

discipleship essentials

Essentials for Christian Living
Study Guide

OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

LESSON 5: SHARED 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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WHAT IS IT ABOUT?

The purpose of this lesson is to look at some of the attributes of God that we as His people can also grow to possess. We cannot become all-knowing, but we can grow to be merciful, for instance.

JUST SO YOU KNOW...

This lesson looks at some of God's communicable attributes – that is, some things that are true of God that may also be true of us as His creation. When God made us in His Image and likeness, we shared some of His qualities. Sin has marred and spoiled us, but we still retain the ability through Christ, to grow in some areas and possess some of these attributes ourselves. The purpose of this study is to look at how God demonstrates His character through the Bible, and to see how these attributes are displayed. Having a right view of who God is will help us to grow in love for God and our capacity for obedience to Him and His Word.

GETTING STARTED

1. 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?

2. How does the description of God in the Bible differ from that of false deities worshipped by other religions? What sets our God apart?



STUDY

- ❖ **REALLY KNOWING GOD:** Many people, and even 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.
 - For each Attribute, read where it is seen in the Bible and write what you learn about that attribute from the Bible.

Loving	God is Love, and expresses His love perfectly. God is the source of all love.
1 John 4:8	
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.
Genesis 18:25	
Isaiah 30:18	
Merciful	God has compassion on His creation and does not give them the full punishment they deserve, but instead acts mercifully, and offers mercy to those who believe in Him.
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	
Ephesians 2:7-9	
Truthful	Whatever God says is true. God cannot speak anything but the truth.
Hebrews 6:18	
1 John 5:20	



Righteous	Righteousness is different from holiness or goodness because it requires work to prove it.
Psalm 145:17	
Jeremiah 9:24	
Wise	Wisdom is the proper use of knowledge. God possesses perfect wisdom.
Job 12:13	
Isaiah 55:8-9	
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 24:6-7	
Psalm 119:68	

❖ **SO MUCH MORE:** 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. Don't we serve an amazing God?

- What attribute of God is most comforting to you today? Why is it so great to know that God is wise as well as powerful? Just as well as Merciful?

- Can you think of other attributes of God not mentioned here?

❖ **WHAT IS 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.



- Look at the verses below, and write down what God’s desire is for us contained in each verse. What attribute(s) do these verses mention? How can we practice that attribute?

Leviticus 20:26	
Isaiah 64:6	
1 John 4:7-21	
Micah 6:8	

IN SUMMARY

- ❖ Many people, and even some Christians don’t have a clear understanding of who God is.
- ❖ 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!
- ❖ Some of God’s communicable attributes – those which other created beings can possess – are called moral attributes. We can work to attain these ourself.
- ❖ Some of these moral attributes are that God is loving, just, merciful, gracious, truthful, righteous, wise and good.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ God desires that we become holy, righteous and that we love one another.



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. How can we work towards gaining the moral attributes of God in our lives?

2. How can you convey to others what God is like through your own conduct? How can you demonstrate God's love, forgiveness, and mercy?

3. Given that God commands you to be holy, what are some areas in your life that you want to change?