

## **Eight Grade- Who is God?**

*Maybe you have been in the church a long time, maybe conversations about God and faith and the Bible are new to you. Either way, you may be able to talk about what God has done or maybe you can defend God's existence, but can you explain Who God is? There are a lot of answers to that question in culture today. Jesus, Allah, Buda, ourselves, everything, nothing, etc. as you continue to become older you will meet people that believe God is someone different than you think. In those moments how do you defend your beliefs? How do you know God isn't who someone else says he is? These are the kinds of questions we will be diving into today.*

### Introducing the Topic

*Use these questions to help gauge what students already know about the subject and help them begin to verbally process what may be misconceptions or partial understandings of who God is.*

- Who do you say God is? Why is that your answer?
- What experiences have taught you the most about who God is?
- How can you be sure you are following the correct God?
- What do you think about the phrase "all roads lead to heaven"?

### 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.*

-If we are going to talk about who God is, we should start off with the first time God ever describes himself. Go ahead and turn to Exodus 34:6-7.

- What stood out to you in these verses?
- What are some of the defining attributes that God gives himself?
- How do you see any of these attributes played out in Scripture? *(Don't worry about specific passage locations.)*
- Have you seen any of these attributes of God in your own life? *(Maybe ask the students to remember what it was like to be at Chi Alpha or student camp.)*

*God isn't silent on who he is, nor is his Bible. To discuss all that the bible says about God would take days, but to see a small chunk in fast forward, ponder this list from an online Christian question website.*

*"We know certain things to be true of God for one reason: in His mercy He has condescended to reveal some of His qualities to us. God is spirit, by nature intangible (John 4:24). God is One, but He exists as three Persons—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit (Matthew*

3:16-17). God is infinite (1 Timothy 1:17), incomparable (2 Samuel 7:22), and unchanging (Malachi 3:6). God exists everywhere (Psalm 139:7-12), knows everything (psalm 147:5; Isaiah 40:28), and has all power and authority (Ephesians 1; Revelation 19:6). God is just (Acts 17:31), loving (Ephesians 2:4-5), truthful (John 14:6), and holy (1 John 1:5). God shows compassion (2 Corinthians 1:3), mercy (Romans 9:15), and grace (Romans 5:17). God judges sin (Psalm 5:5) but also offers forgiveness (Psalm 130:4).

*The list could go on and on and on and on and still not scratch the surface of all that God is because God is infinite. That's one of the coolest things about heaven. We will live with God in eternity, but we will never know everything because we will continuously learn more about God forever. We cant even wrap our minds around something like an un tappable well, but that's exactly what we are promised in heaven.*

- Did any of those attributes stand out to you?
- Does hearing that list encourage you that you're serving an awesome God? Why or why not?

#### 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 this spiritual truth into their walk with the Lord.*

So now for some final questions so that you can take what we discussed into your schools and sports teams, and band, and some day high school, college, work, etc.

- If asked "Who is God to you?" what would you say now in light of all you have discussed?
- What further questions do you have on this topic?