

BIG TRUTH: GOD IS JUST

Psalms 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 PASSAGE: MATTHEW 4:1-11**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 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.

BIG IDEA #1: GOD ALWAYS DOES WHAT IS RIGHT.¹**[THIS]**

All things are from God because He is the Creator of everything. Because He is the beginning, all good and right things begin with him and originate from Him. Right and wrong are established by God because He is the Creator. Right or wrong isn't something men decided or get to decide, but they are determined by God. He has given us His Word to guide us to know these things, too. Because these things are from God, He is trustworthy and faithful to the truth and righteousness.

[THEREFORE]

God establishes right and wrong. How are we tempted to come up with our own view of what is right and wrong?

Our own ideas are guided by the culture around us. We reject what God's Word says is right and wrong and choose instead to create our own moral code that justifies our sinful desires. Romans 1:25 reminds us that it is within our natural hearts to exchange the truth of God for a lie.

What are some ways you've been tempted to twist what God's Word says is right or wrong?

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 reminds us that there are people who seem to be followers of Christ, yet they are not truly believers. When we don't directly follow God's Word, we become like false teachers who attempt to twist God's Word to make it say what they want it to say.

[THIS]

God always knows what is right and He always does what is right. He understands every situation and circumstance fully and perfectly, and so His decisions and choices are perfect and always good. In Matthew 4:1-11, Jesus proves that God always does what is right by living above reproach during His temptation. Though He was tempted greatly, He chose the right thing: obedience. It may seem as if Jesus should have been able to eat and drink at will, that He should have shown Satan His power and might, and that He was indeed Lord of all things already, but it was best for Jesus to resist that temptation in order to be presented as the spotless Lamb of God on the cross.

[THEREFORE]

Discuss a time when you really felt something you were doing was right even though it went against Scripture. How is God our most trustworthy source of what is right?

Jeremiah 17:8 teaches us that our hearts are deceptive and wicked. They cannot be trusted. He is the only all-knowing being and only He is perfect in every way. Psalm 147:5, Isaiah 40:28, and Acts 1:24 remind us that God indeed does know what is right and we learn from Him.

How can you follow Jesus' example of always doing what is right this week?

Obedience to God's commands is what is required of His people. 2 John 1:6 teaches us that if we love Christ, we will obey Him. Deuteronomy 11:1 and 2 Corinthians 10:5 also shows us that what God asks of us is our obedience to His Word. Jesus modeled this for us during His earthly ministry and especially during His time of temptation. He chose to follow the Father's commands over giving in to Satan's temptations. Jesus didn't turn from the course that the Father set for Him. When we live dying to ourselves each day, we can walk in obedience to the Father.

1. Matthew 5:48: God is perfect and right in all that He is and does.

BIG IDEA #2: GOD NEVER SINS OR COMMITS ANY WRONG.²**[THIS]**

When God created the world, it was perfect and without sin. Sin entered the heart of man through man's own disobedience. God did not cause sin or create it. God is without sin, holy and perfect in every way. He is completely righteous and makes no mistakes. Matthew 4:1-11 shows us the way Jesus proved His own sinlessness. When Jesus resisted Satan's temptation, He perfectly obeyed the Father. Jesus sacrificed His personal comfort and the "easy" way for the glory of the Father. He chose obedience over even fulfilling His basic human needs, such as food and water. Jesus was devoted to doing what the Father had commanded and He lived His life on the earth in full obedience to the Father. He faced the same type of temptation that we face, yet He chose obedience every time.

[THEREFORE]

How does Jesus' obedience in the face of great temptation encourage you to obey?

We are all tempted to sin. We are tempted by the evil forces at work in this world and our sin nature battles against the Spirit inside of us. Ephesians 6:12 and Galatians 5:17 are reminders of the spiritual battle that occurs in our hearts every day. When we understand that Jesus endured this spiritual battle and emerged sinless, we should be encouraged to do the same.

[THIS]

Because God is perfect, He never does any wrong. Unlike man who commits wrongs daily, God never commits a wrong. Everything He does is right and there is nothing bad in Him. He is a holy God who understands right and wrong and good and evil perfectly. He is the one who declares something evil and something good because He is the Ruler of all and the beginning of everything. His omniscience means that He knows everything and He knows what is best. This means He always does what is best in every situation and for every person. He also knows and understands what is just and does all things justly. He alone determines good and bad, right and wrong. No one else is perfect like He is; therefore, no one else understands good and bad like He does.

[THEREFORE]

Discuss a specific situation that you found it hard to trust God's purpose in?

Psalm 9:10 and Romans 8:28 teach us that God always does what is good for His people and what brings Himself the most glory. God's glory is what is best for every person who follows Him. It's easy for us to think we know better than God, but He is the only perfect being with perfect knowledge of all things; therefore, what HE does is always right and best. Psalm 37:5 shows us that those who trust in Him will not be forsaken.

What is a specific area where you need to trust God's work in your life?

Trusting God and growing in our belief that all that He does is good requires us to discipline ourselves to grow in our knowledge of Him. The more we learn about God, who He is, and how He works, the more we will trust Him. Psalm 37:4-5 and Psalm 28:7 both teach us that God is trustworthy and when we commit to place our trust in Him, we will realize the goodness in all of His actions.

2. 2 Corinthians 5:21: God is sinless and makes no mistakes.

BIG IDEA #3: GOD MUST OPPOSE INJUSTICE.³**[THIS]**

God is a just God. Justice originates with Him. He alone knows what is perfectly just. When Jesus was tempted by Satan, He chose justice over His own needs. Satan offered Jesus things that were within His kingly rights to have, yet He denied Himself these things. Satan offered Jesus bread, power, and wealth. All things that Jesus as the true King of all would be entitled to, yet Jesus understood what God wanted and desired was the greater justice. Often, we may think we know what is just and what should be, but our understanding is finite and flawed by our flesh natures. Our understanding of justice is limited because our knowledge is limited and we can never know the heart of man like God can.

[THEREFORE]

What is justice? How does the world view justice?

Often the world views justice as revenge or vengeance. Romans 12:19 teaches us that vengeance belongs to the Lord. We, as believers, are not to seek revenge. Proverbs 28:5 shows us that evil people do not understand justice. The world's view of justice is really more of a punishment and not true justice. Only God can exact true justice.

[THIS]

It can be tempting to think that God allows injustice to continue or causes bad things to happen to mankind, especially when we think we know what is right and just. God is the only being who knows what true justice is. He is a holy and righteous God and He will always oppose injustice. It is impossible for Him to not oppose injustice. He makes no mistakes and because of His perfect nature will never cause injustice or allow it to continue indefinitely without consequence. We know what is just because God has told us in His Word and set in our hearts a moral code that is from Him. Jesus lived out opposing injustice perfectly as an example to us. He remained sinless, even through great temptation, that He might be the spotless sacrificial Lamb. Jesus endured hardship in order to be the perfect sacrifice. He did this for the greater justice of the world.

[THEREFORE]

How does God's Word help you identify injustice? How do you seek to oppose it?

By reading and studying God's Word, we learn about God and about ourselves. We also learn how God works in the world and by learning this, we learn what He calls just and what He calls unjust. It is from His Word that we know what is right and wrong as Isaiah 1:17 and Micah 6:8 tell us. As we seek to oppose injustice, we will do so by being obedient to God's Word and by standing up for the oppressed in the world.

How does Jesus' example of enduring hardship for the greater justice help you do the same?

We can endure difficult times because Jesus has gone before us as our example. God's Word promises that His followers will face struggle and trials. We do this for the greater justice of the world, meaning that we suffer for the sake of the gospel that others might hear the truth and be saved from their sin. 1 Peter 4:1 and 2 Corinthians 4:17 both show us that suffering is a part of the believer's life and we should do so for the sake of justice.

3. Proverbs 22:8: God does not tolerate injustice. He will always oppose injustice.