

## Week 2: Who Is God?

Deuteronomy 32:6; 1 Corinthians 2:14;  
Acts 17:22–25; Isaiah 55:8–11

### Objectives

Students will . . .

- Explain at least three things that are true about God.
- Describe some ways God reveals Himself.

### Week at a Glance

*To the Teacher:* Pray for your students daily and prayerfully study the verses given above.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Lesson</b>	What Do You Think About God?	God Is Lord Over All	God Is Limitless	God Reveals Himself in All of His Word	Show What You Know
<b>Big Idea</b>	What you think about God will shape how you think and live.	God is the very One who should be in charge.	God is limitless, yet He connects with us even though we are limited.	We can get to know God through every genre of the Bible.	Quiz
<b>Videos</b>	<u>Selective Attention Test</u> (1:21 min.)		<u>Size of the Universe</u> (3:16 min.)	<u>Literary Styles in the Bible</u> (5:27 min.)	
<b>Materials</b>	Various story books (one per student)				
<b>Copies</b>	Daily Bible Connection				Show What You Know Quiz

## MONDAY: What Do You Think About God?

Deuteronomy 32:6; 1 Corinthians 2:14

### Hook: Hands-On Activity

[Instruct each student to look at a story book. When it is his or her turn, each student can read the title and author (or point to the title and author if reading is too challenging).]

Notice that each story has an author. We may not know who the author is, but all stories are created by someone.

What kind of decisions does an author have to make when creating a story? [Ask students to think of as many of these decisions as they can.]

- the setting of the story
- the characters in the story
- the problems the characters face
- the actions that will help solve the problems the characters face (plot)

### Discussion

Last week we talked about the Bible. The Bible is God’s Word. God is the Author: He created the story of the history of the entire world. This story is still unfolding today and will continue to unfold into the future. The characters He made up are not just imaginary characters, but real ones. The people we will read about are characters in His story. You and I are characters in His story too. The room we are in—and everywhere you will go your entire life—is part of the setting of God’s story.

The characters in a fictional story don’t sit around thinking about the author writing the story. But as humans, we do think about God because He created us to connect with Him personally. He wants us to be part of His family.

Before the story started, God, as Author, was already there. He existed as Father even before He began to make the world (setting) and people (characters).

**Reading Focus:** What does Deuteronomy 32:6 tell us about God?

**Read Aloud:** Deuteronomy 32:6

**Question for Comprehension:** What two things do we learn about God?

*Answer:* He is Father, and He is Creator.

### Discussion

What comes to mind when you think about God? [Display a list of all the ideas students share.]

A man named A. W. Tozer once said that “what comes to our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.”<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> A. W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy* (New York: HarperCollins, 1978), 1.

The reason it is the most important thing is because our brains filter out messages that don't fit what we think we already know. If you think you know something about God, your brain can't take in what God Himself wants to show you in His world and in His Word.

What you or I think about God may or may not be true. What matters most is not what you think or what I think. What matters most is what God Himself tells us about who He is.

You and I are characters in God's story. God, as the Author, is outside our story. The only way we can know Him is by His making Himself known to us. But there are two things about us that make it hard for us to understand Him.

Before we talk about those two things, I want you to watch a video. Be sure to listen to the video's instructions and follow them carefully.

## Video

View the [Selective Attention Test](#) video (1:21 min.).

## Discussion

This video is just one example of our first point:

### **1. Our brains filter out what we don't expect to see or hear.**

Our brains can process only a few things at once. What we are looking for is usually what we see. This happens because our attention selects specific areas to notice.

Besides the Selective Attention Test, another example of this point is what happened when Jesus came to earth. People were expecting a mighty deliverer who would wipe out the Romans who were crushing God's people. Jesus was a deliverer, but He didn't resemble the kind of deliverer His people were looking for; so they didn't see Him for who He really was. Even the twelve men who followed Jesus missed hearing things Jesus told them. He said He was going to Jerusalem to be killed, and they asked if they could be second in command when He was ruling. Their brains were so sure Jesus would wipe out the Romans, they didn't hear Jesus telling them that the Romans would put Him to death.

Our brains do this as well. If you think someone is angry with you, you will find evidence of that anger in how that person looks at you. The person you think is angry may not even be aware of you, yet you collect evidence based on how you think that person feels about you.

This tendency is a big danger when it comes to how we think about God. Our ideas about Him may be totally wrong.

There is second reason it is hard for us to understand God:

### **2. Our brains are limited because we are human and not like God.**

Since we are characters in God's story, we are bound by the limitations of that story. For instance, you might see an ant crawling across a sidewalk. You know the ant will be stepped on if it keeps walking on its current path. The ant, however, is totally unaware of your understanding of its situation. It can't communicate to you because it is bound by its own limitations, and you can't communicate with it because you are outside the ant's world. There is

far more difference between you and God than there is between you and an ant. However, God *does* have ways to get His messages to us.

In order to understand those messages, however. We need something.

**Reading Focus:** What does 1 Corinthians 2:14 tell us we need to understand?

**Read Aloud:** 1 Corinthians 2:14

**Question for Comprehension:** What do we need to be able to understand things about God?

*Answer:* Help from God's Spirit

Since we need God's Spirit to help us understand, let's take time now to ask the Spirit to open our eyes and ears so we can better understand God as we study Him this year. You can pray silently along with me or listen while I talk to God.

## Discovery Words

1. Some people pray to a carved **idol** and expect it to meet their needs. Some people make an **idol** of other things like their friends, popularity, or income.

*idol:* a false god that is worshipped and is often carved out of wood, metal, or stone

*idol:* anything that is worshipped, often through the giving of excessive attention, time, or wealth

[Share with students the following definition of *idol*: "something that we look to for things that only God can give."<sup>2</sup>]

2. The king is the **lord** of the land; Jesus is **Lord** over everything.

*lord:* a ruler or king

*Lord:* A name for God or Jesus Christ – the Ultimate Ruler over all.

3. Biography is a different **genre** than fantasy or mystery.

*genre:* a category of literature, art, or music

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<sup>2</sup> Timothy J. Keller, *Counterfeit Gods* (New York: Penguin, 2009), 131.

## TUESDAY: God Is Lord Over All

Acts 17:22-25

### Discussion

**Connect to Prior Learning:** Yesterday we talked about two reasons our brains don't always take in true information about God. What were those two reasons?

*Answer:*

1. Our brains filter out what we don't expect to see or hear.
2. Our brains are limited because we are human and not like God.

Even though our brains are limited, God gives us ways to know who He is. Today we are looking at part of God's Word in which a man named Paul went to talk to a group of people who worshiped idols. These people were totally confused about the True God.

The city Paul was in was Athens, Greece. People there spent time and money on idols because they wanted those idols to do something for them. These people were a lot like us. We may or may not have little carved or metal idols we bow down to, but all of us spend time and money on things we think will do something for us. An idol is anything other than God that we make most important in our lives. It is something we think we cannot live without.

**Reading Focus:** What unusual altar did Paul talk to the people about?

**Read Aloud:** Acts 17:22–23

**Question for Comprehension:** What altar did Paul talk to them about?

*Answer:* Altar to an unknown god.

Paul realized the people had added an altar to an unknown god because they were trying to make sure they had not missed any god. Paul told them that the unknown god, the very thing they were worshiping without understanding, was really the True God.

**Reading Focus:** What two things did Paul teach about the True God?

**Read Aloud:** Acts 17:24–25

**Question for Comprehension:** What two things do we learn about God?

*Answer:* He is Maker (Creator), and He is Lord (Ruler)

**Question for Comprehension:** God created everything and, therefore, He is in charge of everything. Based on verses 24–25, how would you answer the following questions:

- Does God need a temple to live in?  
*Answer:* No!
- Does God need humans to serve Him?  
*Answer:* No!

- What does God need?

*Answer:* Nothing!

- What three things do those verses tell us that God gives to humans?

*Answer:* life, breath, everything we have

[At this point in the lesson, stop to think with your students about everything they have in their lives. Some students may think that the things they have come from a store. But it is God who gives the ability to earn money, the ability to know how to build stores and sell products. Others may think that what they have comes from parents. But parents are also God's good gifts to us. Take time to ponder what it means that all we are and all we have comes from God.]

Let's review—What two things does verse 24 tell us about God?

*Answer:* He is Maker (Creator) and He is Lord (Ruler)

This year we will learn a lot about **God as Creator** because we are going to study the book of Genesis for most of the year. Genesis is the first book of the Bible. *Genesis* means “beginning,” and we will learn how the world began and how God's special people began.

The other book we will study this year is Job. (*Job* is pronounced with a long *o* sound.) Job is one of the oldest books in the Bible. God talks often in Job about His creation.

This year we will also learn a lot about **God as Lord**. Since God made everything and rules everything—God has the authority (power and right) to give orders, make decisions, and handle everything.

There are many people in positions of authority who do not use their authority for the good of others. Parents, police officers, politicians, judges, teachers, pastors, administrators—all of these people can use their authority for the good of those they serve, or they can use their authority to harm those they should be serving.

If you have ever had someone in authority who was *not* good, it's easy to think authority is not good. However, the fact that God is in authority, ruling over all, is amazingly good! God is perfect, so he doesn't make mistakes. He never decides without first having all the information. He has the power to follow through on everything He decides. When we totally understand who God is and what He is like, He is exactly who we want ruling everything!

## WEDNESDAY: God Is Limitless

Isaiah 55:8–11

### Discussion

**Connect to Prior Learning:** When you watch a movie, the actors don't talk about the person or people who wrote the story they are acting out. Writers are outside the story they write. An actor on a movie set doesn't know what is coming in the next episode or scene unless the writers have given the actor the script.

Who is the Writer of the story of our world?

*Answer:* God

When you watch a movie, sometimes you know something bad is waiting behind a door. You might want to shout at the actors, "No! Don't open that door!" You can shout at the screen all you want, but you can't help the characters because you are outside the story.

As we have discussed, God is the Author of our story; and as the Author, He is outside our story—but He also has the ability to communicate to us inside our story. (God even stepped directly into our story when Jesus came as a baby.)

Who remembers the reasons our brains don't always take in true information when God sends it?

*Answer:*

1. Our brains filter out what we don't expect to see or hear.
2. Our brains are limited because we are human and not like God.

Today we are going to look closer at the second reason.

**Reading Focus:** How do our thoughts compare to God's thoughts?

**Read Aloud:** Isaiah 55:8–9

**Question for Comprehension:** What are God's thoughts like?

*Answer:* His thoughts are higher than ours—as high as heaven is above earth

Let's take time to ponder just how huge our universe is. As you watch this video, think about how tiny we are on planet earth compared to how huge God is as the one outside our universe who made all we see.

### Video

View the [Size of the Universe](#) video (3:16 min.).

[Share the following quotation from pastor and writer John Piper: “He is more glorious. Greater in power. Greater in scope. Greater brightness. Than all the galaxies combined. One wise man said, the universe is like a peanut that God carries around in his pocket.”<sup>1</sup>]

When we think about God, we realize He is limitless. We, however, are limited.

[Hold up a coffee cup.]

Imagine if I tried to take this cup and dip out all the water in just one ocean. My cup is limited. The ocean appears to be limitless when compared to my cup.

Even though God is beyond our limit, He chooses to talk to us. Isaiah 55 explains the most direct way God talks to us.

**Reading Focus:** What does God send down from the sky that reaches us and provides for us?

**Read Aloud:** Isaiah 55:10

**Question for Comprehension:**

- What two things does this verse tell us come from the sky?

*Answer:* rain and snow

- What do rain and snow do for us?

*Answer:* Make plants grow so we have something to eat.

**Reading Focus:** What does God say is like the rain and the snow?

**Read Aloud:** Isaiah 55:11

**Question for Comprehension:** What will accomplish God’s will like the rain and snow?

*Answer:* His Word

We don’t see words fall from the sky like we see rain or snow fall, but God sends down words to us. We have a printed Bible, but before it was written, God sent people called prophets to be His messengers.

Just like rain produces a change in the earth that makes plants grow, God’s Word produces a change inside of us that can make us grow in our desire to follow God.

What two things did Isaiah 55 tell us God’s Word is like?

*Answer:* Rain and snow

Rain and snow water the ground and make plants grow.

[Show a houseplant and water it.]

Now that I’ve watered this plant, let’s watch it grow.

[Sit quietly for a few seconds or a minute.]

Did you see the plant grow in the time we’ve been sitting here?

*Answer:* No.

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<sup>1</sup> John Piper, “The Point of Creation,” devotional, August 30, in *Solid Joys*, Desiring God, podcast, transcript and MP3 audio, 3:23, <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/the-point-of-creation>.



Why not?

*Answer:* Because plants grow so slowly we can't actually see them grow. We may notice after a few weeks that the plant is larger (unless we forget to water it).

God's Word coming into your life is like water to a plant. You don't always see what it is doing, but if you take God's Word in and let God's Spirit help you understand, you will be changed. Just as water is necessary for a plant, God's Word is necessary for us.

## THURSDAY: God Reveals Himself in All of His Word

Isaiah 55:8–11

### Reading Strategy: Underline What Is True About God

All throughout God’s Word you will discover what God is like.

One way to focus on what God is showing you about Himself is to underline important details about Him. Be careful as you are underlining in your Bible, however, because you don’t want to cross out the words themselves. That would make them harder to read later. If you can find a very thin ruler or hard bookmark, use it as a straight edge to help you underline carefully. Underline with a colored pencil, if possible, because a colored pencil makes a light line. (Pen can often bleed through the page.)

Choose a color like blue to underline verses that tell you what is true about God. You can use other colors like red for things you are commanded to do or orange for underlining questions. As you start out, however, focus on just one color for verses about God so you can see at a glance what God is telling you about Himself. (<https://estherwilkison.com/color-comprehension/>)

Isaiah 55:8, 9 and 11, the verses we looked at yesterday, all tell you something that is true about God. Using our reading strategy, underline the parts of the verses with a colored pencil of your choice. If you can, keep a colored pencil with you when you read God’s Word to underline important details about God.

### Discussion

**Connect to Prior Learning:** Who did we talk about yesterday who has no limits?

*Answer:* God

While God is without limits, how are we limited? [Here are a few potential answers to share after students have listed some human limitations.]

- We are limited physically—we have to stay inside our bodies at one place at a time, but God is everywhere at once.
- We are limited mentally—we can’t know everything there is to know about everything, but God does.
- We are limited spiritually—we are not perfect, but God is. We do things that are sinful. Even when we don’t want to sin, we do.

Because God is limitless, showing what He is like is going to take a lot of different types of literature. Just like there are different genres or styles of music (classical, country, rap) there are different genres of literature (mystery, fantasy, biography).

### Video

View the [Literary Styles in the Bible](#) video (5:27 min.) to understand more about the different genres of the Bible.

The writers of the video bring out a good point: many books of the Bible include different genres within the same book. However, even if your history book includes poems, you mostly get to know it as a history book.

There are a few different ways to organize the books that make up the Bible. Over the next six years in Basic Bible, you will learn from every genre of the Bible.

For this week, it is helpful to start learning the books of the Bible and how those books can be organized by genre. Let's look through the table of contents in your Bible and talk about the types of literature you can find that God used to show Himself to us. These books are not arranged in the order that they happened chronologically.

## Old Testament

1. The first five books of the Bible are called the **Pentateuch**. They are mostly narrative (stories) but also include the law God gave to His people.
2. The Pentateuch is followed by many more narrative books that are often referred to as **history** books: Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, 1 and 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther.
3. The middle part of the Bible includes a book of **poetry** (Psalms) and three books that are **wisdom** books—Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Job.
4. Song of Solomon is a **romance**.
5. Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel include a great deal of narrative but are often called the **major prophets**. That means they are long books written by prophets of God who were telling what God was going to do. Jeremiah also wrote a book called Lamentations.
6. All the rest of the Old Testament books also contain a great deal of narrative but are often referred to as the **minor prophets**. They were also written by prophets who spoke for God, but these books are much shorter.

## New Testament

1. The first four books of the New Testament—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—are called the **Gospels**. They give four different eye-witness accounts about the life and work of Jesus Christ, God's Son, when He came down to earth.
2. Acts is a **history** book of the early church.
3. Most of the rest of the books are **letters** (another word for *letter* is **epistle**) written by people who knew God and wanted to help others understand and follow God.
4. The last book is called Revelation. It is apocalyptic literature that lets us know what will happen at the end of time.

Most of our study this year will focus on Genesis and Job.

## FRIDAY: Show What You Know (KEY)

**Multiple Choice:** Choose the letter that best answers the question.

\_\_\_C\_\_\_ 1. When was God created?

- A. ten million years ago      B. six or seven thousand years ago      C. He was not created; He has always existed.

\_\_\_A\_\_\_ 2. Why does Deuteronomy call God our Creator and Father?

- A. He made us and formed us.      B. He is powerful.      C. He is ancient.

\_\_\_C\_\_\_ 3. Why is it hard for us to understand God?

- A. He is so much bigger than us.      B. He is a spirit.      C. Our brains are limited because we are human.

\_\_\_A\_\_\_ 4. How does our brain prevent us from understanding God?

- A. It filters out what we don't expect to see or hear.      B. It is distracted by other things.      C. Trying to understand God is too difficult for our brains.

\_\_\_B\_\_\_ 5. What has God given us to help us understand Him?

- A. intelligent minds      B. the Holy Spirit      C. history

\_\_\_B\_\_\_ 6. God needs a temple to live in.

- A. True      B. False

\_\_\_B\_\_\_ 7. God needs people to serve him.

- A. True      B. False

\_\_\_A\_\_\_ 8. What will accomplish God's will like the rain and snow?

- A. His Word      B. our work      C. human wisdom

\_\_\_B\_\_\_ 9. God is limited physically because He can be in only one place at a time.

- A. True      B. False

\_\_\_A\_\_\_ 10. Why is God not limited spiritually like people are?

- A. He is perfect. He has no sin.      B. He has only a little sin.      C. He is like us.

\_\_\_C\_\_\_ 11. In what way is God limitless mentally?

- A. He is more powerful than we are.      B. He is older than we are.      C. He knows everything about everything.

**Short Answer:** Write your answer to the question on the lines provided.

12. Explain at least three things you know to be true about God.

[Teachers, there are many possible answers to this question. Use your judgement in accepting answers. Here are some suggested answers. They are by no means intended to be an exhaustive list.]

God is eternal—he has always been. God is the Creator of the universe. God is limitless. God knows everything. God is perfect. God is everywhere at once. God rules over everything. He is sovereign. God communicates with us.

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