

GOD COMMANDS US TO WORSHIP HIM AS SUPREME

YEAR: UNITE / FOCUS: LIVING IN FREEDOM / SERIES: EXODUS

BIG TRUTH: GOD COMMANDS US TO WORSHIP HIM AS SUPREME

Exodus 34:14; Deuteronomy 6:4-7

BIBLE VERSE: EXODUS 20:3

“You shall have no other gods before me.”

BIG IDEAS

- God is Creator and Sustainer.
- God is worthy.
- We must love, seek, trust, and build our lives on Him alone.

BIBLE PASSAGE: COLOSSIANS 1:15-23

UNITE: LIVING IN FREEDOM

The Unite year is an exploration of what it means to be united in Christ as the family of God (Romans 12:5). When we are saved, we are brought into the family of God- seen throughout the Old Testament as “God’s People” and in the New Testament and today as the church (Exodus 6:7; Colossians 1:18). We are set free from our sin to walk in freedom in Christ (Galatians 5:1) and use our influence to call others to do the same.

SERIES AIMS



Every student should know...

- God is the One True God, and He has all authority
- The law is given by God to reveal our sin and need for a Savior
- The law is given by God to tell His redeemed people how to live



Every student should feel...

- Grateful for God who brings His people out of slavery
- Convicted of the ways that they ignore the law that revives the soul
- Responsible to use their influence to make much of God alone



Every student should strive to...

- Read through the book of Exodus
- Memorize the Bible verse each week
- Be obedient to God’s commands and repent of disobedience



Every student should want...

- Repent of their tendencies to assume their own authority
- Grow as faithful servants of Jesus
- Help others move out of slavery to sin toward freedom in Christ

GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week’s Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.



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171 Promise Land Dr. Gray, TN 37615

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BIBLE VERSE: EXODUS 20:3

“You shall have no other gods before me.”

God commands His people.

“You shall have no other gods before me.”

- Commands are given by people who hold a role of rule and authority over others. The hierarchy of command is that one person is above others and is given the right to rule. This is how the world works.
- God is the only truly sovereign being in the world. He alone has all power, and He alone is able to command His people. He commands His people to obey Him and to worship Him as the one true God.

God alone is the true God.

“You shall have no other gods before me.”

- God is the only real god. There are no other true gods. Any other item or being that is worshipped is an idol, created by man from created things. God is the only being that has always existed and will always exist.
- Because He is the only true God, He alone is worthy of our worship as the Supreme being. Any other thing we give our worship to is undeserving. God is unique and one of a kind. There is no one like Him.

God’s people recognize Him as the one true God.

“You shall have no other gods before me.”

- People are prone to wander from Him. They are prone to wander toward the things of this world, toward things that please them in the moment. They desire instant pleasure and satisfaction instead of waiting on the plans and purposes of the Lord.
- God’s people recognize Yahweh as the one true God. They know that He is the only true God to be worshiped. They do not turn to other gods or worship false gods because they know that God is the only true God.

GOD COMMANDS US TO WORSHIP HIM AS SUPREME

BIG IDEA #1: GOD IS CREATOR AND SUSTAINER.¹

[THIS]

In the beginning, God revealed Himself as the one Creator of all things. In Genesis 1, we read of God's role and position as the Creator of all things. He is alone in this role. He is the only God and the only one who had power to create out of nothing. In Colossians 1:15-23, Paul writes to the church about the role Jesus, the second person of the Triune God, played in Creation. We see in Colossians 1:15-16, that Jesus is the image of God and that all things were created through Him and for Him. In verse 17, we see that not only is God the Creator, but He sustains all of creation. In Colossians 1:17, Paul writes of Jesus that in Him all things hold together. There is no other being that created life and holds life together. God alone is Creator and Sustainer. He alone reigns Supreme. God commands His people to worship Him as the Supreme Lord because He is the only God.

[THEREFORE]

What other beings do we often credit with creating and sustaining life?

We often credit ourselves with things that God has given us, claiming that our intellect or technology is what furthers our lives. All things are from God. Every good thing comes from Him, and we have nothing that God has not given us or given us the ability to do. All life is from Him as John 1:3 and Hebrews 1:3 remind us.

[THIS]

In Paul's letter to the Colossian church, he describes Jesus, the second person of the Trinity as the image of God and the firstborn of all creation. He states that the fullness of God was pleased to dwell in Jesus and through Jesus, God reconciled the world to Himself. There is no other being like God because no person on earth has ever had a human nature and a divine nature like Jesus. Only Jesus can save because only Jesus could live the perfect life as a man. Not only does this set Jesus apart, but God's oneness sets Him apart. He is the only one and there are no others. Mark 12:32 tells us that God is one and there is no one else like Him. God has no rival. No other being competes or compares with God. He alone is God and He alone is worthy of mankind's worship.

[THEREFORE]

What are some of God's character traits that remind you that He is unlike any other being?

1 John 1:5 tells us that God is light and there is no darkness in Him. This verse reminds us of God's perfection. God alone is perfect and sinless. He alone is good and loves always. He alone is holy and set apart. There is no other like Him. God is also all-knowing and omnipotent. This means that He alone knows all things and is all-powerful. No one is like Him in this.

What evidence do you see in your daily life of God as Sustainer?

James 1:17 reminds us that every good gift comes from God. God not only gives us every good thing, but He also keeps all things alive. God keeps the sun shining and the earth rotating. He keeps our hearts beating and breath in our lungs. There is nothing that exists that God does not allow to continue. He is the source of all life and from Him all things continue to exist.

1. Colossians 1:16-17: All things were created through Jesus and for Jesus. He holds all things together for His glory and man's good.

GOD COMMANDS US TO WORSHIP HIM AS SUPREME

BIG IDEA #2: GOD IS WORTHY.²

[THIS]

To be worthy of something is to deserve it or to possess the value of the thing being given. God is worthy of our worship. He is deserving of it because He alone is God and He is also perfect in every way. His perfection means that He is perfectly good. He does not rule over His creation as a tyrant or wicked leader. Instead, He reigns as a good Father who loves and cares for His creation. In Colossians 1:20, Paul says of God that He was pleased to reconcile all things to Himself through Jesus. God was pleased to send His only Son to the earth to take on human form, live the perfect life that we could not live, and pay the price for our sin debt on the cross. God is not a wicked, evil deity who holds His power over His creation and uses it against us. Instead, He is a good God who loves His people and cares for them perfectly. He cares for His creation and is worthy of the worship of His people as the one true God.

[THEREFORE]

How does the story of God's people help you understand God's worthiness to be praised as the one true God?

In Deuteronomy 7:7-8, we see that God loved the Israelites because He chose to love them. He set His affection on them. It is His faithfulness that leads to His steadfast love and not the faithfulness of man. God remains faithful and steadfast even when we are not. He is worthy of our worship.

[THIS]

In Colossians 1:15-23, Paul expounds upon the characteristics of Jesus, the second person of the Trinity. In verse 20, he writes that it is through Jesus that God reconciles all things to Himself. The work of reconciliation is God's work and not the work of men. There is nothing we can do to make ourselves right with God. We cannot reconcile ourselves to God. We cannot do enough good things to build a relationship with Him. We must come to God through Jesus, who is the only way to know God the Father. In Colossians 1:21-22, we see that we are alienated from God because of our sin natures. Our flesh natures keep us from having a relationship with God. But God in His mercy, reconciles us to Him through the work that Jesus did on the cross. This is the work that God does through His Son. God's worthiness as our Lord and Savior is evident in His work on our behalf.

[THEREFORE]

What attitudes and habits lead us to worship other things instead of worshiping God alone?

We often boast in the works we do or in the things we've found success in. We achieve something in this life, and we boast in it. Ephesians 2:8-9 tells us that our salvation is from God alone and we cannot boast in anything we do. Paul writes to the church in Corinth in 1 Corinthians 4:7 reminding them that there is nothing they have that they did not receive from God. There is nothing we can boast in except that God uses us in our weaknesses.

How has recognizing God's worthiness helped you grow spiritually?

When we recognize that all the good we do is done in the power of God, we will recognize God's worthiness of our worship. We mature spiritually when we understand this. 2 Corinthians 12:9 speaks to understanding that God works through our weaknesses.

2. Colossians 1:19-20: Jesus is the fullness of God in the flesh. It is through Jesus that God enables reconciliation to Himself.

GOD COMMANDS US TO WORSHIP HIM AS SUPREME

BIG IDEA #3: WE MUST LOVE, SEEK, TRUST, AND BUILD OUR LIVES ON HIM ALONE.³

[THIS]

In Deuteronomy 6:5, Moses commands the Israelites to love the Lord with all their heart, soul, and might. This command is given to them before they enter the Promised Land after their wandering in the desert for forty years. The idea of loving God as their Lord is not presented as an option, but it is given to them as one of their commands and as a way for them to prepare their hearts and minds for their new life in a land full of people who did not serve God. This command was not new to them, yet God was reminding them of His position as their supreme ruler. He was commanding them to honor Him in their hearts as the one true God and to establish now that they would love Him with their entire being. This meant that the foundation of their life would be built upon loving the Lord and seeking Him. As they entered the land that God had promised them and built their new lives, they would build their lives upon this foundational command to love God above all else. He is worthy of their obedience to this command. He is the one true God who is steadfast and faithful always.

[THEREFORE]

How can you intentionally love God with all your being each day?

Loving God with all our being means obeying His commandments. 1 John 5:3 tells us that we obey God's commands if we love Him. God's commands are not a burden to us when we love Him with all our being. When we seek to love Him daily with all our being, we willingly obey His commands with joy.

[THIS]

In Colossians 1:21-23, we see that those believers who seek Jesus, trust Him, and build their lives on Him alone will be presented as holy and blameless to the God the Father. Seeking Jesus means daily setting aside our pursuit of worldly things or the things that our flesh desires. It means pursuing Jesus in His Word and through prayer. Trusting Jesus means believing His Word is true and all that He commands us to do is the best way we can live our lives. Building our lives on Him means we follow His example and live as He lived. We bear the fruit of the Spirit and seek to love others He loved others. This requires us growing in our knowledge of Him by studying His Word and establishing the discipline of prayer.

[THEREFORE]

What habits can you establish or expand to seek the Lord daily?

1 Chronicles 16:11 reminds us to seek the Lord continually and to seek His presence. Practicing a daily awareness of God and seeking to know Him through His Word and through prayer are two ways you can seek Him daily. These habits can help you build your life upon Him.

How does seeking, trusting, and building your life upon the Lord help you worship Him as supreme?

Psalm 71:8 helps us understand what it means to praise God daily and all throughout the day. When we seek Him, trust Him, and build our lives upon Him, we worship Him as the supreme being. He is the supreme authority in our lives and worthy of our worship above all other things.

3. Colossians 1:21-23: Those who seek God and trust in the work He is doing in them will build their lives upon Him and grow in their spiritual maturity.