

Lesson 1 Questions

What Is God Like?

1. **Genesis 1:1-2** What can be learned about God in the very first two verses of the Bible?
2. **Psalms 96** List the words used to describe God in this song about him.
3. **Psalms 139:1-6, 7-12** What attribute of God is described in each section of this poem?
4. **1 John 4:9-10** What does God think of us?
5. How did he show his love for us?
6. **John 3:16-18, 36** What is the result of rejecting God's love?
7. How do we receive, or reject, God's love?

Lesson 1 Summary

What Is God Like?

What comes to your mind when you think about God? Do you imagine someone you could get to know or an impersonal “force”? Do you think of God as a kindhearted old man or a stern police officer looking for people to stop from having a good time? Is God pretty much like us or totally different?

The purpose of this first study is to determine what God is like according to the Bible. He has not hidden himself from us but rather is eager to be known by the people he created. He “*wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth*” (1 Timothy 2:4). He has revealed some things about himself - like his power - in the world he made (Romans 1:20) and other things - like his moral character (holiness) - through the conscience he gave us (Romans 2:14-15). He even sent his Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to make himself known. “*In these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, (who) is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being*” (Hebrews 1:2-3).

For hundreds of years, millions of people from all parts of the world have been coming to know God through the Bible. Here we find him to be not weak and “way out there somewhere” but the powerful Creator of the universe, who rules over the earth according to his righteousness (truth and goodness). This holy (perfect) God is also just (requiring punishment for unrighteousness) and inescapably present everywhere. He knows every move we make and every thought we think.

God is well aware that we sin (doing what we want rather than what God says), but he still loves us. He knows all about us, but he still wants to know us and wants us to know him. John, a close friend of Jesus during his life on earth, wrote about what God thinks of us. He taught that love is a basic element of God’s nature, that God *is* love (1 John 4:8). He loves us in spite of our sin and sent his Son to pay the penalty for our sin. Because of Jesus’ sacrifice, we can have a relationship with God.

If we reject God’s Son, we reject God’s love and exclude ourselves from all its benefits. God sent his Son to die for our sin. Without his sacrifice we have no way out from under the wrath (punishment) and condemnation (death sentence) we deserve because of our sin against him. “*Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on him*” (John 3:36).

The next lesson will deal with what the Bible teaches about sin.