

QUESTION 2: WHAT IS GOD?

ANSWER : GOD IS THE CREATOR AND SUSTAINER OF EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING. HE IS ETERNAL, INFINITE, AND UNCHANGEABLE IN HIS POWER AND PERFECTION, GOODNESS AND GLORY, WISDOM, JUSTICE AND TRUTH. NOTHING HAPPENS EXCEPT THROUGH HIM AND BY HIS WILL.

50 minute Lesson Outline:

- Catechism Recap (5 mins)
- Introduction to Question (5 mins)
- Teaching Outline (15 mins)
- Discussion and Question Time (20 mins)
- Virtue Vision (5 mins)

Bible Passage: Psalm 86

Memory Verse: Psalm 86:8-10, 15

Big Idea: God can be fully known only through the pages of Scripture.

Aim: To help us understand who the God of the Bible is.

Virtue: Awe

LEADER'S NOTES:

People are growing up in societies that seek to remove God from life. The atheistic worldview is increasingly popular, with movements aggressively declaring that there is no God. Even where some belief in God remains, it is often not an accurate understanding of who God is as revealed in the pages of Scripture. **This lesson will introduce us to the God of the Bible and instill in us the confidence that there is a God and we can both know about Him and know Him personally. Remember this, for those with a Christian context and a firm belief in God, they may still need help in understanding how to engage a world that is increasingly keen to erase Him. We must be challenged to commit to searching the Scriptures for ourselves in order to grow in our knowledge and love of God.**

CATECHISM RECAP:

What was question 1?

What is our only hope in life and death?

What was the answer to question 1?

That we are not our own but belong, body and soul, both in life and death to God and to our Savior Jesus Christ.

What was the memory verse?

Romans 14:7-8

7 For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself.

8 For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

INTRODUCTION TO QUESTION 2:

Ask the group if they can identify these famous people from their photograph:

Martin Luther King Jr.

An American Baptist minister and activist who became the most visible spokesperson and leader in the civil rights movement from 1955 until his assassination in 1968.

Mother Teresa

Mary Teresa Bojaxhiu, commonly known as Mother Teresa and honored in the Roman Catholic Church as Saint Teresa of Calcutta, was an Albanian-Indian Roman Catholic nun and missionary.

Abraham Lincoln

An American statesman and lawyer who served as the 16th president of the United States from 1861 until his assassination in April 1865. Lincoln led the nation through the American Civil War, its bloodiest war and its greatest moral, constitutional, and political crisis.

Justin Bieber

A Canadian singer-songwriter and actor. Discovered at 13 years old by talent manager Scooter Braun after watching his YouTube videos covering songs, he was signed to RBMG Records in 2008. Bieber then released his debut EP, *My World*, in late 2009. It was certified Platinum in the United States

Tom Hanks

An American actor and filmmaker. Hanks is known for his comedic and dramatic roles in such films as *Big*, *Turner & Hooch*, *Sleepless in Seattle*, *You've Got Mail* and the voice of Sheriff Woody of *Toy Story*.

How can we get to know these people better?

An Autobiography

An autobiography is a book people write about themselves. While it may not be easy to reach a famous person, reading their autobiography is one way to learn more about them.

This lesson will focus on getting to know God through His own story, the Bible.

TEACHING OUTLINE

QUESTION 1: WHAT IS GOD?

Explain: Some people say that there is no God. Others say that we cannot know what God is truly like. Some people even make God what they want him to be. These competing worldviews should be expected. Consider popular media like TV, social media and news outlets.

Have you ever encountered these views at work or among friends?

Refer back to the famous people's photographs.

By just reading a small portion about them we've learned something more about who they are. God also wants to be known! While He may never really be known in all His fullness, His desire is for us to know about Him and subsequently truly know Him. God has revealed himself through His Word, the Bible. God has spoken and His words have been written down so that people throughout all of history might hear Him speak. As God speaks through the Bible, He reveals what He is like.

Psalm 86

Explain: King David wrote this Psalm and it reveals a personal relationship with God. David refers to God in a way that reveals He is kind, forgiving and abounding in love.

Pay close attention to verses 8-10

Think about what you can learn about God from this text.

READ: Psalm 86

1 Incline your ear, O Lord, and answer me, for I am poor and needy.

2 Preserve my life, for I am godly; save your servant, who trusts in you—you are my God.

3 Be gracious to me, O Lord, for to you do I cry all the day.

4 Gladden the soul of your servant, for to you, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.

5 For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you.

6 Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer; listen to my plea for grace.

7 In the day of my trouble I call upon you, for you answer me.

8 There is none like you among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like yours.

9 All the nations you have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name.

10 For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God.

11 Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name.

12 I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever.

13 For great is your steadfast love toward me; you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.

14 O God, insolent men have risen up against me; a band of ruthless men seeks my life, and they do not set you before them.

15 But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

16 Turn to me and be gracious to me; give your strength to your servant, and save the son of your maidservant.

17 Show me a sign of your favor, that those who hate me may see and be put to shame because you, Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

Explain: These verses reveal the power and greatness of God. There is no one, in heaven or on earth, who is like God. God is so powerful that one day all nations will bow down before Him. He is sovereign, ruling over all things. This awesome, powerful, sovereign God is approachable! David is crying out in prayer! We can never forget that this is the God who is eternal, who has no beginning or end, who has created the whole universe and sustains it each day, and who has performed countless miracles. This is God's story! Even in just a few lines of this Psalm He makes himself known.

Verse 11

*“Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth;
unite my heart to fear your name.”*

David prayed that he might know God’s way and live fully for God. David understood who God is and what God is like and as a result, longed to follow Him with an undivided heart.

Share: The purpose of reading the Bible is to come to know God more and to understand how to live fully for him. ***Give personal examples of how Scripture has deepened your relationship with God.***

Conclusion: There is a God and we can know Him.

Review Question 2 and the answer.

What is God?

Answer: *God is the creator and sustainer of everyone and everything. he is eternal, infinite, and unchangeable in his power and perfection, goodness and glory, wisdom, justice and truth. Nothing happens except through him and by his will.*

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

Activity: Distribute 18 Attributes of God slips of paper among your group. Split into teams of two and discover as many corresponding Scriptures related to each attribute using the Concordance in your Bibles. After a few minutes, share your discoveries with the entire group.

Notes:

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

(Allow for several answers before reading to provided response.)

1. Is the God of the Bible actually interested in me?

Reassure your group that God is intimately involved in His world and is concerned for each of his children.

2. Why does God not speak to us today?

God speaks directly to us through His Word. The Bible is infallible (never wrong) and it is trustworthy. It would be very difficult to discern the voice of God outside of the Bible.

3. Can we actually believe that God is who He says He is?

The whole Bible testifies to God's character. His mighty acts recorded in Scripture confirm time and time again the he is who He says He is.

VIRTUE: AWE

To be filled with awe is to be amazed and filled with wonder. Take a moment and write out some specific attributes of God that take your breath away and explain why.

MEMORIZE PSALM 86:8-10, 15

8 There is none like you among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like yours.

9 All the nations you have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name.

10 For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God.

15 But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.