

FAMILY *Night*



PARTNERING *with* PARENTS

PARTNERING *with* **PARENTS**

Discipleship starts in the home! FBC has consistently recognized that one of the best ways to carry out our mission statement to “prepare and deploy dependent disciples” is to equip parents to raise their children in the ways of the Lord. Since parenting is a daily challenge, the elders and pastors want to partner with all FBC parents to assist with your calling to disciple your children.

PSALM 78:4

We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.

Our objective for Family Night is to:

- 01 ENCOURAGE AND EQUIP PARENTS IN THEIR DISCIPLESHIP ROLE
- 02 BUILD CONNECTIONS WITH OTHER FBC FAMILIES
- 03 MAKE LASTING MEMORIES

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 25	Baptism & Potluck
November 1	Congregational Gathering
December 6 & 13	Marriage BTC Class
January 15	Parent Summit & Polar Party
March 31 & June 30	Family Night



BUILDING ON GOD'S FAITHFULNESS



FAMILY DEVOTION

THE GREATNESS OF GOD

WARM-UP QUESTIONS (3-4 MINUTES)

- Everyone in your group, name the largest thing you can think of.
- After everyone has shared, read Isaiah 40:12 (the NLT version may be easier for younger children). Parents: explain that these are questions, but the point is that nothing can compare to God's greatness.
- When you think about God and the great things He has done, can you name one of them?

INTRODUCTION

Our focus for this evening is **God's greatness**. We won't read everything the Bible says about God's greatness, but our aim is to gain a better picture of what He is like so we can relate to Him better. A.W. Tozer said, *"What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us."*

Knowing God's greatness is an important key to serving Him. In fact, one of the **saddest things in the world** is that many people do not recognize the greatness of God. He is so great, so wise, and so clearly in charge that, if we want to know and follow Him, we must understand His greatness. If we do not, we may begin to think **God exists to bless us and make us happy, when really, we exist to honor Him**. Our relationship with Him will be backwards. When we hold on to inaccurate concepts of God, we will be disappointed.

TODAY'S THEME

Seeing His greatness produces humility in us.

MEMORY VERSE: PSALM 145:3-4

Great is the Lord and highly to be praised, and His greatness is unsearchable. One generation shall praise your works to another and shall declare your mighty acts.

PART ONE: SEEING GOD'S GREATNESS

Let's see today how a famous prophet speaks about God's greatness. Prophets are helpful to learn from because they usually had a close relationship with God. They often delivered their messages during times when people who knew God were not following Him well. The people were becoming more and more like the society around them - rich, selfish, and careless in their speech. Believers in God were letting their children suffer while they comforted themselves with nice houses, parties, and plenty of food. Some stopped trusting God because they wanted to be accepted by the people of their day. Believing people were not helping the poor, and though they heard God's words, they did not obey what they heard. Then people who did not know God treated Him as unimportant, and they mocked those who believed in Him. Society, along with many believers, was becoming worse and worse, no longer thinking rightly about men, women, and marriage. **In other words, the days of the prophets were much like our day today!**

One famous prophet was Isaiah. He told the people of northern Israel that God would come and judge them because they were not being faithful to Him. He also spoke against nearby nations that ignored the true God, warning that if they continued in their cruel, wicked, God-rejecting ways, He would judge them harshly and permanently. He also told Israel that Someone would come to save God's people from their sins—Someone who would be called Wonderful Counselor, Prince of Peace, and Mighty God. He told them this Person would be whipped and killed for other people's sins. He also spoke of the greatness of God and the future blessing God's followers would receive.

Let's look at one passage where Isaiah sees God and His greatness. This kind of vision can help us "wake up" and realize how awesome the God we serve truly is. This passage speaks of "seraphim", which are angelic beings dedicated to praising God.

FAMILY DISCUSSION: ISAIAH 6 AND REVELATION 1

- Read **Isaiah 6:1-5** as a group, taking turns reading one verse at a time. Describe the scene.
- Now read **Revelation 1:9-17**, where the apostle John sees the glorified Lord Jesus. How are John's reactions similar to Isaiah's? Why?
- How would you react if God placed you in heaven? What would you do? Why?
- As we understand the greatness of God more, how can that help us in our daily living?

CLOSE BY TAKING SOME TIME AS A FAMILY TO PRAISE GOD FOR HIS GREATNESS AND ASK HIM TO CONTINUE SHOWING IT TO YOUR WHOLE FAMILY ALL YEAR.

ADDITIONAL DEVOTIONS

ATTRIBUTES OF GOD - PART 1

TODAY'S THEME

God speaks to us about His nature and His character. He is all knowing, all powerful, and good. Most importantly, He is sovereign.

WARM-UP QUESTIONS

- If you could be King, what do you think would be the best part of the job? What do you think would be the hardest? If you had a chance to be King/Queen of the world what is the first thing you would do to make it a better place?
- Look up the definition of sovereign and discuss its meaning.

INTRODUCTION*

Confusion exists in the world today about God. What is He like? What's important to Him? Why does He allow certain things? Is He really good? Does He even exist? Your views of and answers to these questions are of the utmost importance, for what you believe about God is affecting your life today AND will also affect your life for eternity.

Another aspect that is very important in coming to understand who God really is and what He is like is having all the facts or having all the information. Many today have very wrong views of what God is actually like that have been shaped by knowing only part of the story. In order for us to know what the heart of God is really like, it is imperative that we have all of the information. We can't just look at His actions from a few isolated Bible stories. We must look at the big picture of Who He's revealed Himself to be by His statements about Himself and by what He reveals about Himself through His interactions with mankind. It's important to note that the Bible simply begins with God and His existence. There is no argument or proof given for His existence mainly because the Bible was written many, many years after God had already proved His existence by creating the heavens and the earth and all that it contains.

Genesis 1:1 says, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."

The fact that God is eternal and that only He existed from eternity past is extremely important because it leads us to understanding other important attributes that also must be true about God.

- If only God existed from eternity past, then He alone knows the truth about all things and how everything came into existence.
- If only God existed from eternity past, then He reigns supreme above all other beings.

- If only God existed from eternity past, then He had no beginning and will have no end. He is the only being that was not created. All other beings were brought into existence at a certain point in time. Therefore, God is originator and creator of all things and thereby the rightful owner of all things.
- If only God existed from eternity past, then He is completely independent of all things. He doesn't need anything to continue to exist. He is self-existent. We humans are the exact opposite. The ways in which we are dependent are too numerous to list.

In this devotion and the next devotion, we will be studying the character of God. The more we understand who God is, the more we can respond to Him. Here are some of his character traits. Parents, be sure to define each of these terms well enough for your children to understand them.

- God is omnipresent (existing in all places all the time) – Psalm 139:7-12
- God is omniscient (all knowing) – Hebrews 4:13
- God is omnipotent (all powerful)– Jeremiah 32:17
- God is self-sufficient – John 5:26
- God is faithful – Deuteronomy 7:9; 2 Timothy 2:13
- God is good – Psalm 34:8

**This section has been extracted and modified from God's Eternal Plan, Fellowship Bible Church and Ethnos 360, 2025*

FAMILY DISCUSSION

- As we explore who God is, what is one character trait that is new to you or that caught your attention today?
- What are some of the misunderstandings you have observed about God?
- When you spend time thinking about the attributes about God, how does that change the way your pray and relate to Him?

CLOSE BY PRAYING AS A FAMILY. THANK GOD FOR HIS CREATION. THANK HIM FOR HIS GOODNESS TOWARDS US.

ATTRIBUTES OF GOD - PART 2

TODAY'S THEME

God is full of justice, mercy, grace, and love. The intersection of all of these occurred when Jesus died for our sins at the cross.

WARM-UP QUESTIONS

- If someone is caught doing something wrong; for example, speeding in a car, what do they deserve? What is justice in this situation? What is mercy? (Parents, mercy is not getting what you deserve). What is grace? (Parents, grace is getting a gift you don't earn)

INTRODUCTION

We will continue our study of God's attributes. Today we will be looking at his character traits and what that means for how we relate to God. Read and discuss the following character traits:

- God is just – Deuteronomy 32:4
- God is merciful – Romans 9:15-16
- God is gracious – Psalm 145:8; Matthew 5:45
- God is loving – 1 John 4:7-8
- God is holy – Revelation 4:8
- God is unchanging – Malachi 3:6

Think of justice in the court systems. When someone gets a speeding ticket, that offense requires justice to be served. Justice is the payment for violating the law. In the case of the speeding ticket, the laws have been written so that a fine of approximately \$200 is the payment for violating the speed limit. God also created a moral law. Sin is violating this law. God's justice is a key attribute that cannot be overlooked. When we sin, justice requires payment for our sin. When Jesus died on the cross, God's justice was satisfied because Jesus' death fully paid for all of our sins.

At the same time, God's mercy shows up at the cross because Jesus took the penalty that all of us deserved. Jesus was the spotless, sinless lamb of God. Read John 1:29. Each one of us deserved to die for our own sin, yet Jesus died in our place. Jesus, was the perfect sacrifice because he never sinned. God's mercy was to spare us the consequence of our sin.

Another beautiful thing happened at the cross and more specifically the resurrection of Christ. Because Christ conquered death, by God's grace, He gives us eternal life when we believe in Christ as our savior.

The cross is also a display of God's love. The only reason that God provided the cross was His love for us. He loved us so much that he provided a way for His justice to be satisfied and his mercy and grace to be given. Read John 3:16-17.

FAMILY DISCUSSION:

- What is conditional love versus unconditional love? What kind of love does God have for us?
- Parents, talk about a time when you experienced justice for something that happened?
- Kids, can you think of a time you received a consequence for something you did. What was justice in that situation?
- Kids, can you think of a time when you received mercy and/or grace in a situation?
- ***Parents, our next devotion discusses the opportunity for you to share your testimony and for you to invite your children to believe in Christ. Depending on your conversation (and your kids' attention spans) during this devotion, it may be the right time to do that now.***

CLOSE BY PRAYING AS A FAMILY. THANK GOD FOR HIS LOVE FOR US. THANK HIM FOR THE CROSS AND THE SACRIFICE OF JESUS – HE DIED IN OUR PLACE TO SAVE US. THANK GOD FOR HIS MERCY AND GRACE.

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

TODAY'S THEME

Understanding God's Character and His great love by sending His son to die for us creates an opportunity for us to respond.

WARM-UP QUESTIONS

- What are some of the characteristics of God that you remember from the prior lessons?
- What is the most valuable gift you have ever been given?
- How would you describe love?
- What is the most loving action you have done for someone?

INTRODUCTION

We have studied about God's existence, what God says about Himself, and His great love (and His other characteristics). What has God done for us and how should we respond?

God's love is the motivation for His plan of redemption. God foreknew man would sin, and therefore, God had developed the plan of redemption before creation. His plan included the sending of His son for the payment of our sins and by believing in Christ (the promised deliverer), we would be set free from the penalty of sin.

Understanding God's love as expressed in the sacrifice of His son motivates us towards receiving the free gift of salvation.

FAMILY DISCUSSION:

Read Ephesians 2:1-10

- How does Paul describe our condition in verses 2:1-3?
- Verse 4 starts with the words "But God". What did God do?
 - *Parents: Emphasize that God is the main actor in this rescue story. We are the recipients of God's actions (motivated by His love for us).*
- How are we saved (verse 8)? *Parents: This is a great opportunity for you to share your testimony with your children. Be sure to emphasize the free gift of God's grace. Invite your children to trust Christ.*

- What are works, and what does Paul say about them in verses 9 and 10? *Parents, be sure to emphasize that works have nothing to do with salvation. Works are prepared by God in advance for us to do (verse 10). They are simply our response to what God has already done for us.*
- What are some examples of good works you can do in your family and outside of your family?

As we learn more about God's grace and His great love, it can change the desires of our hearts. Christ spoke about the "treasures" of our hearts in His sermon on the mount in Matthew 6.

Read Matthew 6:19-21

- What does it mean to store up treasures on the earth?
- What does Jesus mean when he says to store up treasures in Heaven?
- What does verse 21 mean?
- Can you think of examples when your heart treasured earthly things? What about a time when you treasured heavenly things?

Parents: This is a great opportunity to talk about stewardship. As leaders of your family, how has the Lord challenged you to treasure heavenly things? Being transparent about your heart struggles is a great way to build trust and relationship with your children.

CLOSE BY PRAYING AS A FAMILY. ASK THE LORD TO REMIND US OF HIS GREAT LOVE FOR US, THE POWERFUL REDEMPTION WE HAVE IN CHRIST. THANK HIM FOR THE FREE GIFT OF SALVATION BY GRACE. ASK THE LORD TO HELP US RESPOND TO HIS LOVE WITH THE "GOOD WORKS" HE HAS CALLED US TO IN EPHESIANS 2:10.

UNDERSTANDING OUR SUFFERING IN LIGHT OF GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY AND GREATNESS

TODAY'S THEME

God's greatness doesn't mean everything goes well for us

WARM-UP QUESTIONS

- If someone has had many difficult things happen to them that they do not understand, what do you think God should do for them? (2–3 min)
- Read the Overview of Job below together. All those who are able to read should take turns reading.

INTRODUCTION

We'll look at how the book of Job presents God's greatness.

Job lived about 2000 years before Jesus, around the same time as Abraham and about 500 years before Moses.

He was the richest man in the whole Middle East. His sheep, donkeys, oxen, and camels numbered over 10,000 altogether. He had ten children and many servants. He owned lots of land and was known not only for being rich, but also for being the best example of a good man in his day. Satan told God that Job only feared and obeyed Him because God had given him so much. He said that if God allowed Satan to take it away, Job would stop loving and trusting God.

Chapter 1: Satan's First Attack

In one day, God allows Satan to attack Job. All Job's livestock are killed or stolen, his servants are killed or kidnapped, and all ten of his children die. No man had ever lost so much so quickly, but Job does not stop trusting God.

Chapter 2: The Second Attack and the Arrival of Job's Friends

Satan strikes Job with a painful skin disease. His wife, overwhelmed by grief and anger, tells him to curse God and die. Job's three friends arrive to comfort him and sit with him in silence for seven days and seven nights.

Chapter 3: Job's Lament

Job opens his mouth and curses the day of his birth, expressing deep despair over his suffering.

Chapters 4–31: The Dialogues Between Job and His Three Friends

Job's three friends insist he must have done something wrong to invite such disaster, arguing that suffering is always a punishment for sin. Job maintains his innocence, rejects their accusations, and expresses growing frustration with God for allowing these tragedies without an explanation.

Chapters 32–37: Elihu's Speeches

A younger man named Elihu enters the conversation, addressing both Job and his friends. He defends God's justice and sovereignty, arguing that suffering can also be used by God to discipline and purify people.

Chapters 38–41: God Answers Job

God speaks to Job out of the storm. Instead of directly explaining the cause of Job's suffering, God questions Job about the creation, design, and governance of the cosmos, reminding Job of human limitations compared to divine wisdom.

Chapter 42: Job's Restoration

Job humbles himself and repents of speaking without understanding. God rebukes the three friends for not speaking rightly, accepts Job's intercession for them, and doubles Job's wealth while blessing him with ten more children.

FAMILY DISCUSSION: JOB 38

- Read as a family, taking turns, as much of chapter 38 as you can. What are some examples of God's greatness from that chapter?
- How can God's greatness, power, and sovereign control—meaning He is in charge of everything that happens and has intentionally allowed it—comfort us when something bad happens to us?
- How could it become a source of pain and anger if we do not think about God's control and love for us during a hard time?
- Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-5.

CLOSE BY PRAYING AS A FAMILY THAT GOD WILL CONSTANTLY BRING TO YOUR MIND HIS GOODNESS, GREATNESS, AND CONTROL OVER YOU, WHETHER HE SENDS BLESSINGS YOUR WAY OR ALLOWS HARD THINGS TO HAPPEN. PRAY THAT YOU WOULD EXPERIENCE GOD'S COMFORT IN THE MIDDLE OF TRIALS.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S EXISTENCE: PROPHECIES AND THEIR FULFILLMENT

TODAY'S THEME

While God's existence is self-evident in His creation, He gives us additional proof in His prophecies and their fulfillment.

WARM-UP QUESTIONS

- We can trust people a lot or a little. How do you decide who you trust? How can you tell if you shouldn't trust someone?

INTRODUCTION

One way we see the accuracy and reliability of the scriptures is to see prophecy fulfilled. Scholars report that over **300 prophecies** of the Old Testament are fulfilled in the life of Jesus Christ, with a few more to be fulfilled (e.g., Zechariah 12:10-14 and see Revelation 1:7). One cool thing is that many of these prophecies have been found in ancient manuscripts buried hundreds of years before they were fulfilled. We'll look at five passages, all of which were written over 500 years before Jesus' birth. The Qumran Dead Sea Scrolls, discovered in 1948, were scientifically validated to have been written 200 years before Christ. (They were copies of the original manuscripts written well before that time.) These ancient documents contain the same prophecies of our Old Testament. The accuracy of the manuscripts is remarkable and gives us assurance that the Old Testament has remained unchanged for thousands of years.

Read the following Old Testament (OT) passages and the corresponding New Testament (NT) passages. After describing what was being foretold and how it was fulfilled, discuss the questions being asked.

What is foretold? How was it fulfilled?	Old Testament (OT) (These were written 500-900 years before Jesus' birth)	New Testament (NT) (These were written 45-75 years after his birth)
1.	Isaiah 53:5-6; Psalm 16:9-10	Acts 2:23-32
2.	Psalm 22:1, 14-18	Mark 15:22-34
3.	Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:20-24
4.	Isaiah 53:7-12	Matthew 27:12-14; 57-61 Luke 23:39-40
5.	Micah 5:2	Matthew 2:1-6

FAMILY DISCUSSION:

- The first prophecy is about the **MOST IMPORTANT** fact of Christianity. It is the **one fact** that if it's not true, you're wasting your time. If it is true, then it changes our entire life. What is it? Why is it so important? **Hint:** See Romans 1:4 and 1 Corinthians 15:13-19
- The second prophecy paints a picture of the scene of the crucifixion. What are 3 or 4 things that happened which were prophesied?
- The prophecy about crucifixion (Psalm 22:16) was written and buried a couple hundred years before crucifixion was invented. What does that tell us?
- Take time as a family to thank God for letting us see fulfilled prophecy. It lets us know that he wants us to know His plans, and that strengthens our faith.

CLOSE BY PRAYING AS A FAMILY. PRAY THAT GOD WILL HELP OUR UNDERSTANDING AND THAT OUR CONFIDENCE WOULD GROW IN HIS WORD. WE CAN RELY ON IT!

BONUS CONTENT:

- Listen to FBC's sermon on Daniel 9:20-27 (part 2) from June 2, 2024.
- This prophesy predicts the coming of Christ as the Messiah (and his death) in very specific terms (to the day).
- After listening, discuss the precision involved in the prophesy and its fulfilment. How does that influence your confidence on God and His word?

SCAN ME



FAMILY MINISTRY



HUNTER **MAYO**

Pastor

AMBER **CONNOR**

Administrative Assistant



STUDENT MINISTRY



CALEB **PEARSON**

Pastor

EMMA KATE **CULLER**

Director



MICAH **DOERKSEN**

Director

AMBER **CONNOR**

Administrative Assistant



KIDS MINISTRY



BRIAN **WEIR**

Pastor

BETSY **MASTERSON**

Administrative Assistant



ALISHA **NEAL**

Nursery Coordinator

JAMIE **FAHNESTOCK**

Preschool Coordinator



HEATHER **HOLMES**

FSat Coordinator

ESTHER **BOUCHILLON**

Little Hearts Coordinator





3217 Middle Road | Winchester, VA 22602