

2 WHAT'S THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD?

IN THIS LESSON YOU WILL STUDY THE FOLLOWING:

- *Why Should You Know the Truth About God?*
 - *How Can You Know the Truth About God?*
 - *What Is God Like?*
 - *How Does God Want You to Worship Him?*
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WHY SHOULD YOU KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD?

It is important for you to know the truth about God:

BECAUSE OF WHO GOD IS

God is the Creator, the Ruler, and the Judge of the universe. As Creator He has made everything that exists. As Ruler He has certain laws for the good of all His creatures and His world. As Judge He will decide the final reward of men and women according to how they have responded to Him. Since God is your Creator, Ruler, and Judge, you need to know the truth about Him and His plan for you.

You need to know the truth about God because He is your creator, ruler, and judge.

God is a loving Father, too; He offers you true joy. You need to know Him to enjoy His love and blessings.

BECAUSE IT IS A MATTER OF LIFE OR DEATH FOR YOU

God is the Giver of life. He offers you a better, fuller life now and a never-ending perfect life after death.

Memorize This

John 17:3. “This is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”

BECAUSE TO PLEASE GOD, YOU MUST KNOW HIM

God’s children love Him and want to please Him. If you have received Jesus as your Savior, you are now a child of God. You will want to know your heavenly Father better every day, and you will want to find out what He likes so you can please Him in all that you do. This is the only way to find real satisfaction in life, because you were created to do the things that please God.

TO HELP YOU LEARN

Fill in the blanks.

It is important for me to know the truth about God because

- of _____ God _____
- it is a matter of _____ or _____ for me.
- to _____ God, I must _____ Him.
- of John 17:3. This is _____ that they may know you, the _____ and _____ whom you have sent.

HOW CAN YOU KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD?

BY LOOKING AT HIS WORKS

You can learn some things about a person by looking at his or her work. When you look at the world that God has made, you know that He is very wise and powerful.

Romans 1:20. “For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.”

FROM OTHERS

You can find out the truth about a person from those who know the individual personally. In the Holy Bible we read thrilling accounts of many people who knew God personally. He talked with them, solved their problems, and supplied their needs. He healed their bodies and gave them strength and joy. God has not changed. On every continent today you can find thousands of people who know and love God. They will tell you how wonderful He is.

1 John 1:3. "We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ."

FROM WHAT HE SAYS

You can know a person by reading his writings and by hearing him talk. God talks to you in the Holy Bible. In it you discover His character, His plans, His feelings, and His love for you.

John 5:39. "You diligently study the Scriptures.... These are the Scriptures that testify about me."

***You can know
the truth about
God from what He
himself says in
His word, the Holy
Bible.***

THROUGH PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

You can know a person well by living, talking, and working together with him or her. God wanted us to know Him in this way, so He sent His Son Jesus Christ to live among men and women. Jesus is just like His Father, so in Him you can see the nature of God. You can know God through Christ.

Hebrews 1:1-3. "In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son. . . . The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being."

When you accept Jesus Christ as your Savior, He will reveal God to you. As you talk with Him in prayer and read His Word, you will experience His presence and come to know Him in a way you never dreamed was possible.

John 14:21, 23. "Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to

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him. . . . My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him."

TO HELP YOU LEARN

Listed below are five ways to get acquainted with God. Are you coming to know Him through all of them? Draw a line under those you need to begin to do or do more.

- Appreciate His works in nature
- Listen to those who know God and His Word
- Read His book, the Holy Bible
- Learn about His Son, Jesus Christ
- Talk with God personally in prayer

WHAT IS GOD LIKE?

GOD IS AN INFINITE, ETERNAL SPIRIT

God is not limited by time, space, and natural laws as we are. He has always existed and always will. He is everywhere. He knows everything and can do anything.

GOD IS THREE PERSONS IN ONE

Some people think of God as an impersonal force that controls the universe, or as an influence for good. We know that He is a Person because He thinks, feels, and acts.

God is not an impersonal force. He is a person who thinks, feels, and acts.

In fact, the Holy Bible teaches that God is three Persons in one, the Triune God. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are just the same in nature, power, and purpose. They work together in perfect harmony as one Person—one God.

Matthew 28:19. "Make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

GOD IS LOVE

God is love—love is His nature. He loves everyone. He loves you and wants to give you what is best for you in life. Then He wants you to live

with Him in His wonderful home in heaven.

1 John 4:8. "Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love."

GOD IS PERFECT

God is completely good, pure, truthful, and right in all He does. He is generous and kind.

Matthew 5:48. "Your heavenly Father is perfect."

GOD IS JUST

God is a righteous judge. This means that He always does what is right. Because He loves everyone, He has made a way for them to know Him through Jesus Christ. He rewards those who accept Jesus by giving them eternal life. Those who reject Jesus and follow Satan receive the punishment God intended for Satan. Through Jesus, He wants to save us from sin and all of its effects. But if we won't let Him, He can only allow us to feel the evil results of our wrong actions.

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—■—

Psalms 19:9. "The ordinances of the Lord are sure and altogether righteous."

Romans 3:26. God is "the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus."

GOD KNOWS EVERYTHING

God knows the past, present, and future. He sees, hears, and understands everything that happens. He knows your thoughts and why you do what you do. God knows what is best for you and wants to help you make the right choices.

—■—
***God is a God of
love. He knows
everything and He
can do anything.***
—■—

Genesis 16:13. "You are the God who sees me."

1 John 3:20. "God . . . knows everything."

GOD CAN DO ANYTHING

The Creator has built into His world certain patterns that we call the laws of nature. Everything functions according to these patterns. God is above these natural laws and is not bound by them. He does supernatural

works called miracles, things that are beyond the power of humans or nature.

Jesus did many miracles when He was on earth. He healed the sick, raised the dead, and changed lives. He is still the Great Physician and enjoys making us well in both body and soul.

Matthew 19:26. "With God all things are possible."

Exodus 15:26. "I am the Lord, who heals you."

TO HELP YOU LEARN

One of the following statements is NOT true. Draw a line through it.

- God loves you and wants to help you.
- God is a righteous judge who punishes sin.
- God is impersonal.
- God sees and knows everything, everywhere.

THINK: Does it make you feel good or uneasy to know that God is watching you? Why?

HOW DOES GOD WANT YOU TO WORSHIP HIM?

In worship we show God that we love, honor, and respect Him. We thank Him for what He has done, and we talk with Him. People have tried different ways to worship God. But how does He want you to worship? What will please Him?

BE HONEST AND SINCERE

To worship God, you must mean what you say. You must believe in God and be willing to obey Him.

John 4:24. "God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."

Hebrews 11:6. "Anyone who comes to him [God] must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."

WORSHIP ONLY GOD

Your Creator is the only true God. He does not want you to pray to any other gods, persons, spirits, images, or things.

Exodus 20:3. "You shall have no other gods before me."

Acts 14:15; 17:29. "We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, ... we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by man's design and skill."

THANK THE LORD FOR HIS BLESSINGS

In song and prayer, and even in the silence of your own heart, thank God for His love and goodness and for all of His blessings to you.

God wants you to thank Him for His blessings to you.

Psalm 98:1. "Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things."

Psalm 150:6. "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord."

WORSHIP HUMBLY BUT WITH FAITH

Recognize that you cannot make yourself good enough to come before a holy God. However, since you have asked Jesus to be your Savior, God has forgiven you and accepted you as His child. So talk to Him as you would talk to your Father and tell Him whatever is in your heart.

TO HELP YOU LEARN

- **THINK:** Do I worship God in the four ways suggested in this lesson? Do I plan to do it?

Pray to God now in your own words, asking Him to reveal himself to you. Worship Him.

CONGRATULATIONS.

- You have completed Lesson 2.
- Turn to the Lesson Review Questions at the end of this book.
- Answer the questions for Lesson 2.
- Then continue with your study of Lesson 3.

May God richly bless you!