

Lesson 1:

The Nature and Character of God

Big Idea: Your picture of God determines your picture of yourself.

Scripture Anchor: Exodus 34:6–7, Psalm 145:8–9, 1 John 4:8



How Do You Picture God?

People describe God in all kinds of ways, and these pictures shape everything about how we live. Some see Him as a strict judge, waiting for you to mess up. Others think He's distant, like an absentee landlord who doesn't really care what happens down here.

Some treat Him like a cosmic genie—rub the lamp through prayer and maybe you'll get what you want. But here's the life-changing truth: **the way you see God shapes everything about your life.**

If you see Him as angry—you'll live in fear. If you see Him as distant—you'll live without hope. But if you see Him as holy, loving, faithful, and just—you'll live with confidence, security, and unshakeable strength.



The Most Important Thing About You

"What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us." — A.W. Tozer

This isn't just theology—this is transformation. Your view of God becomes the foundation for your view of yourself, your relationships, your future, and your purpose.

This lesson could shift your whole future, because once you see God clearly, everything else comes into focus. When you understand who He really is, you'll finally understand who you really are.



Three Key Principles

Tonight we're going to explore three foundational truths about God's character that will revolutionize how you see yourself and live your life:

1 God is Holy

He is set apart and above all—pure, perfect, and trustworthy

2 God is Loving

His very nature is love—not just something He does, but who He is

3 God is Faithful and Just

He never changes—His promises are rock-solid and His character is unwavering



God is Holy: Set Apart and Above All

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of His glory." — Isaiah 6:3

God's holiness means He's in a league of His own. There is no comparison, no rival, no equal. When Isaiah saw Him, he fell on His face because God's holiness was overwhelming. But here's what's beautiful: holiness isn't about God being distant—it's about Him being completely trustworthy, pure, perfect, and strong.

Think about the sun. You can't stare directly at it without being blinded, but without it there's no life on earth. God's holiness is like that—powerfully life-giving, even though it's beyond our ability to fully comprehend.

📌 **One-liner to remember:** "If God wasn't holy, He'd just be another ruler with flaws. His holiness makes Him completely trustworthy."



Holiness Calls Us Higher

"There is no one holy like the Lord; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God." — 1 Samuel 2:2

God's holiness isn't Him saying, "Stay away because you're not good enough." It's God saying, "Draw near, and I'll make you whole." His holiness doesn't push us away—it pulls us up.

When we understand God's holiness, it changes how we live. We don't aim for purity out of fear, but out of love and respect for who He is. We want to reflect His character because we've been captivated by His beauty and perfection.

His holiness gives us something to aspire to, a standard that lifts us above mediocrity and calls us into greatness.



God is Love: His Very Nature

"Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love." — 1 John 4:8

The Bible doesn't say God *has* love—it says God *is* love. Love isn't just something He does; it's who He is at His core. Romans 5:8 shows us the depth of this love: "But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

He loved us enough to die for us while we were still a mess—not when we had our act together, not when we deserved it, but while we were still running from Him.

Think about the father in Jesus' story of the Prodigal Son. He didn't wait for his son to get cleaned up and rehearse an apology. He ran toward him, hugged him, kissed him, and restored him completely.





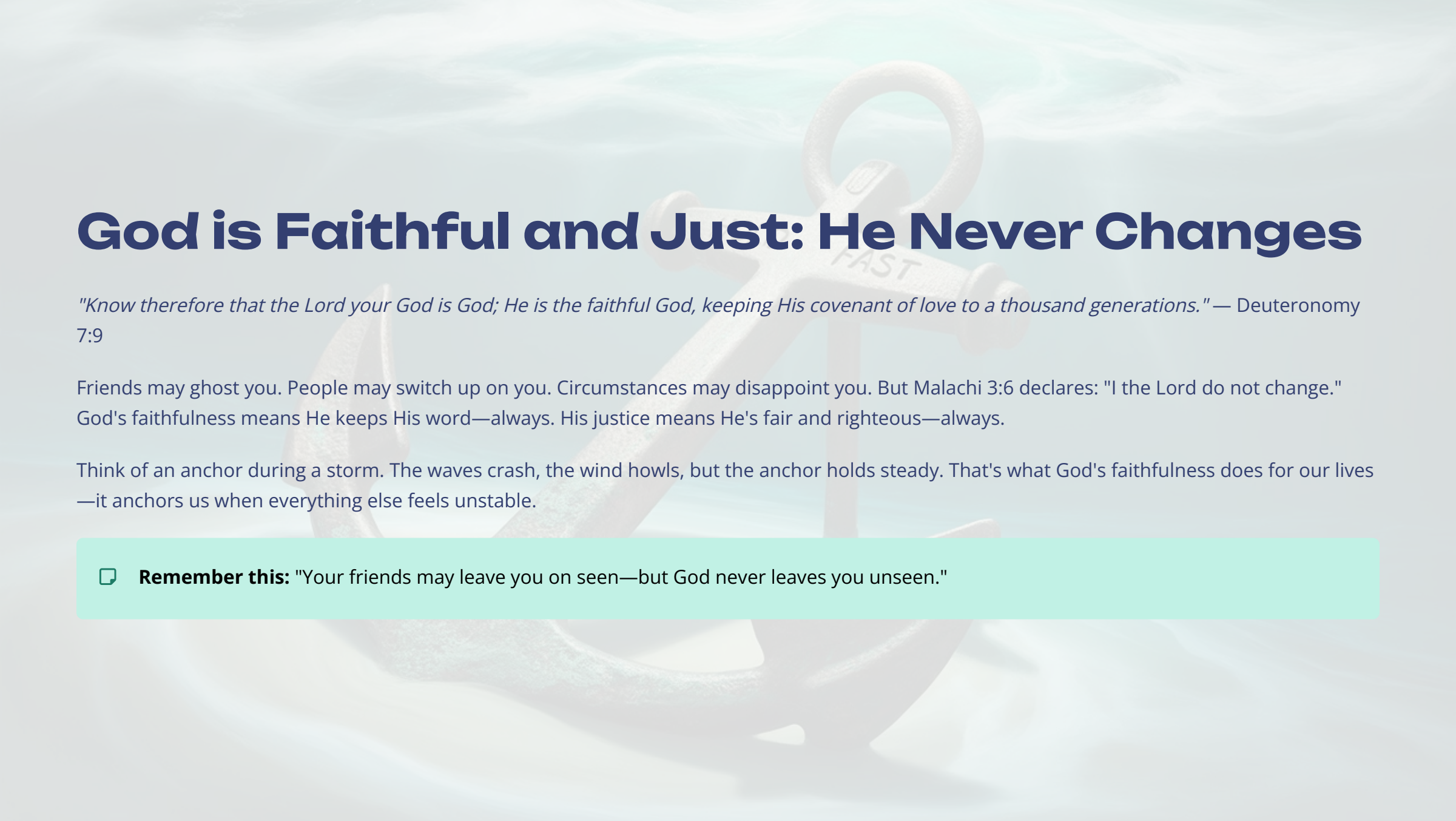
Love That Heals and Transforms

"God loves each of us as if there were only one of us." — Augustine

Imagine a parent whose child runs into a busy street. Do they stand on the porch yelling, or do they sprint after their child? That's how God's love moves toward us—urgent, protective, sacrificial.

God doesn't love you because you're good—He loves you because He *is* good. His love isn't based on your performance; it's rooted in His character.

This love heals our shame, fuels our confidence, and gives us unshakeable security. When you really grasp that you are completely loved by the Creator of the universe, it changes everything about how you see yourself and others.



God is Faithful and Just: He Never Changes

"Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; He is the faithful God, keeping His covenant of love to a thousand generations." — Deuteronomy 7:9

Friends may ghost you. People may switch up on you. Circumstances may disappoint you. But Malachi 3:6 declares: "I the Lord do not change." God's faithfulness means He keeps His word—always. His justice means He's fair and righteous—always.

Think of an anchor during a storm. The waves crash, the wind howls, but the anchor holds steady. That's what God's faithfulness does for our lives—it anchors us when everything else feels unstable.

 **Remember this:** "Your friends may leave you on seen—but God never leaves you unseen."

Replacing Lies with Truth

Maybe you've believed some lies about God that have held you back:

The Lie: Harsh Judge

Always waiting to punish you

The Truth: He is merciful and slow to anger (Psalm 103:8)

The Lie: Distant Boss

Only cares about your results

The Truth: He cares deeply about relationship with you

The Lie: Absent Father

Disengaged and unreliable

The Truth: He's the perfect Father who never abandons His children





How This Changes Everything

When you truly see God's nature—holy, loving, faithful, and just—it transforms the way you live:

1

See Him as Holy

You'll aim for purity and excellence

2

See Him as Loving

You'll walk in security and confidence

3

See Him as Faithful

You'll trust His promises completely

4

See Him as Just

You'll live with integrity and hope

The bigger your picture of God, the bolder your faith will be.

Your UNDFTD Challenge

Daily Practice: Start each morning declaring: "God, You are ____ (holy, loving, faithful, just)."

Mirror Check: When negativity hits, ask yourself: "Am I seeing myself through lies or through God's truth?"

Weekly Challenge: Each day this week, focus on one attribute of God and journal one way it changes your choices.

Group Declaration:

"God, You are holy, You are loving, You are faithful, You are just. I will see myself through Your truth, not through my fears or failures."

Discussion Question: How has your view of God shaped the way you see yourself or treat others? What needs to change?

Remember: This isn't just information—it's transformation. Your picture of God really does determine your picture of yourself. Make sure it's accurate.

