

This midweek study will explore why it's important for students to recognize that there is only one true God. Use the following outline and activity to lead a midweek event for your students.

Essential Doctrine: God is One

The Bible affirms that God is one, as seen in Deuteronomy 6:4-9, otherwise known as the Shema. In both Old and New Testament times, the advocacy of monotheism (belief in one God) was contrary to the surrounding culture. Where most cultures practiced polytheism (belief in multiple gods) or henotheism (the worship of one god with the belief in multiple gods), the people of God knew, based upon God's self-revelation, that Yahweh, the Lord, is the only one true God.

 **Scripture:** *Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Psalm 19:1-6; 93:1-5; Mark 12:29; John 1:1-3, 14-18; 14:6-7; 16:13-15; 1 Corinthians 8:5-6*

 **Christ Connection:** *Just as a spotless lamb was sacrificed in order to spare God's people from His judgment in Egypt, so also Jesus Christ is the Passover Lamb who was sacrificed in order to protect us from God's wrath.*

1 There is no authority greater than God's. (Deut. 6:4-9; Ps. 19:1-6; 93:1-5)

By definition, in order for God to be God, He must have no one equal to Himself. (Otherwise, if there was someone equal to God, then by definition He couldn't be God). Consider the *Star Wars* (20th Century Fox) movies, for example. There you have this impersonal force of good and evil that is overall completely equal though opposite in sides. One side never truly conquers the other, nor can it. This is what we call *dualism*, which is logically incompatible for thinking about the most powerful being in the universe. Either God is God or He isn't, and there can only be one all-powerful being with the title of God.

2 The Bible affirms the existence of one God. (John 1:1-3; 16:13-15; 1 Cor. 8:5-6)

While there are several religions and worldviews that claim the existence of multiple gods, the Bible affirms the existence of only one, true God. Simultaneously, the Bible also affirms that God exists in three distinct yet equal persons known as the Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This is not three gods, but one, given the fact that the Trinity is both unified and diverse. While there is one God over all of creation, He God exists as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

3 Jesus affirms the existence of one God. (Mark 12:29; John 1:14-18; 14:6-7)

Jesus, being fully human and fully divine, affirmed the existence of one God, and by doing so highlighted His oneness with the Father and Spirit.

Opening Activity

Tell students you are going to begin today with a quiz. Offer small prizes, such as snack size candy bars, to the first student to answer each question correctly. Quiz questions:

- Who was the 16th president of the United States?
- Who is the current vice president?
- What is our state capital?
- What kind of car does our pastor (or student minister) drive?

As students attempt to answer, either fail to acknowledge correct answers, or simply tell the student offering the correct answer that he or she is wrong. Instead, award prizes to students who give incorrect answers.

When the game is over, or when students continue to protest (whichever comes first), thank them for defending the truth and for not letting incorrect answers slide. Point out that there was only one correct answer to each of these questions. Unless we defend our faith by sharing that there is only one true God, those who want to distort or change the truth will influence and deceive many people.

This midweek study will explore why it's important for students to recognize that there is only one true God. Use the following main points, Scriptures, teaching/discussion ideas, and questions to help students gain a better understanding of the essential doctrine for this session.

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1 There is no authority greater than God's. (Deut. 6:4-9; Ps. 19:1-6; 93:1-5)

- *Can there be more than one, true God? If not, how can we know which of these gods is the one, true God?*

Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9.

The nations around Israel worshiped many gods and goddesses, but Israel affirmed to all that there is but one true and living God, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. (Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*)

Read Psalm 19:1-6.

- *How can we be sure God exists?*
God's works declare and proclaim His praise.
- *What in nature fills you with an awe of God and His glory? Why?*

Read Psalm 93:1-5.

- *How long has God been in power?*
God has always been Supreme Ruler.
- *What are some powerful forces in nature? How do these displays of force demonstrate God's power and authority?*
The roaring waters can also represent the nations and people who rise up to oppose God. (*Holman OT Commentary*)
No human power, no natural power is greater than God's authority. By definition, in order for God to be God, He must have no one equal to Himself.

2 The Bible affirms the existence of one God. (John 1:1-3; 16:13-15; 1 Cor. 8:5-6)

- *How would you explain the Trinity to a non-Christian friend?*

Read 1 Corinthians 8:5-6.

- *How is God identified in these verses?*
The Bible teaches that God is one God in three distinct persons. The first Person is Father.
- *How does God relate to us as Father in these verses?*
We exist both because of God and for God.

Read John 1:1-3.

- *What/Who is "the Word" in this passage? (Jesus)*
The God of creation, the ultimate mind of the universe, had taken on human form. (*Holman New Testament Commentary*)
- *What are some roles of the Son found in Scripture?*
Save the world (John 3:16-17); do the Father's will (John 6:38); be a light to the world (John 12:46); seek/save the lost (Luke 19:10); be the propitiation for our sins (1 John 4:10)

Read John 16:13-15.

- *What is the role of the Holy Spirit?*
Convict (John 16:7-11); reveal truth (John 16:13); comfort (John 14:16); intercede (Romans 8:26); give gifts (1 Cor. 12:4-10); transform (2 Cor. 3:17-18)
- *How does the work of the Spirit testify to the one, true God?*

3 Jesus affirms the existence of one God. (Mark 12:29; John 1:14-18; 14:6-7)

Read Mark 12:29; John 1:14-18; 14:6-7.

- *How do we see characteristics of parents in their children? What does Jesus reveal to us about His Father?*
Jesus, being fully human and fully divine, affirmed the existence of one God, and by doing so highlighted His oneness with the Father and Spirit.

WRAP IT UP

- *How does your life affirm the existence of the one, true God?*