

Lesson 2

Who and What is God?

Family Study Guides • Making God Real Series

Lesson 2: Who and What is God?

Making God Real

The Making God Real series covers the doctrines of God and the Fundamental Beliefs of United Church of God with the purpose of addressing the essential questions of life. These Family Study Guides are created to help parents review and better understand the basics of God's doctrines—then have family discussions on those topics. Use the portions of the guides that are the most helpful and meaningful to your family.

Objectives:

- Help your family identify who God is.
- Help your family identify what God looks like.
- Help your family describe God's personality.
- Help your family explain that we can know who and what God is by what He does.

1. Review what your family learned about the existence of God and where He is from the last Family Study Guide.

- a. God has always existed.
- b. God lives in the third heaven.
- c. What does it mean that God is everywhere?

2. God is spirit.

- a. John 4:24: "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."
- b. Spirit is something that humans can't see, feel or hear (unless God in some way allows it or makes it known).

Hebrews 11:27 By faith [Moses] forsook Egypt.... for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.

- c. We can't see God because He is spirit, but we can "see Him" by the things He has done.

Romans 1:20 (NIV) For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made...

3. God is love.

- a. *1 John 4:7* Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. :8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.
- b. Being created in God's image—this also speaks to what we need to be.

4. God is omnipotent. What does that mean?

Omnipotent means unlimited power; able to do anything; almighty

5. What does God look like?

- a. Jesus looked like God the Father in appearance and in character.

Colossians 1:15 [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

- b. Humans are created in God's image in looks – and are to become like him in character

Genesis 1:26 (GNT) Then God said, "And now we will make human beings; they will be like us and resemble us.

- c. Read these scriptures to see how our bodies are similar to God's image.

Exodus 33:18-23, 2 Chronicles 16:9, Job 40:9, Isaiah 59:1 (arms, hands, face, eyes)

Discussion

In what ways do we NOT share the overall appearance of God?

(Read Revelation 1:12-16)

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Read a few fun parts of Job 38-42 thinking on God's creation which shows His power.

“Job replied to the Lord: ‘I know that you can do anything, and no one can stop you’” (Job 42:1, NLT).

As a family sing #135 in the UCG Hymnal; thinking about the words in relation to what you read in Job.

Remind your children to think about this lesson each time they sing it.

6. What are some of God's Characteristics? (Here are just a few of them)

a. He is joyful and happy (especially as He includes us in His plan)

Jeremiah 32:41 (ERV) They will make me happy. I will enjoy doing good to them. And I will surely plant them in this land and make them grow. I will do this with all my heart and soul.”

- God uses the Feast to help us think about and become like Him.

- Read Deuteronomy 12:12 and Luke 15:10-32

b. God laughs and has a sense of humor (Numbers 22:28, Psalms 37:13, Psalms 59:8)

Psalms 2:4 He who sits in the heavens shall laugh...

c. He has many loving characteristics.

Psalms 86:15 But you, Lord, are a compassionate God, merciful and patient, with unending gracious love and faithfulness (ISV).

Discussion

- Talk about Bible stories such as Balaam's donkey (Numbers 22:28)

- Talk about these characteristics and how they affect God's relationship with us.

7. God is... (What is God?)

a. God is a Father (Galatians 4:6)

Luke 11:2 “When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven...”

As a Father, God loves us and is concerned about us. He wants us to succeed.

Luke 12:32 it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

- Our Heavenly Father lovingly corrects His children (Proverbs 3:12, Hebrews 12:6).

- God is merciful and forgives us when we sin (Psalm 103:8-14).

b. God is a generous provider. (Matthew 6:8).

- God provides us with everything we need and many things we want (Luke 12:22-31)

- God gives us not only things but time and of Himself

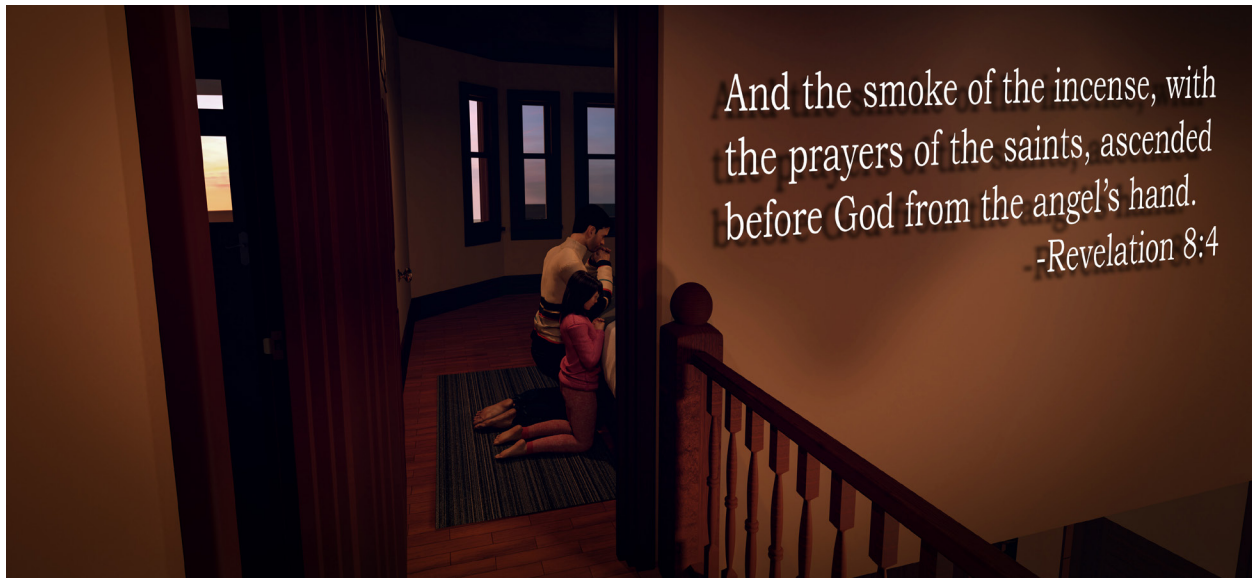
c. God is a friend.

- God called Abraham a friend of God (James 2:23)

- Jesus calls us his friends (John 15:15)

Discuss: What are the qualities of a good friend? How does God demonstrate these qualities toward us?

d. God is a teacher



God gives us rules to live by including the 10 Commandments. (*Exodus 20, Deuteronomy 5*)
e. God listens to us.

Job 22:27 You will pray to him, and He will hear you... (Psalms 66:19-20, 1 John 5:14-15).

- God listens to our prayers. Our prayers go before Him (Psalms 88:1-2).
- God wants us to talk to him through prayer (Philippians 4:6).

Discuss

Talk about ways that God's rules are good for us.

- God expects us to learn his ways—no matter how old we are (Psalms 71:17-18).
- God teaches us how to love one another (John 13:34-35, John 15:12, 1 Thessalonians 4:9).
- God teaches us from our youth (Psalm 71:17-18).

8. God is a creator and planner.

- God appreciates beauty. This is demonstrated by the variety of flowers, trees, birds, insects and other creatures He made.
- God created the world in which we live (Genesis 1:1-2:7).
- God created the Sabbath and Holy Days to reveal His plan for mankind.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

- Sing page #38 in the UCG Hymnal. Remember this lesson each time you sing the hymn.
- Think of some animals that indicate God has a sense of humor. Watch this video to see how much fun God must have had when He created animals!
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OOr8ryJUOyQ>

Additional resources for your family studies

• **Booklet:** *Fundamental Beliefs of the United Church of God—“God the Father, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit”*

<http://www.ucg.org/booklet/fundamental-beliefs/god-father-jesus-christ-and-holy-spirit>

• **Booklet:** *Who Is God?—“God the Father, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit”*

<http://www.ucg.org/booklet/who-god/personal-nature-god/>

• **Sermon:** “7 Attributes of God Identified by the Many Titles of God,” by Gary Burke

<https://www.ucg.org/sermons/7-attributes-of-god-identified-by-the-many-titles-of-god>

Listen to this sermon as a family. Stop the sermon at each “action item” presented and discuss how your family can become more God-like by applying these attributes.

• **Jelly Video:** In this video, Jelly learns that there’s nothing God can’t do: bit.ly/Jelly-GodCanDo

Questions from UCG Fundamental Beliefs

These questions are intended to check the parent understanding of the topic. There is one best answer to each question. Select that best answer.

1. The word “God” in the Bible can, depending on the context, refer to:

- a. the Father.
- b. the Holy Spirit.
- c. Christ.
- d. all of the above.
- e. “a” and “c”

2. The Hebrew word Elohim, used in Genesis 1:1,

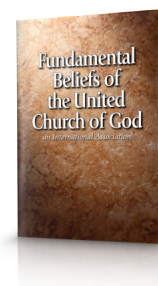
- a. is a plural noun, showing that there is more than one member of the God plane.
- b. is a singular noun.
- c. is used with a singular verb.
- d. shows that there was communication between the Father and the Word from the beginning.
- e. all but “b” are true.

3. God is “one” in what sense of the word “one”?

- a. There is only one Trinity—the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- b. There is one God family—presently consisting of the Father and the Son (Jesus Christ).
- c. There is only one divine being—the Father.
- d. There is only one Spirit—shared by the Father and the blessed virgin Mary.
- e. There is only one divine being—Melchizedek.

4. The Creator is

- a. the Father, who spoke the words “let there be light.”
- b. the Son, who spoke the words “let there be light.”
- c. the Father, acting through the agency of the Son.
- d. the Holy Spirit.
- e. “b” and “c.”



Instructor's Notes and Resources

This chart can be used partially or in its entirety. Encourage students to make connections between scriptures, pictures and characteristics of God. Children can work individually, in pairs, or in small groups to connect to assigned verses or simply choose one row to make an individual connection at the end of the summary lesson. If there are varying age ranges, older children can complete this task while younger children can simply use the picture and the sentence starter in the activity document and give verbal answers instead of written ones. Instructors are encouraged to complete one or two of these for students as a model for how to do this activity. Emphasize that there is not one right answer, but encourage children to summarize characteristics of God that they learned with their families. Children should have an opportunity to share some of their thoughts with a partner or the class.

Who and What Is God?

I can describe who and what God is by connecting my learning about God to pictures (on next pages) and Bible verses.

Bible Verse	This matches with picture ____.	My Reason for This Match
1 John 4:7-8		
Genesis 1:26		
Isaiah 46:10-11		
Romans 8:15		
Matthew 6:8		
Luke 12:32		
1 John 5:14		

#1  Creative Commons – Drew Bandy	#2  Free Images Image ID: 387816
#3  Creative Commons – Elvis Kennedy	#4  Free Images Image ID: 1436019
#5  NASA-GFSC	#6  Creative Commons – Brett Davies
#7  Creative Commons – Victoria Bjorkman	#8  Creative Commons – Brett Davies

This picture makes me think of God because _____. The Bible says God _____



This picture makes me think of God because _____. The Bible says God _____

Who and What is God: Review Document

This graphic organizer could be used to help compile the student's knowledge in an organized manner. The last two rows are for teens to research using digital devices, ucg.org, fundamental belief booklet, etc. If grouping is added and the instructor segments the document (divides the assignment among different teens), you could jigsaw the content and add interactivity. That gives teens buy-in to listen to other teen presentations at the end and take notes on their material.

Bible Verse	Characteristic of God	Why Is This Important?
1 John 4:7-8	<i>God is love.</i>	<i>Everything God does is because of His love. God loves us and wants us to love Him and other people. God is not unmerciful or uncaring.</i>
Genesis 1:26		
Isaiah 46:10-11		
Romans 8:15		
Matthew 6:8		
Luke 12:32		
1 John 5:14		
A Verse I Found:		
A Verse I Found:		