

## Week 1

Who is God and why does it matter?

### Day 1 - He is Creator God

Did you know that many verses throughout the Bible declare God to be the Creator of all things? How do the following verses increase your understanding of God as Creator?

Isaiah 40:28

Colossians 1:6

Psalms 104:24

Romans 9:20

Hebrews 11:3 really helps us understand that belief in God as Creator is a matter of faith. We believe He spoke the world into existence, creating what we see from nothing because He is God.

*“By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.” Heb. 11:3*

Evidence of His creation strengthens our faith, but isn't the substance of our faith. Our faith is always based on God, Himself.

If faith is required to recognize God as Creator, why might someone choose not to believe?

In general, what rights does a creator have over one's own creation?

What does this mean about God's relationship to us, His creation?

Something to think about ~

If God is not the Creator of us and the entire universe, He becomes little more than a talisman used to make us feel better or to bring luck. Each one of us has to answer the question: do I believe in God as He reveals Himself in Scripture or have I created a cocktail god made up of little bit of Bible, a smidgeon of my culture's current belief, added to a sprinkling of my own ideas?

How would you answer this question?

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### Day 2 - He is Good

What does it mean to be good? How would you define goodness?

What do the following verses say about God being good?

Luke 18:19

1 John 1:5

Psalms 19:68

If God is good, where does evil come from? It is a question asked honestly by many and thrown back into the face of God with scorn by others. 2 Thessalonians 2:7 says lawlessness, a.k.a. evil, is a mystery that God hasn't chosen to reveal completely yet. But we do know this, evil is the absence of goodness. If God is good, evil is the complete opposite of Him.

Think again about your definition of goodness. How does human goodness measure up when compared to God's goodness...the complete absence of evil?

Every person is born in need of God's goodness, but too often we reject it.

How does John 3:19-21 affirm that we reject God's goodness, His light?

Why would anyone do that?

Psalms 34:8 says, "Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him."

Sometimes our own past experiences keep us from believing God is really good and desires good for us. We may feel unworthy because we know who we are and what we've done. We may question God's goodness because we've seldom experienced human goodness and can't imagine something so wonderful, unselfish, and perfect anywhere in the universe.

That is why Psalm 34:8 is so beautiful. We are invited into God's presence to see and know His goodness in a personal way. What keeps you from experiencing and knowing the goodness of God?

Something to think about ~

After facing a major crisis in his life, David wrote, "I would have despaired unless I had believed I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living." (Ps. 27:13) God desires for us to see His goodness in this present life, but that doesn't mean there are no problems. As we learn to trust God more, His goodness moves into our circumstances and drives out the darkness.

Do you choose despair because of life's problems or do you trust in God's goodness?

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### Day 3 - He is our Father

Have you ever wondered why God is considered our Father? Our personal relationship with Christ, gives us this right...not our humanness, not our goodness, not our education, not our status...only Christ.

How do the following verses affirm the previous statement?

John 1:12-13

Romans 8:14-17

Galatians 4:6-7

1 John 3:1 says, "See (take note of) the great love our Father lavishes on us..." How has God lavished His love on you?

Why is it important to acknowledge the ways He pours out His love on us?

How is God better than any human father could possibly be? (See Hebrews 12:10)

There are some similarities between the intended roles of human fathers and God's ability to be the perfect Father. God as our Father provides for and protects His children. He cares for us and always acts for our good. He gives us security and identity.

What character traits do the following verses give to God as our Father?

Matthew 6:31-32

John 10:29

James 1:17

Psalms 103:13

Something to think about ~

The way we view our earthly father greatly impacts the image we have of God as our Father. This world is filled with a lot of great dads, but there are also a lot of men who failed miserably in the area of fatherhood. Human fathers, unlike God, are not all knowing. They may jump to conclusions or discipline from a place of pride and/or selfishness. God always, always, always disciplines from a place of complete love and goodness. He never makes mistakes and He is always waiting for your return with open arms.

We create stumbling blocks in our mind because we have a hard time seeing beyond our human father's limitations and mistakes or because we harbor anger in our hearts towards the man who should have been a dad, but wasn't. Ask God to help you know Him as the perfect Father He is and bring peace in your heart in regards to the man who raised you.

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### Day 4 - He is our Judge

What is the job of a judge?

Why do we cringe over the thought that someone else has the right to judge us?

What do the following verses tell us about God's role as judge?

Isaiah 33:22

1 Samuel 24:15

Psalms 9:8

Psalms 96:13

Jeremiah 16:17

There is a lot packed into the verses above. Did you notice the joy the psalmist expressed in knowing that God was the one coming to judge the world, not man? It seems strange because judgement and joy aren't usually paired together. Ps. 9:8 and 96:10 use the phrase "judges with equity." What is equity (in relation to judgements) and why would it incite joy in the psalmist?

Ps. 96 is a declaration of God's greatness and His goodness. His judgements flow from His perfect nature and character. He is absolutely righteous, always faithful, and the ultimate truth. Why is this important in regards to God being our judge?

"And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account." - Hebrews 4:13 In this verse "naked and exposed" means we can't hide anything, no thought, no word, no deed can be kept secret from God. Does God's deep knowledge of you bring comfort or fear when you think of Him as Judge? Why?

Something to think about ~

The topic of God being our judge makes us uncomfortable. Whenever we are confronted by our own selfishness, greed, pride, tendencies to gossip, grumbling, or whatever sin we struggle with, we get defensive. We begin to justify our actions. We expect God to make allowances when we break His laws, yet we don't offer the same to others. We expect justice for them and grace for ourselves. How does this confirm our need for a righteous judge?

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### Day 5- He is our Justifier and Redeemer

Because God is our judge, He knows our guilt and the punishment that accompanies it. Because God is love, He chooses to be our Justifier and Redeemer offering to bear the punishment for us and freeing us from guilt forever.

Isaiah 47:4 and Psalm 19:14 tell us that God is our Redeemer. How would you explain the word redeem? What does it mean that God is our Redeemer?

What do the following verses reveal to us about God as our Redeemer?

Psalm 44:26

Isaiah 43:1

Psalm 34:22

We see this redemption played out in Jesus. How do the following verses reveal Jesus as our Redeemer?

Galatians 3:13

Colossians 1:13-14

Ephesians 1:7

God is our creator and has every right to rule over us. He is the lawmaker/lawgiver so He has greater understanding of what is expected than any person. He is judge because He alone is completely righteous and just. He alone knows every thought and deed of His creation. Yet... we see His perfect goodness and love displayed by His willingness to also justify us and redeem us by His work, not ours. How does this impact the way you see God? Does it change your opinion of Him or deepen your commitment to Him?

Something to think about ~

Thousands of years ago, the term “redeem” was used specifically to describe the purchase of a slave’s freedom. When Jesus redeems us, He frees us from our previous condition...slavery. You may have never thought of yourself in terms of being a slave, but that is exactly what we were. God purchased our freedom, through Christ’s death (and resurrection) so we are no longer in bondage to the rules and regulations of the law. We are no longer chained by our sins. Romans 8:1-4 makes it clear... “there is no longer any condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”

Have you thanked God recently for being your redeemer and purchasing your freedom?