

Small Group Guide: What Is God Like?

Introduction

This week's sermon explored the nature and character of God -- who He is, what He is like, and how we can grow in our understanding of Him. Just as getting to know another person takes time, intentionality, and experience, so does growing in our knowledge of God. This guide is designed to help your group go deeper into those themes together.

Key Takeaways

- God is triune -- three distinct persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) making up one God. This is seen throughout Scripture, from the opening words of Genesis to the Great Commission in Matthew.
- God is eternal. He exists outside of time and space. He had no beginning and will have no end.
- God is omnipresent. There is nowhere in all of creation where God is not already present.
- God's character includes holiness, justice, wisdom, and an overwhelming love for people -- a love so great that Jesus entered a broken world and died so that we could have a relationship with God.
- Knowing about God and experiencing God are two different things. Both matter, and neither should replace the other.

Discussion Questions

Opening Question (Icebreaker)

1. Think about someone you have gotten to know well over time -- a spouse, a close friend, or a family member. What is one thing you learned about that person that surprised you? What did that discovery do for your relationship?

Digging Into the Sermon

2. The sermon described God as triune -- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In Matthew 28:19, all three persons are named together, and in Matthew 3:16-17, all three are present at Jesus' baptism. How does understanding God as three persons in one shape the way you think about your relationship with Him?
3. The Hebrew word for God used in Genesis 1:1 is Elohim -- a plural word used in reference to a single God. The sermon pointed out that God does not write things

unintentionally. What does it mean to you that even the very first word used for God in Scripture carries a hint of the Trinity within it?

4. The sermon described God as eternal, existing before time began and beyond when time ends. Psalm 90:2 speaks of God being "from everlasting to everlasting." How does the idea that God exists outside of time change the way you think about unanswered prayers, waiting seasons, or moments when God's timing does not match your own?
5. Psalm 139:7-10 describes a God from whom there is nowhere to hide -- not in the heights, not in the depths, not across the sea. Does the omnipresence of God feel more like comfort or conviction to you right now? Why?
6. The sermon walked through the story in John 8 of the woman caught in adultery. Jesus did not condemn her, but He also called her to leave her life of sin. What does this story reveal about the balance between God's love and His call to change? How have you experienced that balance in your own life?
7. The sermon made a distinction between knowing God in your mind and experiencing Him in your heart. Which of those two feels more natural to you right now? Which one do you feel like you need more of?

Reflection and Honest Conversation

8. The closing challenge asked whether those who already follow God have grown complacent -- going through the motions without truly experiencing who God is. How would you honestly answer that question for yourself?
9. Is there an aspect of God's character discussed in this sermon -- His triune nature, His eternality, His omnipresence, His love and justice -- that you find difficult to accept or understand? What makes it hard?
10. The sermon ended with this encouragement: "As you pray this week, don't just word vomit at God. Don't just tell Him everything, but actually take time to listen to what He's saying to you." What would it look like practically for you to build more listening into your time with God this week?

Practical Applications

The following are individual challenges to take into the week ahead. Consider sharing with your group which one you plan to focus on and then report back next time you meet.

For those exploring faith for the first time: Set aside time this week to read one of the Gospels -- Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John -- with the specific goal of getting to know what Jesus is like. Approach it the way you would if you were getting to know a new person. Notice what He says, what He does, and who He spends time with.

For those who feel their faith has gone on autopilot: Choose one routine part of your day -- your commute, your lunch break, your morning coffee -- and use that time this week to be intentionally present with God. Not with a list of requests, but with an open posture. Ask Him to speak. Then be quiet and listen.

For the whole group: Pick one attribute of God discussed in this sermon -- His triune nature, His eternality, His omnipresence, or His love and justice -- and spend time this week reading two or three additional Scripture passages about that attribute. Come back to your next group meeting ready to share one thing that stood out to you.

Closing Prayer Suggestion

Close your group time by praying together. You may want to use the following as a guide:

Thank God that He has made Himself known through Scripture. Acknowledge that your understanding of Him is incomplete, and ask Him to deepen both your knowledge of who He is and your experience of His presence. Pray specifically for each group member to have at least one moment this week where they encounter God in a real and personal way -- not just as a concept to understand, but as a God who is present, active, and near.

Looking Ahead

Next week, continue thinking about how the character of God shapes the way you live. Consider: if God is truly eternal, omnipresent, loving, just, and holy, what does that mean for the decisions you make, the way you treat others, and the things you choose to worry about?