

# GOD IS KNOWN

## SUMMER: FOUNDATIONS

### BIG TRUTH: GOD IS KNOWN

Psalm 76:1; John 1:14, 1:18; Romans 1:19; 1 Corinthians 8:3

### BIBLE VERSE: John 1:14

*"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."*

### BIG IDEAS

- God makes Himself known through His creation.
- God makes Himself known through His Word.
- God makes Himself known through His Son.

### BIBLE STORY: EXODUS 3

God has always made Himself known to the world. During the life of Moses, God spoke to Moses personally. One of the ways He spoke to Moses was through a burning bush. God used this bush and fire to reveal certain things about Himself to Moses and the world.

### FOUNDATION: GOD IS

"God is" means that there is only one god in the universe. He alone is Lord over everything that exists, and He alone is worthy of our worship. This also means that every good thing that exists comes from God. All good things come from Him because goodness is a part of who He is as the one true God. It is a part of His nature and character to be good, and everything that comes from God is good. Thankfully God has not chosen to withhold His goodness from His creation, but instead gives it freely to us.

### BIG AIMS



#### Every child should know that:

- There is only one true God, and He is good.
- We can know God because He has made Himself known through creation and Word.
- God alone is our source of life and joy.



#### Every child should feel:

- Loved by God, and thankful for His love for us.
- Broken over the depth of our sin against God.
- Joy in Jesus, the only Son of God who came to save us.



#### Every child should strive to:

- Memorize the Bible verse each week about who God is.
- Pray that God would open their hearts and minds to know Him more.
- Tell someone else about the God who is.



#### Every child should want:

- Learn more about the God who has made Himself known.
- Repent of their sin and of the lies they believe about God.
- Cling to God as the source of truth.

### FAMILY DEVOTION: LET ALL CREATION

God lets us see Him in creation. He speaks to us through His Word and He revealed Himself through Jesus. Psalm 46:10 says "Be still and know that I am God, I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!" We can know Him and praise Him because He has revealed Himself to us.



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**BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 1:14**

*“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”*

**God’s Word is how He reveals Himself to man.**

*“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...”*

- God makes Himself known to the world. When God created the world, He did so by using His Word. He spoke the world into being and revealed the power of His Word to creation.
- God chooses to speak to His people through His Word. He gives them instructions for their lives and how they can live obediently to Him every day.
- His Word is man’s source of truth and wisdom. It is the way that man can know God and thus know himself.

**Jesus is God’s Word.**

*“...glory as of the only Son from the Father...”*

- When John spoke of the Word of God in his gospel, he spoke of Jesus, God’s only Son. Jesus is the way that God chose to reveal Himself to the world.
- Jesus came to the world, taking on flesh, and lived among mankind. Jesus is the Word of God in the world. He is fully God and when He came to the world, it was God coming to live among men.
- Jesus’ life is God’s Word to us. His death and resurrection are God’s revelation of His plan to the world and His purposes for mankind.

**God reveals His glory through His Word.**

*“...and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father...”*

- God is a god full of glory because He is perfect and holy. He is set apart and above all others because He is the only perfectly righteous and holy being.
- God’s Word reveals His glory. When Jesus was on the earth, He was the physical representation of God and people saw the glory of God in and through Him.
- God’s written Word also reveals His glory as it shows mankind who God is and how He works in the world. As we read the written Word of God, we grow in our knowledge of God and His glory.

**BIBLE STORY: EXODUS 3**

*Moses And The Burning Bush*

**Opening Illustration:**

Gather the children in a circle and play a game of “Telephone” with them. To play, whisper a word or phrase in the ear of the child next to you and tell them to pass it along to the next person by whispering it in their ear. Do not repeat what you said. Once the word or phrase makes it all the way back around, ask the last child to say out loud what was whispered in their ear. Play several times and then tell the children that God speaks to us through specific ways, His creation, His Word, and His Son.

**BIG IDEA: GOD MAKES HIMSELF KNOWN THROUGH HIS CREATION.<sup>1</sup>****God reveals, or shows Himself to the world.**

- God lets us see certain aspects of Himself in the world around us.
- He shows us some of His attributes, or traits in creation, in other people, and in ourselves.
- Every person everywhere can see these things about God in nature and in other people. This is known as general revelation. Revelation means to show something that has been hidden.
- God reveals Himself to everyone everywhere in nature and in other human beings because He wants everyone everywhere to know He exists.



Give each child a picture of a solar system and watercolors. Ask the children to use the watercolors to paint their solar system. As they are painting, talk with them about how God reveals Himself in creation. There are certain things we can know about God through creation.

**God shows His power in creation.**

- When God created the world, He revealed His power.
- We can look at the mountains, the oceans, the sun, and moon to get an idea of how powerful God is.
- We can see His ability to control all things by the rising and setting of the sun. It is a powerful star that continues to burn and rises and sets just as God commanded it to do because He is so powerful.
- The ocean tide does what God commanded it to do when He created it because God is so powerful.
- The mountains came up from the deep because God told them to.

**God shows His creativity in creation.**

- We can look at the natural world and know that God is very creative. He created beautiful landscapes that are sometimes beyond our imaginations.
- We can look at other people and know that God is creative. We can see how intricately He created people by looking at their bodies and minds.
- God placed Himself in creation and He can be known by observing created things.
- We can know that a divine, or higher power exists when we look at creation and other humans.

*How can we know a higher power exists? (When we look at creation and other people, we can see that a powerful and creative being made them.)*

1. Romans 1:20: God reveals Himself through creation.

**BIG IDEA: GOD MAKES HIMSELF KNOWN THROUGH HIS WORD.<sup>2</sup>****God shows Himself through special ways.**

- God also reveals Himself through special revelation. Special revelation is when something is shown to some people and not all people.
- Everyone everywhere can look at creation and know that God exists, but not everyone can know that God is the Savior without special revelation.
- God chooses to reveal deeper and greater things about Himself to some people and not all people.



Write several Bible verses on the board. Read them to the children and then tell them that the Bible is God's Word. It is how He speaks to His people.

**God reveals Himself through His spoken word.**

- When God revealed Himself and His plan to Moses, He did so by speaking to him.
- God spoke to Moses through a burning bush. Moses knew that He was speaking to a holy God because he hid his face from Him.
- God didn't tell everyone His plan to rescue His people from Egypt; He just told Moses. This special revelation was used to raise Moses up and to prepare him to be God's leader.
- God shows His people things about Himself through His spoken Word.
- Before Jesus came, God spoke to His people and used His leaders to speak to them.

**God reveals Himself through His written word.**

- The Bible is God's written word. It was inspired by the Holy Spirit and written down by human authors.
- In the Bible, God revealed many, many things about Himself. God's people can use it as a guide to know God and to know how to follow Him.
- God shows us that He is the one true God and that He is the Savior of the world in His written word.
- We can understand ourselves, too, by reading God's Word.

*How does God reveal Himself through His Word? (God shows us Himself and how to follow Him through His Word.)*

2. John 1:1: God's Word is His revelation of Himself to His people.

**BIG IDEA: GOD MAKES HIMSELF KNOWN THROUGH HIS SON.<sup>3</sup>****We know God through His Son, Jesus.**

- We learn about God through Jesus. Jesus came to earth and took on flesh.
- He is God in the flesh. Because Jesus is fully God, when He came to the earth, it was God coming to the earth.
- As we look at Jesus' life and ministry, we learn about God and who He is.
- We learn about God's compassion and grace. We see God's mercy and His holiness because Jesus lived a sinless life.



Lead the children in a time of singing praise songs to Jesus. Choose praise songs that offer praise to Jesus for being our Savior. Remind the children that God shows us Himself through Jesus.

**Jesus shows us God's power and holiness.**

- When Jesus lived on the earth, He did many miracles and signs. His miracles and the signs that He did, showed us God's power.
- God is powerful and we see this through Jesus as He lived on earth and healed people and raised dead people to life again.
- We also see that God is sinless and holy because Jesus never sinned.
- Jesus came to the earth perfect and He went to the cross with no sin. When He was on the cross, He took on the sin of the world to pay our sin debt.

**Jesus shows us God's mercy and grace.**

- Jesus reveals to us that God is merciful and gracious.
- Because Jesus came to the earth, we can know that God is a merciful God.
- He gave up Jesus in order to save us when we didn't even deserve it.
- God also accepted Jesus as our sacrifice and showed us grace in offering us salvation through Him.

*How does God show Himself through Jesus? (He shows His power, mercy, and grace through Jesus because Jesus came to take our place.)*

3. Colossians 1:15: Jesus is the physical representation of God.

## HOOKS

**THE WORD OF GOD**

Gather the children together in a circle. Pass a Bible around the circle and have the children all take turns holding it and opening it. Talk with them about how the Bible is God's Word. Discuss with them how God inspired human men to write down His Words so that we would have them.

**GOD WITH US**

Bring in some clothing that the children could dress up in, such as a jacket, hat, pants, etc. Allow the children to take turns putting the clothing on. Talk with them about how God put on flesh and lived among us when Jesus came to the world. Lead them in a discussion about how Jesus is a way that God spoke to the world. He sent Jesus to show the world His holiness and His plan of salvation. We can know God in a great way by knowing Jesus.

**ALL CREATION DECLARES**

Lead the children in a time of singing praise songs to God. Talk with them about how creation declares God's glory and sings His praise. Have the imagine they are some part of creation like a tree or a mountain. Ask them to pretend to sing praises and worship God like the creation does. Remind them that God shows Himself in creation.

