



Questions About God

A GotQuestions.org Bible Study

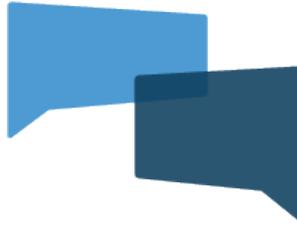


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How to Use This Bible Study

Welcome to the Got Questions Bible Study! We're so glad you're here!

In these studies you will find GotQuestions content, Bible search questions to dig deeper, and heartfelt questions to spark reflection and discussion. Whether you are a new or seasoned believer, using these Bible studies for personal study or as a small group/Sunday School resource, we hope you will increase in your understanding of what it means to be a follower of Christ and that you will seek Him more passionately.

You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.
– Jeremiah 29:13

These Bible studies are tools to help you grow in your knowledge of the topics at hand. However, knowing about God is not the same as actually knowing Him. God invites each of us to know Him personally and to have eternal life through Him.

Throughout this study, there will be information to read and questions to answer. Next to the questions will be icons. Here is your key to understanding them:



Content Qs



Engage Qs



Bible Qs



Reflection Qs

If we place our faith in Him, trusting in His death on the cross to pay for our sins, we will be forgiven and receive the promise of eternal life in heaven.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son so that anyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.
– John 3:16

If you have not yet trusted in Him for salvation or are unsure if you are saved, please visit: www.gotquestions.org/eternal-life.html.

May God richly bless you as you seek to study His Word and grow in your walk with Him (Joshua 1:8)!





Lesson 1:

Who is the one true God?

This is a profoundly important question. Because we live in a world with many competing truth claims—and many so-called gods—the identity of the one true God matters.



Read Deuteronomy 4:35, Psalm 95:3-6, Isaiah 43:11, Isaiah 44:6, 1 Timothy 2:5, and Jude 1:24-25. What do these verses reveal about God being the one true God?

The Bible says that the one true God is the sovereign, self-existent Creator of the universe (Isaiah 42:5; Ephesians 1:11). He is spirit (John 4:24), He is eternal (Psalm 90:2), and He is personal (Deuteronomy 34:10). The one true God possesses all knowledge (Isaiah 46:10) and all power (Matthew 19:26), is present in all places (Psalm 139:7-10), and is unchanging (James 1:17). There are many false gods—Hinduism alone supposedly recognizes as many as 330 million gods—but none of them possess the attributes of the one true God.

The Bible says that God is just (Acts 17:31), loving (Ephesians 2:4-5), truthful (Numbers 23:19), and holy (Isaiah 6:3). God shows compassion (2 Corinthians 1:3), mercy (Romans 9:15), and grace (Romans 5:17). God judges sin (Psalm 5:5), but He also offers forgiveness (Psalm 130:4). Any god that is not just, loving, truthful, holy, compassionate, merciful, gracious, and forgiving is not the one true God.



How does God’s character distinguish Him from all false gods? What false gods do people worship today?

The one true God exists in tri-unity. The Bible speaks of three divine Persons who share the same nature and essence in one God. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are three in one (Matthew 3:16–17; 28:19). This characteristic of the one true God separates Him from all other gods of monotheistic religions: Islam, for example, teaches

one god (Allah), but it is a false god, since Allah is not triune. Any concept of God that excludes Jesus Christ is faulty. As Scripture says, “No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also” (1 John 2:23).



Look up Matthew 28:19, Luke 3:21-22, John 14:26, 2 Corinthians 13:14, and Ephesians 2:18. What do these verses reveal about God existing as a tri-unity?



God exists as a Trinity. In what areas of life do we see the impact of God being relational within the Trinity and being relational with His creation?

The one true God wants to be known. He has revealed His power and glory in creation (Romans 1:20). He revealed Himself to Abram in Mesopotamia, calling him to a new life of faith and making of him a new nation (Genesis 12:1-3). The one true God later identified Himself as the “the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob” (Exodus 3:6) and revealed Himself to Moses in Midian (verses 1-5). Using Moses, the one true God began to reveal Himself more clearly

through His written Word, the Bible. And, finally, the one true God has given us the ultimate revelation of Himself in the Lord Jesus: “In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son” (Hebrews 1:1-2). Jesus is “the exact representation of [God’s] being” (verse 3). Jesus is the Word of God made flesh who “made his dwelling among us” (John 1:14).



When have you experienced God revealing Himself to you?

We all have a choice of whom to worship. Joshua told the Israelites it was time for them to choose the one true God over the gods of the Amorites (Joshua 24:15). Elijah told the people on top of Mt. Carmel that they could no longer stay ambivalent concerning God: “How long will you waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him” (1 Kings 18:21). Today, people worship some of

the same pagan gods mentioned in the Old Testament; or they worship more recent false gods such as Mami Wata and Cernunnos; or they worship themselves. But the worship of false deities leads only to death in the end. “This is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent” (John 17:3). May we be like Ruth, who chose the one true God over the idols of Moab (Ruth 1:16).



Reflect on the truth that God is the one true God. For what will you worship Him today?



Lesson 2:

What is God like?

Every culture in the history of the world has had some concept of what God is like. Some have assumed that God is in control of the weather and have made images of a storm god throwing lightning bolts around (Baal worship in Canaan). Some have assumed that God is very powerful, and so they worshiped the most powerful thing they could see, the sun (Ra worship in Egypt). Others have assumed that God is everywhere and therefore have worshiped everything (pantheism in Stoic philosophy). Some have assumed that God is unknowable and have turned to agnosticism or, just to cover their bases, have worshiped “An Unknown God” (Acts 17:23).



What assumptions about God have you had in the past? What are some common assumptions of God that people have?

The problem with each of these assumptions is that they only get part of the picture of who God is. Yes, God is in control of the weather, but He is also in control of so much more. He is powerful, but much more powerful than the sun. He is everywhere, but He also

transcends everything. And, thankfully, while there are some things we don't understand about God, He is knowable. In fact, He has revealed everything we need to know about Him in the Bible. God wants to be known (Psalm 46:10).



God wants to be known. What does this reveal to us about God? How does this truth impact your view of Him?

Norman Geisler and Frank Turek, in their book *I Don't Have Enough Faith to be an Atheist*, state the following:

- Truth is discovered, not invented. It exists independent of anyone's knowledge of it. (Gravity existed prior to Newton.)
- Truth is transcultural; if something is true, it is true for all people, in all places, at all times. ($2+2=4$ for everyone, everywhere, at every time.)

- Truth is unchanging even though our beliefs about truth change. (When we began to believe the earth was round instead of flat, the truth about the earth didn't change, only our belief about the earth changed.)

Therefore, as we try to ascertain what God is like, we are simply trying to discover truths already there.



Truth is not invented, is unchanging, and is transcultural. Why is this important? When have you needed to change your beliefs based on truth you discovered?

First, God exists. The Bible never argues for God's existence; it simply states it. The fact that God is should be self-evident through the works He has created (Psalm 19:1-6). Genesis 1:1 says, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." This is a simple yet powerful statement. The universe includes time, space, matter, and energy, so that all discernible elements in the universe came into being by God's decree. Albert Einstein's Theory

of General Relativity states that all time, space, and matter had a definite, simultaneous beginning. What has a beginning has a cause. That is the law of causality, and the fact of God easily explains the ultimate cause. God is the creator of all that is, and so we know something else about Him: He is almighty (Joel 1:15), He is eternally self-existent (Psalm 90:2), and He exists above and beyond all of creation (Psalm 97:9).



Read Genesis 1:1 and Psalm 19:1-6. What do these passages reveal about God existing and being the Creator of all things?

The same God who made all things also controls those things. He is sovereign (Isaiah 46:10). He who creates an item owns it and has power to utilize it as he sees fit. The ultimate cause has ultimate authority. In Isaiah 44:24 God presents Himself as the One "who

has made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by myself." The next verse says that He "overthrows the learning of the wise and turns it into nonsense." This is obviously a God with power to do as He pleases.



When have you been aware of God's sovereignty? Did it bring you comfort? Why or why not?

God is spirit (John 4:24) and cannot be represented by any created thing; in fact, the attempt to create such a representation is blasphemous (Exodus 20:4-6). God is unchanging (Malachi 3:6). God is all-knowing

(1 John 3:20) and all-present (Psalm 139:7-13). He is holy and glorious (Isaiah 6:3). He is just (Deuteronomy 32:4) and will justly judge all sin and unrighteousness (Jude 1:15).



Look up the above verses. Which quality or qualities of God are most significant to your life right now? Why? Which quality of God is the hardest for you to understand right now? Why?

The judgment of God highlights another truth about what He is like: He is a moral being. C. S. Lewis, in *Mere Christianity*, makes the case that, just as there exists observable laws of nature (gravity, entropy, etc.), there are also observable laws of morality. He writes, “First, that human beings, all over the earth, have this curious idea that they ought to behave in a certain way, and cannot really get rid of it. Secondly, that they do not in fact behave in that way. They know the Law of Nature; they break it. These two facts are the foundation of all clear thinking about ourselves and the universe we live in.” Despite varied ideas about what constitutes right and wrong, there is a universal belief that right and wrong exist, and this is a reflection of the God who made us (Genesis 1:26; Ecclesiastes 3:11).

When Jesus entered our world, He showed us the Father (John 14:7-9). Through Jesus, we understand that God seeks to save the lost (Luke 19:10). He is compassionate (Matthew 14:14), He is merciful (Luke 6:36), and He is forgiving (Matthew 9:1-8). At the same time, Jesus shows us that God will judge unrepentant sin (Luke 13:5) and that God is angry with those who live falsely and refuse to acknowledge the truth (Matthew 23).

Most of all, Jesus showed us that God is love (1 John 4:8). It was in love that God sent His Son into the world (John 3:16). It was in love that Jesus died on the cross for sinners (Romans 5:8). It is in love that He still calls sinners to repentance to experience the grace of God and to be called the children of God (1 John 3:1).



Read John 3:16 and Luke 19:10. Why did God send Jesus into the world?



Having studied God's existence and His holiness, how does this impact your view of Him? What assumptions about God were challenged or need to be changed?



Praise God for the quality of His nature that is most significant to you today, and ask God to help you grow in your understanding of the quality that is most difficult for you to understand.



Lesson 3:

What are the attributes of God?

The Bible, God's Word, tells us what God is like and what He is not like. Without the authority of the Bible, any attempt to explain God's attributes (inherent qualities) would be no better than an opinion, which by itself is often incorrect, especially in understanding God (Job 42:7). To say that it is important for us to try to understand what God is like is a huge understatement. Failure to do so can cause us to set up, chase after, and worship false gods contrary to His will (Exodus 20:3-5).



Having focused on God's existence and holiness as the standard of what is good, righteous, and true in the previous lesson, we now turn to His attributes. Which attributes come to mind when you think of God?



Read John 1:14, 5:39, 6:63, 17:17; Matthew 4:4; and 2 Timothy 3:15-17. Why is God's Word crucial in understanding who God is?

Only what God has chosen to reveal of Himself can be known. One of God's attributes or qualities is "light," meaning that He is self-revealing in information of Himself (Isaiah 60:19; James 1:17). The fact that God has revealed knowledge of Himself should not be neglected (Hebrews 4:1). Creation, the Bible, and the Word made flesh (Jesus Christ) will help us to know what God is like.

Let's start by understanding that God is our Creator and that we are a part of His creation (Genesis 1:1; Psalm 24:1) and are created in His image. Man is above the rest of creation and was given dominion over it (Genesis 1:26-28). Creation is marred by the fall but still offers a glimpse of God's works (Genesis 3:17-18; Romans 1:19-20). By considering creation's vastness, complexity, beauty, and order, we can have a sense of the awesomeness of God.



Man is created; God is not. How does this truth impact your view of yourself and of God?

Reading through some of the names of God can be helpful in our search of what God is like. They are as follows:

- Elohim - strong One, divine (Genesis 1:1)
- Adonai - Lord, indicating a Master-to-servant relationship (Exodus 4:10, 13)
- El Elyon - Most High, the strongest One (Genesis 14:20)
- El Roi - the strong One who sees (Genesis 16:13)
- El Shaddai - Almighty God (Genesis 17:1)
- El Olam - Everlasting God (Isaiah 40:28)
- Yahweh - LORD "I AM," meaning the eternal self-existent God (Exodus 3:13, 14).



Read the above verses. If there were any names of God that were new to you or stood out to you, why did they stand out? What do they reveal about who God is?

God is eternal, meaning He had no beginning and His existence will never end. He is immortal and infinite (Deuteronomy 33:27; Psalm 90:2; 1 Timothy 1:17). God is immutable, meaning He is unchanging; this in turn means that God is absolutely reliable and trustworthy (Malachi 3:6; Numbers 23:19; Psalm 102:26, 27). God is incomparable; there is no one like Him in works or being. He is unequalled and perfect (2 Samuel 7:22; Psalm 86:8; Isaiah 40:25; Matthew 5:48). God is inscrutable, unfathomable, unsearchable, and past finding out as far as understanding Him completely (Isaiah 40:28; Psalm 145:3; Romans 11:33, 34).

God is just; He is no respecter of persons in the sense of showing favoritism (Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 18:30). God is omnipotent; He is all-powerful and can do anything that pleases Him, but His actions will always be in accord with the rest of His character (Revelation 19:6; Jeremiah 32:17, 27). God is omnipresent, meaning He is present everywhere, but this does not mean that God is everything (Psalm 139:7-13; Jeremiah 23:23). God is omniscient, meaning He knows the past, present, and future, including what we are thinking at any given moment. Since He knows everything, His justice will always be administered fairly (Psalm 139:1-5; Proverbs 5:21).



How has God's justice and omniscience given you hope through a difficult situation?

God is one; not only is there no other, but He is alone in being able to meet the deepest needs and longings of our hearts. God alone is worthy of our worship and devotion (Deuteronomy 6:4). God is righteous, meaning that God cannot and will not pass over wrongdoing. It is because

of God's righteousness and justice that, in order for our sins to be forgiven, Jesus had to experience God's wrath when our sins were placed upon Him (Exodus 9:27; Matthew 27:45-46; Romans 3:21-26).



Read Romans 3:21-26. What does righteousness mean? What role does Jesus' righteousness play in salvation?

God is sovereign, meaning He is supreme. All of His creation put together cannot thwart His purposes (Psalm 93:1; 95:3; Jeremiah 23:20). God is spirit, meaning He is invisible (John 1:18; 4:24). God is a Trinity. He is three in one, the same in substance, equal in power and glory. God is truth, He will remain incorruptible and cannot lie (Psalm 117:2; 1 Samuel 15:29).

God is holy, separated from all moral defilement and hostile toward it. God sees all evil and it angers Him. God is referred to as a consuming fire (Isaiah 6:3; Habakkuk 1:13; Exodus 3:2, 4-5; Hebrews 12:29). God is gracious, and His grace includes His goodness, kindness, mercy, and love. If it were not for God's grace, His holiness would exclude us from His presence. Thankfully, this is not the case, for He desires to know each of us personally (Exodus 34:6; Psalm 31:19; 1 Peter 1:3; John 3:16, 17:3).



Humanly speaking, being gracious and hating evil seem contradictory. Yet God's qualities do not negate each other and are completely perfect. When have you experienced the tension of two or more of God's qualities? How were you able to resolve the tension?

Since God is an infinite Being, no human can fully answer this God-sized question, but through God's Word, we can understand much about who God is and

what He is like. May we all wholeheartedly continue to seek after Him (Jeremiah 29:13).



Read Psalm 8 and Romans 2:4. What should reflecting on God's attributes lead us to do?



Reflect on the attributes of God you studied in this lesson. Which attributes stood out to you? Spend time in prayer only praising God for who He is and what He has done in your life.

Lesson 4:

What does it mean that God is the Creator?

One of the foundational truths of the Bible is that God is the Creator of all that is. One of the many passages to proclaim God as Creator is Isaiah 40:28, “Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom.” All three Persons of the Trinity were involved in the creation of the universe (Genesis 1:2; Acts 17:24; Hebrews 1:2).



Read Genesis 1:1. The Bible begins with creation, assuming that God exists. It does not seek to prove God’s existence. Why is this significant?

A creator is one who makes something new. People can “create” art projects, musical compositions, and physical structures; however, they always have something to work with. They begin with preexisting matter and form it in new ways. Even music and other intellectual creations have rhythms, rhymes, notes, instruments, and artistic mediums that provide

structure and offer possibilities. What is commonly called “creativity” is more akin to synthesis. God had no such raw materials to work with. When we say that God is the Creator, we mean that He is truly creative, in a category all by Himself, because He started with nothing (Colossians 1:16).

Genesis 1:1 says that “in the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.” That means that, before Genesis 1:1, there existed no heavens and no earth. God spoke them into being (Genesis 1:3, 6, 9). “In six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them” (Exodus 20:11; cf. Revelation 10:6).

He is God. He is not limited by our understanding, nor by time, space, or matter. As the Creator, God is the all-wise originator and designer of all things: “How many are your works, LORD! In wisdom you made them all” (Psalm 104:24).



How is God being Creator different from us being creators or being creative?

When God created the heavens and the earth, He did so by speaking it into existence. When He created the things that filled the earth and the sky, He spoke them into being (Genesis 1:11–16). But when He created human beings, He did something different. He took some of the earth that He had already made and formed a man. Then He breathed His own life into that man, and “man became a living soul” (Genesis 2:7, KJV). When He created the first woman, Eve, He also used that which He had already made. He caused Adam to fall into a deep sleep and took a rib from his side and formed a woman (Genesis 2:21).

God is the Designer and Craftsman of everything in the universe, and He created human beings a step above all the rest. By breathing His own life into that man, He created the man and woman “in his own image” (Genesis 1:27). That means that human beings are more like God than any other created thing. We have an eternal spirit, just as God has. We can reason, choose good or evil, and love. We have emotions, intellect, and the power and desire to create things ourselves. God desires to have fellowship with us (Genesis 3:8–9; Jeremiah 29:12). He does not seek fellowship with dogs, dolphins, or trees- only humans have God’s life. And when He came to earth to save us, He came in the form of a man (Philippians 2:5–8; Luke 1:35).



How is God’s creation of and relationship with humanity different from everything else He created? What does this reveal about humanity and about God?

When we say that God is the Creator, we mean that no one created Him and that God alone is *the* Creator. Satan cannot create; he can only pervert what God creates. People cannot truly create, because we must start with something that has already been created. Everything originated from God (Jeremiah 10:16; James 1:17; Revelation 10:6). Because He created everything, everything is His (Exodus 19:5; Psalm 50:12).

As human beings, we are also His, and He has the right to rule over us. He gives us freedom to choose Him or reject Him, but consequences come with either choice. The wise person bows before the Creator and willingly submits himself or herself to the only One who truly knows how we are made (Psalm 78:39; 103:14; Romans 9:20).



What specific elements- whether they be big or minute details- of God's creation bring you to marvel at who God is and to worship Him?



Think about God's creation and the things that make you marvel. Praise God for what He reveals about Himself through creation – whether it be a sunset or a characteristic of humanity or the wonder of a process in nature – and for being so creative.

Lesson 5:

What does it mean that God is Almighty?

In Hebrew, the title “God Almighty” is written as El Shaddai and probably means “God, the All-powerful One” or “The Mighty One of Jacob” (Genesis 49:24; Psalm 132:2, 5), although there is a question among most Bible scholars as to its precise meaning. The title speaks to God’s ultimate power over all. He has all might and power. We are first introduced to this name in Genesis 17:1, when God appeared to Abram and said, “I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless.”



Read Genesis 17:1, Psalm 91:1-2, and Revelation 1:8. What do these verses reveal about God Almighty?

God has many names and attributes. He is the Almighty (Genesis 49:25), the Creator of heaven and earth (Genesis 14:19), Builder of everything (Hebrews 3:4), the King of heaven (Daniel 4:37), God of all mankind (Jeremiah 32:27), and the Eternal King (Jeremiah 10:10). He is the only God (Jude 1:25), the Eternal God (Genesis 21:33), the Everlasting God (Isaiah 40:28), and Maker of all things (Ecclesiastes 11:5). He is able to do more things than we can ask or even imagine (Ephesians 3:20). He performs wonders that cannot

be fathomed and miracles that cannot be counted (Job 9:10). God’s power is unlimited. He can do anything He wants, whenever He wants (Psalm 115:3). He spoke the universe into existence (Genesis 1:3). Furthermore, He answers to no one as to His plans and purposes: “All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: ‘What have you done?’” (Daniel 4:35).



In what circumstances have you experienced God as the Almighty?

When we see God as the Almighty, we are struck by His power and by the fact that He is indeed a great, mighty, and awesome God (Deuteronomy 10:17). The identity of God as Almighty serves to establish the sense of awe and wonder we have toward Him and the realization that He is God above all things without limitation. This is important in view of how He is described next in the Bible. In Exodus 6:2-3, God said to Moses, “I am the LORD. I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac and Jacob as God Almighty, but by my name the LORD I did not make myself known to them.”

How is this significant? It is significant because God, whom we previously knew only as God Almighty, has now given a new, more personal and intimate name to Moses (and Israel). This desire on God’s part for a more personal relationship with mankind would culminate later when God Almighty sent His only Son to earth –God in flesh—to die on the cross so that a way for forgiveness of our sins could be provided. The fact that God Almighty would humble Himself in this way for us makes His name all the more remarkable.



How can we point others to God Almighty?



How are you reflecting the Almighty in your spheres of influence and community?



Seek the Lord for where you can reflect the Almighty in your spheres of influence and community. Ask Him to reveal any tendency where you avoid doing so and repent if necessary. Pray that God would renew your passion for reflecting Him to those around you.

Lesson 6:

What does it mean that God is good?

Jesus declared, “No one is good—except God alone” (Luke 18:19). First John 1:5 tells us that “God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all.” To say that God is good means that God always acts in accordance to what is right, true, and good. Goodness is part of God’s nature, and He cannot contradict His nature. Holiness and righteousness are part of God’s nature; He cannot do anything that is unholy or unrighteous. God is the standard of all that is good.



What does it mean that God is holy? How does His character and attributes separate Him from everything else?

The fact that God is good means that He has no evil in Him, His intentions and motivations are always good, He always does what is right, and the outcome of His plan is always good (see Genesis 50:20). There is nothing unpleasant, evil, or dark in Him. The Bible

teaches that God’s goodness extends from His nature to everything that He does (Psalm 119:68). “The LORD is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations” (Psalm 100:5).



How does the fact that God is good harmonize with the fact that we still experience evil, pain, and suffering? What tension have you experienced with these two truths?

Everything that God made was originally good: “God saw all that He had made, and it was very good” (Genesis 1:31; cf. 1 Timothy 4:4). God’s goodness is showcased in the Law He gave to Israel; the Law is holy, righteous, and good (Romans 7:12). “Every good and perfect gift is from above” (James 1:17). God can create only what is good, because He is fully good.



God created everything good. What does this teach us about God’s character, and what implications does this have for our lives?

God did not create evil (Habakkuk 1:13; 1 John 1:5). Rather, evil is the absence of goodness; it is whatever God is not. Because of His goodness, God abhors sin and will judge it some day (Romans 2:5). It is never the will of our good God for us to sin: “God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone” (James 1:13).

God’s goodness should lead to thankfulness on our part: “Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; His love

endures forever” (Psalm 107:1; cf. 1 Chronicles 16:34; Psalm 118:1; 136). However, people do not naturally want to follow or thank God. Instead, “people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil” (John 3:19). In the Old Testament, the Israelites repeatedly rejected God’s good Law, forgot His goodness toward them, and were unfaithful to Him: “They forgot what he had done, the wonders he had shown them” (Psalm 78:11).



Read Genesis 3:1-7, Isaiah 14:12-15, Romans 5:12, Ephesians 2:1-3, and 1 John 2:16. What do we learn about sin from these verses?

Ultimately, God’s goodness is seen in His plan to redeem us from sin. The gospel is “good news.” In His goodness, God sent His Son to become the perfect and blameless sacrifice so we could be forgiven of our sins. God does

not want “anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9), and it is “the goodness of God [that] leadeth thee to repentance” (Romans 2:4, KJV). There is only One who is fully and truly good—God.



In what ways have you experienced God’s goodness? How do you remind yourself of God’s past goodness?

This good God invites us to seek Him and to “taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him” (Psalm 34:8).



Since God is the standard of all that is good and holy, how does this affect humanity?



Take some time to praise God for His goodness in His plan to redeem humanity through salvation. Where do you need God’s goodness to restore an aspect or circumstance in your life?



Lesson 7:

Is there anything God cannot do?

On a clear night, look up at the stars in the sky. Genesis 1 records that God made all of them! Imagine the power in just one star! But it is not just about raw power. There is intelligence and design packed in our universe down to the smallest DNA strand, down to the smallest subatomic particle. God's power and wisdom are beyond our comprehension. That is why the LORD said to Abraham in Genesis 18:14, "Is anything too hard for the LORD?" That is why the LORD said to Moses when Moses questioned how God could possibly supply meat to several million Israelites in the wilderness, "Is the LORD's arm too short?" (Numbers 11:23). That is why Jonathan told his armor bearer that the LORD didn't need a lot of soldiers to get a victory (1 Samuel 14:6).



What in your life or in the world seems too impossible for God to be at work?

Jeremiah 32:17 states, "Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee" (KJV). Even in the spiritual realm, those who seem the farthest from salvation are not impossible for Him to reach (Mark 10:25-27). And as great as His power is,

His love and mercy are just as great—even to the point of His willingness to send His own Son to die on the cross of Calvary to pay the penalty for a sinful mankind. He did this so that He, in complete justice, could forgive those who will turn away from self-reliance and sin to reliance upon Christ and His finished work.

As parents, it would be far worse to see our children endure torment than go through it ourselves, and yet that is just what God the Father did. John 3:16, a familiar verse, states God's great love: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but

have everlasting life" (KJV). This love was not just for the "good" people (there are none), but for us—a fallen, sinful, unlovely, rebellious people (Romans 3:10-23)—and yet He chose to shower us with His love (Romans 5:6-10) when we didn't deserve it.



God is Creator, Almighty, and fully good. How does bringing God's attributes into the situation you thought of earlier impact it?

The only thing that God cannot do is act contrary to His own character and nature. For example, Titus 1:2 states that He cannot lie. Because He is holy (Isaiah 6:3; 1 Peter 1:16), He cannot sin. Because He is just, He

cannot merely overlook sin. Because Christ paid the penalty for sin, He is now able to forgive those who put their faith in Christ (Isaiah 53:1-12; Romans 3:26).



Why is it important to remember that God cannot act contrary to His own character and nature?

Truly our God is an awesome God—unchanging, eternal, unlimited in power, in majesty, in knowledge, in wisdom, in love, in mercy, and in holiness. But we are very much like the Israelites who, even after seeing God display His power and love repeatedly, doubted

both His love and power as they came face to face with each new trial in their lives (e.g., Numbers 13-14). May God help us to honor Him with dependence and trust in Him through the next “crisis” we face, for He is a “very present help in trouble” (Psalm 46:1, ESV).



How have you turned to God for what seems impossible? How have you seen Him respond?



Confess to God the things that seem impossible to you right now. Turn those things over to Him. Reflect on God’s attributes, and ask Him to deepen your trust in Him because He cannot act contrary to those attributes.



Lesson 8:

Why does God allow evil?

The Bible describes God as holy (Isaiah 6:3), righteous (Psalm 7:11), just (Deuteronomy 32:4), and sovereign (Daniel 4:17-25). These attributes tell us the following about God: (1) God is capable of preventing evil, and (2) God desires to rid the universe of evil. So, if both of these are true, why does God allow evil? If God has the power to prevent evil and desires to prevent evil, why does He still allow evil? Perhaps a practical way to look at this question would be to consider some alternative ways people might have God run the world:



God invites us to come to Him with our questions and to seek Him (Jeremiah 29:13). What kind of questions have you brought before the Lord? How have you grown in your time of wrestling through your questions?

1) God could change everyone's personality so that they cannot sin. This would also mean that we would not have a free will. We would not be able to choose right or wrong because we would be "programmed" to only do right. Had God chosen to do this, there would be no meaningful relationships between Him and His creation.

Instead, God made Adam and Eve innocent but with the ability to choose good or evil. Because of this, they could respond to His love and trust Him or choose to disobey. They chose to disobey. Because we live in a real world where we can choose our actions but not their consequences, their sin affected those who came after them (us). Similarly, our decisions to sin have an impact on us and those around us and those who will come after us.



Why is it so important that we have free will even if it means there will be sin or evil? What impact would not having free will have on us?

2) God could compensate for people's evil actions through supernatural intervention 100 percent of the time. God would stop a drunk driver from causing an automobile accident. God would stop a lazy construction worker from doing a substandard job on a house that would later cause grief to the homeowners. God would stop a father who is addicted to drugs or alcohol from doing any harm to his wife, children, or extended family. God would stop gunmen from robbing convenience stores. God would stop high school bullies from tormenting the brainy kids. God would stop thieves from shoplifting. And, yes, God would stop terrorists from flying airplanes into buildings.

While this solution sounds attractive, it would lose its attractiveness as soon as God's intervention infringed on something we wanted to do. We want God to prevent horribly evil actions, but we are willing to let "lesser-evil" actions slide—not realizing that those "lesser-evil" actions are what usually lead to the "greater-evil" actions. Should God only stop actual sexual affairs, or should He also block our access to pornography or end any inappropriate, but not yet sexual, relationships? Should God stop "true" thieves, or should He also stop us from cheating on our taxes? Should God only stop murder, or should He also stop the "lesser-evil" actions done to people that lead them to commit murder? Should God only stop acts of terrorism, or should He also stop the indoctrination that transformed a person into a terrorist?



Why do you think God does not immediately punish evil?



When have you experienced God's immediate or delayed punishment of evil?

3) Another choice would be for God to judge and remove those who choose to commit evil acts. The problem with this possibility is that there would be no one left, for God would have to remove us all. We all sin and commit evil acts (Romans 3:23; Ecclesiastes 7:20; 1 John 1:8). While some people are more evil than others, where would God draw the line? Ultimately, all evil causes harm to others.

Instead of these options, God has chosen to create a “real” world in which real choices have real consequences. In this real world of ours, our actions affect others. Because of Adam’s choice to sin, the world now lives under the curse, and we are all born

with a sin nature (Romans 5:12). There will one day come a time when God will judge the sin in this world and make all things new, but He is purposely “delaying” in order to allow more time for people to repent so that He will not need to condemn them (2 Peter 3:9). Until then, He IS concerned about evil. When He created the Old Testament laws, one of the goals was to discourage and punish evil. He judges nations and rulers who disregard justice and pursue evil. Likewise, in the New Testament, God states that it is the government’s responsibility to provide justice in order to protect the innocent from evil (Romans 13). He also promises severe consequences for those who commit evil acts, especially against the “innocent” (Mark 9:36-42).



Read Isaiah 26:9, Acts 17:31, and Romans 12:19. What do these verses reveal about God seeing and taking care of evil?

In summary, we live in a real world where our good and evil actions have direct consequences and indirect consequences upon us and those around us. God's desire is that for all of our sakes we would obey Him that it might be well with us (Deuteronomy 5:29). Instead, what happens is that we choose our own way, and then we blame God for not doing anything about it. Such is the heart of sinful man. But Jesus came to change men's hearts through the power of the Holy Spirit, and He does this for those who will turn from evil and call on

Him to save them from their sin and its consequences (2 Corinthians 5:17). God does prevent and restrain some acts of evil. This world would be MUCH WORSE were God not restraining evil. At the same time, God has given us the ability to choose good and evil, and when we choose evil, He allows us, and those around us, to suffer the consequences of evil. Rather than blaming God and questioning God on why He does not prevent all evil, we should be about the business of proclaiming the cure for evil and its consequences—Jesus Christ!



What hope do you have that God will one day judge all evil and restore what sin has destroyed?



Allow yourself to reflect on the problem of evil. Ask God to expose any misconceptions or bitter feelings you have about evil in this world. Praise God for seeing evil and for having a plan to judge all evil and restore what sin has destroyed.



Lesson 9:

What is the key to truly knowing God?

Within all of us there exists a strong desire to be known and to know others. The most important Person to know is our Creator. In fact, Jesus said, taught that eternal life is not just a span of time; it is a relationship: “Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent” (John 17:3).



Is there anything you have tried to fill your life with but it just couldn't fully satisfy? How did you come to realize that only God can truly satisfy?

The key to truly knowing God is found in what God has revealed about Himself in the Bible. He wants to be known (see Acts 17:27). The problem is our sinfulness. We are all sinful (Romans 3), and we fall short of the standard of holiness required to commune with God. We have “exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles” (Romans 1:23). So, in order to truly know God, we must first acknowledge our sin and repent of it (see Acts 3:19).

In turning from sin, we must turn to Jesus Christ, the only Savior from sin. In Jesus alone is salvation (Acts 4:12). We receive Jesus by faith: “As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name” (John 1:12, NKJV). Jesus’ death and resurrection provided for the forgiveness of our sin, and He alone is the way to a personal knowledge of God: “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through Me” (John 14:6, NKJV).



When did your realization of sin point you to your need of a Savior? Why did you surrender your life to Christ?

Jesus revealed to us who God is, so in knowing God we must look to Jesus: “Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. . . . Believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me” (John 14:9; cf. John 17:6). Every work that Jesus did was in obedience to the Father in heaven (John 5:19). Every word Jesus spoke was straight from the Father (John 12:49). To know God, we must know Jesus.

Another key ingredient in truly knowing God is reading the Bible, God’s Word. In the Bible we have God’s revelation of His character, His promises, and His will. It is through the Bible that we know that God is “a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness” (Psalm 86:15). It is through the Bible that we know that God is “mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes” (Deuteronomy 10:17). It is through the Bible that we know that God is “the King eternal, immortal, invisible,” worthy of “honor and glory for ever and ever” (1 Timothy 1:17).



Why is studying and knowing God’s Word significant in understanding who God is?

Truly knowing God also comes through our commitment to obey what we read in the Scriptures. We were saved unto good works (Ephesians 2:10), and, as we obey the Lord, we become part of God's plan of continuing to reveal Himself to the world. We are salt and light on

this earth (Matthew 5:13-14), designed to bring God's flavor to the world and to serve as a shining light in the midst of darkness. Jesus Himself placed the greatest importance on loving God with all we are and loving our neighbor as ourselves (Matthew 22:37-40).



What role does God's Word have in knowing God?

These are the keys to truly knowing God. Of course, those who know God will also be committed to prayer, fellowship with other believers, sincere worship, and walking in the Spirit. Jesus taught His disciples about the Holy Spirit, contrasting the world's ignorance of Him with the disciples' knowledge: "The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in

you" (John 14:17). It is through the Spirit of God that we have "adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, 'Abba, Father.' The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children" (Romans 8:15-16). Through Christ and the indwelling Holy Spirit, our lives can be filled with God, and we can experience the joy of truly knowing Him.



How has growing in your knowledge of God impacted your relationships with others, your decisions, and your walk with the Lord?



Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal anything you are filling your life with that will ultimately leave you empty or any area in your life where you are disobeying God's Word. Commit to studying and spending time in God's Word, listening to His Spirit, so you can grow in your knowledge of and love for Him.

Lesson 10:

Does God love me?

The question of whether God loves us—personally and individually—is common. Surrounded by the conditional love of finite humanity, we cannot easily comprehend that God would love us. We know our faults. We know that God is perfect and sinless. We know that we are not. Why would God, who is infinite and holy, love us, who are finite and sinful? And yet the great truth of the gospel is that He does! Time and again, Scripture reminds us of God’s love for us.

To begin with, God created mankind in His own image. And He did so with great care and concern. He “formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being...the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man’s ribs and closed up the place with flesh. Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man” (Genesis 2:7, 21-22). There’s an intimacy here between

God and mankind. With the rest of creation, God merely spoke and it was. Yet God took time in forming man and woman. He gave them dominion over the earth (see Genesis 1:28). God related directly to Adam and Eve. After the Fall, the couple hid from God when He came “walking in the garden in the cool of the day” (Genesis 3:8). It was not abnormal for them to speak with God; it was abnormal for them to hide.



Read Genesis 3. What do you see about God’s love for humanity in this passage?

Relationship with God was broken after the Fall, but His love remained. Immediately following God's pronouncement of curses on the sinful couple, Scripture paints another loving image of God. "The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. And the Lord God said, 'The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and also take from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.' So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of the Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken" (Genesis 3:21-23).

God's action here is not vindictive or punitive; it is protective. God clothed Adam and Eve to hide their shame. He drove them out of Eden to protect them from further harm. God acted out of love. Then, God's plan of redemption and restoration begins to unfold—a plan not designed after the Fall, but before creation (1 Peter 1:20). God loves humankind so much that He chose to create us even knowing the heartache it would cause Him to redeem us.



How do we see God's love in His response to Adam and Eve after they sinned?

There are many verses that demonstrate God's love. We can see His tenderness in Old and New Testament alike. David and other psalmists were particularly articulate regarding God's love. Just look at Psalm 139. Song of Solomon is another great picture of love. God's love is even evident in the history of the Israelites, as He continually preserved a remnant and pled with His people to obey and live. God is seen as just, but also merciful. He is tender. He is jealous for His people, desirous that relationship be restored.

Sometimes we look at the Old Testament and think that God only loves people as a nation, not as individuals. But it is important to remember that Ruth, Hagar, David, Abraham, Moses and Jeremiah were all individuals. God stepped into each of their lives and loved them individually. This love becomes obvious in the person of Jesus.

God took on human flesh in order to redeem us (see Philippians 2:5-11). He entered our world as a baby born to an unassuming family in a very humble way (He spent His first night in a manger where animals were kept). Jesus was raised by earthly parents and was submissive to them. During His public ministry, He often associated with society's outcasts. He showed compassion for the sick. He healed. He listened to

people. He blessed the children. He also taught us about God's love. Luke 13:34 records Jesus crying, "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!" This speaks God's heart desire that people would return to Him. He longs for us. Not to punish us, but to love us.



How do we see God's love in Jesus' incarnation?

Perhaps the greatest picture of God's love is Jesus' passion and crucifixion. Paul reminds us, "You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:6-8). Jesus' work on the cross was a clear, unmistakable declaration of love. And this love is unconditional. We were in our worst state when Christ died for us. "As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins...But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in

mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace that you have been saved" (Ephesians 2:1, 4-5).

This salvation has made abundant life possible. "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy," Jesus said. "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" (John 10:10). God is not stingy. He wants to lavish His love on us. "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death," Paul proclaims in Romans 8:1-2.



How do we see God's love in salvation? Think about God's plan as well as all Jesus endured to make salvation possible.

Remember, Paul was formerly an enemy of Christ. He vehemently persecuted Christians. He lived by the letter of the law rather than through an understanding of God's love. Paul, if he even thought of God's love, probably felt that God could not love him apart from rule-following. Yet, in Christ, he found God's grace and accepted God's love. One of his greatest articulations of God's love is this: "If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all—how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things?...Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or

famine or nakedness or danger or sword?...No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:31-32, 35, 37-39).

So the simple answer is, "yes." Yes, God loves you! As hard as it may be to believe, it is the truth.



Is it hard for you to comprehend that God loves you? Why or why not?

Here are some other Scriptures about God's love for you:

1 John 4:8 – “God is love.”

Ephesians 5:1-2 – “Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children. and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”

Ephesians 5:25-27 – “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.”

John 15:9-11 – “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.”

1 John 3:16a – “This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.”



Which verse or verses above will you reflect on to remind yourself of God's great love for you? How will you remind yourself of and respond to His great love for you?



Wrap Up

Now that you have studied ten lessons on questions about God, take some time to reflect on what you've learned and how you will put what you've learned into practice. Remember the amazing truth that God—the one true God, the Creator of the universe, the Almighty, the only good God—loves you and wants you to know Him.



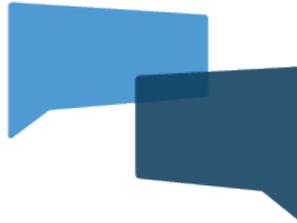
How has your understanding of God changed or expanded as a result of what you've learned through this study?



What will you change in your life as a result of this study?



Who in your life would you like to see grow in their understanding of God? Commit to praying for them. What will you share with them about what you have learned?



Reference List

- Lesson 1: www.gotquestions.org/one-true-God.html
- Lesson 2: www.gotquestions.org/what-is-God-like.html
- Lesson 3: www.gotquestions.org/attributes-God.html
- Lesson 4: www.gotquestions.org/Creator-God.html
- Lesson 5: www.gotquestions.org/God-Almighty.html
- Lesson 6: www.gotquestions.org/God-is-good.html
- Lesson 7: www.gotquestions.org/God-cannot.html
- Lesson 8: www.gotquestions.org/God-allow-evil.html
- Lesson 9: www.gotquestions.org/knowing-God.html
- Lesson 10: www.gotquestions.org/does-God-love-me.html

All Bible references are quoted from the NIV unless otherwise stated.