



Calvary
Baptist Church

For the week of:
11/03/25

Home Worship Guide

Attributes and Names of God

The Simplicity of God

God does not have parts. God is not made up of His attributes as a car is made up of parts. God's attributes are not additions to Him, but are identical with His essence. God is not the sum of His parts. He is not made up of a combination of love, holiness, justice, mercy, etc. He IS love. He IS holy. He simply IS.

WELCOME

Why should we do a family devotional?

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.” - Deuteronomy 6:4-8

As long as there have been a “people of God,” the command given to them has always been that they would be instructing their children in the way of the Lord. Scripture expects parents to be the primary disciplers of their children.

But teaching children is more than simply giving rules. It involves showing them HOW to obey the Lord by doing it yourself! These family devotionals are meant to equip you as an individual to grow in your understanding of the Lord and His Word, as well as providing parents with the resources and opportunities to demonstrate for their children what it looks like to pursue God.

How to use this devotional:

This is simply a resource for you to use however works best for your family! Each day there is a selected Scripture reading, devotional, discussion questions, a prayer prompt, and a song to sing together. You may consider splitting parts and having one family member read the Scripture while another reads the devotional and another leads the prayer. Feel free to read additional Scripture as you call to mind passages that relate to what was read. Sing more hymns and songs with your family than the one provided if you feel led to. Use this guide in whatever way helps you and your family draw nearer to the Lord together.

PAST WORSHIP GUIDES

Are you just now learning about these worship guides? Or maybe you were traveling and missed a week. Don't worry! These worship guides are written in a way so that they can be used for years to come.

All of our past worship guides are available on our website. Feel free to scroll and find the one that works for you and your family. The dates simply help you know when they were written, it doesn't mean you only have to read them the week that they were published!

Find those worship guides here:



<https://www.calvaryleavenworth.com/homeworship>

MONDAY

Read Deuteronomy 6:4; John 4:24

Discuss

Sometimes people talk about God as if He has changed between the Old Testament and the New. They say that the God of the Old Testament was a God of wrath and justice, but that in the New Testament God is a God of love and mercy. They think that God turns on and off His attributes.

But God isn't like that. God isn't made up of different parts that fit together. He is always all of His attributes.

God is not like a pie. He doesn't have a slice of love, a slice of holiness, and a slice of justice. God is fundamentally each of His attributes. They cannot be separated from one another.

When we say that God is simple, we do not mean that God is dumb (simple-minded) or that God is easy to understand. Rather, we mean that God is not a composite being. He is simple and indivisible. He is simply Himself.

His attributes are not things added onto Him that make Him somehow more God. He is the essence of His attributes and His attributes are who He is.

Get it yet? No? That's okay. God is God and He doesn't always fit into our brains.

Discussion Questions

- What are some wrong ways to describe God (like a pie with slices of attributes, or a car with parts)?
- Why do you think it is important for God to be "simple"?

Persecuted Church/Missions:

Somalia is a nation on the horn of Africa. The entire country has been torn apart by decades of brutal civil wars. Much of the country is controlled by Al-Shabab, an extreme violent Islamist group. There are likely less than 1,000 Christians in the entire country with conversion often resulting in death. Being Muslim is central to Somali identity, with a common phrase being, "To be Somali is to be Muslim." Christians fear for their lives facing some of the most intense and violent persecution of anywhere in the world. Pray that in the midst of persecution, the Gospel would shine. Pray for the safety of the believers there, most of which will die for their faith. Pray that Somalians would become receptive to the Gospel of salvation.

About the song:

This familiar hymn reminds us of the complete "otherness" of God. He is a God supreme, not depending on this world to be who He is. He is perfect and lacking in nothing.

Pray

Praise God for being bigger than our brains

Sing

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise
Walter C. Smith (1867)

IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE, GOD ONLY WISE

Verse 1:

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Verse 2:

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

Verse 3:

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all praise we would render, O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee.

Verse 4:

All laud we would render; O help us to see
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee,
And so let Thy glory, almighty, impart,
Through Christ in His story, Thy Christ to the heart.



TUESDAY

Read Exodus 34:5-7

Discuss

When we see God acting in Scripture, it is easy to see some of His attributes shining a bit more brightly than the others.

At Sodom and Gomorrah, God's wrath is shining incredibly bright! When God sends manna from heaven, we see His kindness on full display.

However, when God speaks about Himself, He doesn't say He has love or justice, or that those only show up at certain times. He says He is those things, entirely, all the time.

When God is compassionate, this doesn't mean that He turned off His wrath. When God is merciful, He is still totally just.

God doesn't switch back and forth between attributes like a car shifting gears. He is always all of them, even if some are more easily seen at certain times than others are.

In His justice, God is still totally merciful. In His love, God is still totally jealous. In His omnipresence, God is still particularly present with us.

When you pray, you are not talking to part of God, you are talking to the whole God! You are talking to the same God who spoke the stars into being, who parted the Red Sea, who judged Sodom, who loved you and sent His Son, and who has bent history to redeem you to Himself.

Discussion Questions

- Do you usually think of God as “gear shifting”?

Apologetics:

A lot of people will claim that the Christian God has changed since the Old Testament. They think that the mean and angry God of Judges somehow changed to be a nice loving God in Matthew.

The simplicity of God helps us to see that God wasn't really changing who He was. In everything He did, He was fully all of His attributes.

God was never just to the expense of His mercy, or jealous to the expense of His compassion. His love was always expressed in the same measure as His wrath so that He was always fully Himself.

About the song:

This is an old hymn that isn't sung often anymore. The lyrics bring us to remember that the God we praise is the same who has always been. Just as His power lifted mountains, His goodness filled them with food.

Pray

Thank God for being dependable and never changing

Sing

I Sing the Mighty Pow'r of God
Isaac Watts (1715)

I SING THE MIGHTY POW'R OF GOD

Verse 1

We sing the mighty power of God
that made the mountains rise,
that spread the flowing seas abroad
and built the lofty skies.

We sing the wisdom that ordained
the sun to rule the day;
the moon shines full at his command,
and all the stars obey.

Verse 2:

We sing the goodness of the Lord
that filled the earth with food;
he formed the creatures with his word
and then pronounced them good.
Lord, how your wonders are displayed,
where'er we turn our eyes,
if we survey the ground we tread
or gaze upon the skies.

Verse 3:

There's not a plant or flower below
but makes your glories known,
and clouds arise and tempests blow
by order from your throne;
while all that borrows life from you
is ever in your care,
and everywhere that we can be,
you, God, are present there.



WEDNESDAY

Read John 14:7-21

Discuss

How easy is it for you to understand the Trinity? God is three-in-one, three in person yet one in essence. God is NOT like water (solid/liquid/gas), that is an ancient heresy called modalism. God is NOT like a clover (three leaves, one clover), that is an ancient heresy called partialism. God is not like a man being a father, a husband, or a son depending on his relationship, that is modalism again.

This week we are considering the simplicity of God. While it doesn't make the Trinity fit into our brains any easier, it does help us explain the Trinity more.

God is not made up of parts. Father, Spirit, Son are not three parts of God, they are simply God.

But the Father, Spirit, and Son are not the same either. Just like love and wrath are distinct but not separate in God, likewise the Father and the Son are distinct yet undivided.

The Father is revealed through the Son. The justice of God is displayed in the mercy of God. These aspects of God are indivisible and totally united, not parts that can be added or removed from His nature.

God is simply God.

Discussion Questions

- How does God's simplicity help us understand the Trinity?
- Why do we struggle with this concept?

Original Languages Word:

אֶחָד

(*'eḥād*) — “One”

This simple Hebrew word is absolutely essential when understanding the simplicity of God. God is God and there is no other. He has no parts or divisions in Himself.

Even as God is Trinity with many attributes, there is no division or within Him.

““Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.”
Deuteronomy 6:4

“My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one.”
John 20:29-30

About the Song:

A modern song with a familiar tune, this song reminds us that in every season of life, Christ deserves all glory, praise, and honor.

Pray

Confess your sins to God knowing He will forgive.

Sing

All Glory Be to Christ
Chad Gardner (2012)

ALL GLORY BE TO CHRIST

Verse 1

Should nothing of our efforts stand,
No legacy survive,
Unless the Lord does raise the house,
In vain its builders strive.
To you who boast tomorrow's gain,
Tell me, what is your life?
A mist, it vanishes at dawn,
All glory be to Christ!

Chorus

All glory be to Christ our King,
All glory be to Christ.
His rule and reign we'll ever sing,
All glory be to Christ!

Verse 2

His will be done, His kingdom come,
On earth as is above.
Who is Himself our daily bread,
Praise Him the Lord of love.
Let living waters satisfy
The thirsty without price.
Come eat of Him, our Living Bread,
All glory be to Christ!

(Chorus)

Verse 3

When on the day, the great I Am,
The Faithful and the True,
The Lamb who was for sinner's slain,
Is making all things new.
Behold our God shall live with us,
And be our Steadfast Light,
And we shall e'er His people be,
All glory be to Christ!

(Chorus x2)



THURSDAY

Read James 1:16-17

Discuss

The simplicity of God may seem a bit dense. After three days of thinking through this attribute of God, you may be wondering why this matters at all. Why does it matter if God has parts or no parts? What difference does this make in our life and our faith?

Pause to consider if God did have parts, if His attributes could be added or removed at will. What would that mean?

It would mean that we could not trust God.

It would mean that God could change.

It would mean that God could stop being just. He could stop being merciful. He could stop loving you if He decided to drop that attribute.

God cannot have parts because He is the essence of His attributes. He cannot stop loving, because He is the very essence of love. He cannot stop being just, because He is the very essence of justice.

We can trust God because God is simple. You can run into His arms knowing He won't let go because He is the same God He has always been.

Discussion Questions

- How does a “simple” God help out faith?
- How would your faith change if God could change?

Important Theological Term:

The term orthodoxy means “right belief.” It refers to the standard and truths that are agreed upon by Christians. Orthodoxy is based in the Word of God, God's self revelation of who He is and what He requires. The doctrine of the simplicity of God is part of orthodoxy because it protects us from thinking that God is divided, changeable, or made up of parts.

Heresy is false teaching that changes essential aspects of who God is or His plan of salvation. There have been many heresies in history, but the most common kind is “trinitarian heresy.” These are mistakes and distortions regarding the nature of the Trinity.

About the Song:

God is uncreated and above all creation. Everything that exist finds it's first cause in Him. He stands above and outside of history as the King above it all.

Pray

Thank God for His promises that will never change.

Sing

God the Uncreated One
Aaron Keyes (2016)

GOD THE UNCREATED ONE

VERSE 1

God, the uncreated one
The author of salvation
Wrote the laws of space and time
And fashioned worlds to his design
The one whom angel hosts revere
Hung the stars like chandeliers
Numbered every grain of sand
Knows the heart of every man
He is king forever
He is king forever
He is king forevermore

VERSE 2

God, our fortress and our strength
The rock on which we can depend
Matchless in his majesty
His power and authority
Unshaken by the schemes of man
Never-changing, Great I Am
Kingdoms rise and kingdoms fall
He is faithful through it all
Crown him king forever
Crown him king forever
Crown him king forevermore

VERSE 3

Mighty God in mortal flesh
Forsaken by a traitor's kiss
The curse of sin and centuries
Did pierce the lowly prince of peace
Lifted high, the sinless man
Crucified, the spotless lamb
Buried by the sons of man
Rescued by the father's hand
To reign as king forever
Reign as king forever
Reign as king forevermore

VERSE 4

King eternal, God of grace
We crown you with the highest praise
Heaven shouts and saints adore
You're holy, holy, holy, Lord
What joy in everlasting life
All is love and faith is sight
Justice rolls and praises rise
At the name of Jesus Christ
King of kings forever
King of kings forever
King of kings forevermore



FRIDAY

Read Psalm 90 (read the whole thing but focus on verses 1-2)

Discuss

Before this week you may have never considered the simplicity of God. If so, you aren't alone.

Many people think that these things aren't worth studying. They see these topics and how difficult they are to understand and think "Is it really that important?"

Take a moment to consider and discuss if the simplicity of God is important. Why would it be? Is it worth studying?

The answer should be yes! This is not some simple hypothetical. When we study the simplicity of God, we study God Himself!

What better use of our time and energy than to think about and study God?!

This doctrine especially let's us be confident in God to be who He is. We know that God isn't adding or taking away His attributes and parts. We know that God's love will never be eclipsed by His wrath, because He cannot stop loving because He is the very essence of love and justice.

We can run to God knowing exactly who He is. We know we will find the same arms that have held us before, with the very essence of love and mercy and compassion and tenderness.

God is simply God. And that is a very good thing.

Discussion Questions

- How does the simplicity of God help you worship Him more?

Church History:

On November 7th, 1814, Peter Wu Guosheng was executed in China. Wu ran an inn Longping. One day a man named Xu stayed in his inn, while there he evangelized Wu. Wu became a passionate Christian and evangelist. He saw over 120 friends and family come to know the Lord, including his wife, and shared the Gospel with anyone who would listen. Eventually the Chinese government increased their persecution of Christians, seeing Christianity as a "foreign" religion. While in prison awaiting execution, Wu wrote letters to his wife telling her to long for heaven and led the other prisoners in worship. He died saying, "Heaven, heaven my true home."

About the Song:

This hymn is based on Psalm 90. The words remind us that our God is one who we can trust and rely on because He is always the same, never changing. Everlasting to everlasting, He is God.

Pray

Thank God for being trustworthy.

Sing

From Everlasting (Psalm 90)
Lisa Clow and Lacy Hudson

FROM EVERLASTING (PSALM 90)

Verse 1:

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Verse 2:

Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea.
Cherubim and seraphim, falling down before thee,
Who was and is and evermore shall be.

Verse 3:

Holy, Holy, Holy! though the darkness hide thee,
Though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,
Only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
Perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

Verse 4:

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth, and sky, and sea;
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity.



FAMILY

Thanksgiving Dinner

5:30–7:00 PM
Sunday, November 16

Register here:



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



Christmas is quickly approaching. With it the annual Operation Christmas child shoebox drive. Every shoebox we fill allows churches around the world to share the Gospel with a child.

***BOXES DUE SUNDAY,
NOVEMBER 16TH!***

"Go home to your friends and
tell them how much the Lord
has done for you, and how he
has had mercy on you."

Mark 5:19

