

Lesson 108



Who is God?

By David Batty

Fourth Edition

Name _____

Date Started _____

Date Completed _____



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Chapter 1

Getting to Know God

How many times have you asked yourself the question, “Who is God?” You are not the only one with questions about God. Jerry is someone who had heard some about God and was trying to decide what to do with his own life. Listen to what Jerry said.

“I wish I could believe that He is up there. When I pray, I feel like I am talking to the wall, or the air. I get down on my knees, but I’m not sure if He hears me.”

“I will be glad when it happens – when I know God is hearing me.”

Several weeks later Jerry still had some questions about God. “I’m constantly being tempted to smoke. I continually ask the Lord to help me. But I’m finding that it’s really hard to deal with it.”

“Why does it have to be smoking? Why can’t my prayers be answered and the desire to smoke be completely taken away? That is something I don’t understand. Because I am continually asking God to help me with it. Why doesn’t God hear my prayers?”

Jerry is only one person. We all have questions about God. That’s OK, because we all have things about Him that we don’t understand. In fact, we will never be able to understand everything about God. God would not be God if we could completely understand Him.

Questions for you to answer

Listed below are questions others have about God. Maybe you have some of the same questions in your mind. Place a check in front of those questions you are looking for answers to. (1)

- 1. How do I know God hears my prayers?
- 2. How do I know if God is angry with me?
- 3. I don’t think God loves me.
- 4. Can a person feel God when He is near you?
- 5. I asked God to forgive my sins, but how do I know God has forgiven my sins?
- 6. How can I believe there is a God?
- 7. How long does it take before I know God hears my prayers?
- 8. Why doesn’t God answer some of my prayers?

Questions for you to answer

There is room below for you to add any other questions that you have about God. (2)

My questions:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

We hope this lesson will help you find the answers to some of your questions about God. While you are working on this lesson, you may think of some more questions you have about God. If so, come back to this page and list them above in the blank spaces.

“Who is God?” If you ask a lot of different people you will get a lot of different answers to that question. If you ask a Muslim, he will say that “Allah is God.” If you ask a Hindu, she will say, “We have thousands of gods.” Jews will say “Jehovah is God.” Some people will say, “There is no god.” Still others will answer, “We are all gods.”

If you ask one of the older Christians around here, they will probably answer you quite differently than the people above. They may say, “Jesus is God, and the Holy Spirit is God, and God the Father is God.” Does that sound confusing to you?

The truth of who God really is comes from the Bible. God reveals Himself in the Word of God so that we can begin to learn a little about Him. Let’s take a closer look at what the Bible says about God. Who is He? What is He like? What does He do? What will He do for me today? How can I get to know Him better?

The Bible is clear in telling us that there is only one true God. Check out these verses from the Bible.

Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is One! Deuteronomy 6:4 (NASB)

There is One God. He is the Father of us all. He is over us all. He is the One working through us all. He is the One living in us all. Ephesians 4:6 (NLV)

“God” is the title, not the name of a person, Christians use when we talk about the only true god, the God of the Bible.

Let’s now take another look at the statement: “Jesus is God, and the Holy Spirit is God, and God the Father is God.”

From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible gives a detailed description of God interacting with people here on earth. The first four books of the New Testament tell of Jesus coming to earth and living among us. John begins his book by explaining how Jesus is God and what He was doing before He was born as a baby. John describes Jesus as “the Word.”

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

⁴In him was life, and that life was the light of men. John 1:1-4 (NIV)

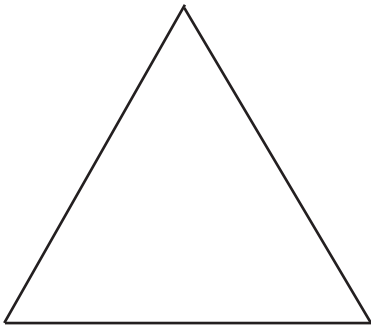
Three persons, God the Father, the Holy Spirit, and Jesus Christ, are God — one God. They are not three separate gods. They are One. Here is one verse in the Bible that speaks of these three persons who are God.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Matthew 28:19 (NLT)

Questions for you to answer

1. The word "God" is a (3) _____, not the (4) _____ of a person.
2. According to what Ephesians 4:6 says, how many true Gods are there? (5) _____
3. Christians say 3 persons are God. What are the names of these 3 persons? (6)
 - A. _____
 - B. _____
 - C. _____
4. John 1:1-2 (NIV) says "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was (7) _____* God. This shows us that Jesus Christ is not the only person who is God, because this verse says He was *with* God.
5. John 1:1-4 (NIV) says that Jesus was with God. But the verse goes on to say that "Through Him all things were (8) _____; without Him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was (9) _____, and that life was the (10) _____ of men.

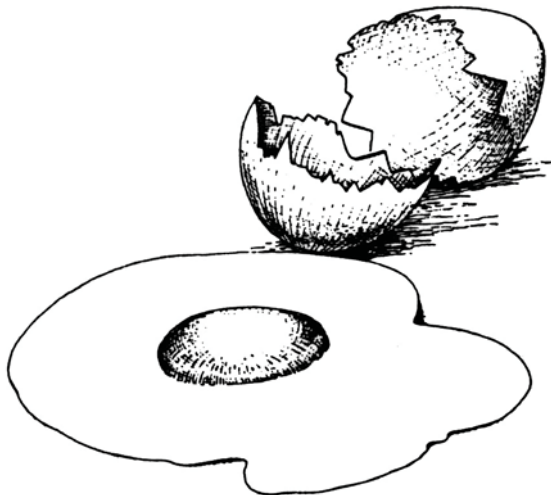
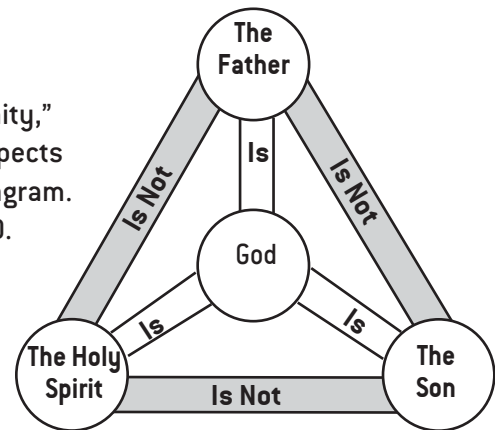
Christians try to explain God like this: God is three persons. Think of a triangle. What makes a triangle a triangle? It has three sides – right? Is one side, or one line by itself a triangle? No. Three lines must be put together in a special way to form a triangle.



In a similar way, three persons are God. God the Father is God. God the Holy Spirit is God. God the Son – Jesus Christ – is God. They are three persons, yet they are one God – they are God. They are one. This one God however exists in three persons.

Does that sound confusing? That's OK. For thousands of years scholars and theologians have been trying to understand this. They still don't have all the answers. The word "trinity" is used to describe that God is three persons, yet one God.

This triangle, known as the "Shield of the Trinity," is a visual symbol which expresses many aspects of the doctrine of the Trinity in a compact diagram. This illustration dates back to about 1255 AD.



Consider an egg: what makes an egg different from other things? An egg has 3 separate parts – a shell, a yolk, and a white. These three parts make up an egg. The *three* parts make up *one* egg – not three eggs.

Have you ever wondered what God looks like? Do the pictures we see in churches and homes really show what God looks like? What is God like?

One day Jesus was talking to a woman in Samaria. He told her:

For God is spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth. John 4:24 (NLT)

Questions for you to answer

The Bible does give us some description of God.

1. God has feelings, just like you do. Look up in your Bible and read John 3:16. What feeling does this verse tell us God has? (11) _____.

2. Look up in your Bible and read Ephesians 4:30. This verse tells us that our actions affect God's feelings. We can make the Holy Spirit feel (12) _____.

3. Look up in your Bible and read Ephesians 4:25-32. What do you think might make the Holy Spirit sad when He looks at your life? (13) _____

4. Read Psalm 139:1, 2, 17 & 18. What do these verses tell us about God? (14)

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____

What is God like?

God is able to think. He knows what is going on in our lives today. He also has desires.

Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Ephesians 5:10 (NLT)

The Bible is full of examples which show that God is more than a power or a force in nature. God is three persons. These three persons are one. He is eternal – He has no beginning and no end.

You may want to do some further study on this whole subject. But right now let's move on and take a look at what the Bible says God has done in our world.

Chapter 2

The Past Work of God

The first verse in the Bible tells us about God.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1 (NIV).

The first two chapters of the Bible tell us more of how God created the earth and all the things in it.

In the New Testament, the book of John tells us more about how God was involved in creation.

Questions for you to answer

1. Look up in your Bible and read John 1:1-3. Who created the world? [15] _____.

2. How much of the world did He create? [16] _____.

We have seen that Jesus Christ is one person who is God. He came and lived on earth about 2000 years ago.

3. Look up in your Bible and read Philippians 2:5-7 and John 1:1-5. How long has Jesus been God?

[17] _____

4. Verse 7 says that Jesus put aside all His powers as God when He came to live on earth. What is your opinion? Why do you think He did this? [18] _____

5. Look up in your Bible and read Mark 10:45. Jesus told His friends two reasons why He came to earth. What were His reasons?

1. [19] _____

2. [20] _____

Jesus chose to die for us. He paid the penalty for our sins so we would not have to go to hell. Let's take a closer look at the importance of what Jesus did for us.

²⁰Everything in heaven and on earth can come to God because of Christ's death on the cross. Christ's blood has made peace. ²¹At one time you were strangers to God and your minds were at war with Him. Your thoughts and actions were wrong. ²²But Christ has brought you back to God by His death on the cross. In this way Christ can bring you to God, holy and pure and without blame.
Colossians 1:20-22 (NLV)

Questions for you to answer

1. Everything in heaven and on [21] _____ can come to [22] _____ because of [23] _____ [24] _____ on the cross. Christ's blood has made [25] _____.
2. What is going on in our minds if we do not have a close personal relationship with God?
[26] _____

3. How did Christ make it possible for us to come back to God? [27] _____

4. According to Colossians 1:22, what kinds of changes can Christ make in our lives if we let Him be the Leader of our lives? [28] _____

When Jesus died on the cross, He paid the penalty for our sins. Three days later He rose from the dead. He then spent about 40 days visiting His friends before He returned to Heaven. The first chapter of the book of Acts tells about His return to heaven.

Questions for you to answer

1. Look up in your Bible and read Acts 1:1-11. What promise did Jesus give to His followers just before He returned to heaven? (verse 8) (29) _____

2. Verses 10 and 11 tell about two angels who came and gave another promise to these people. What was that promise? (30) _____

We are still waiting for Jesus Christ to return. This is often called the Second Coming of Christ.

Chapter 3

How Does the Present Work of Jesus Christ Affect My Life Today?

What is Jesus doing today to help me?

1. Jesus is in heaven today praying for you. He is talking to God the Father about you. This is good to know.

Therefore he is able, once and forever, to save those who come to God through him. He lives forever to intercede with God on their behalf. Hebrews 7:25 (NLT)

2. If you let Jesus become the leader of your life, He will give you special gifts so you can be a successful Christian. He has a work for you – a ministry. He wants you to use these gifts to help others grow.

However, he has given each one of us a special gift through the generosity of Christ. Ephesians 4:7 (NLT)

3. Jesus loves you today. And even if a person goes back into a life of deep sin, Jesus will still love that person just as much.

4. Jesus wants to be your friend today. He has reached out to you in friendship.

I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. John 15:15 (NIV)

Questions for you to answer

1. Look up and read in your Bible John 15:14. Explain how we can build a friendship with Jesus. (31)

2. Look up and read in your Bible Hebrews 7:25. What is Jesus doing for us today (and every day) in heaven? (32)

3. Ephesians 4:7 (NLT) says that "He has given (33) _____ one of us a (34) _____ (35) _____ through the generosity of Christ.

4. Look back at what you read on page 14. What are two reasons why Jesus gives these special gifts to people who follow Him? (36)

1. _____

2. _____

5. Look up in your Bible and read 1 John 3:16 (not John 3:16) and Romans 5:8. How did Jesus show by His actions that He loves us? (37) _____

Chapter 4

God the Father:

A Closer Look at Who He Is

As we said before, God the Father is one of the persons who is God. Sometimes the Bible simply says “God” when talking about God the Father.

Questions for you to answer

1. Look up in your Bible and read John 3:16.

When this verse says God, it is talking about [38] _____, the [39] _____

2. What does John 3:16 tell us about God the Father? [40] _____

Let’s take a look at some of the other things God the Father has done for us.

But we know that there is only one God, the Father, who created everything, and we live for him. And there is only one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom God made everything and through whom we have been given life. 1 Corinthians 8:6 (NLT)

Questions for you to answer

1. God the Father and Jesus Christ are the [41] _____ of [42] _____ things.

2. Look up in your Bible and read 1 John 1:9.

What 2 things will God the Father do if we tell Him (confess) our sins?

A. [43] _____

B. [44] _____

3. Read John 1:12 and 1 John 3:1 (not John 3:1) in your Bible. What kind of a relationship will God the Father begin with those who give their lives to Him? [45] _____

Questions for you to answer

4. Everyone who gives his life to God becomes His child. But God has a special relationship with people whose father or mother has died.

Psalm 68:5 tells us more about this special relationship of God the Father:

A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling. Psalm 68:5 (NIV)

If one or both of my parents have died, then God is a [46] _____ to the [47] _____ and He has promised to [48] _____ the widows.

Everyone who gives his life to God becomes His [49] _____.

5. You are special to God. He has plans for your life. You want to find happiness and meaning in life. God the Father knows how you can find this kind of life.

¹¹"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. ¹²Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you." Jeremiah 29:11-12 (NIV)

6. Jeremiah 29:12 [above] tells us another thing God the Father does. What does He do? [50]

Not only will He listen to our prayers, but He will also answer them. Why? Because you are His child and He cares about you.

7. Look up in your Bible and read John 14:26. Jesus told His disciples what God the Father would do after Jesus went back to heaven. What did God the Father do? [51] _____

Chapter 5

The Holy Spirit: Who Is He?

The Holy Spirit is God. He is a person. He is just as much a person as Jesus Christ is. The New Testament books are filled with verses that tell about Him and His work. Let's take a look at just a few of these verses.

Questions for you to answer

1. Read John 14:15-17 in your Bible. What name is used to describe the Holy Spirit in verse 16? [52]

2. According to John 14:17, how do we get to know the Holy Spirit? [53] _____

3. What 2 things did Jesus promise the Holy Spirit will do for us? [Read John 14:26 again]

A. [54] _____

B. [55] _____

4. When a person becomes a Christian, the Holy Spirit promises to do some things for him or her. Look up Romans 8:16 in your Bible and write down what He does. [56] _____

5. Romans 5:5 tells one thing that the Holy Spirit brings to us. What is it? [57] _____

6. Romans 8:9 explains another very important work of the Holy Spirit. When a person decides to give his life to God, and begins to follow Him, the Holy Spirit comes and lives inside. That's right. As soon as you become a Christian – that very instant – the Holy Spirit comes into your life. And He is ready to begin helping you live as a child of God. He will give you the power to resist temptations to sin.

According to Romans 8:9, who must be living in you if you are a Christian – a child of God? [58]

Questions for you to answer

7. Romans 8:27 explains another very important work of the Holy Spirit. He prays for us:

And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will. Romans 8:27 (NLV)

What is one thing you would like the Holy Spirit to pray about for you? (59) _____

Take a minute now and pray. Ask the Holy Spirit to pray for you, especially regarding this need you have written down. You may want to ask a staff member or friend to pray with you now.

There are many more verses that tell us about the different things the Holy Spirit does today.

Questions for you to answer

Let's take a moment and review some of the things we have been discussing about God. There is one God. Three persons are God. What are their names? (60)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

They each have certain ministries and responsibilities which they continue to do each day. They know you personally. They care about you. They love you very much.

Now let's take a closer look at some of your ideas and feelings about God.

Chapter 6

My Ideas and Feelings About God

Some of us have a hard time trying to figure out who God is. We can repeat some facts about what other people say God is like. But what about you? When you think about God, what do you see in your mind? Take a few minutes to think about God. Then write down your ideas about God.

Questions for you to answer

1. What were your ideas about God several years ago? (61) _____

2. How have your ideas of God changed in the last few weeks? (Your ideas of who He is, what He is like, and what He does.) (62) _____

3. What is the thing you like the most about God? (63) _____

4. What is the thing you fear most about God? (64) _____

Questions for you to answer

5. What thing confuses you most about God? (65) _____

6. God is a God of action. We have looked at a number of Bible verses that tell us about some of the things He does. But what about your life? What has God done in your life? Think back over the past few weeks or years. Write down one time when you saw God do something in your life. Tell what happened. (66) _____

Chapter 7

Getting to Know God Better

One of the main reasons why we have this lesson is to help you get to know God better.

The good news is that God does want you to know Him better. He doesn't want us to know just facts and information about Him. More importantly God wants us to have a personal relationship with Him. For example, you know a close friend much better than you know someone you walk by on the street whom you have never met. As a Christian you are on a journey — a journey to know God like a close friend, your best friend.

As you learn facts about God you are able to apply them to your life and live in a way that draws you closer to Him. God loves you and wants to be close to you.

Come close to God and God will come close to you. James 4:8 (NLT)

One way you begin to draw close to Him and get to know Him better is to begin to be honest about the questions you have.

Questions for you to answer

Here are some questions others have asked in their search to get to know God. Look over these questions. Do any come close to the questions you have about getting to know God better? Put a check in front of the questions you would like answered.

- 1. How can I communicate with God?
- 2. How can I know when God is speaking to me?
- 3. How do I make friends with an invisible person?
- 4. How can I feel close to God?
- 5. Do I really want to become a friend of God?

Add any more questions you have below. (67) _____

If you have given control of your life to God and asked Him to lead you, then it is important for you to learn more about how He will lead you each day. One of the main goals of each Christian is to become like Jesus. This means to develop the character qualities that He has – patience, kindness, courage, love, plus many more.

How can you develop these character qualities?

1. Talk to Him. You can do this any time during the day. Tell Him what is on your mind. Talk to Him about the problems you are facing.
2. Read the Bible and study it. This is God’s Word. He wrote it for us. The Bible is our guidebook. Try to find ideas in the Bible you can apply in your daily activities.
3. Another way to get to know God better is to work with Him. “How can I do that?” you ask. Let’s go back to the Bible. What does God tell us to do? Look up in your Bible and read Luke 10:27. What 2 things does God tell you to do here?

1. {68} _____

2. {69} _____

You can get to know God better as you begin to do what He says to do in this verse.

Look up in your Bible and read Ephesians 4:32. What are 2 things in this verse God tells you to do?

1. {70} _____

2. {71} _____

How can you do these 2 things? As you get to know God better, you will gain new ideas on how you can do what He wants you to do.

4. If you want to build a friendship with another person, you try to do things that will make that person feel happy.

Carefully determine what pleases the Lord. Ephesians 5:10 (NLT)

What is one thing you can do today that you think will please the Lord? {72}

Questions for you to answer

In this lesson we looked at “Who is God?” Stop for a minute and think about God. How well do you feel you know and understand God? Check the answer that best tells how you feel today. [73]

- I feel I know God very well and understand Him pretty good.
- I have learned a lot from this lesson, but I still have some questions.
- I’m confused about God. I still have many questions that have not been answered.

God wants to have a close friendship with you. Take a few minutes to think about your relationship with God. Now write a prayer to God. Tell Him whatever you want. You may want to thank Him for what He has already done in your life. Or ask Him for something you would like Him to help you with. Or tell Him the questions you have about God. [74] _____

Now take a minute and think about the next few days. Are there some problems you are facing? Write down 2 or 3 areas of your life where you would like God to help you this week. [75]

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

A friend of yours comes to you and says, “I just became a Christian a few days ago. I want to know how I can get to know God better. How can I become friends with a person I can’t even see?”

What would you tell your friend? [76] _____

Lesson 108 Self Test

STOP: Have your teacher sign here *before*
you start taking this test.

Teacher's Signature _____

Student's Name _____ Date _____

True-False Questions (4 points each)

Write out the word TRUE or FALSE in the blank space before each question.

1. _____ The Bible says 3 persons are God.
2. _____ God has emotions (feelings), like people do.
3. _____ The Bible says Jesus has not always been God.
4. _____ The main reason why God does not answer some prayers is because He does not love the people who are praying to Him.
5. _____ The Bible says Jesus is now in heaven.

Matching Questions (4 points each)

Choose the best answer and write the letter in the blank space:

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6. _____ God the Father | A. He helps us remember the things Jesus told us in the Bible. |
| 7. _____ The Holy Spirit | B. He will return to earth some time in the future. |
| 8. _____ The Holy Spirit | C. He answers our prayers. |
| 9. _____ Jesus Christ | D. He is our Comforter, our Helper. |
| 10. _____ Jesus Christ | E. He died to pay the penalty for our sins. |

Personal Answer Questions: Fill in the blanks

11. What are the names of the 3 persons who are God? (4 points each)

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

12. Look up in your Bible and read Mark 10:45.

A. What did Jesus say was not one reason why He came to earth? (4 points)

B. What are two reasons Jesus gave in Mark 10:45 for coming to earth? (4 points each)

1. _____

2. _____

Personal Answer Questions

13. *Ephesians 5:10 (NLT)* says, "Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord." What is one thing you can do today which you know will please the Lord? (8 points)

How do you know this will please the Lord? (8 points)

14. A friend of yours comes to you and says, "I don't believe there is a God. How do you know there is a God? How do you know He is alive? Tell me about your God. What is He like?" What would you tell your friend? (20 points)
