

Supplemental help for teaching Lesson 3: Who is God?

In the teacher's book on page 47, there is an exercise designed for the students to engage in the lesson. They will be asked to state what attribute they will represent, to read what that attribute means, share a scripture verse and then talk about the significance for us. The student book does not have these scriptures written out so you will have to copy this document and cut out the attributes that you will be covering in the lesson and give it to the student. Please watch the lesson 3 teaching video to see how this works. We usually have 10 attributes that we cover but that choice is up to you. The students will love this exercise and will not soon forget it!

1. The One True God. The God of the Bible is the only true God. He is set apart from all other gods. Because of this, He is also a jealous God. He wants to protect His honor, and He wants His created children to have abundant life and not be deceived by false gods who bring chaos, restlessness and unbelief into the world.

Scriptural support:

Isaiah 45:5-6 – "I am the Lord, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God. I will strengthen you, though you have not acknowledged me, so that from the rising of the sun to the place of its setting men may know there is none besides me. I am the Lord, and there is no other."

Significance for us:

If God were in need of anything, He would cease to be God. No one has ever contributed anything to God that did not already come from Him in the first place. He is the supreme Creator from whom all else has come.

2. Immutable (Unchanging). God does not change. He is who He is.

Scriptural support:

Malachi 3:6 – "I the Lord do not change. So you, O descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed."

Hebrews 13:8 – "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."

Significance for us:

God is unchanging in His being, His character, and His purposes. Therefore, we can rest assured that God will always remain the same. We can put our trust in that fact, knowing that all the promises He has made will be fulfilled, and all scriptural prophecies will come true.

3. Omniscient. God is “all-knowing.” He knows everything that has happened, is happening, and ever will happen. That is, He knows everything that is actual and everything that is possible. There is no such thing as a random molecule to God!

Scriptural support:

Psalm 139:2-4 – “You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O Lord.”

Hebrews 4:13 – “Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.”

Significance for us:

There is nothing that escapes the knowledge of God. He is not limited in His understanding of anything that happens in the timeline of humanity. Thus, God’s omniscience gives foundational credibility to the prophecies in Scripture. This is why we can say with confidence that Satan will be defeated in the end. Also, this attribute helps us understand God’s love for us. Our pursuit of romantic relationships stems from the inward desire to know and be known by another, to have someone love us for who we are. There is no one who knows us and loves us more than God. In fact, He knows us completely, because He made us.

4. Omnipotent. God is “all-powerful,” which means He is not limited by anything. There is nothing more powerful than God; He possesses all power. Because of this, He is able to exercise sovereignty over His creation, and He has the freedom to act in accordance with His will.

Scriptural support:

Jeremiah 32:17 – “Ah, Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched hand. Nothing is too hard for you.”

Significance for us:

As we come to understand this aspect of God’s character, we can rest in the fact that nothing is too much for God; there is nothing He cannot handle. “With God all things are possible” (Matthew 19:26). If God is on our side, we will always be on the winning side (Romans 8:31). The key is that we rest in His power and strength and resist the temptation to try to live life in our own strength (Philippians 4:13).

5. Personal. God interacts with us personally, and we can respond to Him as persons. He is not merely a supreme Force, as the Spiritist would claim. Nor is He a being who has removed Himself from our world, as the deists would say. No, God is a personal Being.

Scriptural support:

Deuteronomy 4:7 – “What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the Lord our God is near us whenever we pray?”

James 2:23 – “And the scripture was fulfilled that says, ‘Abraham believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness,’ and he was called God’s friend.”

Significance for us:

Although God is the Creator of the universe, He is not distant from us. In fact, He has promised us that He will never leave us, nor forsake us (Deuteronomy 31:6; Hebrews 13:5). He watches over us like a parent over a child, which is why we can refer to God as Abba Father. God created us, because He is a personal God who desperately wants to be in a relationship with us. He cares about the smallest details of our lives and wants to be intimately involved with us. He wants complete access to our hearts.

6. Good . God is generous, kind, benevolent, and full of goodwill toward mankind. All that God is and does is worthy of our approval, because He is the standard of what is considered good.

Scriptural support:

Psalms 25:8 – “Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways.”

Romans 8:28 – “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”

Significance for us:

God’s goodness is manifest in all of His attributes. His goodness is seen in His faithfulness, love, justice, mercy, and the like. Without this quality of goodness, those other attributes of His character disappear. How could a God who is not good be a God of justice, mercy, or love? He cannot. God is indeed a good God who wants to bless us. In fact, He promises to bless those who live faithfully for Him. He has called us to follow His example and demonstrate goodness to those around us (Galatians 6:10; Luke 6:27, 33-35).

7. **God is Love.** God gives of Himself for the welfare of others (humanity), for our benefit. He finds pleasure in us, His creation, and He wants what is best for us.

Scriptural support:

1 John 4:8 – “...God is love.”

Romans 5:8 – “But God demonstrates his love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Significance for us:

God’s love is the cause behind all that is. More importantly, it is God’s love that has given us the opportunity for salvation. He created us because He loves us and wants to be in a relationship with us, and His willingness to send Jesus to die for our sins was His greatest loving act. For, it opened up the way for us to be in a restored relationship with Him. This supreme act of God’s love toward us provides the motivation for our own love in the world. We love because He first loved us (1 John 4:19).

8. **Faithful.** God’s faithfulness is connected to His truthfulness. God can always be depended on to do what He says, and He will fulfill His promises.

Scriptural support:

Deuteronomy 7:9 – “Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands.”

2 Timothy 2:13 – “...if we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself.”

Significance for us:

Because God is always faithful, He is a God in whom we can wholeheartedly put our trust. We know that if He has promised to do something, He will see it through. God is One on whom we can always depend, no matter what.

9. Righteous (Just). God always does what is right, for He is the absolute standard of right and wrong. Anything that conforms to His character is right, while that which does not, is wrong. He loves all that conforms to His good character, but He directs His wrath against everything that opposes His standard of righteousness. God takes justice very seriously.

Scriptural support:

Deuteronomy 32:4 – “He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he.”

Isaiah 5:15-16 – “So man will be brought low and mankind humbled. But the Lord Almighty will be exalted by his justice, and the holy God will show himself holy by his righteousness.”

Significance for us:

God is a God of justice, and we can depend on Him to judge rightly in every situation. This is a source of comfort when we think about all of the perceived injustices in the world, remembering that in the end, God’s justice will reign supreme. However, this should also be a sobering reminder that we too, will ultimately be judged by Him to whom we must all give account (Romans 14:12; Hebrews 4:13).

10. Holy. God possesses an infinite, incomprehensible degree of purity. He can have nothing to do with sin. This is why His justice and wrath are necessary at times.

Scriptural support:

Isaiah 6:3 – “And they were calling to one another: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.’”

1 John 1:5 – “This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.”

Significance for us:

God’s holiness is what must separate Him from sinful humanity. This quality has, by definition, created the chasm that prevents our being able to have a personal relationship with Him. That is why it was necessary that Jesus die for our sins, to make us blameless again before a holy God. We then must strive to live holy lives, lives that are distinct and set apart from this dark world. Our holiness should emanate from His holiness (1 Peter 1:15-16).