

discipleship essentials

Essentials for Christian Living
Leader's Guide

UNDERSTANDING SALVATION

LESSON 2: WHO IS GOD? WHAT IS HE LIKE?

INTRODUCTION

This lesson is part of a Discipleship Essentials module entitled *Understanding Salvation*. This series of lessons examines the very foundational idea of salvation, and what occurs in the life of a person who becomes a Christian. These lessons are critical for every believer to understand before they can effectively share the Gospel with others. Each lesson examines a concept from a Biblical perspective and includes time for discussion of these principles as well as how to effectively apply them to your life. This set of lessons is ideal for use with discipling new believers to ensure they fully understand these ideas.

INTENDED AUDIENCE

The intended audience for these lessons is new Christians or those who would like a refresher on the basics of Christian salvation. Those who are preparing for evangelism and discipleship may benefit from discussion of these ideas. These lessons assume the participant has made a decision to follow Jesus and wants to explore Christianity further.

The Leader's Guide is intended to help the leader prepare for the lessons and can be used in conjunction with other Discipleship Essentials materials found on www.discipleshipessentials.org.

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PURPOSE

The purpose of this lesson is to gain a Biblical understanding of who God is, and His attributes given to us in Scriptures.

LEADER'S NOTE

Christians have divided themselves about how to worship, when to gather, what church leadership ought to look like, but all those points are of little consequence. When Christians are divided over the nature and attributes of God, however, the Church faces more serious issues. God has revealed Himself through the Bible. That is where we must go for our information – not tradition, philosophy or other sources. Some of these concepts, such as the Trinity, are difficult to understand. Pray that your participants will understand these ideas with the help of the Holy Spirit and that they will not veer from the truth of who God is.

INTRODUCTION

(Select two or three of the following questions)

- ❖ If someone asked you to describe God using just five words, which words would you choose?
- ❖ What do most people you know believe about God? Where did they get their understanding of who God is and what He is like?
- ❖ How has your perception of God changed over the years?
- ❖ Read [Romans 1:19-20](#). “For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.” What does this tell us about God’s intention that we know who He is?



STUDY

TEACH

- ❖ **Who is God?** People believe many things about who God is. A few examples are:
 - **Atheists** believe they can know for certain that there is no God.
 - **Agnostics** believe one cannot know for sure if there is or is not a God.
 - **Polytheists** believe that there are many gods.
 - **Pantheists** believe there is a god, but everything in nature is part of god, god is not separate.
 - **Theists** believe there is one God, but may differ regarding his nature and power.

- ❖ Many people who refuse to believe in any god have made themselves a god in their own eyes (that they are most important, and worthy of worship). With so many positions in the world on God, it is easy to become confused. However, God has revealed Himself to us in His Word, the Bible.
 - The Bible is clear that there is only one true God, and He is unique. Read the following verses together. What do they reveal about the nature of God?
 - [Deuteronomy 6:4](#)
 - [Exodus 7:1](#)
 - [Isaiah 46:9](#)
 - [Psalms 82:6](#)
 - [1 Corinthians 8:5-6](#)

- ❖ **The Triune God:** One of the most difficult things to understand about God is His three in one nature. The Bible tells us that God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Although some have mistaken this to mean that there are three separate gods, the Bible is clear that there is one God who has revealed Himself in three ways. Study the following Scriptures as a group:

Father	Son	Spirit
<u>1 Thessalonians 1:1</u> <u>2 Peter 1:17</u>	<u>1 John 5:20</u> <u>Titus 2:13</u> <u>Romans 9:5</u> <u>Hebrews 1:8</u>	<u>Acts 5:3-4</u> <u>2 Corinthians 3:17</u>

- ❖ It is important to note that the Trinity is a Biblical concept. The Bible does not use the word 'Trinity,' but the whole of the Bible clearly shows that God has revealed Himself in these forms.



TASK

- In pairs, practise explaining these three attributes of God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit).

TEACH

- ❖ **The Living God:** Our God is living and active in our daily lives. Discuss the implications of the following verses with the participants. How does the Christian's view that God is living set our God apart from other worldviews?

- [Psalm 42:2](#)
- [Psalm 84:2](#)
- [Daniel 6:20](#)
- [1 Timothy 4:10](#)
- [1 Timothy 6:17](#)
- [Hebrews 9:14](#)
- [Hebrews 10:31](#)

- ❖ **The Perfect God:** God has revealed Himself as holy, blameless, and mighty. In a word, God is PERFECT. Examine what the following verses reveal about God's nature.

- [Psalm 146:4-5](#) *God is all-knowing, or omniscient — nothing escapes Him.*
- [Matthew 19:26](#) *God is all powerful, or omnipotent — God has power and authority.*
- [Malachi 3:6](#) *God is unchanging and eternal.*
- [Psalm 139:7-12](#) *God is omnipresent — He is everywhere.*
- [Psalm 18:30](#) *God is good, all His ways are perfect.*
- [Romans 1:18-23](#) *God is righteous and just, full of wrath against sin.*

- ❖ **The Relatable God:** God is Spirit, but He is also a person. We are created to be in a personal relationship with our God and communicate with Him. Teach the following attributes to your participants using the verses below:

- God is knowledge [1 John 3:20](#)
- God has emotions [Genesis 6:6](#)
- God is love [1 John 4:8](#)
- God cares for us [1 Peter 5:7](#)

- ❖ **God's Plan:** God loves us so much that He chose to reveal Himself to us, and His plan of salvation was designed to bring us back to Him. He revealed Himself in Scripture so that we would know He is one, is living, holy, and perfect, but He desires a relationship with us! We, being full of sin, are the objects of God's wrath. But God is full of love for sinners, and in Christ's death God's justice was satisfied.

TASK

Have participants consider this question. You may wish to have them present their answer to the group or to one another in pairs. For classroom environments, you may choose to make this a written assignment.

- It is important to know what we believe. What does your concept of God look like and how would you explain God to someone who has never heard of Him?



DISCUSSION

- ❖ How is the Christian view of God (as outlined in this lesson) different from that of other worldviews or religions?
- ❖ Can you think of any other Biblical characteristics of God?
- ❖ What questions can you anticipate someone having about the nature of God as outlined in this lesson? Are there questions about the nature of God that you struggle with?
- ❖ How can you deepen your understanding of who God is and better understand His attributes in the coming weeks?

PRAYER

Close the lesson in prayer. Thank God that He has revealed Himself to us in Scripture. Thank Him that He alone is holy, almighty, eternal, immortal, unchanging, invincible, righteous, just and loving towards all He has made. Pray that participants would receive the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of God. Ephesians 1:17