

Session 3

I. Question—What is God like?

What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.

—A.W. Tozer

II. Survey of Key Passages

GOD IS GREAT

Exodus 3:14

God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

Acts 17:24-25

"The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. ²⁵ And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else."

Big Idea: God exists in and of Himself. He is free and does not need anything to live and give life.

Malachi 3:6-7

"I the LORD do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. ⁷ Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you," says the LORD Almighty.

James 1:17

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

Big Idea: God is unchanging.

Genesis 18:13-14

Then the LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Will I really have a child, now that I am old?' ¹⁴ Is anything too hard for the LORD? I will return to you at the appointed time next year, and Sarah will have a son."

Jeremiah 32:17

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

Matthew 19:26

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

Big Idea: God is all-powerful. There is nothing restraining Him or holding Him back. He can do anything that is consistent with His nature.

Isaiah 46:9-10

*Remember the former things, those of long ago;
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.*

Jeremiah 1:5

*"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
before you were born I set you apart;
I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."*

Psalm 139:1-2

*You have searched me, LORD,
and you know me.
² You know when I sit and when I rise;
you perceive my thoughts from afar.*

Big Idea: God is all-knowing, meaning that He has complete knowledge of all persons, things, and events whether past, present, or future.

John 4:24

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

Big Idea: God is spirit, meaning that He does not have a material body.

Psalm 139:7-10

Where can I go from your Spirit?

Where can I flee from your presence?

⁸ *If I go up to the heavens, you are there;
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.*

⁹ *If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
if I settle on the far side of the sea,*

¹⁰ *even there your hand will guide me,
your right hand will hold me fast.*

Big Idea: God is all-present, meaning that there is nowhere that He is not.

Psalm 90:2

Before the mountains were born

or you brought forth the whole world,

from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

2 Peter 3:8

But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.

Big Idea: God is eternal, without beginning or end and not bound by time.

GOD IS GOOD

Psalm 100:5

For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Luke 18:19

"Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone."

Big Idea: God is completely good in all that He is, wills, and does.

Proverbs 30:5

*"Every word of God is flawless;
he is a shield to those who take refuge in him."*

John 17:17

Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

Big Idea: God is true, and His Word is always true.

Romans 8:28

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Big Idea: God is wise, meaning that He always chooses the best means and end.

Leviticus 11:44a

I am the LORD your God; consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am holy...

Big Idea: God is holy, meaning that He is perfectly pure and set apart from all creation.

Exodus 34:6-7

And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness,⁷ maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation."

1 John 4:16b

...God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.

Big Idea: God is loving, merciful, kind, and forgiving.

III. Summary of Biblical Truth

1. God is completely good in all that He is and does.
2. God is infinite in knowledge, presence, and power.
3. God is limited by nothing outside of Himself.
4. God is above and beyond us in every way and yet draws close to us in a personal way.

Doctrinal Statement of Fellowship Bible Church of Northwest Arkansas

God... We believe there is but one living and true God who is infinite, eternal, and unchangeable. We further believe that God is one in essence while existing in three distinct persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Though each person of the Godhead possesses precisely the same nature and attributes, each function differently in respect to God's purposes and dealings with man.

—Deuteronomy 4:39; 6:4; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14

IV. Scripture to Memorize

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—Exodus 34:6-7

V. Difficult Questions and Objections

1. How can God be good, powerful and yet allow evil?
2. How do God and time work?
3. What is the role of prayer before a sovereign God?
4. How can I really know anything about a God who is so beyond me?
5. Is God present in hell?

VI. Application to Life

1. In worship (What should I praise God for?)

2. In discipleship
(What should I repent of? or How should I trust and obey?)

3. On mission (Why does this matter for lost people?)