

GOD IS JUST

SUMMER: FOUNDATIONS

BIG TRUTH: GOD IS JUST

Psalm 25:8; Isaiah 1:17, 61:8; Jeremiah 9:23-24; Amos 5:24; Deuteronomy 32:4; Numbers 14:18; Luke 18:7; Romans 3:26; 1 John 1:9; Revelation 16:7

BIBLE VERSE: DEUTERONOMY 32:4B

"A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is He."

BIG IDEAS

- God always does what is right.
- God never sins or commits any wrong.
- God must oppose injustice.

BIBLE STORY: MATTHEW 4:1-11

God is a just God. All that He does is good and right. Jesus proved this during His temptation while He was on earth. He resisted Satan's temptation and remained sinless.

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: HOLY AND RIGHTEOUS

God is a holy and righteous God. There is no one who is perfect like He is. He opposes injustice and uses His people to fight against it.

BIBLE VERSE: DEUTERONOMY 32:4B

"A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is He."

God is faithful.

"A God of faithfulness..."

- To be faithful is to always remain true to someone or something. This means to never sway from that thing or person. God is always faithful. He is the most faithful of all beings. He never turns from His purposes or plans.
- He always keeps His promises and does what He says He will do. He can always be trusted because He is always faithful. We do not have to doubt God ever because He is always there, and He is always good and right and perfect.
- His faithfulness does not depend upon anything or anyone. Though all others turn away, God remains faithful to His truth and pursuing His glory.

God is righteous.

"A God of faithfulness and without iniquity..."

- To be righteous is to be in right standing and to be right. Righteousness is the state of being in good standing and right standing with God. God is a righteous God. He doesn't make mistakes, nor does He sin.
- He always makes the right choice and He always does what is the best for His people and what brings Him the most glory.
- God can be trusted to always do what is good and right because He is holy.

God opposes injustice.

"...just and upright is He."

- God determines what justice is because He is the beginning of all things. He is the God of the universe, the Creator of all things, and the Sustainer of all life. He alone understands the world and all that is in it. He alone knows all things and controls all things. Nothing happens outside of His power or control.
- Because He is these things, He alone knows what is just and what isn't. Because He is holy and perfect in every way, He will oppose any injustice. God cannot condone injustice and He always opposes it.

BIBLE STORY: MATTHEW 4:1-11

Jesus' Temptation

Opening Illustration:

Play a game of "Simon Says" with the children. Instead of making the child who doesn't do what Simon says sit down, make the children who only do what Simon says sit down. Tell the children the game isn't supposed to be played that way; it is unjust and against the rules. Remind them that we don't always do the right thing, but God does because He is always just.

BIG IDEA: GOD ALWAYS DOES WHAT IS RIGHT.¹**God is perfect in every way.**

- God is perfect in all that He does.
- He doesn't make any mistakes because He always does the right thing.
- He is God and the Creator of all things. This means that He alone knows the right decisions to make.
- He has no blemishes or brokenness because He is God.



Play a game of “Red Light, Green Light” with the children. Allow the children to take turns being the person calling out “red light” or “green light”. After you play, talk with them about the rules of the game say you are only supposed to go when someone yells “green light”. Talk about how we have rules in life that we don't always follow, but Jesus always followed the rules perfectly. He always did what was right.

God knows all things always.

- God is omniscient, which means He knows all things.
- He knows everything about all things because He is the one true God.
- He isn't like us in that He is limited in His knowledge or understanding of things.
- He is God and He knows everyone's heart and knows all thoughts. He is outside of time, which means that He is not held by it or limited by it.
- Because He isn't held by time, He knows the future.

All that God does is good and right.

- God's character never changes. He is the same always.
- Because He is the same always, He is always good.
- Because He is always good, everything He does is always good.
- He gives good gifts and provides all the things that His creation needs.
- Everything that God does is right. He doesn't make mistakes and He doesn't do bad things.

How is God always good? (He is always good because He is always perfect and righteous.)

1. Matthew 5:48: God is perfect and commands that His people are perfect.

BIG IDEA: GOD NEVER SINS OR COMMITS ANY WRONG.²**God is holy.**

- To be holy is to be above all others and to be deserving of all honor and praise.
- God is holy and righteous.
- He is unlike any other being because He is perfect and good.
- He is a glorious and magnificent being who perfectly rules over all things.

God is perfectly righteous.

- To be righteous is to be blameless. God is blameless because He never does any wrong thing.
- When Jesus was tempted by Satan, Jesus always made the right choice.
- He chose to resist Satan's temptation to sin and instead chose to obey the Father.
- Jesus did what was right and never committed a wrong.
- God always does what is right, too. Everything He does is right because He is always righteous.

God is without sin.

- God is the only being without sin. He is the only being who has never sinned.
- Because He is without sin, He is perfect and without blemish.
- Jesus proved God's sinlessness by not sinning while He was on the earth.
- He always did what was right and brought God the Father glory.



Give each child a blank piece of paper and a marker. Ask the children to make a mark on their paper for every time they disobeyed this week. Help them think of the ways they might have disobeyed by asking them a few questions, such as “have you done everything your parents have asked you to do?”, “have you been mean to your sibling(s)?”, or “have you thought mean thoughts about someone?”. Show them a blank piece of paper with no marks. Tell them that it's God's paper because He is sinless and never does a wrong thing.

How does God never sin or commit a wrong? (He is perfectly righteous and without blemish.)

2. 2 Corinthians 5:21: God is holy and righteous and never sins.

BIG IDEA: GOD MUST OPPOSE INJUSTICE.³**God is holy and doesn't tolerate injustice.**

- It's not in God's character to allow injustice to continue unchecked.
- No one understands injustice and justice better than God because He is Holy and omniscient so He knows what is truly just.
- God punishes injustice and will not allow it to go unpunished.
- He is perfectly just Himself and expects His people to pursue justice.
- Jesus chose justice while He was being tempted. He didn't give in to pleasing Satan and disobeying the Father. He chose to obedience over everything else.



Lead children in a time of prayer. Model praying for a heart that opposes injustice like God opposes injustice. Ask the Holy Spirit to help each of you seek God's Word to know what injustice is and to walk in obedience to God.

God doesn't cause injustice.

- It is tempting to think that it is God who causes bad things to happen, but it is not.
- God doesn't cause injustice.
- Man's sin causes injustice and continues to cause it in the world.
- Because the world is broken, there is a lot of injustice in the world.
- God is against all injustice and will punish all of it in His time.

God's people are to fight against injustice.

- God expects His followers to fight against injustice, too.
- Because God's Spirit is inside of His people, His people will hate injustice just as He does.
- His people will oppose it and fight against it.
- God fights against it through His people as He gives them the tools they need to help the oppressed.

Why does God oppose injustice? (He is perfectly good and cannot tolerate injustice.)

3. Proverbs 22:8: God opposes injustice and is pleased when we fight injustice.

HOOKS



KNOW

A Holy God

Give the children a piece of a paper with the word “holy” written on it. Give the children craft supplies, such as stickers, markers, etc., and ask them to decorate their paper. Talk with them about what it means to be holy. Guide them to name some of the ways that God shows He’s holy, such as never sinning and always doing what is right.



DO

What Is Just?

Give each child a piece of paper with the word “just” written on it. Next, help the children outline the word using dry beans and glue. As they work, talk with them about what justice is and how we learn about justice from God. Remind them that God is perfectly just and we can know what is just and unjust by reading His Word. Ask them questions about what they think is just and unjust and then share some things that God considers unjust, such as mistreating poor people or hurting those who are oppressed.



FEEL



WANT

A Good God

Lead the children in a time of prayer. Model for them thanking God for being a just God who always does what is right.