

GOD IS KNOWN

SUMMER: FOUNDATIONS

BIG TRUTH: GOD IS KNOWN

Psalms 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 PASSAGE: EXODUS 3

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: 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.

BIG IDEA #1: GOD MAKES HIMSELF KNOWN THROUGH HIS CREATION.¹**[THIS]**

In the beginning, God spoke the world into existence. As He created the world, God revealed Himself in it. Romans 1:20 shows us that certain things about God are evident in creation. God reveals things about Himself to all humanity. This is known as general revelation. Revelation means to show or tell something to others. God does this to all people through created things. This general revelation includes creation, common grace, and our conscience. These are all things that all of humanity is aware of and partakes in. This type of revelation about God is shown to everyone everywhere. Certain things about God, like His existence have been revealed to everyone regardless of their decision to follow Him or not. Anyone anywhere can get a sense that a divine being exists just by looking at creation, enjoying the common graces of life like oxygen, and understanding that all humans share in having a conscience. This general revelation is how God spoke truth about Himself into the entire world.

[THEREFORE]

What are some evidences of general revelation you have seen in the world?

In the natural world around us, we can see evidence of God's existence. Psalm 19:4 and Romans 1:19 both teach us that God has revealed Himself in some aspect in the world around us. It is our sin that leads us to repress this truth that God reveals and deny its existence.

[THIS]

There are things about God that can be known in His creation. All people can see His wisdom and power through the creative and intricate way that He created the world. We can see His divine knowledge and power in our fellow human beings. When we examine humans, their minds, emotions, and bodies, we can get a sense of the greatness of God and His incredible wisdom. We get a sense of His justice and goodness because we feel these things, too, we are made in His image. There is a moral code written on our hearts that is a reflection of our great Creator. We all have a general sense of right and wrong, or at least the idea that there is a right or wrong. We feel anger towards injustice and we love and care for one another as a reflection of the very character of God. We see God's power in the strong winds of a thunderstorm and the way the tide comes in but only so far each and every day. We see God's beauty in the rising and setting of the sun and we feel a sense of awe in the beauty of the natural world. God makes Himself known in His creation.

[THEREFORE]

How do humans reveal certain aspects of God?

Humans are a reflection of God because they are made in His image as Genesis 1:26-27 shows us. When we look at the human body we get a picture of who God is and His attributes, such as love, thought, invention, and creativity. When we see humans overcome great things. James 3:9 also reminds us that every person is made in the image of God. Human all reflect certain aspects of God.

Why is it easy for us to forget or even ignore the ways that creation points us to God?

Romans 1:20-23 serves as a warning to us that we can ignore what we perceive about God in creation and reject Him. It's easy to busy our lives with our own plans and purposes and miss what God shows us about Himself in the world around us.

1. Romans 1:20: God reveals Himself in His creation.

BIG IDEA #2: GOD MAKES HIMSELF KNOWN THROUGH HIS WORD.²**[THIS]**

God also reveals Himself through special revelation. Special revelation is God's revealing of Himself more fully to some people. Special revelation does not happen like general revelation—to all people everywhere. It happens to some people in God's ordained time. It is what leads people to saving faith in Jesus. God shows deeper aspects of Himself that can only be understood through special revelation to those He is drawing to Himself in salvation. For example, a person can look at creation and determine that God exists, but they cannot look at creation or even other humans and understand their need for Jesus as their Savior. Scripture is an example of special revelation because only those who have the Holy Spirit can truly understand it fully and completely. People cannot know fully who God is and what He does without special revelation like His Word. We see this type of revelation in Exodus 3 when God speaks to Moses personally through the burning bush. God did not speak to everyone in this way. Prior to the coming of Jesus and the completion of the Bible, God spoke to His people this way. Now, He speaks to His people through His written word. It is how His people learn more fully who He is.

[THEREFORE]

Have you experienced this special revelation that leads to saving faith? If so, tell us about it?

We receive special revelation when the Holy Spirit awakens us to the truth about God and our need for Him as our Savior. This typically happens when a follower of Christ shares the gospel with us as Romans 10:14-15 explains. God's Word reveals this to us, but God uses His people to spread His truth to others.

[THIS]

The primary way man knows who God is and how He interacts with man is through Scripture, or the written Word of God. The Word of God, or the Bible is complete and without fault. There are no errors or mistakes in the Bible. Every word of the Bible is divinely inspired, written by human authors through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. It is the very Word of God given to mankind to allow them to more fully know Him. When we read and study God's Word, the Holy Spirit works inside of us to illuminate, or make clear its truths. We learn about God and He grows our understanding of who He is and who we are. We understand our place in this world and our relationship with Him and others. God uses His Word to reveal His great plan and purpose in creation.

[THEREFORE]

What are some of the truths you have been learning about God through His Word?

God's Word teaches us how to live for Him. In His Word, we learn what it looks like to live obediently for Him. Romans 12:2, Ephesians 6:11-17, and Psalm 119:9 remind us that God's Word is our source of truth and the way we know who God is and what He expects of us.

Who is someone that you could help know God by studying His Word with them?

Matthew 28:19-20 and Colossians 3:16 give us the imperative to help others know God's Word. We can help them know Him when we equip and help them read and study His Word. As we gather with other believers to learn God's Word, we will grow together in our knowledge of Him. We can help others by sharing some of the things that we have learned about God in Scripture and encouraging others to do the same.

2. John 1:1: The Word has always been and is a revelation of God to man.

BIG IDEA #3: GOD MAKES HIMSELF KNOWN THROUGH HIS SON.³**[THIS]**

Man knows God through His Son, Jesus. Jesus is the Son of God and when He came to the earth, it was God coming to man to be the Savior of the world. Jesus came to the world, taking on flesh, to live the perfect life that no one could live. When God sent Jesus, He revealed His power and holiness. Only God could live perfectly in this broken and fallen world. Only God could come and not sin. Jesus reveals God's power because He healed the sick and made the lame to walk. He raised the dead to life again. God also revealed His compassion and perfect justice. A sacrifice was required for man's sin and God did not ignore that requirement. Instead, He fulfilled it through His Son. By doing this, He revealed that salvation is from Him and only possible through Him. There is salvation in no one other than Jesus.

[THEREFORE]**How does Jesus reveal God's power and holiness?**

Hebrews 1:2-3 helps us see that Jesus is the way the world sees God. We see His power and holiness in the perfect life of Jesus. Jesus' death on the cross and His resurrection from the dead reveal God's power and His perfection. Jesus' death satisfies the sin debt we owe, which reveals that He is perfectly holy and the only perfect sacrifice for our sin.

[THIS]

Jesus' life shows us God's sovereignty over all and His position as Lord of all. When we examine the life of Jesus as we read and study God's Word, we see that God controls all things and rules over all things. God shows us His perfect love and His mighty power through Jesus. Jesus loves the Father and man perfectly to the point of death and His resurrection from the dead shows us the power of God over all things, especially sin and death. As we learn about Jesus, we know God, and this is only possible through the special revelation of God to man by revealing Himself through His Son. Man can be reconciled to God and be in a relationship with Him only through faith in Jesus as the Savior.

[THEREFORE]**How can we know God through Jesus?**

Repenting of our sin and placing our faith in Jesus is the only way for us to truly know God. When God sent Jesus, He revealed this salvation plan to the world and the way for man to know Him intimately. John 14:6 reminds us that Jesus is the only way for a person to know God the Father. He is the only way for true salvation and reconciliation to God.

Why is it impossible to know and follow Jesus apart from knowing and following God's Word?

John 1:1 presents the picture of Jesus as the Word of God in the flesh. Jesus is the physical representation of God. He is God in the flesh and the way God chose to speak to people on the earth. We cannot really know Jesus without knowing ALL of God's Word. John 1:1 tells us that Jesus has always been and that means that all of the Bible is relevant.

How can you seek to know God this week through Jesus?

When we understand that knowing Jesus as our Savior is the way we know God, we can seek Him in His Word and by obeying His commands. As we seek His kingdom above all else, we will seek God as Matthew 6:33 reminds us. John 17:3 also teaches us that our purpose is to know God and Jesus. When we read and pray, we are seeking God and Jesus is our mediator; therefore, we know God through Him.

3. Colossians 1:15: *Jesus is the image of the invisible God. He is God in the flesh.*