

Eleventh Grade- Nature of God

This Life Group time is dedicated to exploring our students existing ideas about God the Father and holding them up to what the Bible says about Him. We want to help students build the habit of turning to Scripture with their questions and their assumptions, and let God's Word have the final say. A.W. Tozer once said, "what comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us." We want to set aside a few weeks this year to talk in depth about that "most important thing" together! This week we'll introduce some fundamental doctrines of who God is, His attributes and His triune nature.

Introducing the Topic

Before we turn to God's Word to hear what He says about Himself, we first want to invite students to consider what they already believe about God. We often relate to God out of misunderstandings we aren't even aware of, and those misunderstandings can be so destructive to our intimacy with God. True intimacy hinges on knowing and being known. And often, we must lay down what we think we know about God before we can enter into true intimacy with God.

-Who is God? If you had to describe Him to someone, how would you describe Him?

-What do you think about the quote "what comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us."? Do you agree or disagree? What do you think the author is trying to say in that quote?

-What are things you know about God?

-What do you know about the Trinity? What are some ways you've heard it explained?

-What do you believe about it personally? How important do you think the idea of the Trinity is in understanding God?

Scripture Study

As you transition to the Scripture Study portion of this session, remind students that Scripture is where we turn for truth. We want to continually reiterate that we study Scripture not just for the "Christian take" on a matter, but God's revealed word, given to us out of love for our good.

-This week, we're tackling a huge topic, the doctrine of God! So let's watch this video to give us a framework for our conversation.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eAvYmE2YYIU>

-So, what stuck out to you in that video? What questions do you still have?

We're going to break this conversation into two big chunks, the attributes of God, and the nature of God. Let's start with the attributes what God is like.

-What did the video say about the attributes of God? What were some of the attributes it listed? *(Begin compiling a list together with you group)*

-What are other attributes of God that you see in Scripture? *(Continue to add to the list of attributes. If your group leaves any of the below out, flip around to some of the verses listed below and have your group name the attributes of God listed there. For this exercise, we want to make sure to note all these key attributes. If someone in your group doesn't know what one of the attributes means, be sure to stop down and explain it for them!)*

- Exodus 3:14; Psalm 102:12; Hebrews 13:8 (God is eternal)
- Exodus 34:6-7; Psalm 25:8; James 1:17 (God is good)
- Psalm 145:17; Hebrews 4:16 (God is gracious)
- Exodus 3:5-6; Isaiah 6:3; Revelation 4:8 (God is Holy)
- Jeremiah 23:23-24; Acts 17:27-28 (God is imminent/near to us)
- Malachi 3:6; James 1:17 (God is Unchanging)
- Nehemiah 9:32-33; Psalm 99:4 (God is Just)
- 1 John 4:8,16 (God is love)
- Ephesians 2:4; Titus 3:5; 1 Peter 1:3 (God is merciful)
- Mark 14:36; Jeremiah 32:17; Matthew 19:26 (God is All-Powerful)
- Jeremiah 23:23-24; Psalm 139:7-10 (God is Omnipresent)
- Psalm 147:5; Acts 15:18; 1 John 3:20 (God is Omniscient)
- Genesis 18:25; Psalm 145:17 (God is Righteous)
- Exodus 3:14; John 1:1-5 (God is Self-Existent)
- Exodus 18:11; Psalm 115:3 (God is Sovereign)
- Isaiah 55:8-9; Psalm 113:5-6 (God is Transcendent)

-Who we believe God is should and will change the way we live and the way we relate to Him. So, let's go through this list of attributes, and have the students in your group finish this sentence for each of them: Because God is _____, I can _____.

-For example: "Because God is perfectly just, I can trust that He will correct all injustice in my life, and I don't need to seek revenge." Get students to give a couple responses for each attribute.

-Look at the answers you just gave. Do you actually live like you believe that? Do you actually trust God to be who He is? *(For example, do you really trust God to be perfectly just and not seek your own revenge?)* Or do you try to fill His role sometimes? Which of the attributes we talked about are hardest for you to trust? Why do you think that is?

-Now let's talk about the nature of God. The attributes of God tell us what He's like, the nature of God tells us what He is. The video talked about God being Trinity. Sum up the video's explanation of Trinity in your own words.

-Did that explanation make sense to you?

-What evidence is there in Scripture for the Trinity since the word Trinity itself isn't mentioned?

-Matthew 3:16-17

-Matthew 22:41-45

-Matthew 28:18-20

Practical Application

We want students to be able to contextualize what Scripture teaches to their daily life. This portion of the conversation is centered around the practical application of the text and aimed at helping students actually integrate these spiritual disciplines into their walk with the Lord and into their practice of community.

-Why does it matter that God is triune? One God, Three Persons? *(This question can feel broad, so if your group is struggling with how to answer use some of these follow up questions!)*

-The Trinity isn't something we can fully understand, does that make you doubt God?

-God demands His glory often in Scripture, and even refers to Himself as a jealous God, that language has led some readers to accuse God of being selfish and vain. How does God being Triune speak to that accusation?

-How could God be "love" before there was creation to love? *(Ans. He loved Himself, the Trinity loved within itself)*

-God made man in His image, and since the Trinity lives in eternal community, what does that mean for us, His creation?

-How does God being Trinitarian separate Him from other gods? What does that mean for people from different faiths who say we worship the same God?