

## THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD

SUMMER: FOUNDATIONS

**BIG TRUTH: THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD***Deuteronomy 4:35, 4:39; 1 Kings 8:60, 1 Corinthians 8:4; Ephesians 4:6; Jude 25***BIBLE VERSE: DEUTERONOMY 6:4***"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one."***BIG IDEAS**

- God is one. There is only one God. There are no other gods.
- There is no being like God. He is the most powerful, smartest, controlling force in existence.
- Since there is only one God, He is the most important being—past, present, and future.

**BIBLE PASSAGE: EXODUS 32-33****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.

**SERIES AIMS****Every student 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 student 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 student 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 student should ask God to...**

- 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.

**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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**BIBLE VERSE: DEUTERONOMY 6:4***"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one."***There is only one God.***"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one."*

- There are many false gods in the world and there were many in the ancient world when Moses lived and led the Israelites. These false gods are fake and powerless. They can do nothing to help people who worship them because they aren't real. Even today there are false gods we call idols, like money, material things, and even other people, but they are useless to help anyone.
- God, the God of the Bible is the only true God. He alone is God. There are no other gods. He is true and real and He alone rules over all things. He doesn't even compare to the false idols that people create. The Israelites created a golden calf as a false idol when they create impatient waiting for Moses to return from Mt. Sinai, but this golden calf was useless to them.

**God's people should only worship Him.***"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one."*

- Because God is one, this means He is exclusive. There is no one like Him and He alone is worthy of all of our worship. He was worthy of the Israelites' worship, but they rejected Him and chose a false god instead. He taught them that their created god was fake when Moses destroyed the golden calf and the people suffered the consequence of their rebellion.
- God is still the only one worthy of our worship and praise because He is the only God. Even though people create false gods, God alone deserves to be praised and to have our complete adoration. He is our only God.

**No one is like God.***"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one."*

- Because God alone is one, He is the only Lord and Savior of the world. No one else is like God. He is unique and He alone is Savior. There is no other Lord. Though people may create false gods and worship idols in their hearts, there really is only one Lord and that is the true God.
- God alone is the only one who can offer everlasting hope to anyone. He alone is the only hope of His people and the world. When Israel worshiped the golden calf, only God could save them from their own rebellion. He alone is the one true ruler of all.

**BIG IDEA #1: GOD IS ONE. THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD. THERE ARE NO OTHER GODS.<sup>1</sup>****[ THIS ]**

In Exodus 32, the nation of Israel grew impatient waiting for Moses, their leader, to return from speaking with God on the top of Mount Sinai. Because of their impatience and lack of faith, they asked for Aaron, Moses' brother, to make a new god for them. Aaron listened to them and made a golden calf out of the gold jewelry they were wearing. The people gladly gave up their gold jewelry to be melted down and formed into the image of a calf. The people worshiped the calf as if it were the God who had rescued them from their slavery. Aaron only succeeded in making a fake god. The golden calf was an inanimate, manmade object that the people were treating like a god. The God of the Bible is the one true God. Israel had rejected Him and traded their true God for a cheap imitation.

**[ THEREFORE ]**

**How do people create false gods today? What are some of the false gods we create?**

We often take the good things that God has given us and turn them into gods in our hearts. We worship them and place them above the one true God. Matthew 24:24 reminds us that there will be false gods and Christs who try to deceive us. Romans 1:21-25 teaches us that we choose to worship the things God has created rather than worshipping Him.

**[ THIS ]**

When Moses returned to the camp and discovered the Israelites worshipping a false god, he was very angry. Moses knew and believed that God is the only true God. God is one and His oneness means He is exclusively God and the only God of His chosen people. That the Israelites chose to worship a created thing revealed their rejection of God the Creator. God alone deserves our worship because He alone is worthy and holy. To worship any other thing is idolatry and will lead to destruction in our lives. God chose the Israelites to be His special people and they rejected Him and worshiped an inanimate object instead. Because they were chosen by God, He deserved their worship and adoration. God's oneness means that He is the only God His people should follow, obey, and praise. He is the only one.

**[ THEREFORE ]**

**How are we like the Israelites today, choosing false gods over the one true God?**

Luke 16:13 teaches us that we cannot make money an idol and pursue God. Often we choose the material things of this world, wealth, comfort, nice things, over worshipping God. 1 John 2:15 reminds us not to love the things of the world, but often we turn our focus away from God and place it on this world. We pursue a good life here on earth as if it is our eternal home. When we do this, we make these things our gods instead of the one true God.

**Why is it important that God is one?**

Because God is one, He is the only God. This means that there is no other true God who could be the God of His people. 1 Timothy 2:5, Isaiah 44:6, and 1 Corinthians 8:6 all teach us that God is one and He alone is the God of His people. He is exclusively the God of His people.

1. Deuteronomy 6:4: *There is only one God and He is the only God of His people.*

## **BIG IDEA #2: THERE IS NO BEING LIKE GOD. HE IS THE MOST POWERFUL, SMARTEST, CONTROLLING FORCE IN EXISTENCE.<sup>2</sup>**

### **[ THIS ]**

God is unique. He is one of a kind because there is no other being like Him. He is the only God ever. In Exodus 33:17-23, Moses asks to see God's glory. God's answer reveals the uniqueness of God. God did not show Moses His fully glory because it was too great for Moses to see. God is so big and so mighty that His magnificence and holiness would overwhelm a person. When the Israelites worshiped the golden calf, there was no threat of being overwhelmed by it. It was an inanimate thing that had no power at all. God is the only truly magnificent and holy being. There is no other being like Him or with His attributes and characteristics. He is truly one of a kind.

### **[ THEREFORE ]**

**Read Exodus 32. How does the story of the golden calf reveal God's uniqueness?**

When we look at this story, we see a fake god that has no power. This golden calf couldn't even stop Moses from destroying it. God is different. He can be overcome by no one. When we really look at false gods, we get a sense of who God is and just how different He is. Psalm 115:4-8 reminds us that any other god is fake and made from created things. God has no beginning and no end. He is the only true God.

**Why is it important for us to know God is unique?**

Because we are sinful and broken, our battle on earth is idolatry. In order to keep us from worshiping false gods, we must know just who God is and how unique He is. Psalm 145:3 and Isaiah 55:8-9 remind us that God is like no other. He is greater than all others and one of a kind.

### **[ THIS ]**

No other being has the power and control that God has. The golden calf could do nothing for the Israelites because it wasn't even alive. God knows all and understands all because He is God. He is the Creator of every thing and He alone can rule over it perfectly. He is unique in His knowledge of all things. He is unique in His control of the world and all that is in it. There is no person who is like God in knowledge, power, and control. There is no material thing or even celestial being who is like God. He is over all and above all things He is even too great for us to fully understand. We can only gain so much knowledge about Him because He is so much greater than we are. He is dimensional in ways that we are not.

### **[ THEREFORE ]**

**What are some ways you have encountered God's power and control in your life?**

Often, we think of God's power in the same way that we think of our own or of other people's, but God is not like us. He is the most powerful being of all. Matthew 19:26 and Ephesians 3:20 remind us of this truth. Things that are impossible for us are not impossible for God. Often, when we really look at our lives, we'll see the many ways God's power is evident. He has turned situations from bad to good. He has opened seemingly closed doors to opportunities. He has softened people's hearts. God is the most powerful of all.

2. Jeremiah 10:6: There is no one like God. He is the most powerful and controls all things.

## **BIG IDEA #3: SINCE THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD, HE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT BEING—PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE.<sup>3</sup>**

### **[ THIS ]**

Many things can seem important to us. Some things even are important, but nothing and no one is as important as God. When there is only one of something, its importance increases significantly. When only one thing exists, its value is immeasurable. It is not replaceable. There is only one God. There aren't many gods and there is no way to make another true God because He is not a created being. He is the most valuable because He is the only God. There is no one like Him; there is no one as great as He is. Moses saw this in his encounter after the Israelites made the golden calf. God could have destroyed the entire Israelite population and He would have been justified in doing so, yet God did not. Moses saw God's greatness when he was on the mountain with Him and he understood the sin in the golden calf.

### **[ THEREFORE ]**

#### **Why is God important?**

That God is eternal and has no beginning or end makes Him the most important being. Revelation 1:8 and 21:6 teach us that God is the beginning, middle, and end of all things. Everything comes from Him, making Him the superior being of all beings. Everything and person have their beginning in Him. He also has all control, making Him the most important being of all.

### **[ THIS ]**

God alone is eternal with no beginning and end. He alone exists outside of time. Everything else that exists does so inside of Him. God is the author of every story and the beginning of all things. Life begins with Him and He alone sustains life. Eternal life is possible only through Him. He alone provides a way of salvation and redemption, resulting in new life and an eternity with Him. He has always been the center of everything because He created all things for Himself. He is the one true God who is sovereign over all things. When Israel created the golden calf, they attributed the salvation they had received from God to the calf. They defiled the name of God by praising the calf as if it had saved them from the Egyptians. They didn't acknowledge the importance of their one true God.

### **[ THEREFORE ]**

#### **How does God's eternal nature practically impact and influence the way we live?**

In Genesis 1:1-2 and Colossians 1:16, we see that God has always existed and His plan for salvation has always existed. God's eternal nature means that He is the first of all things. This means that all things come from Him and this makes Him the most important being. Because of this truth, everything about God influences and impacts our lives. We have a tomorrow because an eternal God ordains it. We live today submitted to God knowing that He is a forever being.

#### **If God is most important, how should the reality affect the way we worship Him?**

Psalm 24:8-10 and Hebrews 13:15 teach us about worshiping God because He is the one true God and the most important being. When we give our lives to Him and live for Him, we are showing that we know and believe He alone is the most important. He alone is worthy because He alone is holy and the source of all things. He is the one from whom we receive everything and it is His mercy and grace that allow us to be redeemed. He is the most important.

3. 1 Chronicles 17:20: God is God and no one is like Him. He alone is the most important being of all time.