

# discipleship essentials

Essentials for Christian Living  
Leader's Guide

## OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

### LESSON 5: SHARED ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

#### INTRODUCTION

This lesson is part of a Discipleship 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.

#### INTENDED AUDIENCE

The intended audience for these lessons is new Christians, those who would like a refresher on the basics of Christianity, as well as those preparing to teach these Christian practices and beliefs. Also, those with an interest in Christian thought will find value in these lessons as they pertain to daily living and choices.

The Leader's Guide is intended to help you as a leader in your preparation. These lesson outlines may be used in conjunction with other Discipleship Essentials materials found online at [www.discipleshipessentials.org](http://www.discipleshipessentials.org).

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# OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

## LESSON 5: SHARED ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this lesson is to understand some of God's communicable attributes.

### LEADER'S NOTE

This lesson examines some of God's communicable attributes. You may wish to review the difference between communicable and incommunicable attributes from the previous lesson. This lesson includes an extensive list of verses from which participants can list the attributes of God. This can be a homework assignment, or a list for future reference. Or you may choose to work through the list together in class time.

## INTRODUCTION

*Select two or three of the following questions to ask the group.*

- ❖ What are some attributes of God we should work to attain? What would have to change in your life for people to call you good or wise?
- ❖ What are some of the ways we can get to know God better? How should it change our life to know who God really is?
- ❖ How does the description of God in the Bible differ from that of false deities worshipped by other religions? What sets our God apart?
- ❖ What attribute of God is very precious to you?

## STUDY

*Instruct the group on the following points.*

### TEACH:

- ❖ **Really Knowing God:** Some Christians don't have a clear understanding of who God is. Some believe He watches their every move only to punish them. Others believe He is a distant force who doesn't care about them. Some people believe they can get God to do what they want by making personal sacrifices. But God is not controlled by us, and He is not tricked by our efforts!



We can miss out on a wonderful relationship with our creator because of distorted perceptions, which is why the study of the attributes of God is so important!

❖ **The Moral Attributes of God:** Some of God's communicable attributes (that is, those we can learn to possess ourselves even though imperfectly) are listed below. These are known as moral attributes. They include:

- **Loving** — God is Love, and expresses His love perfectly. God is the source of all love.
  - 1 John 4:8; Romans 5:5,8; Romans 8:35-39
- **Just** — Whatever God does is perfectly right. He is the ultimate judge over our lives and actions. God promises to punish wickedness, which is what His own justice demands. It is only the work of Christ which cleanses believers from all unrighteousness and exempts us from God's wrath (1 John 1:7-9).
  - Genesis 18:25; 1 Peter 1:17
- **Merciful** — God has compassion on His creation and does not give them the punishment they deserve, but instead acts mercifully.
  - Hebrews 4:16; Titus 3:5; 1 Peter 1:3
- **Gracious** — Grace is the giving of blessing, or unmerited gifts. Through Jesus Christ, God has given us salvation, which we do not deserve.
  - Hebrews 4:16; Romans 3:24; Ephesians 2:7-9
- **Truthful** — Whatever God says is true. God cannot speak anything but the truth.
  - Hebrews 6:18; John 1:14; John 14:6
- **Righteous** — Righteousness is different from holiness or goodness because it requires work to prove it.
  - Psalm 145:17; Jeremiah 9:24; Psalm 19:7-9
- **Wise** — Wisdom is the proper use of knowledge. God possesses perfect wisdom.
  - Job 12:13; James 1:5
- **Good** — God is good in all His ways. He does not follow some external standard of goodness, but is Himself the source of goodness.
  - Exodus 34:6-7; Psalm 25:8



- Additionally we should note that God, being infinite, has countless other attributes. Some of the most important include His holiness, sovereignty, oneness, and self-sufficiency. These attributes help us understand that God is perfect, set apart from all others. He answers to no one, requires no one, and is complete in Himself.
- ❖ **God's Desire for Us:** God desires that we become more like Him. His communicable attributes can be ours as we spend more time with Him. Of course, we will not express them perfectly as God does, but we can begin to fulfill His plan for us as we grow in these areas.
  - **God desires us to be holy:** Leviticus 20:26 says we should be holy to the Lord. Holy means to be set apart for His purposes. We must pursue holiness even though we are sinful people.
  - **God desires us to be righteous:** God cannot stand to see wrong committed, and He desires that all His children be righteous. Compared to God, our best righteous actions are filthy (Isaiah 64:6), but we must continue to pursue righteousness in order to glorify God.
  - **God desires that we love one another:** Our love will not be perfect like God's. We often have selfish motives and actions. But we can practise loving others with the love God gives, through His Holy Spirit who lives in us (1 John 4:7-21).

## DISCUSSION

- ❖ How can we work towards gaining the moral attributes of God in our lives?
- ❖ How can you convey to others what God is like through your own conduct? How can you demonstrate God's love, forgiveness, and mercy?
- ❖ Given that God commands you to be holy, what are some areas in your life that you want to change?

## PRAYER

*Pray that God would be present with participants and reveal Himself to them in new ways. Pray that they would grow in holiness, righteousness, and love, and that they would display these attributes to those around them. Pray that as they learn to know and love God more, they will share what they have learned with others.*



## HOMEWORK

*Below are some Bible verses that reveal attributes of God. What you can learn about God from each one during this next week?. You may wish to make a list, or circle the attribute in each verse.*

- **Psalm 18:2** "The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold."
- **Psalm 18:30** "This God— his way is perfect; the word of the Lord proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him."
- **Psalm 18:31** "For who is God, but the Lord? And who is the rock, except our God."
- **Psalm 18:32** "the God who equipped me with strength and made my way blameless."
- **Psalm 25:5** "Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long."
- **Psalm 46:1** "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."
- **Psalm 47:7** "For God is the King of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm."
- **Psalm 47:8** "God reigns over the nations; God sits on His holy throne."
- **Psalm 47:9** "The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham. For the shields of the earth belong to God; he is highly exalted!"
- **Psalm 48:10** "As your name, O God, so your praise reaches to the ends of the earth. Your right hand is filled with righteousness."
- **Psalm 48:14** "That this is God, our God forever and ever. He will guide us forever."
- **Psalm 50:6** "The heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is judge!"
- **Psalm 62:11** "One thing God has spoken, twice have I heard this: that power belongs to God."
- **Psalm 66:3** "Say to God, 'How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies come cringing to you.'"
- **Psalm 68:2** "As smoke is blown away by the wind, may you blow them away; as wax melts before the fire, may the wicked perish before God."
- **Psalm 68:5** "Father of the fatherless, and protector of widows, is God in His holy dwelling."



- **Psalm 68:20** "Our God is a God of salvation, and to GOD, the Lord, belong deliverances from death."
- **Psalm 71:19** "Your righteousness, O God, reaches the high heavens. You who have done great things, O God, who is like you?"
- **Psalm 75:7** "but it is God who executes judgment, putting down one and lifting up another"
- **Psalm 77:13** "Your way, O God, is holy. What god is great like our God."
- **Psalm 84:11** "For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor; no good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly."
- **Psalm 89:7** "a God greatly to be feared in the council of the holy ones, and awesome above all who are around him?"
- **Psalm 89:8** "O Lord God of hosts, who is mighty as you are, O Lord, with your faithfulness all around you? "
- **Psalm 99:5** "Exalt the Lord our God; worship at his footstool! Holy is he!"
- **Psalm 100:3** "Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture."
- **Psalm 105:7** "He is the Lord our God; his judgments are in all the earth."
- **Psalm 106:1** "Praise the Lord. Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever."
- **Psalm 115:3** "Our God is in the heavens; He does all that he pleases."
- **Psalm 116:5** " Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful."
- **Psalm 139:17** "How precious to me are Your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!"
- **Ecclesiastes 11:5** "As you do not know the way the spirit comes to the bones in the womb of a woman with child, so you do not know the work of God who makes everything."
- **Isaiah 44:6** "Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: "I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. "
- **Jeremiah 32:27** "Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is anything too hard for me?"
- **Daniel 3:17** "If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king."



- **Joel 2:13** ". . . rend your hearts and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster."
- **Amos 4:13** "For behold, he who forms the mountains and creates the wind, and declares to man what is his thought, who makes the morning darkness, and treads on the heights of the earth – the LORD, the God of hosts is his name!"
- **Jonah 4:2** "And he prayed to the Lord and said, "O LORD, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster."
- **Micah 7:18** "Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love."
- **Nahum 1:2** "The LORD is a jealous and avenging God; the Lord is avenging and wrathful; The Lord takes vengeance on his adversaries and keeps wrath for his enemies."
- **Zephaniah 3:17** "The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save: he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing."
- **Matthew 19:26 (Luke 1:37)** "Jesus looked at them and said, 'With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.'"
- **Matthew 22:31–32** "And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God: 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? He is not the God of the dead but of the living."
- **Luke 12:6** "Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten by God."
- **Luke 12:28** " But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith!"
- **John 1:18** "No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known."
- **John 3:33** "Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true."
- **John 4:24** "God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."
- **John 17:3** "Now this is eternal life, that they may know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent."



- **Acts 10:34** "So Peter opened his mouth and said: 'Truly I understand that God shows no partiality.'"
- **Acts 17:24** "The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man."
- **Acts 17:27** "that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us,"
- **Romans 1:18** "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of man, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth."
- **Romans 3:29, 30** "Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, since God is one – who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith."
- **Romans 4:17** "as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations' – in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist."
- **Romans 8:31** "What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?"
- **Romans 9:14** "What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means!"
- **1 Corinthians 1:9** "God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord"
- **1 Corinthians 1:25** "For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men."
- **1 Corinthians 3:7** "So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth."
- **1 Corinthians 10:13** "No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it."
- **1 Corinthians 14:33** "For God is not a God of confusion but of peace."
- **2 Corinthians 9:8** "And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times you may abound in every good work."
- **Ephesians 1:22–23** "And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all."





- **Ephesians 2:4–5** "But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved. "
- **Colossians 1:15** "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation."
- **2 Thessalonians 1:6** "since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you."
- **Hebrews 6:10** " For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do."
- **Hebrews 6:18** " so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us."
- **Hebrews 10:31** "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."
- **Hebrews 11:6** " And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him."
- **Hebrews 12:7** "It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline?"
- **Hebrews 12:29** "For our God is a consuming fire."
- **Hebrews 13:16** "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God."
- **James 1:13** "Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am being tempted by God,' for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one."
- **James 4:6** "But he gives more grace. Therefore it says 'God opposes the proud, and gives grace to the humble.'"
- **1 John 1:5** "This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all."
- **1 John 3:19–20** "By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything."
- **1 John 4:8,16** "Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love... so we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him."