

# Spiritual Growth

## Repairing & Rebuilding Firm Foundations in Christ

Session One

### Who God Is

#### Opening Prayer

#### Objective

Begin to develop a close, loving relationship with God the Father by understanding who He is through His divine nature as revealed in the Word of God.

- ❖ **Realize** that most of our unhappiness is wrought out of our deep need to be loved unconditionally – the very thing that God wants to freely give.
- ❖ **Recognize** His great love for us and acknowledge His power to change our situation as we yield ourselves to Him.
- ❖ **Understand** why we lack victory in our life, and begin to search the Word for answers to our situation.

#### What is God Like?

He is the substance of all human virtues. He is all wise and all knowing. He can do anything and everything we cannot do, and He is everything good that we would like to be. So we say that He is omnipotent or omniscient or omnipresent.

On the other hand, we can describe God by contrasting Him with our human limitations. For example, we are mortal and God is immortal. We are fallible, but God is infallible.

God is a Spirit: eternal and ever living. He has no beginning or end. He is a Person who is totally self-aware – “I am”; totally moral – “I ought”; and totally self-assertive – “I will.” *He is the essence of love, and He is loving.* He is also a righteous judge – totally fair and just.

God is the father of all creation, the Creator of all. He is all-powerful and sustains the universe. He exists outside the universe, yet He is present throughout the universe, and is the ruler. He exists in nature, but He is not nature, nor is He bound by the laws of nature. He is the source of all life and everything that is.

He knew everything about us before He formed us in our mother's womb. He is never surprised or caught off guard by anything that happens in our life; all the more reason to trust Him emphatically with everything. He is always talking, and if we will put ourselves in position to hear Him we can.

God is the embodiment of everything that is good and pure. He is a holy God and there is none like Him. He has set the course of our life.

### The Divine Nature of God

#### **God is One**

Deuteronomy 6:4

*Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. (NIV)*

#### **God is Inscrutable**

Inscrutable means: Cannot be searched into or understood, unable to comprehend with the capacity of our mind or thoughts.

Isaiah 40:28-31

*<sup>28</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. <sup>29</sup>He gives power to the weak and to those who have no might He increases strength. <sup>30</sup>Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall, <sup>31</sup>but those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. (NKJ)*

#### **God is Unchangeable**

Numbers 23:19

*"God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good? (NKJ)*

#### **God is Unequaled**

Isaiah 40:18, 25

*<sup>18</sup>To whom then will you liken God? Or what likeness will you compare to Him? <sup>25</sup>"To whom then will you liken Me, or to whom shall I be equal?" says the Holy One. (NKJ)*

#### **Omnipotent (All Powerful)**

Jeremiah 32:17, 25

*<sup>17</sup>"Ah, Sovereign LORD, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you. <sup>27</sup>"I am the LORD, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for me? (NIV)*

#### **Omnipresent (Ever-Present)**

### Psalm 139:7-18

<sup>7</sup>Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? <sup>8</sup>If I ascend into heaven, You are there; if I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. <sup>9</sup>If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, <sup>10</sup>Even there Your hand shall lead me, and Your right hand shall hold me. <sup>11</sup>If I say, "Surely the darkness shall fall on me," even the night shall be light about me; <sup>12</sup>Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, but the night shines as the day; the darkness and the light are both alike to You. <sup>13</sup>For You formed my inward parts; you covered me in my mother's womb. <sup>14</sup>I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well. <sup>15</sup>My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. <sup>16</sup>Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them. <sup>17</sup>How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! <sup>18</sup>If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; when I awake, I am still with You. (NKJ)

### **Omniscient (All Knowing)**

#### I John 3:20-21

*For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. (KJV)*

### **God is Perfect**

#### Psalm 18:30-32

<sup>30</sup>As for God His way is perfect; the word of the LORD is proven; he is a shield to all who trust in Him. <sup>31</sup>For who is God, except the LORD? And who is a rock, except our God? <sup>32</sup>It is God who arms me with strength, and makes my way perfect. (NKJ)

### **The Names of God and What They Mean**

**EL:** God "mighty, strong, prominent"

**ELOHIM:** God

**EL SHADDAI:** God Almighty or "God All Sufficient."

**ADONAI:** Lord, Master

**JEHOVAH:** LORD **Yahweh** is the covenant name of God.

**JEHOVAH-JIREH:** "The Lord will Provide."

**JEHOVAH-ROPHE:** "The Lord Who Heals"

**JEHOVAH-NISSI:** "The Lord Our Banner"

**JEHOVAH-M'KADDESH** "The Lord Who Sanctifies" "To make whole, set apart for holiness."

**JEHOVAH-SHALOM:** "The Lord Our Peace" "Shalom" translated "peace" means "whole," "finished," "fulfilled," "perfected." "well," "welfare."

**JEHOVAH ELOHIM:** "LORD God"

**JEHOVAH-TSIDKENU** "The Lord Our Righteousness"

**JEHOVAH-ROHI:** "The Lord Our Shepherd"

**JEHOVAH-SHAMMAH:** "The Lord is There"

**JEHOVAH-SABAOTH:** "The Lord of Hosts"

### **God's Goodness**

#### **Is Abundant**

Exodus 34:6

*And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth. (NKJ)*

#### **Is Great**

Psalms 31:19

*Oh, how great is Your goodness, which You have laid up for those who fear You, which You have prepared for those who trust in You in the presence of the sons of men! (NKJ)*

#### **Is Enduring**

Psalms 52:1

*Why boasts thou thyself in mischief, O mighty man? The goodness of God endureth continually. (KJV)*

#### **Is Satisfying**

Psalms 65:4

*Blessed is the man You choose, and cause to approach You, that he may dwell in Your courts. We shall be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, of Your holy temple. (NKJ)*

### **Remember His Goodness**

Psalms 145:7-10

<sup>7</sup>*They shall abundantly utter the memory of thy great goodness, and shall sing of thy righteousness.*

<sup>8</sup>The LORD is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy. <sup>9</sup>The LORD is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works. <sup>10</sup>All thy works shall praise thee, O LORD; and thy saints shall bless thee. (KJV)

Be Satisfied with His Goodness

Jeremiah 31:14

*I will satiate the soul of the priests with abundance, and My people shall be satisfied with My goodness, says the LORD." (NKJ)*

**Instructor's note:** Ask Class to write a personal testimony of God's goodness in their life.

## **God's Love**

**His Love is Great**

Ephesians 2:4-5

*<sup>4</sup>But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), (NKJ)*

*His Love is Everlasting*

Jeremiah 31:3

*The LORD has appeared of old to me, saying: "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you. (NKJ)*

*His Love is Sacrificial*

Romans 5:8

*But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (NKJ)*

*God's Love is Seen in Our Love*

I John 4:7-9

*<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. (NKJ)*

*God's Love is Seen in Our Security*

II Thessalonians 3:5

*Now may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience of Christ. (NKJ)*

*God's Love is Seen in Our Obedience*

I John 2:5

*But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. (NKJ)*

**Instructor's note:** Ask Class to write a personal testimony of God's love in their life.

## God's Power

### God's power was **Manifested in Creation**

Jeremiah 51:15-16

<sup>15</sup>He has made the earth by His power; he has established the world by His wisdom, and stretched out the heaven by His understanding. <sup>16</sup>When He utters His voice-- there is a multitude of waters in the heavens: "He causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth; he makes lightning for the rain; he brings the wind out of His treasures." (NKJ)

### God's power **Keeps Watch on the Nations**

Psalms 66:7

He rules by His power forever; his eyes observe the nations; do not let the rebellious exalt themselves. Selah (NKJ)

### God's power is **Manifested in His Exaltation**

Ephesians 1:19-20

<sup>19</sup>and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, <sup>20</sup>which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, (NIV)

### God's power is **Manifested in the Believer's Resurrection**

1 Corinthians 6:14

And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power. (NKJ)

### Believers should **Talk of His Power**

Psalms 145:11-14

<sup>11</sup>They will tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your might, <sup>12</sup>so that all men may know of your mighty acts and the glorious splendor of your kingdom. <sup>13</sup>Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. The LORD is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made. <sup>14</sup>The LORD upholds all those who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down. (NIV)

**Instructor's note:** Ask Class to write a personal testimony of God's power in their life.

## His Thoughts & Ways

Isaiah 55:8-9

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. (NKJ)

When we truly begin to understand and accept that God's ways and thoughts are not like our own, we can start to trust Him. We trust Him because His ways and thoughts are higher and because we know His

plans for us are good (Jeremiah 29:11). We must settle this, God is good and He wants to do us good. Once you accept this, there's no way you will ever doubt Him.

### **Closing Prayer**

Simply... God reveal Yourself to me! I ask You to show me who You are and give me revelation of Your nature. In Jesus' name, amen.

### **This Week's assignment:**

- ❖ Look for God in the ways that we have defined Him during this session.
- ❖ Make journal entries on a daily basis of how you saw God in situations, nature, and people throughout the week. **Example**, I saw God's goodness and provision in how Suzy shared her food with me. Or, I saw God's omniscience in how He gave me an answer to something before I asked Him about it.
- ❖ Be prepared to share your thought at the beginning of next week's session.