boldly and intentionally, trusting God to use every opportunity to share Christ with the world around us—through words and actions.

We'll close this quarter with "Don't Forget to Remember," a timely reminder to pause and reflect on God's past faithfulness so we can trust Him fully in the present.

I'm praying this season brings new growth in your walk with Christ—and renewed purpose in how you live out your faith daily.

Here's to a fresh start.

—Ryan

**Ryan J. Sanders**

Team Leader, *Bible Studies for Life*





**How This Study Supports the Discipleship Plan** (see page 129).

**SEEK GOD.** A growing disciple wants to know God intimately and fully. Seeking God is possible because God has revealed Himself to us, and what is revealed in Scripture motivates us to seek Him even more.

**GOD IS: UNDERSTANDING THE CHARACTER OF GOD**

**Session 1**      God Is Holy • Psalm 99:1-9

**Session 2**      God Is Love • 1 John 4:7-19

**Session 3**      God Is Just • Psalm 7:1-13

**Session 4**      God is Omnipotent • Isaiah 44:6-9, 21-28

**Session 5**      God Is Faithful • Deuteronomy 7:6-16

**Session 6**      God Is Life-Giving • Mark 16:1-6; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4, 20-22

**Session 7**      God Is Eternal • Psalm 102:18-28

## INTRODUCTION

### GOD IS: UNDERSTANDING THE CHARACTER OF GOD

AGNOSTIC . . . It's an interesting word. Contrary to popular opinion, it doesn't mean unbelief in God. That's atheism. Agnostic means "no knowledge," not "no belief." An agnostic is someone who says, "Even if there is a God, we are too limited to possibly know anything about him."

Well, they have a point . . . sort of. On our own, we really don't have a big enough mental span to understand anything about who God is or what God is like. That's where grace comes in.

God's grace is such that He makes Himself known. Scripture teaches us that what can be known about God is evident to all of us, because God has shown it to us (Romans 1:19).

God isn't playing hide and seek with us. He has revealed his attributes (a fancy word that just means "what God is like") in two ways.

The first is through what He has made. But that knowledge is also limited. We can't have a relationship with God simply by observing nature.

That's why God reveals his character, not just by what He made, but also by what He wrote. He has given us the Bible, and the Bible is crammed cover to cover with information about who God is, what God loves, what God hates, and what God's like.

You can know what God is like. In these next seven sessions, we will explore God's attributes as they are revealed in His word. But let me give you a word of warning: this isn't just information. It's transformation. Once you really understand what God is like, you will never be the same.

---

### *Author*

**James Jackson** pastors Glynwood Baptist Church, in Prattville, Alabama. He is married to Trish, who works as the NextGen consultant for the Alabama Women's Missionary Union. James posts daily insights into Scripture on his blog, [66in52.com](http://66in52.com).

Session 7



# God Is Holy

---

## THE POINT

*God is set apart from everything else  
and deserves our worship.*

## THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

When my wife and I got married, we had two categories of tableware on our gift registry: everyday place settings and fine china place settings. Thirty-three years later, we continue to use our everyday tableware, well, every day. But the fine china sits on the top shelf. It is only for special occasions. Our wedding china has a pattern they don't even make anymore, so we must be very careful not to break it. The wedding silver has its own special wooden case. It is set apart.

I can't remember the last time we used our wedding china. In fact, I'm not even sure what the pattern looks like. Still, there it sits on the top shelf just in case the president or any heads of state drop by.

The paradox with God is that He is to be set apart like fine china, but He is anything but fragile. He is more precious than the finest silver, but He expects us to involve Him in our everyday lives. He doesn't want to only be present at special occasions; He wants to be there for every meal.

### QUESTION 1:

***What's something in your home you were allowed to look at but not touch?***

---

---

---

## WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

### PSALM 99:1-3

The LORD reigns! Let the peoples tremble. He is enthroned between the cherubim. Let the earth quake. <sup>2</sup> The LORD is great in Zion; he is exalted above all the peoples. <sup>3</sup> Let them praise your great and awe-inspiring name. He is holy.

While many of the psalms indicate who wrote them, Psalm 99 is not one of them. Nor can we say with certainty the original setting for it. We have some clues, though. The references to Zion (v. 2) and to worshiping God at “his holy mountain” (v. 9) suggest that this psalm was intended to be used in worship at the temple in Jerusalem. Notice that, even though God is great in Zion (another name for Jerusalem), He is exalted over all peoples. He doesn’t have limited jurisdiction, and His worship can’t be contained to one specific place. In fact, God Himself can’t be contained.

This reminds me of the scene in C. S. Lewis’s *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* when one of the citizens of Narnia is describing Aslan, the Great Lion who rules the land:

“He’ll be coming and going” he had said. “One day you’ll see him and another you won’t. He doesn’t like being tied down—and of course he has other countries to attend to. It’s quite all right. He’ll often drop in. Only you mustn’t press him. He’s wild, you know. Not like a tame lion.”<sup>1</sup>

In our culture, we need to have a reminder that we are meant to tremble before the Lord. In fact, the peoples of the earth are commanded to tremble (v. 1). In the Old Testament, trembling

was usually in response to God’s wrath. But in this psalm, it has more to do with awe in the face of God’s sovereignty (“the LORD reigns”). In either case, we dare not approach Him indifferently or flippantly. When the psalmist described the Lord enthroned between the cherubim, the very earth was commanded to quake.

Along with fear and trembling, the statement “the LORD reigns” should also fill us with peace and confidence. God’s sovereignty is absolute, and no matter how chaotic and out of control the world may seem, God is still on His throne, and the Lord still reigns.

Cherubim were mighty angelic beings. Renaissance art and Valentine’s Day cards really get it wrong in their depictions of cherubim. They are not cute and cuddly “baby angels,” or like Cupid, armed only with a bow and arrows with heart-shaped tips. On the contrary, the cherubim charged with guarding the entrance to the garden of Eden were armed with “the flaming, whirling sword” (Gen. 3:24).

Translations vary as to the position of God’s throne relative to the cherubim. Some say He is between the cherubim. Others say above or upon. “Upon” is consistent with the vision Ezekiel had of God seated on His throne and

supported by cherubim. Whichever direction the cherubim moved, the throne moved with them (Ezek.1:26). This reemphasizes the idea that God’s greatness and majesty can’t be confined to a single geographic location!

There are two theological concepts we need to know to help us grasp Psalm 99. The first is transcendence. The second is immanence, but we’ll talk about that one in verses 6-9. What is transcendence? It is the “set apartness” of God. It’s the idea that God is above and beyond the created world. He exists outside of space and time; He is wholly other from creation; and His ways are beyond human understanding. Transcendence focuses on God’s sovereignty (v. 1) and greatness (v. 3). Another word for transcendence is holiness. Verse 3 is the first of four times Psalm 99 uses the word “holy” (vv. 3,5,9).

How are we to respond to God’s holiness? First, we respond with reverent, respectful, humble fear: “Let the peoples tremble” (v. 1). Second, we respond with glad, joyful, exuberant praise and worship: “Let them praise your great and awe-inspiring name” (v. 3). The greatness of God both deserves and demands awe-struck wonder.

**QUESTION 2:**

***When have you been most aware of God’s greatness?***

---

---

---

## PSALM 99:4-5

<sup>4</sup> The mighty King loves justice. You have established fairness; you have administered justice and righteousness in Jacob. <sup>5</sup> Exalt the LORD our God; bow in worship at his footstool. He is holy.

Much has been said in the past few years about the justice system in the United States of America. We often hear questions raised about whether anyone is above the law. Is there a multi-tiered justice system in which one person is punished less severely (or not at all) than another person convicted of the same crime? Has the justice system been “weaponized” as a tool of political retribution? Regardless of how you answer these questions, the fact that we are asking them in the first place shows that two things are certain. First, we all want justice and fairness, or at least we think we do. Second, we don’t always see justice served, or at least we think we don’t.

Another translation of verse 4 is “The might of a king is his love of justice.”<sup>2</sup> In other words, a love of justice is what makes a king mighty in the first place.

Here is another proof that we are made in the image of God (Gen. 1:27). We are hard-wired to seek justice because the God who made us loves justice. This love of justice is rooted in His character and attributes. Another way of saying this is, “God does what he is.”<sup>3</sup> God loves justice because He is just. God is able to establish fairness because He is all knowing and completely loving. He never gets a judgment wrong.

God administers justice perfectly because He is all powerful.

This is how we know verse 4 refers to God and not a human king. Throughout history, human kings have been notorious for abusing their authority to suit their own self-interest. The Bible, particularly 2 Kings, is filled with stories of kings who manipulated, oppressed, enslaved, and even slaughtered whoever got in the way of what they wanted, even if it was a citizen of their own kingdom.

We humans long for justice and fairness. If you doubt that, the next time you're on a road trip, count how many billboards for lawyers you pass in an hour! But do we really want justice and fairness when it comes to our own sin? The Bible shows us that the just penalty for our sins is death (Rom. 6:23).

But God in His mercy doesn't deal "with us as our sins deserve" (Ps. 103:10). Instead, He sent His one and only Son to pay the penalty for our sins. Was that just? Yes! The penalty was paid. Jesus paid the debt we could never pay. But was that fair, that we didn't have to pay for our sins? No, praise God, we are the beneficiaries of God's grace and mercy!

What is our response to God's justice and mercy? The only proper response is to "exalt the LORD our God; bow in worship at his footstool" (v. 5). Don't forget that verses 1-2 of this psalm are addressed to all the peoples of the earth. God's justice and fairness are for all people; therefore, praise and worship are due from all people. In the literal sense, the footstool was a low piece of furniture in front of the throne. It's where the king rested his feet. In the poetry of the Old Testament, the reference to God's footstool could refer to the entire earth, as it does in Isaiah 66:1; or it could refer to Jerusalem, as it does in Psalm 132:7. Regardless of how we understand this image, the key thing to remember is that when we stand before God, we don't stand at all. We kneel. We bow in humility. There is no other appropriate posture when we encounter God's sovereignty, His justice, and His righteousness.

**QUESTION 3:**

***How is God's justice different from earthly justice?***

---

---

## **PSALM 99:6-9**

<sup>6</sup> Moses and Aaron were among his priests; Samuel also was among those calling on his name. They called to the LORD and he answered them. <sup>7</sup> He spoke to them in a pillar of cloud; they kept his decrees and the statutes he gave them. <sup>8</sup> LORD our God, you answered them. You were a forgiving God to them, but an avenger of their sinful actions. <sup>9</sup> Exalt the LORD our God; bow in worship at his holy mountain, for the LORD our God is holy.

# Engage

## GOD IS AND GOD DOES

From today's session passage, in the first column, list four qualities of God. In the second column, list four of God's actions associated with His qualities.

In the third column, list four ways believers can respond to the Lord.

God is	God does	We worship God
1. _____	1. _____	1. _____
2. _____	2. _____	2. _____
3. _____	3. _____	3. _____
4. _____	4. _____	4. _____

In verses 1-3, we talked about how God is transcendent. He is set apart, over and above all creation. Yet, God is also immanent. Immanence refers to God's closeness within His creation. It emphasizes that God is actively involved in the world and in the lives of individuals.

In verses 6-9, the psalmist identified three examples of people who "called to the LORD and he answered them" (v. 6). All three of them were mediators between God and people. They interceded to God on behalf of them—Moses as the deliverer of Exodus, Aaron as the first Levitical priest, and Samuel as the first prophet.

Maybe you're tempted to think, *Well, sure—God talked with Moses face to face. After all, Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible!* But also, notice in verse 6 that little word "among." Moses and Aaron were "among his priests." Samuel was "among those calling on his name." God spoke to more people than just these three in the Bible. And what about outside the pages of Scripture? God has spoken to millions of everyday, anonymous saints and servants throughout history, not necessarily with an audible voice, and God still speaks today through His Word and by His Spirit. We can have just as much confidence as Moses, Aaron, and Samuel that when we call upon the Lord, He will answer us!

Verses 7-8 may come across as in conflict, if not contradictory. Verse 7 says God spoke to those who "kept his decrees and the statutes he gave them." Obedience is a prerequisite for hearing God speak. But verse 8 says that God was "an avenger of their sinful actions." There is no contradiction here. Instead, this is a clear picture of how God interacts with His people. Because God is actively involved in the world and in the lives of individuals, He can and does punish sin.

Remember that God loves justice. Even those in Scripture who spoke with Him face to face had to face the consequences of their sinful actions.

Still, the psalmist described God as "a forgiving God to them" (v. 8). God's discipline is a sign of God's love for us, not the absence of it. Every loving parent will discipline a child who is doing something that could put themselves or others in danger, and God, the most perfect parent of all, is no exception. When we confess and repent, God will always forgive our sin, even if He doesn't reverse the consequences our sin sets in motion. In Christ, we see God's punishment of sin and His forgiveness for sinners.

Verse 9 is nearly identical to verse 5 with a call to exalt and worship the Lord and acknowledging God's holiness. In verse 5, we worship at God's "footstool" in humility. In verse 9, however, we are invited to worship at God's "holy mountain." Just as He invited Moses to come up to Him (Ex. 19:20), He invites us. Through Jesus, God has made Himself accessible to us. He is transcendent, but He is also immanent.

**QUESTION 4:**

***How are God's actions toward us evidence of His holiness?***

---

---

**QUESTION 5:**

***When have you experienced an action of God that led you to respond in worship?***

---

---

## LIVE IT OUT

God is set apart from everything else and deserves our worship. Yet, He invites us to draw near so He can receive our worship. Here are some ways to draw near to our holy God this week.

- **Praise.** This week, tune out the podcasts, talk radio, and your favorite oldies, and make a playlist of songs that emphasize the holiness of God. When you're stuck in traffic or doing chores, praise Him! Remember, God is set apart, but He is also right there with you.
- **Obey.** Are you living some area of your life in disobedience to God? Confess it and repent, and trust you'll hear God's voice more clearly.
- **Intercede.** Just as Moses, Aaron, and Samuel were intercessors between God and man, pray this week for your lost friends and family.



---

---

---

---

---

---

1. C. S. Lewis, *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* in *The Chronicles of Narnia*, one volume (New York: Harper Collins, 2001), 194.  
2. W. Dennis Tucker and Jamie A. Grant. *NIV Application Commentary, Psalms, Vol. II*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 444.  
3. David Platt, Matt Mason, and Jim Shaddix, *Exalting Jesus in Psalms 51-100* (Nashville, TN: Holman Reference, 2020), 435.