

Who is God?



1) What is meant by the word "God"?

- A. God is the supreme being. He is greater than any man or other demonic or heavenly being.
- B. He is the creator of the universe.
- C. He is in control of the universe.

2) Is it possible to understand God?

- A. Yes. What God wants man to know about Himself has been made available to us through nature, the Bible, and His son Jesus Christ.
 - 1. The Bible teaches us how to live before God. It is also the record of God's spiritual interaction with man.

"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."

ROMANS 1:20 NIV

"For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."

HEBREWS 4:12 NIV

"While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!'"

MATTHEW 17:5 NIV

3) Why do we want to understand God?

- A. God commands that we love and worship Him. We can never please God and obey those commands without understanding who God is and what He requires of us.

"One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, 'Of all the commandments, which is the most

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important?" [29] "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. [30] Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' [31] The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

MARK 12:28-31 NIV

4) Will we ever be able to completely understand God?

- A. No. God is infinite. That means He is without limitation. We are finite. We endure many limitations in this life. It is impossible for our finite minds to totally understand a limitless God. There will always be things about God that will remain a mystery to us.

"As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

ISA 55:9 NIV

"Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! [34] 'Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?'"

ROM 11:33-34 NIV

5) What is God?

- A. God is spirit. A spirit has personality, intellect, and volition (the ability to make choices), but a spirit does not require a body of flesh and blood. A spirit cannot be seen with our natural eyes unless they desire to be seen.

"God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."

JOHN 4:24 NIV

"When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. 'Oh, my lord, what shall we do?' the servant asked. [16] 'Don't be afraid,' the prophet answered. 'Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.' [17] And Elisha prayed, 'O LORD, open his eyes so he may see.' Then the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha."

2KINGS 6:15-17 NIV

6) What are the divine attributes that describe God?

- A. **OMNIPOTENT:** All powerful; almighty.
1. He is able to meet all your needs.
 2. Nothing is too difficult for Him.

"When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless.'"

GEN 17:1 NIV

"Ah, Sovereign LORD, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you."

JER 32:17 NIV

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"Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

MATT 19:26 NIV

B. **OMNIPRESENT:** He is everywhere present.

1. He will not leave or forsake you.

"Am I only a God nearby," declares the LORD, "and not a God far away? [24] Can anyone hide in secret places so that I cannot see him?" declares the LORD. "Do not I fill heaven and earth?" declares the LORD."

JER 23:23-24 NIV

"... I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

MATT 28:20 NIV

C. **OMNISCIENT:** He is all knowing.

1. God knows all about you. He knows all the good and all the bad. There is no hiding from Him.

"O LORD, you have searched me and you know me. [2] You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. [3] You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. [4] Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD."

PSA 139:1-4 NIV

"I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please."

ISA 46:10 NIV

D. **SELF-EXISTENT:** God is not dependent, for His being or essence, upon any source outside of Himself.

1. God has no beginning. He was not created. He has always been.
2. If someone does not believe in God, it doesn't affect who God is one little bit.

"In the beginning God ..."

GENESIS 1:1 NIV

"Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God."

PSALM 90:2 NIV

E. **SELF-SUFFICIENT:** God is complete in Himself.

1. God lacks nothing, needs nothing, nor can anything be added to Him.
2. God existed before creation and will continue after the universe disappears.
3. It does no good to make deals with God; you have nothing to offer Him.
 - a. He only requests our surrender.

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"Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made."

JOHN 1:3 NIV

F. **ETERNAL:** God is not limited by time.

1. He has always been, He is, and He will always be. To trust God is to put yourself in very able hands.

"... I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. [10] I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please."

ISA 46:9-10 NIV

"As I looked, "thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. ... "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. [14] He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed."

DAN 7:13-14 NIV

"... "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come."

REV 4:8 NIV

G. **IMMUTABLE:** God is changeless.

1. God is trustworthy and dependable.
 - a. God may change His methods, but His nature and character never change.
2. If God loved you yesterday, He loves you today.

"I the LORD do not change. ..."

MAL 3:6 NIV

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows."

JAM 1:17 NIV

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."

HEB 13:8 NIV

H. **ALL WISE:** God perfectly comprehends and applies knowledge.

1. God's will for you will always be the best.
2. You never have to fear that your prayers or motives will be misunderstood.

"to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen."

ROM 16:27 NIV

"Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!"

ROM 11:33 NIV

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- I. **JUST:** God always has correct judgement.
1. God will always deal with you justly.
 2. God rewards good and punishes evil.

"He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he."

DEU 32:4 NIV

- J. **WRATHFUL:** Righteous indignation; just anger.
1. Wrath is God's judicial response to sin.
 - a. God hates sin; always has, always will.
 - (1) God never compromises with sin.

"The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness,"

ROM 1:18 NIV

- K. **MERCIFUL:** The compassion of God applied to our lives.
1. Mercy is not receiving what we deserve.
 - a. We deserve the wages of sin (death), but God gives us life.

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

ROM 6:23 KJV

"The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy."

PSA 103:8 KJV

- L. **FAITHFUL:** Steadfast; loyal; firm in adherence to promises; constant; reliable.
1. God can be trusted. He is absolutely reliable.
 2. We can believe His promises.

"Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands."

DEU 7:9 NIV

"God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?"

NUM 23:19 NIV

- M. **GOOD:** There is no evil in God.
1. God's desire is to do us good, not evil, all the days of our lives.

"You are good, and what you do is good; teach me your decrees."

PSA 119:68 NIV

"The LORD is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made."

PSA 145:9 NIV

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N. **GRACE:** Unmerited favor; the power of God which enables you to do and be what He has called you to.

1. Grace is receiving what we do not deserve.
 - a. God is always bestowing on us what we do not deserve.
2. Grace is the opposite of works.
 - a. You cannot earn what God freely gives.

"The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love."

PSA 145:8 NIV

O. **LOVE:** Unconditional affection.

1. God extended His love while we were yet sinners.

"Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love."

1JOHN 4:8 NIV

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

ROM 5:8 NIV

P. **HOLY:** Separation from sin; abhorring sin; moral excellence.

1. God would never lead you into sin.

"... Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy."

LEV 19:2 NIV

Q. **SOVEREIGN:** He is in absolute control of His creation.

1. We are completely under His control.
 - a. We can't alter God's plan, we can only cooperate with it.
2. Satan is under God's control and cannot run wild or out of God's control.

"... God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords,"

1TIM 6:15 NIV

"He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, 'Quiet! Be still!' Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. ... They were terrified and asked each other, 'Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!'"

MARK 4:39-41 NIV

"And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross."

COL 2:15 NIV

7) How can God be loving and wrathful, just and merciful, at the same time?

- A. God's nature consists of one basic essence and is not divided into many differing parts. All God's attributes are in unity. No attribute is in conflict with any other aspect of God's nature. God is not like man. He does not have to "turn off" one attribute in order to manifest another.

8) What can we learn from the names of God?

- A. The Hebrews felt that a man's name was very important. A name was not just a label used to identify a person. It revealed a person's character and personality.

"May my lord pay no attention to that wicked man Nabal. He is just like his name - his name is Fool, and folly goes with him. But as for me, your servant, I did not see the men my master sent."

1SAM 25:25 NIV

- B. God has used His names to reveal to man who He is. His names give us insight into His nature and character.
- C. There are many names for God used in the Hebrew and Greek scriptures. Each name gives us a different insight into the infinite God we serve.

9) What are the names of God?

- A. Hebrew names.

1. "Elohim" means "god, Supreme God."
2. "El" means "God, Mighty One."
3. "El Elyon" means "The Most High."
4. "El Olam" means "The Everlasting God."
5. "El Shaddai" means "The Almighty God."
6. "Adonai" means "Lord, owner, master, ruler."
7. "Jehovah" means "I Am."
 - a. It is the personal name of God. It is the name He uses when He identifies Himself to man.
 - b. It is His covenant name. It is the name God uses when He forms a covenant with man.
 - c. It is His redemptive name. Every time God revealed details of His redemption to man, He identified Himself with this name.
8. Ha Tsur - "The Rock."
 - a. References to God as "The Rock" are to Jehovah, the God of redemption.
 - b. In the New Testament the rock was identified as Christ Jesus.

"I will proclaim the name of the LORD. Oh, praise the greatness of our God! [4] He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he."

DEU 32:3-4 NIV

"and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ."

1COR 10:4 NIV

- B. Greek names.

1. "Theos" simply means "God" or "gods." It is the usual word for "God" in the New Testament.
2. "Kurios" means "Lord." It is similar to the Hebrew "Adonai."
3. "Pater" means "father."
 - a. "Abba" is the Aramaic word for "father." It is used in a family setting, similar to our "daddy."

10) What are the compound names of God?

- A. They are names that were formed by placing the personal, redemptive name of Jehovah with a second word. The resulting compound name reveals to us more about God's character and love for those in covenant with Him.
1. Jehovah Jireh
 2. Jehovah Rapha
 3. Jehovah Nissi
 4. Jehovah Shalom
 5. Jehovah Raah
 6. Jehovah Tsidkenu
 7. Jehovah Sabaoth
 8. Jehovah Shammah

11) Who is Jehovah Jireh?

- A. The Lord will provide.
1. Our source is God. He sees our need and will supply according to His rich abundance.

"So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided."

GEN 22:14 NIV

"And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus."
PHIL 4:19 NIV

12) Who is Jehovah Rapha?

- A. The Lord our healer.
1. God cares about our physical health. He is able to heal illness and disease.

"He said, "If you listen carefully to the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, who heals you."

EXO 15:26 NIV

"Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. [15] And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven."

JAMES 5:14-15 NIV

13) Who is Jehovah Nissi?

- A. The Lord our Banner.
1. For the duration of the battle with the Amalekites, Moses raised his hands to God and God gave Israel victory.
 2. A banner is like a flag. It identifies the person who flies it. We belong to God. He is not ashamed to be our banner.

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"Moses built an altar and called it The LORD is my Banner. [16] He said, "For hands were lifted up to the throne of the LORD. The LORD will be at war against the Amalekites from generation to generation."

EXO 17:15-16 NIV

"if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

2CHRON 7:14 NIV

14) Who is Jehovah Shalom?

A. The Lord our Peace.

1. Peace doesn't come from the lack of conflict. Peace comes when the God of peace is present in your heart.

"So Gideon built an altar to the LORD there and called it The LORD is Peace. To this day it stands in Ophrah of the Abiezrites."

JDG 6:24 NIV

"Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you."

2THESS 3:16 NIV

15) Who is Jehovah Raah?

A. The Lord our Shepherd.

1. God watches over us and sees to our needs like a good shepherd.

"The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want."

PSA 23:1 KJV

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

JOHN 10:11 NIV

16) Who is Jehovah Tsidkenu?

A. The Lord our righteousness.

1. God is our righteousness. We can't make ourselves righteous, but He is our righteousness.

"In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS."

JER 23:6 KJV

"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

2COR 5:21 NIV

17) Who is Jehovah Sabaoth?

A. The Lord of hosts.

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1. The "hosts" referred to are warriors or an army. God is the one who leads us into battle. He is the commander of the heavenly armies.

"Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory. Selah."
PSA 24:10 KJV

"And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross."

COL 2:15 NIV

18) Who is Jehovah Shammah?

- A. The Lord is present.
 1. Just as God made Jerusalem His dwelling place, He desires to dwell in us. When God comes to us, He will not abandon us.

"It was round about eighteen thousand measures: and the name of the city from that day shall be, The LORD is there."

EZE 48:35 KJV

"Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

HEB 13:5 NIV

19) How can we better understand God?

- A. Understanding of God is gained by spending time with Him through prayer and Bible reading.

"For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

1PETER 3:12 NIV

"The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple."

PSA 19:7 NIV

"... from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus."

2TIM 3:15 NIV

- B. You should establish a daily routine of prayer and Bible study so you can grow in the things of God.

Name: _____ Group Leaders: _____

Date: _____

Homework for Chapter 1

Please answer the following questions from the textbook in full sentences and return to your Group Leaders next week.

1) What is meant by the word "God?"

2) God is spirit. What is a spirit?

3) What does it mean that God is Omnipotent?

4) What does it mean that God is holy?

5) Who is Jehovah Jireh?

6) Who is Jehovah Rapha?
