

discipleship essentials

Essentials for Christian Living
Study Guide

OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

LESSON 4: UNIQUE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

INTRODUCTION

This lesson is part of a Disciple Essentials module entitled Our Relationship with God. This series of lessons examines the relationship we have with God. It begins by understanding our identity in Christ which is a result of our becoming a child of God. This series of lessons looks at the attributes of God, how we learn about God and know Him better, and how we develop this personal relationship. Understanding ourselves in God's eyes, and having a clearer picture of who God is, will help us live the life that God designed for us.

The Student's Guide is intended for an individual to look deeper into a specific lesson on their own. The lessons can be used in conjunction with other Discipleship Essentials materials, such as the video and audio productions found on www.discipleshipessentials.org.

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LESSON 4: UNIQUE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

WHAT IS IT ABOUT?

The purpose of this lesson is to look at six important attributes of God: omnipresent, omnipotent, omniscient, eternal, immutable, and infinite. Why is it important to know God? We must know how powerful and perfectly able to keep His promises He is so that we can trust and have faith in Him.

JUST SO YOU KNOW...

This lesson introduces six major attributes of God. These are the things that define Him as 'God' and set our Creator above His creation. They may sound like complicated theological words, but they are important and foundational to understanding who God is and how He works. These are traits that no one else but God has – not humans, Satan or angels or demons. How wonderful it is to know that God does not employ His powers to destroy us, but to love us!

GETTING STARTED

1. How do you feel about the fact that we worship a God who knows everything? Does it bring you worry, shame, joy, or comfort?

2. Why does it matter that God has revealed Himself to us? That He desires for us to know Him? What should our response to this be?



STUDY

- ❖ **COMMUNICABLE AND INCOMMUNICABLE ATTRIBUTES:** Bible teachers sometimes separate all the things we can say about God into two groups – those which God shares with some of His creatures, and those which can be said of Him alone.
 - **Communicable Attributes** are those which created beings can share with God such as love, kindness, and wisdom. When we strive to be more like Jesus Christ, who is God in human form, these are the attributes we desire to attain.
 - **Incommunicable Attributes** are those which God alone possesses. They are not communicable – or transferable – to any other creature.

- ❖ **GOD IS ETERNAL, IMMUTABLE, INFINITE:** God is not governed by time, nor does He decay, age or change as we do. Only God does not change. While angels may not have death, they are not infinite as they had a beginning, a creation.
 - Read the following verses and write down how they illustrate the attributes of God above them.

Eternal	According to Scripture, God has no beginning and has no end. We, His Creation, had a beginning and we live inside of time. Angels may or may not be subject to time but they were created beings and therefore had a beginning. God exists outside this and is not confined by time or the need to have a beginning.
Revelations 4:8	
2 Peter 3:8	
1 Timothy 1:17	

Immutable	God does not change in any way. Who He was before He created the world, is who He will be at the end of time. He will always be exactly the same.
Malachi 3:6	
Hebrews 13:8	
James 1:17	

Infinite	God has no limitations whatsoever. Nothing outside of Himself —no law of the universe, no space—confines or defines Him. All of His other attributes are affected by His infinite nature. He is infinitely good, infinitely powerful, etc.
Isaiah 40:28	
1 Kings 8:27	
Psalms 90:2	



❖ **GOD IS OMNIPRESENT:** It is incredible to think that God has the ability to be everywhere at all times! It is hard to wrap our minds around this fact, but the Bible tells us clearly that God is always present everywhere. In Psalm 139:7-10, David tells us we can never be apart from the presence of God!

- It is important to realize that we cannot run away from God! Nothing can remove us from His presence. This should be a comfort to us. God loves us so much He won't let us out of His sight! Nothing in all creation is outside of the presence of God.
- Look up Psalm 129:7-12 and Jeremiah 23:24 and write down what you learn about God's presence.

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❖ **GOD IS OMNISCIENT:** God knows all things, nothing is ever concealed from Him. He has perfect knowledge. He never has to learn anything, and he never forgets anything!

- It is hard to comprehend that God knows all things, but this should be a comfort to us knowing that He understands our sorrows, our fears, the secrets we can't tell anyone. God is with us in all of them! We must also be reminded to watch our thoughts and motives. They are all laid bare before God.
- Look each of the following verses and write down what they tell you about the knowledge God has of all things. Is this knowledge unique to God?

1 John 3:20	
Luke 12:7	
Romans 16:27	
Hebrews 4:13	



IN SUMMARY

- ❖ Knowing has both communicable and incommunicable attributes – that is, some He shares with His creation and some He alone possesses.
- ❖ God is Eternal, Immutable and Infinite. He had no beginning and will not have an end. God never changes, never ages, and does not have limitations.
- ❖ God is Omnipresent – we can be assured we will never be apart from the presence of God.
- ❖ God is Omnipotent – God is capable of doing everything and anything He desires.
- ❖ God is Omniscient – God knows all things, and nothing is concealed from Him.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. How do the attributes we've just examined change how we pray to God? Why should we continue to pray if God already knows our needs?

2. How should knowing the attributes of God change our lives? How can you put this new knowledge into practise?

3. Which of these attributes do you find most difficult to understand? What could you do this week to deepen your understanding of God's nature and how it applies to your life?