

Lesson 2: “The GOD I Know”

*Includes: Lesson Guides for Bible Classes, Small Groups, Families, and Individuals

Lesson Outline for Bible Classes (Upper-Elementary to Adult Classes)

I. The Secular Worldview (Discussion Question, 10 mins): WHAT is the world teaching us to believe or not believe about the existence and nature of God (or any higher power)? HOW is the world teaching us this? And WHAT DIFFERENCE does it make in our life if we listen to and believe in the world’s view of God?

II. The Biblical Worldview (Discussion Question, 10 mins): How has reason, nature, experience, scripture, and tradition helped you come to know God? What do you know to be true about the nature and character of God? What difference does it make if you believe or do not believe in the One Triune God of the Bible?

III. Your Worldview (Application Questions/Exercises, 10 mins):

Believe: Take a few moments to write down 5 reasons you believe in God and 5 character traits about God that you value most. Everyone in class can share their top reason or character trait. Fill up the board.

[For Homework...]

Act: Try to imitate 1 character traits of God from your list each week this month. For example, do something loving in week 1, something merciful in week 2, something unexpected in week 3, etc.

Teach: Make your faith in God public by sharing your list of 5 reasons and 5 character traits with a friend, family member, or acquaintance. Help a new person on their faith journey each week this month.

Share: Take 1 minute at the beginning of class next week to tell your neighbor and/or the entire class how it felt sharing your faith and what kinds of reactions you received. Please also share your experience along with 1 resource that helps you believe in God—a song, show, nature scene, book/article, scripture, spiritual practice, trip/experience—on [College Church Chat](#) or other inter-congregational space (in the hallways with a church member, with the visitor sitting beside you, with an acquaintance seated across the auditorium).

Lesson Outline for Bible Class (Children’s Classes)

Believe: Show objects from creation (Nature), Talk about the good things in life that point to God’s existence (Reason), Sing and pray to God (Experience), Read verses about God (Scripture), Show pictures of other believing children, maybe from our mission points at College Church (Tradition). Talk about the character & nature of God (good, loving, etc.).

Act: Have each child do something during class time that imitates 1 characteristic of God (serve, help, speak kindly, encourage, befriend, etc.). Talk about how it makes us, God, & others feel when good is done.

Teach: Take turns having each child recall 1 reason to believe in God or 1 characteristic about God. Then see if any child can name all the reasons given. Bonus points if they tell their parents the reasons after class.

Lesson Outline for Small Groups & Families

Believe: Write out a family/small group statement of faith where everyone provides their #1 reason for belief in God and #1 favorite character trait about God. Draw inspiration from reason, nature, experience, tradition, and scripture. (See “Additional Scriptures & Discussion Questions” below for Week 2-4.)

Act: Decide on 1 trait of God from your family/group list that you wish to imitate together during the month. Talk about what you will do, what you hope will happen, and how you will share the experience next week.

Teach: Connect with another family/group that has made a list of beliefs and traits and take turns having each member of the families share their top reasons to believe and draw comfort from the character of God.

Lesson Outline for Individual Study

Believe: Find a new reason to believe in God and identify a lesser-known character trait of God by studying scripture, reason, experience, tradition, nature, or on Google!

Act: Write *A Letter to God* that explains what you already know to be true about him *or* what you want to know about him, and what a difference it makes *or* will make in your life to know him this way. Then read it to God as a prayer and meditate all week on it to see how you grow through searching.

Teach: Share how God has personally made a difference in your life with someone you think it will uplift.

Additional Scriptures & Discussion Questions for Weeks 2-4 (Bible Class, Small Groups, Families, or Individual Study)

General Prompts

1. Which of the arguments for God's existence from reason is most convincing to you and why (e.g. the unmoved mover, pascal's wager, Lewis's trilemma, the moral argument, the ordered universe, trying to disprove God, archaeology, confirmed evidence in the Bible, etc.)?
2. What is 1 experience you have had that has affirmed God's presence in your life?
3. How could you use something in nature to teach someone about God?
4. Take turns looking at a scripture of your choosing and explain your faith in God from that scripture.
5. What spiritual tradition in your family or church helps you connect most with God?
6. Is there another source of divine revelation besides reason, experience, nature, scripture, & tradition?
7. How can life be better, worse, or the same whether you believe in a higher power (God) or not?

Specific Scriptures & Prompts

Week 2: They Are Without Excuse - Read Romans 1:18-32: What does Paul mean that "they are without excuse"? What can cause someone not to see God so clearly? How can the same evidences of reason, nature, experience, scripture, and tradition cause someone to turn away from God rather than turn to him? How can we help those whose experience of God has led them to doubt, resist, or even actively rebel against God? What specific actions can we take this week to help a specific person in our life come to see God as a source of blessing in our lives in hopes of inspiring them to see God as a possible source of blessing in their lives?

Week 3: The Trinity – Read 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Cor 13:14; Mt. 28:19; Mt. 3:16-17; Jn 14:16-17; Eph. 1:17; 2:18; 4:4-6: In what way(s) is God one? In what way(s) is God three? Why is it important for our faith and life actions to believe in a single deity? Why is it important for our faith and life actions to believe in three distinct persons (rather than, say, just 2 persons or 1 person) within a single deity? How can we live this week in the same unity as a small group/family that God lives within the Trinity? How can we live this week in the same diversity as a small group/family that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit live within the Trinity? What will we do this week as a group and as individuals to imitate the one-ness and three-ness of God?

Week 4: The Justice & Grace of God: Choose your favorite stories from the Old Testament and New Testament that display the justice of God (e.g. Noah's flood, David vs. Goliath, the Parable of the Unjust Stewards, Ananias & Sapphira) and the mercy of God (e.g. Adam & Eve, David forgiven, healing of lame man, Saul/Paul's conversion, heaven in Revelation). Read the favorite passages of justice and grace and discuss how the same God can show BOTH justice and mercy and still be considered consistent and always loving. Discuss how we as humans can show both justice and mercy today. Talk about what 1 specific thing you can do this week as individuals and as a group to better balance acts of BOTH justice and mercy in imitation of God.