

Lesson 1

Does God Exist? Where is God?

Family Study Guides • Making God Real Series

Lesson 1: Does God Exist? Where 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 explain how we know God exists and always has.
- Help your family to describe where God is.
- Help your family understand how God is everywhere.

NOTE: While we seek to understand God from the things that He has created, all comparisons are insufficient to entirely understand how great He is.

Isaiah 46:5—Can you compare me to anyone? No one is equal to me. You cannot understand everything about me. There is nothing like me. (Easy-to-Read Version)

1. God has always existed.

He has always been.

(Isaiah 46:9-10, Revelation 1:8, Hebrews 13:8)

a. *Isaiah 57:15*—...the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy...

Acts 15:18 Known to God from eternity are all His works.

b. If God is real, why can't we see Him?

- God reveals Himself to us through scripture.
- God reveals Himself to us through His creation.
- Belief in God takes faith (*Hebrews 11:1, 6*).
- God knows for those who refuse to believe in Him that no amount of evidence will convince them to acknowledge and accept Him.

2. Where is God?

a. God is in heaven (*Ecclesiastes 5:2*).

b. God created three heavens (*2 Corinthians 12:2*).

- First heaven—where planes and birds fly.
- Second heaven—where planets, sun, moon and stars are.
- Third heaven—where God's throne is (*Psalm 11:4, Isaiah 66:1*).

- c. What is the third heaven (God's throne) like? (*Revelation 4*)
- God sits on a throne (*Matthew 5:34*).
 - Jesus Christ sits at the right hand of God (*Hebrews 12:2*).
 - God has a scepter—it is righteousness (*Psalms 45:6*).
 - Seven lamps of fire burn before the throne which are the seven spirits of God.
 - A river of water of life, crystal clear proceeds from the throne of God (*Revelation 22:1*).
- d. Who is with God in the third heaven?
- Angels are all around the throne (*Revelation 7:11*).
 - Twenty-four elders sit around the throne of God (*Revelation 11:16*).
 - There are four living creatures at the throne of God (*Revelation 7:11*).
- e. Who is able to come to the throne of God?
- We can through prayer (*Revelation 8:3-4*).
 - Angels
 - Satan (*Job 1:6*)

3. God is everywhere.

- a. God is omnipresent which means everywhere at the same time.
- b. Because God is everywhere, we cannot hide from God (*Psalms 139:7-10*).
- c. God sees all things and nothing can be hidden from Him (*Psalms 44:21, Hebrews 4:13*).
- d. *Isaiah 57:15—...the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy...*

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. At this time:

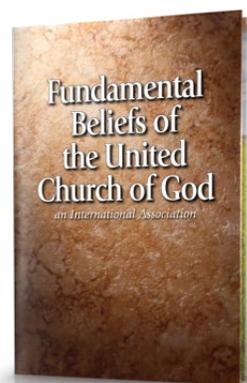
- a. God dwells only in heaven
- b. God dwells mainly on Earth
- c. God isn't anywhere specific, but is rather in everything
- d. God is all-present, but chooses to have a dwelling place in Heaven

2. Heaven is:

- a. A place where God's throne is
- b. A place where birds fly and clouds are
- c. A place where stars and planets are
- d. All of the above
- e. All of the above, and they are all in the same place

3. Which statement is true?

- a. We really cannot understand very much about God.
- b. God is exactly like us (mankind).
- c. God wants us to seek to understand Him.
- d. God is whatever we want Him to be.
- e. God is only one of many different gods.



Additional resources for your family studies

- **Booklet:** *Fundamental Beliefs*, pages 2-4

<https://www.ucg.org/bible-study-tools/booklets/fundamental-beliefs-of-the-united-church-of-god-0>

- **Booklet:** *Who is God?*

<https://www.ucg.org/bible-study-tools/booklets/who-is-god/introduction-who-is-god>

<https://www.ucg.org/bible-study-tools/booklets/who-is-god/the-grandeur-of-almighty-god>

- **Beyond Today Mini Bible Study:** *How Does God Identify Himself?*

<https://www.ucg.org/the-good-news/mini-bible-study-how-does-god-identify-himself>

- **Sermon:** *To Know God is to Love Him* by Andy Diemer

<https://www.ucg.org/sermons/to-know-god-is-to-love-him-0>

FAMILY ACTIVITY

As a fun and amazing activity for your family, we suggest that you watch the NOVA production “Earth From Space.” While the producers do not understand the truth of creation, their discovery of the complexities of “the intricate and surprising web of forces that sustains life on earth” clearly end up proving God as Creator.

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/earth/earth-from-space.html>

Instructor's Notes and Resources

Use the form below as a pretest to see what children have learned with their families. Once completed, review what the children know well (you will know this by quickly reading the pretests). Then, if needed, discuss anything that may need clarifying. Use a “Take and Pass” activity for children to collect proof of God’s existence. Cooperative group activity can be used to share or collect information from each member. Each child gets one piece of paper and a writing utensil (this can even be the back of the pretest). Have them write one way they know God is real on their paper, then pass to the right, add their response to next paper, continue until they get their paper back, then group debriefs. This is a great way for children to leave the room with even more ways to explain how they know God is real. Give the pretest test back and allow children to make 1-3 changes or additions based on what was discussed. If you have very young children in your group, you can verbally ask questions (or ask family volunteers to do so) and write what they said in. Allow them to share the most important thing they’ve learned with a partner or the group. Children can share with families to show them what they discussed.

Name _____

• How do you know God exists? (*Provide a scripture if you can.*)

• Where is God? What is it like where He is? (*Provide a scripture if you can.*)