



VIDEO BIBLE STUDY  
**TEEN & ADULT**



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**TEACHER GUIDE**

# TEEN & ADULT TEACHER GUIDE

## Course Overview

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
<b>God is ...</b>	GR+8	ALL+MY+T	RUE+LEARN-N	E+MAN+YOU+L	TRUSTY-Y+WORD-D+THEE
<b>Lighthouse Lesson Focus</b>	God is GREAT! He is the one and only God, the awe-inspiring Creator.	God is ALMIGHTY! He is all knowing, all powerful, and all present.	God is RULER! He is the majestic king who is holy and perfect.	God is EMMANUEL! He is the loving and good Savior who came to earth.	God is TRUSTWORTHY! He is our rock. We should praise, thank, worship, adore, and live for him.
<b>Medallion of the Day</b>	Number 1	Letter O	Crown	Heart	Diamond
<b>Bible Passages</b>	Paul in a City of False Gods Acts 17:16–34	Jonah and God Almighty Book of Jonah Psalm 139	Isaiah’s Vision of God Isaiah 6:1–3 Psalm 8	God Comes to Earth (Gospel Presentation) Select Scriptures	David Trusts God 1 Samuel 17
<b>Treasured Verses</b>	Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable. Psalm 145:3	Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh. Is anything too hard for me? Jeremiah 32:27	And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!” Isaiah 6:3	But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8	Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Proverbs 3:5–6
<b>Apologetics Focus</b>	There’s only one God as revealed in the Bible. You can’t make up a god of your choosing.	Nothing is too hard for God.	God is the same in the Old Testament as he is in the New Testament. He was and is and always will be in charge.	God is three-in-one—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Even though there is mystery to this, God is knowable.	God is bigger and greater than our unanswered questions. We can trust him.
<b>Animal Pals</b>	Camo the Chameleon	Flip the Flapjack Octopus	Clark the Great White Shark	Jam the Immortal Jellyfish	Trusty the Macaw
<b>Deep Sea Science</b>	Rainbow Water Mystery Color	Can Crushing Diving Octopus	Diaper Duty Shark Float	Lava Lamps Sea Snakes	Salty or Fresh? Jewel Treasures
<b>Deep Sea Crafts</b>	Tropical Tree Glass Gem Magnets	Shell Necklace Splash Octopus	Wind Chime Great White Game	Mini Diorama Gospel Sand Art	God’s Attributes Rock Seek and Find Treasure
<b>Ride the Tide Games</b>	Island Ambush Island Olympics	Fish Out of Water Sharks and Minnows	Glory Corners Tropical Relays	Triple Play Take Heart	Buccaneer Barriers What’s the Treasure?
<b>Tropical Treats</b>	One and Only Bread Seascape Snacks	Pail of Whales Omni Os	Shark Teeth Moon and Star Sammies	Heart Melts Jolly Jellyfish	Hidden Treasure Treats Treasure Maps
<b>Cool Contests</b>	Swedish Fish Guessing Game	Team Cheers	Dress-Up Day	God of Wonder Challenge	Mission Money Mania



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#### Teen/Adult Guide

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# Handy Helps

## Fun in the Sun

What is it about a tropical island that is so captivating—the beach, sunny skies, sparkling water, and awesome resorts? Or how about the beauty, sunsets, island animals, and glittering stars? It certainly is a special place on earth.

On *Mystery Island*, prepare to be thrilled from the top of your sun-drenched head to the tip of your sandy toes as we explore an intriguing and mysterious tropical paradise while tracking down the one true God.

**Day 1: God is GREAT!**—As we stop in Acts 17 and find a city full of idols, we'll hunt for clues about our great God and discover we must have the right view of him. We can't make up a god of our own choosing.

**Day 2: God is ALMIGHTY!**—Our mighty God knows everything, is everywhere, and has the power to do anything. As we study Psalm 139, we focus on the three big Os of God—his omniscience, his omnipotence, and his omnipresence.

**Day 3: God is RULER!**—We'll check in with Isaiah and realize God is not like us. Our minds will be blown away by his vastness, beauty, and holiness.

**Day 4: God is EMMANUEL!**—God is high and mighty, Lord of all creation. And yet, he also came to earth (Emmanuel means “God with us”) and desires a relationship with the people he has made. He is good and he loves us.

**Day 5: God is TRUSTWORTHY!**—With the account of David, we'll learn that God is great, God is good, and God is perfect in all things, so we can trust him with our lives. He is our rock.

From the minute our islanders arrive at *Mystery Island*, they'll find fun waiting to happen. The day begins at the **Islander Assembly**, a supercharged opening complete with entertaining welcomes, rockin' songs, a mission moment, and prayer. Then we're off to four fun rotation sites:

**Lighthouse Lessons**, the teaching time. Here, islanders will track down truths about the one true God and discover he is a priceless treasure.

**Tropical Treats**, the snack spot. Islanders will enjoy island eatables at this yummy stop.

**Ride the Tide Games**, the recreation location. At this location, islanders attempt fun surf and sand challenges.

**Deep Sea Science and Crafts**, the science, craft, music, mission, and memory verse spot. This location features a wide array of activities to choose from: electrifying science experiments to explore, creative crafts to invent, high-energy songs to sing, fun memory verse games to play, or mission time to investigate (for those who want to spend more time than is given during the Assembly).

After finishing the day's rotations, everyone heads back to the **Islander Assembly** for the closing that includes more singing, a Creature Feature, contest results, and the greatly anticipated daily drama, which is a highlight of the kids' day. The drama features two siblings who are invited to an island treasure hunt as part of their inheritance from a rich uncle. In the midst of their search, much mystery, intrigue, adventure, and humor occur, and valuable lessons are learned.

So grab your beach tote, and let's head out for some fun in the sun at *Mystery Island*!

### Our Goal

We are so thankful for how God has chosen to use the Answers VBS programs over the past years! But why did we decide to embark on such an undertaking in the first place, and why are we still at it, by God's grace?

Our primary goal has always been to bring God glory by boldly and unashamedly proclaiming him to a strategic group—young people! From both a biblical and statistical point of view, young people are a big deal. They're not only awesome—we love 'em!—but they're also dearly cherished by our Lord and tend to be soft-hearted toward spiritual things. Researchers generally agree most people become Christians when they're children, so it's apparent this age group is a huge mission field!

Children are loved by their Creator. Jesus said to let them come to him (Luke 18:16). We want children to come to Christ and not be hindered in any way from doing so. To that end, we combine a biblically rich VBS with off-the-chart, irresistible fun. In a day and age when content sometimes suffers, it's critically important to us not to sacrifice rich teaching. But it's also crucial that the most exciting book in the world not come across as boring or irrelevant. We want to reflect our creative, inspiring, joy-giving God who made laughter and fun!

So why do we do it? We want kids around the world to hear about and personally meet our awesome God and to understand how they can receive eternal life through repentance and faith in Christ Jesus. We believe VBS is a great way to introduce them to God, as it is one of the biggest outreaches of the year for most churches.

We pray you will find that every prayer prayed, every minute invested, every dollar spent, and every word spoken will bring God glory as you reach kids for Christ. Just remember—VBS is worth it! May God richly bless your VBS. We're praying for you!

# Your Role

Your role as the teacher is outlined in the following pages. This is *your* guide. Read it carefully and prayerfully, using our suggestions combined with the ideas the Holy Spirit brings to your mind.

So get ready! Get set! God is about to use you and your church to impact lives.

The best fit for this job is someone who enjoys teaching teens and adults and does the following:

- Plans and prepares the daily lessons for VBS.
- Enthusiastically engages in delivery of the lessons during VBS week.
- Prays over all aspects of this job.

## Frequently Asked Questions

The content of *Mystery Island* may be new to you. For a list of helpful articles on the topics covered in this VBS program, please visit [AnswersVBS.com/mifaq](http://AnswersVBS.com/mifaq).

## Terms to Know

Throughout the VBS curriculum, various terms will be used. Here's a list of some of the most common terms to know.

**Islanders:** The kids at VBS. Islanders are put in groups named after tropical islands (e.g., Puerto Rico, Bora Bora, Fiji).

**Group Guides:** Adults who guide the islanders from place to place during VBS. No teaching is required for this position.

**Lighthouse Keepers:** Teachers at the Lighthouse Lesson time.

**Lighthouse Lessons:** Rotation site where Bible and apologetics teaching occurs.

**Islander Assembly:** Spot where everyone joins together for the opening and closing assemblies.

**Deep Sea Science and Crafts:** Rotation site where kids make crafts, perform science experiments, sing songs, learn memory verses, and explore missions around the world.

**Tropical Treats:** Indoor or outdoor site where island eatables are served.

**Ride the Tide Games:** Indoor or outdoor site (outdoor is preferred) to dive into surf and sand games.

**Treasured Verses:** Daily memory verses.

**Animal Pals:** Friendly animal mascots used to emphasize the key point of each day's lesson.

**Creature Feature:** Daily time during the opening or closing assembly when we marvel together at God's design of various thematic animals.

**Toddlers:** 2–4 year olds.

**Pre-Primaries:** 4–6 year olds, or kids who are age 4 through those who have completed kindergarten.

**Primaries:** 6–9 year olds, or kids who have completed grades 1–3.

**Juniors:** 9–12 year olds, or kids who have completed grades 4–6.

For multi-age K–6th teams, we recommend using the material for the Primaries.

## Tips for Teachers

1. Pray and study God's Word. This is your most important preparation. "We will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word" (Acts 6:4).
2. God has entrusted you with the awesome privilege of opening his Word and sharing it daily with the students. Walk worthy!
3. Read through all your lesson plans in advance. Begin to pray and plan now, and continue to pray during and after VBS.
4. In this guide:
  - » Materials for each activity are listed next to the activity.
  - » The "teacher says" portion is bolded.
5. It's helpful to get all the supplies ready in a box or bag ahead of time rather than gathering them day-by-day the week of VBS.
6. Attend the Gospel Workshop. Be prepared to share the good news of salvation!
7. Call the students by name. Name tags help with this.
8. Make sure to keep eye contact as you share the lessons, helping each student sense your warmth and caring.
9. Students will be at various levels of spiritual comprehension. Pray for the Lord to take the message and do with it as he wills: plant seeds, bring to salvation, or strengthen and grow those who are already believers.
10. Use your Bible throughout the lessons at the appropriate times. Show through your facial expressions and your actions the importance of the Scriptures.
11. Show love. All students, regardless of age or appearance, need to be loved. Greet them warmly each day, and always be ready with smiles, encouraging words, and a handshake.
12. Be all there. Try to leave behind whatever is currently going on in your life and focus your attention on the students under your care.
13. Notice the good. Students want attention and will sometimes resort to acting up in an effort to receive attention, even if it is negative attention. Be proactive by noticing and praising the things they do right. Be an encourager.
14. Students generally rise to the level expected of them, so challenge them to work on memory verses.
15. Have fun! Teaching should be a joy for you. "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

## Lighthouse Lessons

Students will be learning a lot from God's Word when they're at the Bible Lesson Time. This session is written as a 90-minute period, divided into these sections:

- **Introduce It!** (5 minutes): Each day, the students will be greeted with something interesting that captures their attention and begins the teaching of the day's lesson.
- **Teach It!** (30-35 minutes): The Bible teaching and apologetics content is presented during this time by a teacher.
- **Apply It!** (5 minutes): This is the practical application time.
- **Remember It!** (5 minutes): This is the memory verse review time.
- **Fill It!** (45 or more minutes): Choose from the following to fill your time—video and discussion (60 minutes), snack (5 minutes), game (5 minutes), experiment (5 minutes).
- **DVD:** Three discs are included with your leader guide. These DVDs can be used in your DVD player or on a computer.

## Memory Verse Songs

We have created songs for each of the memory verses. Singing Scripture is an excellent way for students to easily learn their Bible verses. We suggest using the songs (either video or audio) during the Remember It! time in each lesson. The Leader Pack (DVD, DVD-ROM, Music CD) comes with the purchase of a Super Starter Kit and can also be purchased separately (contemporary: 11-8-069; traditional: 11-8-063). This includes song motion

videos, song lyric videos, and an audio CD. You can also purchase and download the songs individually from our online store for use on a handheld device (AnswersBookstore.com). Student CDs in packs of 10 are also available if you would like each student to have a copy of the songs (11-8-070; 11-8-064). The option you choose will determine which type of media device you use to play it.

# DAY 1

# GR+8

## GOD IS GREAT!

### **BIBLE PASSAGE**

Paul in a City of False Gods  
Acts 17:16–34

### **LESSON FOCUS**

God is GREAT! He is the one and only  
God, the awe-inspiring Creator.

### **APOLOGETICS FOCUS**

There's only one God as revealed in the Bible—you  
can't make up a god of your own choosing.

### **TREASURED VERSE**

Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and  
his greatness is unsearchable. Psalm 145:3

### **Today's Lesson at a Glance**

#### **INTRODUCE IT!**

#### **TEACH IT!**

- Puzzle: Book Cipher
- God is Creator—Acts 17

#### **APPLY IT!**

- Small Group Time

#### **REMEMBER IT!**

- Memory Verse review

#### **FILL IT!**

- Video and other options

### **Preparing for the Lesson**

- Read Acts 17:16–34 several times.
- Read this lesson several times and print puzzle worksheets for your students.
- Visit [AnswersVBS.com/mifaq](http://AnswersVBS.com/mifaq) for more information on there being only one God—the God of the Bible.
- Pray.

# Devotion 1 God Is Great

*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight. Proverbs 9:10*

At *Mystery Island*, we're encouraging our kids to discover the one true God. But . . . how do we know the one true God even exists? It's a question that has crossed the mind of every believer at some point—sure, I believe in God, but how do I know the God I love and serve is truly the one true God?

Before we answer that question, let's go a bit further by asking another question: how can we know anything? How do we even know to question the surety of God's existence? Here's the answer: apart from the perfect, truthful, unchanging, eternal God of the Bible, "in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Colossians 2:3) and from whom come knowledge and understanding (Proverbs 9:10), we cannot know anything.

Think about it.

If, as some suggest, there is no god—no ultimate standard of truth and knowledge—and we are simply the product of random processes operating on chemicals over time, then the thoughts in our brains are nothing more than the product of random chemical interactions. How could we know anything?

If, as others suggest, our universe is ruled by a god who is not eternal (Mormonism, *History of the Church*, vol. 6, ch. 14, p. 305–6) or who is deceptive (Islam, *Koran* 3:54, 8:30), how could we be sure that what we know is true today will still be true tomorrow?

The one true God of the Bible has created each person in his image and given us the ability to think rationally, to question thoughtfully, to know truth fully. And he has revealed himself to everyone so that no one is without excuse (Romans 1:18–21). Those who deny his existence or seek to change him into a false version of himself are

willfully ignorant, suppressing the truth in unrighteousness (Romans 1:18).

We can know the one true God exists because we have the ability to know in the first place. And we can praise him that he freely gives wisdom to those who ask for it (James 1:5). This week, let's be quick to seek wisdom from the one true God as we teach our children to know the one true God and embrace him fully.

May we be thankful as the Puritans were, not only that we can know things, but also that the one true God has enabled us to know him.

Glorious God,  
I bless thee that I know thee.  
I once lived in the world, but was ignorant of its  
Creator,  
was partaker of thy providences, but knew not the  
Provider,  
was blind while enjoying the sunlight,  
was deaf to all things spiritual, with voices all around  
me,  
understood many things, but had no knowledge of  
thy ways,  
saw the world, but did not see Jesus only.  
O happy day, when in thy love's sovereignty  
thou didst look on me, and call me by grace.  
Grant that I may always weep to the praise of mercy  
found,  
and tell to others as long as I live,  
that thou art a sin-pardoning God,  
taking up the blasphemer and the ungodly,  
and washing them from their deepest stain.

—(Excerpt from "The Great Discovery"  
in *The Valley of Vision*)



## Introduce It (5 min)

Welcome to Mystery Island!

I hope you dressed for adventure, because we have an arduous journey before us. Today, and all week, we will be scouring for hidden treasures.

What do you think of when you hear “treasure hunt”? Allow answers.

You might think of an adventurous archaeologist chasing legendary artifacts hidden deep in caves and dungeons, protected by traps of all kinds. You might think of a trail of clues that lead through a variety of locations before ending at the mother lode. You might think of a swashbuckling pirate with a cryptic map to buried treasure. Well, this week we will be going on a treasure hunt more important than any other, searching for treasure far more valuable than gold or rare artifacts.

What are the two necessary pieces for any treasure hunt? Allow answers. No matter what, a treasure hunt requires a treasure to hunt and something to provide direction. This can be a map, clues, or GPS coordinates. But there must be some way for you to know where or how to search.

This week, we will uncover what Paul speaks of as the mystery of God. Who has a Bible? Please read Romans 16:25–27. Allow a volunteer to read. According to Paul, how will we find the answers to the mystery of God? It has been revealed to us through the prophetic writings, or the Word of God.

So make sure to bring your Bibles every day, because that is the key to all the treasures we will find this week. The Bible reveals truth about who God is and this week we will be tracking down the one true God. Each day we will focus on a specific treasure, or truth about God.

What are some ideas that people have when they think about who God is? Discuss answers. Answers may include: a best friend, the big guy upstairs, a bully, a genie in a bottle, or distant and uncaring.

There are many ways that people view God that are incorrect, and we will encounter a few of these this week. But we can't make God be who we want him to be. He is who he is. We'll be tracking down the truth about him all week, looking to Scripture as our authority. Knowing what God is really like is the most important thing about you, because it determines how you live your life. And it also determines your eternity.

## Teach It (30–35 min)

So let's get started with our first treasure. I have a puzzle for you to solve. It may be tricky, but I trust you will be able to figure it out. Remember, the Bible is the key to understanding God's truth. Have students work in small groups to solve the puzzle. Challenge students to solve the cipher themselves, but if they are having difficulty, be prepared to offer hints, such as “how many books are in the Bible?” If time is short, you may wish to provide the cipher key.

Use the provided clue to decode the cipher and complete the puzzle, uncovering today's truth about God.

46.8.6.24      C      1 Corinthians 8:6

2.20.11.20      R      Exodus 20:11

- Book Cipher, 1 per person
- Writing utensils, 1 per person
- Bible

1.1.1.10	E	Genesis 1:1
19.33.6.11	A	Psalms 33:6
44.17.24.1	T	Acts 17:24
23.40.28.17	O	Isaiah 40:28
51.1.16.21	R	Colossians 1:16

**Answer:** Creator

Cipher Key: A.B.C.D where A is the numbered order of the book in the Bible, B is the chapter, C is the verse, and D is the order of the word in the sentence based on the ESV. To solve the puzzle, you must take the first letter of each of the words indicated. For example: 1 Corinthians is the 46th book in the Bible. The 24th word in 1 Corinthians 8:6 is Christ, so our first letter is C.

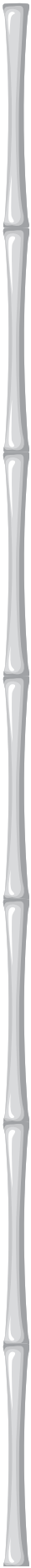
**Did any of you take the time to read the verses as you worked through the puzzle? If you did, you probably noticed that they all referred to the answer to the puzzle, showing that God is the Creator of all things. One of the verses in your activity was from Acts chapter 17, which is where we will be focusing now. Have someone read Acts 17:16–34.**

**Right off the bat, we need to answer a question. When you read verse 16, is there anything you want to ask? Allow answers. Whenever we look at a passage, it is important to understand its context. So, when we see that Paul was “waiting for them,” we should immediately wonder who is “them” and why is he waiting on them? Can anyone answer those questions?** Skimming through the previous verses should reveal that Paul was waiting on Silas and Timothy to join him. When the people of Thessalonica and Berea were agitated against Paul, the Christians quickly sent him away, but Silas and Timothy remained in Berea. Paul had sent word for them to rejoin him, and so he awaited their arrival.

**Paul was traveling through his second missionary journey. After being chased out of Thessalonica and Berea, Paul was taken to Athens, the Greek capital. As he was waiting for his friends to rejoin him, he spent some time in the city. What did he observe and how did he react to it?** He saw that the city was filled with idols and he was greatly concerned or upset that so many people were following false gods.

**You are probably familiar with certain aspects of Greek mythology. What do you know about the Greek view of the gods? Discuss answers. The Greeks believed that there were many gods, each with a different domain of influence and various degrees of power. These gods supposedly lived far away on Mount Olympus dealing with their own family drama, generally only interacting with humans when it benefitted them or for malicious pleasure. I’m sure you’ve heard myths that illustrate that point. There are two main things we need to notice here. First, the Greeks invented these gods in order to explain certain things in the world and then they worshipped the idols they created based on those gods. Second, these gods were violent, selfish, deceitful, and even downright wicked. Unlike the holy and righteous God of the Bible, the Greek gods were described as behaving in the same way as depraved humans, just with more power and therefore greater consequence.**

For example, Cronos is said to have hurt his father and swallowed his own children so they wouldn’t become too powerful and take his throne away from him. Zeus is said to be king of the Greek gods. His symbol is the lightning bolt, because he supposedly throws them down to earth in fits of anger. He is



supposed to be the most powerful of the Greek gods. Nike was worshipped as the goddess of victory. Her desire to win was so strong that she was often willing to be unfair and cheat. Apollo, Zeus' son and the god of light and truth, supposedly could bring people back to life, but he had a really bad temper. And let's not forget Poseidon, the god of the sea, who was known to sink ships or drown people on a whim. He was described as moody and unpredictable; you never knew when he was going to whip up a storm because he was upset.

As Paul walked through the city, he saw all these statues and temples devoted to some god or another. As he saw these hopeless people who worshipped ideas they had created in the vain hope that perhaps the god would be appeased and withhold unfavorable actions, his heart broke for them. He knew that there was only one true and righteous God who could offer the peace, hope, and truth that the Greek people were searching for. He knew the true God and he wanted everyone to know him.

**What did Paul do next?** *Allow answers.* He first sought out his own people, going to the synagogue, where the Jews worshipped and learned. They already knew the Scriptures and Paul reasoned with them, showing them how the Scriptures pointed to Jesus. But he didn't only speak with the Jews. He also took his message out into the marketplace daily, speaking with anyone who was there.

**What was the challenge of speaking with the Greeks?** *Discuss answers.* They didn't have the background of knowing the Scriptures. What Paul was saying didn't make sense to them.

We see from the remarks of the philosophers that they didn't quite understand what he was sharing about the resurrection of Jesus. They called him a babbler and thought that he must be preaching about a foreign deity. Epicureans were materialists who believed that the highest good was pleasure. Stoicism was a naturalistic philosophy that taught freedom from passion (both pleasure and pain) by following reason. The people of Athens prided themselves on their acquisition of knowledge and wisdom, and so these Epicurean and Stoic philosophers invited Paul to come speak about this new idea with them in the Areopagus, the location of the Athenian court.

Standing in the presence of the city's leading men, Paul shared the gospel. His approach, though, is noteworthy. He spoke to his audience, beginning with what they thought they knew. Paul pointed out that in their attempt to appease all the gods, they had even built an altar to the unknown god. And really, that was their problem—the gods they had invented could not be known. But Paul knew the one God that they didn't, and he proclaimed the truth of the Creator God to them. Paul's God created all things, is Lord of all things, transcends mankind, and yet draws near to man. It is God's desire to be found by men (v. 27), unlike the myths dwelling in Olympus. This one true Creator God commands us all to repent in order to be judged righteous through the work of one man, Jesus, who rose from the dead to provide assurance of this salvation.

God existed before time itself existed. Everything that is created was made by him. He created us; we didn't make him. Neither can we make him into what we want him to be. He is who he is, and he has revealed himself to us through his Word so that we could know him. If we seek the one true God, we'll find that he is not far from us, but he wants to have a relationship with us.

You know, many people consider God a mystery, but he can be known, and he wants to be known. Of course, we'll never know everything about God—he's too

big and too great—but we can know him enough to understand who he is and to have a personal relationship with him. This week, I hope you will not only get to know about God but get to know God. Remember—this is the most important thing about you—to know God, and to think rightly about him.

## Apply It (5–10 min)

There are several main ideas I want you to walk away from this lesson with. First, there is only one true God, the awe-inspiring Creator. Second, God has revealed himself to us in the Bible, and we must let Scripture inform our understanding—we cannot make up a god of our own choosing. Third, we must know God and what the Bible reveals about him if we are to share with others the one true God.

Use the following discussion questions in small groups or as a class to review the lesson and determine how the truths apply to our lives today.

**Our idols today rarely look like gold and stone statues. What are some idols that you have created and set up as objects of worship in your life?** Discuss answers, drawing attention to things we may justify or fail to think of as idolatry. An idol can be anything we trust in or prioritize more than God: money, friends, status, video games, screen time, etc.

**How can Paul’s approach to sharing the gospel in Athens inform how we share with others?** Discuss answers. Paul was brokenhearted for the lost, bold to share, and faithful to teach daily and in every environment (i.e., synagogue, marketplace, and Areopagus). Also, he spoke to his audience, recognizing that they did not have a foundation of knowledge of the biblical God. Unlike the Jews, the Greeks didn’t know who God was, so Paul began by explaining that he was Creator. Likewise, we must make sure people know that we are talking about the one true Creator God, not some idol they have invented.

**Do you know who God really is? How can you know?** We can know what God is really like because he has revealed himself to us through his Word. As we study the Bible more deeply, we will come to know the God of the Bible more fully.

**You may or may not know much about God, but do you know him personally as Lord and Savior?** Discuss answers. Consider giving a testimony or sharing the gospel. Although Thursday’s lesson will be devoted to a gospel presentation, we encourage you to present the gospel in every lesson. If appropriate, you may choose to follow up with a question like, “Is your relationship with God evident to those around you?”

## Biblical Christianity (DVD, 67 min)

The Bible clearly teaches us that there is one God, the creator of everything, who is great and awe-inspiring. We can know who he is, and we can know him personally. Throughout this week, we will be contrasting some false views of God with the true God of the Bible. But if we are to recognize false views of God, we must first be familiar with the true view of God. Our video today talks about biblical Christianity. Pay attention to how terms are defined and where these truths come from. The better you understand biblical Christianity, the more prepared you will be to engage in conversation with those who believe in false religions.

Play the video *Biblical Christianity* and then use the following questions to discuss the ideas presented.

1. How can we discern the difference between truth and error?

- DVD player
- Disc 1, *Biblical Christianity*

2. How have you seen the emphasis on sincerity of thought over substance of belief in our culture? In what ways have you been impacted by that cultural idea?
3. Why might it be important to distinguish between Christianity and biblical Christianity?
4. What are the critical areas of understanding in biblical Christianity?
5. Why is a correct view of God's glory important?
6. How would you explain or describe the glory of God?
7. Why is God's role as Creator so significant to biblical Christianity?
8. How would you describe the state of mankind within biblical Christianity? Why is this understanding necessary for the gospel?
9. What is the danger of minimizing the wretchedness of man?
10. How does the Bible reveal the deity of Jesus?
11. Why does biblical Christianity demand that Jesus was God?
12. Can you be a Christian and deny the resurrection of Jesus? Why or why not?
13. If Jesus had not risen from the grave, which Christian doctrines would be undermined?
14. How is the gospel of grace a culmination of all the previous critical doctrines of biblical Christianity?
15. What is the cost of salvation?
16. From where is the authority of Scripture derived?
17. Why is the authority of Scripture so important to biblical Christianity?
18. How would you explain or defend the authority of Scripture?

## Fill It!

Choose from the following activities to fill your remaining class time. Memory verse review ideas are on the last page of this guide.

## Game

Check the game guide for suggestions. Choose one appropriate to your situation.

## Snack

Instead of coffee and doughnuts, serve snacks that also teach an important point. Check the snack guide for more information on today's suggested snacks.

## Experiment

The experiments given in the science and crafts guide are geared toward children. However, if your teens or adults would like to participate, see the science and crafts guide for more information.

# DAY 2

# ALL+MY+T

## GOD IS ALMIGHTY!

### **BIBLE PASSAGE**

Almighty God  
Psalm 139

### **LESSON FOCUS**

God is ALMIGHTY! He is all knowing, all powerful, and all present.

### **APOLOGETICS FOCUS**

Nothing is too hard for God.

### **TREASURED VERSE**

Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh. Is anything too hard for me? Jeremiah 32:27

### **Today's Lesson at a Glance**

#### **INTRODUCE IT!**

#### **TEACH IT!**

- Puzzle: Riddles
- God is Almighty—Psalm 139

#### **APPLY IT!**

- Small Group Time

#### **REMEMBER IT!**

- Memory Verse review

#### **FILL IT!**

- Video and other options

### **Preparing for the Lesson**

- Read Psalm 139 several times.
- Read this lesson several times and print puzzle worksheets for your students.
- For more information on God's omniscience, omnipotence, and omnipresence, visit [AnswersVBS.com/mifaq](http://AnswersVBS.com/mifaq).
- Pray.

## Devotion 2 God Is Almighty

*Of old you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you will remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will change them like a robe, and they will pass away, but you are the same, and your years have no end. Psalm 102:25–27*

Almighty (Genesis 35:11); Beautiful (Psalm 27:4); Comforter (Isaiah 66:13); Defender (Psalm 68:5); Everywhere (omnipresent, Psalm 139:7–12); Father (Matthew 6:9); Great (Psalm 48:1); Healer (Malachi 4:2); Incomprehensible (Romans 11:33); Just (Deuteronomy 32:4); Kind (Ephesians 2:7); Love (1 John 4:8); Mighty (Psalm 50:1); Never-ending (Isaiah 9:6); Omnipotent (all-powerful, Jeremiah 32:27); Provider (Genesis 22:9–14); Quiet (1 Kings 19:11–13); Righteous (Psalm 7:17); Sovereign (Psalm 97); Trinity (Matthew 3:16–17); Unparalleled (Jeremiah 10:7); Victor (1 Chronicles 29:11); Wonderful (Isaiah 9:6); Excellent (Psalm 150:2); Yes (2 Corinthians 1:20); Zealous (Isaiah 9:7).

The Great I AM.

These are just a few of the many attributes of our one true God. In fact, someone once said that because God is infinite, his attributes are infinite. Imagine spending all of eternity discovering more and more about our amazing Creator, only to find out you still haven't uncovered everything about him and need the rest of eternity to find out even more reasons to love him!

Today, you have the great privilege of imparting a deeper understanding of the one true God to your students, focusing on his omnipotence, omnipresence, and omniscience. As with every other aspect of the one true God, Satan twists these into lies. One we're all familiar with is the lie of "Mother Nature."

Think about it.

The one true God is omnipresent—he is present everywhere in the universe all the time (Psalm 139:7–12). He is not part of his creation; but he sees it all, all the time (Deuteronomy 4:39). How easy is it to morph this into the idea that god is in all and all of creation is god? An episode of *Sesame Street* (watched by many children) featured a survival guy who discussed all the ways "Nature" gives us what we need—food, water, clothing,

shelter. Even Christians carelessly use the term "Mother Nature" in such ways as, "Boy, Mother Nature really packed a wallop with that storm!" When we do this, we point others to a false view of God and encourage them to worship and serve created things rather than the Creator (Romans 1:22–25).

Let's make sure we consistently point our children to the one true God and talk about his attributes in real, true ways that help us make sense of the world around us. The one true God is the almighty Creator of the universe—not us and not the creation itself. May we expand our vision of God's sovereignty and power over all with this prayer:

King of glory, Divine Majesty,  
every perfection adorns thy nature and sustains thy throne;

The heavens and earth are thine,  
The world is thine and its fullness.

Thy power created the universe from nothing;  
Thy wisdom has managed all its multiple concerns,  
presiding over nations, families, individuals.

Thy goodness is boundless;  
all creatures wait on thee  
are supplied by thee,  
are satisfied in thee.

How precious are the thoughts of thy mercy and grace!

How excellent thy lovingkindness that draws men to thee!

We are weary, give us rest,  
knowing that thou hast said,  
'I will never leave thee nor forsake thee.'

Blessed be thy name!

—(Excerpt from "Fourth Day Evening: God All-Sufficient" from *The Valley of Vision*)

## Introduce It (5 min)

Hi! I'm glad you're back and I hope you're ready to search for more truths about God from the ultimate decoder, the Bible.

Yesterday, we stopped in Athens to see how Paul shared about God with the Greek people. What main truth about God did Paul emphasize to the Athenians? He emphasized that God is the Creator of all things. He is the one true God, not fashioned by human hands.

What was interesting about the way that Paul approached the people with the truth about God? He knew that they did not know who the true God was, so he began at the beginning. Paul knew that it was foundational to understand that God was Creator, not created, because that means we cannot make him what we want him to be.

Not only is God Creator, but he is knowable. And today we are going to get to know him better.

## Teach It (30–35 min)

Our search today requires a bit of clever thinking. You will be given a series of riddles. The answers are commonplace, but when we connect all the answers, we will arrive at some attributes of God. Each riddle includes a Bible reference as a clue. The answer to the riddle is a word in the reference. Remember, the answers to the riddles are not necessarily spiritual ideas. They will just help us to determine which attributes we will be learning about. Have students work in small groups to solve the riddles.

Note: The clues loosely relate to the attribute that riddle is pointing to, but the intended clue is that (in the ESV) the exact word provided as the riddle answer is used in the passage. You may want to ensure your students have access to an ESV Bible. If they are using an app on a phone or tablet, make sure they are using the ESV.

Solve the following series of riddles to uncover today's truth about God.

You will seek me, you will find me when you search with all your heart.  
But even if you do not look, you'll still find me in part.  
The more you have, the more you miss,  
But those without may call it bliss.  
Use me now and think, think hard; maybe you will feel real smart.

Clue: Psalm 139:1–6

Answer: Knowledge

I'm sought by the young and treasured by the old.  
I can be earned, but I can't be sold.  
Everybody owns me to a certain degree,  
But if you want more, it won't be free.  
You can find me with an ox, a pillar, or even with a brute.  
Sometimes I surprise myself and sometimes I'm a suit.  
Who am I?

Clue: Job 9:2–12

Answer: Strength

- Riddles sheet, 1 per person
- Writing utensil, 1 per person
- Bible



It was true of there when you were there; it's true now that you're here.  
It's false of there when you are near, and when you go it will be false of here.

Clue: Isaiah 65:1

Answer: Here

What is small, but means everything  
To everyone, peasant or king?  
Without exception,  
Could be perfection.  
So tiny, and yet it's encompassing.

Clue: 1 Chronicles 29:10–13

Answer: All

Now connect the answer to riddle four with each of the previous answers to discover three attributes of God. God is omniscient (all-knowing), omnipotent (all-powerful), and omnipresent (all-present). Note that this answer requires a bit of reasoning from the riddle answers. All knowledge becomes all-knowing. All strength becomes all-powerful. All here will be the trickiest, but students should come to the idea of ever-present (a constant “here”) and thus arrive at all-present. Also, these three attributes are often taught together, so anyone familiar with the study of God will likely recognize the ideas collectively.

The attributes we are talking about today are sometimes called the three Os or the three Omnis. *Omni* is just a prefix that means *all*. So omnipotent is all-powerful, omniscient is all-knowing, and omnipresent is all-present. The Bible is full of accounts that show God knows everything, has all power, and is everywhere. Psalm 139 is one of the most clear and comprehensive explanations of these three attributes, and we will look at each one in more detail as we work through the passage. One of your riddles pointed to Psalm 139:1–6 as a clue. So let's start with that one. Have someone read Psalm 139:1–6.

Which of the attributes do we see in these first six verses? Omniscience—God is all-knowing.

What kinds of things does the psalm say God knows? Discuss answers.

We see a few different expressions of knowledge in this passage. First, David (the psalmist) declared that God knew him. This implies a personal and intimate knowledge. To say you know someone, you must understand them (i.e., their personality, background, strengths and weaknesses) on a deeper-than-surface level. David said that God had searched him and known him. God knew and understood his deepest struggles, fears, desires; God intimately knew him. That is incredible, that the almighty God would desire to know us so intimately. And yet, as Creator, it makes sense that he should know everything about his creation.

The second thing we see is that God knows about things and events (i.e., when I sit and when I rise). He sees all things. But that idea becomes even more full when we see the next line. God also knows what has not yet happened. He knows your thoughts. He knows what you will do and say before you do it. God knows everything, not just in the sense of knowledge, but he understands; he intimately knows all things. How encouraging to know that we are known, but how convicting to realize that all our weaknesses, struggles, and sins are known to him as well, even before we commit them.

Let's look at the next one. Someone read verses 7–12. Have someone read the passage. Which attribute do we see in this section? God is omnipresent—he is everywhere.

No matter where we find ourselves, God is present. There is nowhere we can go to escape him. David uses a poetic device here to illustrate how all-present God is—he is present in heaven and he is present in Sheol (i.e., the grave) and everywhere between. God is not escaped by death; he is present in the darkest night and the brightest day. God is everywhere; he is boundless. His omnipresence also transcends time. Although we cannot see something that is everywhere at once—we can only see one place at a time—it is relatively easy to understand the concept. But God is not everywhere at once; he is everywhere always. In other words, he is present at creation right now (as we understand now) and he is present with us in this room and he is present in the future. He is even present in a more abstract way; he is not only with us in this room, but he is not bounded by the material boundaries we see. If we filled this room with confetti, the confetti would not be able to pass through the walls, cabinet doors, or even our skin. It can fill the room, but it must abide by physical boundaries. God has no boundaries. He is all-present and ever-present. He cannot be escaped in the sense of physical location, time, or even spiritual existence (i.e., he is present in what might be described as the afterlife). He is at all times present everywhere.

Now that you're wrestling to grasp the depth of that truth, let's look at the third attribute. Someone read Psalm 139:13–16. Have someone read the passage. What attribute do we see here? Omnipotent—all-powerful. Students may also notice the two we've already discussed.

When we say that God is omnipotent, we mean that he is all-powerful. He holds all power, might, and authority. We alluded to this idea yesterday when we talked about God as Creator. Here, David points to creation to demonstrate the omnipotence of God. God created all things, including us. As the one who created, he has authority over his creation. David began this psalm with the incredible idea that he was known by the almighty God. Here, he connects back to that, pointing out that he was specifically fashioned, specially created, by God. God had the power to create, and that is why he is able to know, to exist in, and to rule over all things. Because he holds all the power of the Creator, God has power over nature (e.g., calmed the storm in Mark 4:35–41), over sickness (e.g., healed a leper in Matthew 8:1–4), over demons (e.g., casting out Legion in Luke 8:26–33), and even over death (e.g., raised Lazarus in John 11:38–44). He also has the power to forgive sins (e.g., Mark 2:5). And here in Psalm 139, we see God's power to create something from nothing, an act only God can accomplish.

There are some who want to acknowledge some spiritual truth or adhere to some religious tradition but try to define God differently than the Bible does. Yesterday we talked about how there is one true God, and he can be known through the Scriptures. We can't make up a God of our own choosing. But that is exactly what a lot of people try to do. When someone develops a system of belief that uses Christian ideas and terminology but tries to change who God is or denies any of the core Christian doctrines, we call those cults. There are several ways these cults try to change the message of Christianity, but most try to redefine who God is, undermine the authority of the Bible, or soften the reality of sin and the necessity for salvation.

In most cases, these cults claim some sort of exclusivity or special knowledge. For example, Mormons believe that Joseph Smith was granted special knowledge and

the leaders of the church are considered modern prophets who are able to speak on behalf of the Heavenly Father. The Book of Mormon and their other scriptures are considered authoritative, alongside the Bible (which is correct only as far as it is translated correctly). But we know that God reveals himself to us through the Bible, his complete and perfectly inspired Word. The mysteries of God can only be discerned through the Scriptures and the enlightening work of the Holy Spirit.

Consider Romans 16:25–27. Read the passage or assign a reader. Paul claimed that although the mystery of the gospel was kept secret, it has been revealed through the prophetic writings (i.e., the Old Testament). And it has not been revealed only to some, but to all nations. We don't need special revelation to know what has already been revealed in Scripture.

## Apply It (5–10 min)

God is the Creator of all things, the only true God, and he can be known through the revelation of his Word. We cannot make up our own idea of God. As Creator, he has all power and authority over his creation. His is almighty. He is omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent, and we can be encouraged that the all-knowing, all-powerful, and ever-present God knows us, and wants to be known by us. In fact, he sent his only Son, Jesus, to come to the earth and die in our place so that we might be reconciled to him. He knows you, with all your faults and sins, and he still wants to have a relationship with you. This may be a good opportunity to share the gospel with your class.

Use the following discussion questions in small groups or as a class to review the lesson and determine how the truths apply to our lives today.

**You may have heard about God's omnipotence, omniscience, and omnipresence before, but how has intentionally considering these ideas today impacted the way you understand God?** Discuss various answers.


**How has this lesson encouraged or challenged you?** Discuss various answers.

**Why do you think it is so important to know who God is and to seek to know him better?** Discuss answers. It is important to know God better because he wants us to seek to know him better, because the more we know about him the better we can seek to please him, because we can find comfort in who he is, because knowing more about him helps us to more easily identify false beliefs, and because we must know who he is if we are to share him with others.

**In what ways have those you've encountered held to an inaccurate understanding of who God is? How could you point them toward a correct understanding?** Discuss answers. We must remember that the Bible is the key to understanding who God is. We should be familiar with what the Bible teaches about God and be prepared to point others to the truth that is revealed in Scripture.

## Marks of a Cult (DVD, 60 min)

A cult is a group of people gathered around a religious leader or organization which has a message that denies any of the core historic Christian doctrines. Yesterday, our video centered around the foundations of those historic Christian doctrines. Today, as we watch *Marks of a Cult*, we will learn how to identify a cult by contrasting false teachings with the truth of Scripture.

 Gospel opportunity

- DVD player
- Disc 1, *Marks of a Cult*

Play the video *Marks of a Cult* and then use the following questions to discuss the ideas presented.

1. How would you define a cult of Christianity?
2. What are the core historic Christian doctrines?
3. What is the difference between core doctrines and secondary and tertiary doctrines?
4. What are some examples of secondary or tertiary issues?
5. Why did Jesus have to be God?
6. Why did Jesus have to be man?
7. Why did he have to be God and man at the same time?
8. Why is it significant to believe in the bodily resurrection of Jesus?
9. What is the danger of treating secondary or tertiary doctrines as core?
10. Does it matter what we believe? Why?
11. Why is it not precisely accurate to say we are saved by faith? What is the more precise way to express salvation?
12. What is truth? What makes an idea false? What is a lie?
13. What is the relationship between truth, knowledge, and belief?
14. What are common marks of a cult?
15. Why are definitions important when dealing with cults?
16. How could you respond to someone who denies the Trinity?
17. How do cults often misrepresent God? Jesus? Man?
18. What is a correct view of the image of God in man?
19. What is the true gospel?
20. How have you encountered cults or cultic beliefs? How has this video equipped you to address those false ideas?

## Fill It!

Choose from the following activities to fill your remaining class time. Memory verse review ideas are on the last page of this guide.

## Game

Check the game guide for suggestions. Choose one appropriate to your situation.

## Snack

Instead of coffee and doughnuts, serve snacks that also teach an important point. Check the snack guide for more information on today's suggested snacks.

## Experiment

The experiments given in the science and crafts guide are geared toward children. However, if your teens or adults would like to participate, see the science and crafts guide for more information.



# DAY 3

# RUE+LEARN-N

## GOD IS RULER!

### **BIBLE PASSAGE**

Isaiah's Vision of God  
Isaiah 6:1-7

### **LESSON FOCUS**

God is RULER! He is the majestic king who is holy and perfect.

### **APOLOGETICS FOCUS**

God is the same in the Old Testament as he is in the New Testament. He was and is and always will be in charge.

### **TREASURED VERSE**

And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!" Isaiah 6:3

### **Today's Lesson at a Glance**

#### **INTRODUCE IT!**

#### **TEACH IT!**

- Puzzle: Pigpen Cipher
- God is holy—Isaiah 6

#### **APPLY IT!**

- Small Group Time

#### **REMEMBER IT!**

- Memory Verse review

#### **FILL IT!**

- Video and other options

### **Preparing for the Lesson**

- Read Isaiah 6:1-3 and Psalm 8 a couple times.
- Read this lesson several times and print puzzle worksheets for your students.
- For more information on the holiness, perfection, and sovereignty of God, visit [AnswersVBS.com/mifaq](http://AnswersVBS.com/mifaq).
- Pray.

## Devotion 3 God Is Ruler

*For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods. Psalm 95:3*

Throughout the Old Testament, the revealed God of the Bible is contrasted to the gods worshipped in the ancient Near East. The point of these passages is to reveal the sovereignty of our God over all creation and to discredit the gods of other peoples as impotent and worthless and to direct mankind to the one true God.

Think about it.

What separates the God of the Bible from the gods of this world? After God delivered the Israelites from the Egyptians at the Red Sea, Moses wrote, “Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?” (Exodus 15:11).

The emphasis of accounts like these is that when we compare other so-called gods (e.g., their creative acts, motives, and eternity) to the Lord, we find they are bankrupt in majesty and power. In addition, the morality of the false gods is vastly different from the one true God, as our Bible account about Isaiah shows.

In the myths, gods are depicted as selfish, arrogant, sadistic, lustful, drunken, vain, or hateful. In other words, they mirror humanity. These gods are just powerful mortals with the same desires, character flaws, sins, and objectives as their lesser-powered creations.

For example, in the Egyptian mythologies, which Isaiah would have been familiar with, there was war between Seth and Osiris. Seth slew and dismembered his older brother Osiris and ruled Egypt in his stead. When Osiris' son Horus claimed the throne, Seth fought with him as well. Eventually a tribunal of gods decided the dispute over who should rule Egypt. After much politicking and quarreling, Horus was granted the throne and Seth was given the position of thunder god.

Unlike these wicked gods, the one true God has no sin in him (Habakkuk 1:13; James 1:17). He is perfect, holy,

and righteous. He never changes or reneges on his promises. In this context, we can think of Isaiah's description: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!” We see this refrain echoed throughout the New Testament, as well. Jesus Christ is holy and without sin (Hebrews 4:15; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Revelation 3:7).

In fact, it is precisely because of the holy nature of the biblical God that we have a basis for morality. He is the ultimate lawgiver and has given us standards by which we are to live. Apart from the good God of the Bible, we have no logical basis upon which to claim, for example, that murder is wrong, while helping others is right. Take a look again at the character and nature of the gods mentioned above—are any of them capable of dispensing a logical system of morality, where good is defined by their very nature? Their followers, acting consistently with their belief in their gods, show that their moral code left something to be desired—human sacrifice, murder, adultery, continual war, lying, scheming, and the like were all the norm, rather than sinful behavior to be punished.

What we do not see in Scripture is an ultra-powerful mortal bully. We see a transcendent God who is infinitely wiser and higher than man, yet visits us in order that we might know him (Psalm 8:3–4).

The God of the Bible is not merely one of a plethora of gods from which we may pick and choose to worship; nor is he to be put on par with other supposed deities. He is the omnipotent Creator and Redeemer of mankind. Truly we worship a great God, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, and a great King above all gods.

In the end, every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord of all, to the glory of God the Father. Today, let's point our kids to the one true God, holy and sovereign over all, and their Savior.

## Introduce It (5 min)

Welcome back!

We've been searching for treasures about God. What have we discovered so far? Discuss answers.

First, we saw that there is one true God. He created all things and, therefore, cannot be created or invented by us. He is who he is; we can't make him who we want him to be. Although our God is somewhat a mystery, he can be known. How can we know the mysteries of God? He reveals himself to us in his Word.

God is great. He is the one and only God, the awe-inspiring Creator. Yesterday we focused on which attributes of God? The three Os—omnipotence, omniscience, and omnipresence.

What do these attributes mean? God is almighty. He is boundless. He holds all power and authority. He knows all things, including our thoughts and the future. And he is present everywhere at all times; he is not bound by time or space.

Today, we will be finding another truth about God, one that is very important for our lives.

## Teach It (30–35 min)

Again, you will need your Bibles. We cannot expect to find and understand the treasures of God without using the map and the clues that he has given us. Our puzzle today is called a pigpen cipher. Use the key to decipher the puzzle and see if you can determine which truth about God we will be studying today.

Have students work in small groups to solve the puzzle. This one is a straightforward cipher. Once the symbols have been substituted with letters, each clue becomes a reference, pointing to today's attribute—God is holy.

Pigpen Cipher Answer Key:

1. Hebrews 7:26–28
2. Luke 1:46–49
3. Habakkuk 1:12
4. Ezekiel 38:23
5. Isaiah 57:15
6. Exodus 15:11
7. 1 Peter 1:16
8. Leviticus 20:26
9. Psalm 29:1–2
10. Revelation 4:8–11

Attribute: Holy.

As you've discovered in your puzzle, we will be talking about the holiness of God today. Does anyone know what holiness means? Allow answers.

According to the *Merriam-Webster Dictionary*, to be holy is to be exalted or worthy of complete devotion as one perfect in goodness and righteousness. That is a pretty good definition. But when we talk about the holiness of God, the term holds much more depth. When we say God is holy, we are referring to

- Pigpen Cipher, 1 per person
- Writing utensils, 1 per person
- Bible

every attribute and truth about God that sets him apart from his creation and makes him an object of awe and adoration. In other words, if we listed every divine attribute found in Scripture, including every role God plays, that would be the definition of what it means that God is holy. Holiness is not a specific attribute, it is the entire essence of who God is. This is why several of the passages you read for your activity included many attributes, not just holiness. What are some other attributes you noticed? Accept various answers.

To make the idea of holiness a bit simpler to understand and talk about, we can think of something that is holy as something that is set apart. God is holy—he is set apart from the rest of creation. As Christians, we are called to be holy, set apart from the lost. Items that are set apart for the service of the Lord are considered holy. And at the core of this idea is a sense of purity. It is God’s purity—he is righteous and cannot tolerate sin—that we are called to pursue, setting us apart from the rest of fallen creation.

We are going to look at an instance in Scripture where we get a picture of God’s holiness. Turn to Isaiah 6:1–7. Read the passage or assign a reader.

Who was King Uzziah? Allow answers. Uzziah was one of the good kings of Judah. He ruled for 52 years and was loved by the people. But as all human kings do, Uzziah died. It was a time of great mourning across the nation.

In the year that Uzziah died, Isaiah was given a vision of the Lord sitting on the throne. Before we even get the full picture of what Isaiah saw, we see a contrast between the human king that died and the eternal King who reigns forever. Judah’s beloved king may be gone, but God is still on the throne. God is not just a king, he is the King of kings. God is ruler. What word can we use to describe the attribute of God that means he is the ruler over all other powers and authorities? God is sovereign—he reigns over all things. He holds all power and authority.

What else did Isaiah see along with the Lord on the exalted throne? The Lord was surrounded by seraphim.

What are seraphim? A seraph is a type of angelic being. The name means “burning one.” Isaiah describes them as having six wings, with one pair covering their face, one pair covering their feet, and the last pair was used for flying.

What were these angelic creatures calling out? They were praising the Lord, proclaiming his holiness and glory.

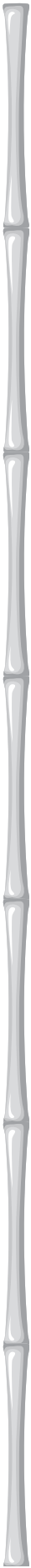
God is holy. In fact, this is the only attribute in the Bible that is repeated in sets of three. Repetition is a means for emphasis, and to repeat something three times is almost like using a superlative. God isn’t just holy or holier; he is holiest. Like we talked about earlier, God is set apart. There is none like him. He is pure and perfect, righteous in every way. He is all things good and perfect and pure.

Let’s take just a second to consider what this holiness means for us. In your activity, you read 1 Peter 1:16. What command was given? Peter quoted God’s command that we are to be holy because God is holy. If God is holy because he is God, because he is perfect and good and pure, then how are we supposed to be holy? Discuss answers.

Of course, we can never be perfectly holy like God (not in this lifetime). But God wants us to live pure lives that reflect him well. We can only do that if we are a child of God, because we need him to enable us to be holy. We can’t become holy on our own. You may want to explain the gospel here. Once God







saves us, we are immediately holy in the sense that he has set us apart to be his child. Then, for the rest of our lives, God helps us through a process called sanctification, where we seek to become more and more holy—more and more pure and righteous, like God.

Let's look back to Isaiah. In these first four verses, what other idea is repeated three times? Allow answers. God's fullness is described three times: his robe filled the temple; his glory fills the earth; his temple is filled with smoke (which is a picture of God's presence and glory throughout the Old Testament). God is ruler over all things, his glory cannot be contained, and his presence is all-encompassing. God is holy and awe-inspiring.

If this picture doesn't blow you away, you haven't carefully considered the depth of what Isaiah was seeing. To see the glory of the awe-inspiring God as it filled the throne room of heaven would have been overwhelming. And the magnitude of the vision is apparent in Isaiah's reaction. How did Isaiah respond? Isaiah was so overwhelmed by God's holiness and glory that he cried out in anguish because he was sinful, unworthy to be in the presence of this pure and perfect God who cannot allow sin to go unjudged. Isaiah expected to be destroyed because of his sinfulness.

But he wasn't destroyed. God displayed yet another of his attributes. What was it? God showed mercy to Isaiah, providing forgiveness and atonement. If you keep reading, you will also see that he gave Isaiah a purpose, a mission to share God's Word with others. God doesn't need us, but he chooses to reveal himself to us, to offer atonement for our sins, and to use us to spread his glory in the world.

You may have noticed that this passage in Isaiah is very similar to the passage in Revelation that you read in your activity. Some people try to think of God as different in the New Testament than he was in the Old Testament. But as we see here, God doesn't change; he is immutable. He is the same God in the Old Testament and in the New. He revealed his glory to John almost exactly as he did to Isaiah. God's glory is unchanged, his holiness is unchanged, his righteousness, justice, and mercy are unchanged. In John's vision, the angel's song still emphasized God's holiness, but there is an additional idea here as well. God was and is and is to come. He is eternal, uncreated and unending, and his holiness is the same through the past, present, and future. Remember when we were defining holiness, we said that God's holiness is all of his attributes wrapped up into one word. So what we see here is that God is God yesterday, today, and tomorrow. He has not changed, and he will not change. God is the same in the Old Testament as he is in the New Testament.

## Apply It (5–10 min)

As we've learned, God is great and mighty. He's all-knowing, all-powerful, and all-present. He is the one and only God, the Creator of all things. He's not just a king, but the King of kings. He's not just lord, but the Lord of lords. Nothing is too hard for him, no one can thwart his plans, and no one is like him. He truly is the holy ruler of the universe. We are just beginning to scratch the surface of who God is. But when we realize these things, we should respond as Isaiah did, hating our sin and striving to fulfill God's purpose, ready to share his truth with others.

Use the following discussion questions in small groups or as a class to review the lesson and determine how the truths apply to our lives today.

**How broken do you get over your sin? When is the last time that you cried out to God like Isaiah did, lamenting your sinfulness?** We tend to fail when it comes to taking sin seriously. We may say we're sorry and try to keep from repeating it, but we are seldom so focused on God's holiness that we realize the true weight of sin as evil and hated by God. May God help us to become so enthralled with him that we become broken over our sin, seek forgiveness through repentance, and work toward sanctification.

**In what way have we talked about God that you have not thought of before? How has your view of God changed because of what you've learned this week?**

Discuss answers. Challenge students to think intentionally about these attributes we've mentioned. Even if we already know something about God and understand what it means, we should take time to meditate on those truths so that we don't lose sight of the awesomeness of God.

**Do you see God as ruler in your own life? Do you willingly submit to him, or do you try to do things your own way?** Discuss answers. Often, we tend to see God as King of the universe but fail to act like he is King of our lives. If appropriate, help your students identify specific areas where they are not submitting to God and make a plan of accountability.

**What are some ways that we can honor and glorify God in our everyday lives?**

Discuss answers. There are general things we can all do, like reading the Bible, worshipping God individually and corporately, spending time in prayer and biblical meditation, loving our neighbors, sharing the gospel, etc. You may also like to identify specific examples that apply directly to the lives of the students.

## Secular Humanism (DVD, 67 min)

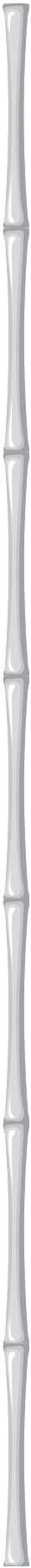
**Today we saw that God is the sovereign ruler of all the universe. Although he has all power and authority, some people fail to recognize his role as ruler and refuse to submit to him. Secular humanism is a set of beliefs that demonstrates this idea. The secular humanist wants to be king of his own life. Our video today will explore the ideas of secular humanism and how they compare with the truth God has revealed in the Bible. You probably know people who believe this way, and hopefully you will be confident to share the truth about God with them after watching this video.**

Play the video *Secular Humanism* and then use the following questions to discuss the ideas presented.

1. What is the question underlying Secular Humanism?
2. Where in history is the first instance of Secular Humanism found?
3. What is the modus operandi of Secular Humanism?
4. How is the battle of Secular Humanism found throughout Scripture?
5. What is the motivation of Secular Humanism?
6. What is the consequence when God does not rule in the hearts of men?
7. In what way do these Bible accounts inform your understanding of Secular Humanism?
8. What does history teach us about Secular Humanism?
9. Who was the supreme authority during the premodern era?
10. What is the relationship between the Protestant Reformation and modernism?

- DVD player
- Disc 2, *Secular Humanism*



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11. What caused the shift away from the modern era?
  12. What characterizes the postmodern era?
  13. What is deconstructionism?
  14. In postmodernism, what is truth? What is reason?
  15. In Secular Humanism, who decides truth?
  16. What are some implications of Secular Humanism?
  17. Who do you know who has been influenced by this kind of thinking? Have you?
  18. How has this video equipped you to approach the secular humanist?

## **Fill It!**

Choose from the following activities to fill your remaining class time. Memory verse review ideas are on the last page of this guide.

## **Game**

Check the game guide for suggestions. Choose one appropriate to your situation.

## **Snack**

Instead of coffee and doughnuts, serve snacks that also teach an important point. Check the snack guide for more information on today's suggested snacks.

## **Experiment**

The experiments given in the science and crafts guide are geared toward children. However, if your teens or adults would like to participate, see the science and crafts guide for more information.

## DAY 4

# E+MAN+YOU+L

## GOD IS EMMANUEL!

### **BIBLE PASSAGE**

God Comes to Earth  
Gospel Presentation—Select Scriptures

### **LESSON FOCUS**

God is EMMANUEL! He is the loving and good Savior who came to earth.

### **APOLOGETICS FOCUS**

God is three-in-one—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Even though there is mystery in this, God is knowable.

### **TREASURED VERSE**

But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

### **Today's Lesson at a Glance**

#### **INTRODUCE IT!**

#### **TEACH IT!**

- Puzzle: ABC Puzzle
- God is Emmanuel—Select Scriptures

#### **APPLY IT!**

- Small Group Time

#### **REMEMBER IT!**

- Memory Verse review

#### **FILL IT!**

- Video and other options

### **Preparing for the Lesson**

- Read this lesson several times and print puzzle worksheets for your students.
- Visit [AnswersVBS.com/mifaq](http://AnswersVBS.com/mifaq) for more information on the mystery of the Trinity.
- Pray.

## Devotion 4 God Is Emmanuel

*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. 2 Corinthians 13:14*

From the beginning, the enemy of our souls has known there is only one true God. Even his henchmen believe in the one true God—and shudder (James 2:19). And over the years, he has used his knowledge to distort and deny this truth and draw people away from the one true God.

One of the more insidious lies he has told—and that even some Christians believe—is that all monotheistic religions believe in the same God; he just goes by different names. The god of Islam (Allah), Mormonism, and Jehovah's Witnesses (Jehovah) is the same as the one true God of the Bible, right?

The doctrine of the Trinity helps us separate the one true God from the fakes. The one true God exists in three persons: the Father, the Son (Jesus Christ), the Holy Spirit. Each is fully God and manifests all the attributes of the one true God. For example, in the Bible, each is called the Creator (Genesis 1:1; John 1:1–3; Job 33:4); each is unchanging and eternal (Psalm 90:2; Hebrews 13:8; Hebrews 9:14); and each is called God (Philippians 2:11; Titus 2:13; Acts 5:3–4).

If a religion denies that any member of the Trinity is God, then its “god” is a fake and is based on a lie from the devil himself. It's that simple.

Islam teaches that Jesus was a man, not God nor the Son of God. Mormonism teaches that Jesus is a created being who became a god. Those in the Jehovah's Witness cult also believe that Jesus was created and thus is not infinite or eternal.

Think about it.

According to the Bible, Jesus suffered the punishment of death that human beings deserve as a result of their sin against a holy God. Because God is infinite, his punishment of sin is infinite. Can a created being—one that is not infinite—endure the infinite punishment from an eternal God and satisfy—eternally—God's wrath on our sin? Of course not. This is why the blood of bulls and goats could never take away all sin (Hebrews 9:13–15).

In order to spend eternity in the presence of the holy and righteous God, we need a perfect infinite sacrifice to take the punishment we deserve. Those religions that

deny that Jesus is God (and thus, that he is eternal) offer a limited sacrifice for sin that does nothing to satisfy the infinite wrath of God and is no better than a sheep.

The Jesus described in the Bible is infinite and is God. The infinite Son, in his death on the cross, suffered the infinite punishment that we deserve from the infinite Father and infinitely satisfied the wrath of God on sin. A “created Jesus” could never do such a thing.

As you teach that God is Emmanuel to the children today, think about the vital importance—with infinite ramifications—of embracing the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit as the triune God, the one true God of the Bible.

May we rejoice, as the Puritans did, in the way each member of the Trinity works to bring about our salvation.

THREE IN ONE, ONE IN THREE,  
GOD OF MY SALVATION,  
Heavenly Father, blessed Son, eternal Spirit,  
I adore thee as one Being, one Essence,  
one God in three distinct Persons,  
for bringing sinners to thy knowledge and to thy kingdom.  
O Father, thou hast loved me and sent Jesus to redeem me;  
O Jesus, thou hast loved me and assumed my nature,  
shed thine own blood to wash away my sins,  
wrought righteousness to cover my unworthiness;  
O Holy Spirit, thou hast loved me and entered my heart,  
implanted there eternal life,  
revealed to me the glories of Jesus.  
Three Persons and one God, I bless and praise thee,  
for love so unmerited, so unspeakable, so wondrous,  
so mighty to save the lost and raise them to glory.  
O Triune God, who commandeth the universe,  
thou hast commanded me to ask for those things  
that concern thy kingdom and my soul.  
Let me live and pray as one baptized into the threefold Name.

—(Excerpt from “The Trinity” in *The Valley of Vision*)

## Introduce It (5 min)

Welcome back!

For the last few days, we've been talking about how big God is. We've been highlighting attributes of God that are awe-inspiring. He is great, Creator, almighty, omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, eternal, holy, sovereign, and righteous. He is transcendent, beyond what we can fully comprehend.

But some people think that God is big, so holy, that he is unreachable. Or some look at a specific attribute, like his justice, and think that God only interacts with us in anger and wrath. There are many false views about God. But we know that even though God is holy and perfect and transcendent, he is also knowable. We've talked about how he reveals himself to us in his Word. But he has also revealed himself to us in another way. And that is what we'll be talking about today.

## Teach It (30–35 min)

We've got another puzzle to solve today, which will lead us to the attribute we will be studying. This challenge is called an ABC Puzzle. If you have ever done a sudoku puzzle, it is the same concept, but using letters.

Your goal is to place only one A, one B, and one C (which will leave one blank space) in each row and in each column of the 4x4 grid. The letters provided around the edges are not part of the grid itself, but they tell you which of the letters must come first or last in that row or column. For example, an A at the start of a row would mean that the first letter encountered in that row must be an A. This immediately tells you the first cell must be a blank or an A, as it could not be a B or a C without breaking the rules.

You will also see a second grid. The answer to your ABC puzzle will help you to isolate the characters you need from this second grid. These characters should point you to today's attribute of God.

Have students work in small groups to solve the puzzle. Provide pencils with erasers.

This will be the most challenging of our puzzles. Be prepared to offer help as necessary by familiarizing yourself with how the puzzle is solved. Although the puzzle is meant to be a challenge, if students are struggling, do not let them reach the point of frustration. You may wish to provide hints at certain time intervals, walk around and make suggestions, or allow students to approach you when they want a hint. As the teacher, you will be most familiar with your students and we encourage you to adapt this process as you feel is appropriate. Some suggestions are listed below.

If students are having trouble understanding the rules of the puzzle, consider working the first letter together. No matter which letter you start with, there is one you can figure out without any extra information. For example, we know that the B in column two must be in one of the bottom two cells. But in row 3, the B must be in one of the last two cells, meaning it cannot be in row 3 column 2. Therefore, the B in column 2 must be in the bottom row.

If students are struggling to get started, recommend starting with letter C. There are 2 that can be placed before finding any other letters. Then, find the A that needs no extra information. That will allow you to fill in all the Cs.

Hint: Letters do not have to be sequential (i.e., alphabetic order) within a row or column.

- ABC Puzzle, 1 per person
- Writing utensils, 1 per person
- Bible



Hint: Letters do not have to be in consecutive cells. You can have a blank space between letters.

Hint: Do not approach the puzzle in an instinctive order. You do not necessarily need to fill in all of one letter before moving to the other letters. Also, you may instinctively want to start with A, but it may be easier to start with a different letter.

Hint: Don't forget that the letters outside the grid are clues. Don't forget to use them.

Hint: You never have to guess which letter is in a cell (although some may choose to use a trial-and-error strategy).

If you feel the puzzle is too difficult, or if they hit a wall in the middle of the puzzle, try supplying the A in row 2, column 4. Note that this should make the puzzle exponentially easier, so you may not want to supply this from the beginning, unless you feel the puzzle is too challenging for your students.

If the activity is taking too long or if your students need more help than the above recommended hints, you may supply additional letters by using the Answer Key.

Solved ABC Puzzle:

			A		
	B		A	C	
C		C	B	A	
C	C	A		B	B
	A	B	C		
		B			

The blank spaces in the solved ABC puzzle align with the grid to supply a reference.

6	1	M	P
J	H	7	3
L	A	4	R
2	T	8	9

1 J 4 9 = 1 John 4:9, which points to the attribute love. God is loving.

**Although God is holy, righteous, and just, he is also loving and personal. He has revealed many things about himself through his Word. But he revealed his love to us in a much more personal way. Today's puzzle led us to 1 John 4:9. Someone read that aloud for us, and go ahead and read verses 9 and 10. Have someone read the verse.**

**How was God's love manifest (or shown)?** God showed his love for us by sending his only Son to be our propitiation so that we might live.

**There's a big word in there. What does propitiation mean?** Propitiation is the means by which our sin is atoned for and the wrath of God is totally satisfied. God's wrath was poured out on Jesus so that we would not have to experience it. Jesus died a wrath-satisfying death so that there is absolutely no hint of wrath remaining over those who are in Christ. If time allows read 1 John 4:7–21 to see the full expression of this idea.

**God revealed his love not just by sending his words, but by sending the Word, Jesus, his only Son. This was personal for him. And notice the added statement in verse 10. It is not that we loved God, but that he loved us. Many people see religion as people trying to reach God. But biblical Christianity begins with the holy and transcendent God loving us and showing that love in a personal way.**

**Let's start from the beginning and connect these truths together. What was the first truth about God we discovered?** He is Creator. Have someone read Genesis 1:1.

**God is Creator. We talked a little about the reason for beginning with that truth. As Creator, God has authority over all things. His omnipotence is firmly founded in his role as Creator. But also, the universe is defined as it is and behaves like it does because creation reflects its Creator. It is because of God's unchanging nature that we have unchanging laws of physics and logic. The attributes of God are revealed in creation because he created it. But God didn't just create the natural world around us. Someone read Genesis 1:26–31. Assign a reader.**

**God also created mankind. What do you notice about God's creation of mankind?** Discuss answers. It was special. God took special care in creating humans and he used all his other creation to provide for this new creation. Humans, unlike anything else created, was made in the image of God.

**So we see that God was a personal God from the beginning. In Genesis 2, we see that God formed man from dust and breathed life into him. He was concerned about him and so created woman. God created mankind to have a relationship with him. We see that God created them specially. Then he gave them verbal instructions and responsibilities. It is apparent that these first people walked with God in the garden of Eden and were accustomed to communicating with him (Genesis 3:8). Until everything changed.**

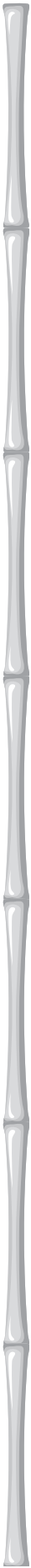
**Can anyone tell me what happened to change everything?** Allow answers. Adam and Eve rebelled against God's command, choosing to make their own rules rather than submit to God as King. They wanted to be wise like God (Genesis 3:6).

**After their act of rebellion, they tried to hide, but as we know, God is omniscient and omnipresent; no one can hide from God. God is holy, which in part means that in his purity, he cannot tolerate sin. God is just and he must punish sin. Therefore, all of creation was cursed with death and suffering because of the sin of Adam and Eve, and mankind was separated from God. From that point on, all mankind would be born with a corrupted flesh and a selfish heart that struggle against God's commands. Of course, we cannot blame our sin entirely on Adam. We have each individually sinned as well. Romans 3:10 says that there is no one who is righteous and Romans 3:23 says that all have sinned and fail to live up to God's perfect standards.**

**But God is also merciful, so he did not kill Adam and Eve immediately or destroy the entire universe. Instead, he limited their punishment to a tough yet bearable mortal life and promised to send restoration. Have someone read Genesis 3:15. Even as he was punishing their sin, he promised the Savior.**







There are many places we could stop along the way to see various attributes of God, including his love, but let's fast forward about 4,000 years. Have someone read Matthew 1:22–25. Just as he had promised in Genesis 3:15, God had sent the Messiah. But notice this incredible detail. The baby was to be named Immanuel, which means “God with us.” This Jesus was God incarnate. God took on flesh and lived among his creation, cursed as it was. Jesus lived a perfect life, living up to God's holy standard (Hebrews 4:15). God revealed his love in the person of Jesus Christ, his Son. Note that some translations will use the variant spelling Emmanuel.

Jesus didn't just come to dwell among us; he came to sacrifice himself as the only acceptable permanent atonement for our sin. Through the 4,000 years we skipped over, God had established a sacrificial system to remind the people that their sin required atonement through the shedding of blood. They would bring goats and bulls to slaughter as a reminder of the atonement required and the coming Messiah. But these temporary sacrifices could never satisfy the wrath of God. Have someone read Hebrews 10:1–4.

A more perfect sacrifice was required. Have someone read Hebrews 9:11–14 and 9:25–27. Jesus “offered himself without blemish to God.” As a perfectly righteous, sinless sacrifice, Jesus died once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous. But he didn't stay dead; he defeated death and rose from the grave. Of course, we know nothing is too difficult for God (Jeremiah 32:17).

How amazing is it that God himself stepped into his own creation in order to suffer and die, satisfying his own wrath and justice, so that those who hated him might be forgiven, come to love him, and be reconciled to him? You may be familiar with Romans 5:8. Have someone read the verse. Paul explains that this love is radical. We were sinners, enemies of God (Romans 5:10), and yet God sent his Son into the world to die on our behalf, paying our penalty and offering us eternal life with God.

But not everyone is automatically reconciled to God, becoming his child and receiving his mercy and grace. Have someone read Romans 10:9–13. Anyone can be saved, but only those who believe Jesus is God, that he died for sin and rose from the grave, and who repent of their sin, submitting to Jesus as Lord, will be adopted into the family of God. That is something you can do anytime and anywhere, even right here. Once you admit you're a sinner, want to turn away from your sin (repent), and believe Jesus died and came back to life to take the punishment for your sin, then you ask him if you can be his child. If you do this and truly mean it, you will forever receive him into your life and be his for all eternity. This is the greatest treasure of all. Invite students to come talk to you or other leaders if they are interested in learning more about trusting in Jesus as Savior and Lord.

But even this incredible demonstration of love is not the end. After Jesus died, rose from the dead, and went back to heaven, God promised he would never leave us or forsake us. In fact, God himself lives with every believer in the person of the Holy Spirit. God is the one and only God, but he is three persons in one—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. God the Holy Spirit lives with you (if you are a Christian) and acts as a comforter, a helper, and a counselor. See John 14:26, Acts 4:31, Romans 8:26, and 1 Corinthians 12:7. So God has made it possible for us to know him because he is loving, kind, and good and wants to have a relationship with us.

## Apply It (5–10 min)

There are many things about God that don't seem to make much sense to us. In many ways God is a mystery. But he is also knowable. In fact, he wants us to know him; he has revealed himself to us through creation and through his Word. We have seen his greatness, majesty, holiness, omniscience, omnipotence, and omnipresence. We know that he is the one and only God, the Creator of all things. And today we have seen that he not only wants to be known, but he wants to have a relationship with us. He is loving, and in his love, he offers mercy and forgiveness through the sacrifice of his Son.

Use the following discussion questions in small groups or as a class to review the lesson and determine how the truths apply to our lives today.

**What have we learned about God and his attributes that has been the most amazing or surprising to you?** Discuss answers.

**Do you tend to see God more as a condemning judge or a loving and merciful Savior? What are some dangers of emphasizing one role at the expense of the other?** Discuss answers. God is both Judge and Savior and we must recognize that he is just and merciful. It is an inaccurate picture of God to highlight only one aspect of who he is. There are dangers with focusing too narrowly on any given attribute. For example, an emphasis on God's justice may lead us to think God just wants to punish us all and send us to hell for our sin; there is no hope of forgiveness. If we ignore his justice in favor of love, we forget how serious sin is and how severe the punishment it deserves—how severe the punishment Jesus took for us. We must recognize both sides of the coin.

**Have you ever admitted your sin to Jesus, believed in him, and asked to be his child? Can you tell us about it?** Encourage students to share their testimonies or share your own.

**Is there a time that you have shared the gospel with others? Share with us about what happened.** Allow discussion. Consider providing an example of your own.

**If you've never shared, what is keeping you from doing so?** Discuss answers. Many people are afraid of rejection, feel unprepared to answer questions, or don't recognize opportunities. Help students to identify people they would like to share with or how to be aware of opportunities. Also reassure them that our job is to share the gospel, not to change people's hearts. We are not the ones being rejected, and we aren't required to have all the answers. We just have to be faithful to share. Also, if we truly understand the depth of God's love and mercy, we should be driven to share that with others.

## Sharing the Gospel with Muslims (DVD, 62 min)

Today, we talked about God coming to the earth in the form of a man. Jesus was God with us—Immanuel. We also talked about the Holy Spirit who dwells within the believer. All three are persons of the one Godhead. God is triune—one being with three persons. This is one of those mysterious truths about God that is revealed clearly in his Word, even though it is impossible for us to understand entirely.

Our video today is going to address the false religion of Islam. Although Islam claims to share much early history with Judaism and a similar belief in creationism, the Allah of Islam is not the God of the Bible. Muslims deny that Jesus is God, that God is triune, and that God is love. Allah is seen as distant from and wrathful toward his creation. Our video today will explore some of

- DVD player
- Disc 2, *Sharing the Gospel with Muslims*

**the false beliefs of Islam and discuss some ways to approach them with the gospel of Jesus Christ.**

Play the video *Sharing the Gospel with Muslims* and then use the following questions to discuss the ideas presented.

1. Why are there two major factions of Islam?
2. How do Muslims view God?
3. What does it mean that Islam is unitarian?
4. What is the difference between monotheism and Unitarianism?
5. What role does Jesus play in Islam?
6. How do the Muslims misunderstand the Trinity?
7. Where does Muslim revelation come from?
8. How can the Tawrat (Torah) be an opportunity to approach a Muslim with the gospel.
9. How does the Koran misrepresent the Gospels?
10. What is Sharia?
11. How does Islam portray mankind?
12. How does Islam view sin?
13. How is the Islamic view of salvation a false belief?
14. How is the Muslim view of creation similar to the Christian view? How are the two different?
15. What should you avoid when speaking with a Muslim?
16. What are some ways you can draw connections between the Bible and the Koran?
17. Which of the tips mentioned stood out to you? How might you use these to have a gospel conversation with a Muslim?
18. What are some ways you might approach a Muslim differently after watching this video?

## **Fill It!**

Choose from the following activities to fill your remaining class time. Memory verse review ideas are on the last page of this guide.

## **Game**

Check the game guide for suggestions. Choose one appropriate to your situation.

## **Snack**

Instead of coffee and doughnuts, serve snacks that also teach an important point. Check the snack guide for more information on today's suggested snacks.

## **Experiment**

The experiments given in the science and crafts guide are geared toward children. However, if your teens or adults would like to participate, see the science and crafts guide for more information.

DAY 5

# TRUSTY-Y+WORD-D+THEE

GOD IS TRUSTWORTHY!

## **BIBLE PASSAGE**

David Trusts God  
1 Samuel 17

## **LESSON FOCUS**

God is TRUSTWORTHY! He is our rock. We should praise, thank, adore, worship, and live for him.

## **APOLOGETICS FOCUS**

God is bigger and greater than all our unanswered questions. We can trust him.

## **TREASURED VERSE**

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Proverbs 3:5-6

## **Today's Lesson at a Glance**

### **INTRODUCE IT!**

### **TEACH IT!**

- Puzzle: Bible Scavenger Hunt
- God is Trustworthy—1 Samuel 17

### **APPLY IT!**

- Small Group Time

### **REMEMBER IT!**

- Memory Verse review

### **FILL IT!**

- Video and other options

## **Preparing for the Lesson**

- Read 1 Samuel 17 and some psalms of David a couple times.
- Read this lesson several times and print puzzle worksheets for your students.
- For more information on how we know we can trust God, visit [AnswersVBS.com/mifaq](http://AnswersVBS.com/mifaq).
- Pray.

## Devotion 5 God Is Trustworthy

*And those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek you. Psalm 9:10*

Today, as we examine the account of David and Goliath, consider that David was likely in his late teens when he went against the giant. Not too much older than some of the kids in your classes. Perhaps the age of the teen volunteers on your crew. Yet, even by that age, David had learned so much about the one true God that his trust in his God was firm. He knew that God was living and active (1 Samuel 17:26), he was the ruler over all (v. 45), and he was mighty to save (vv. 46–47). He had experienced God’s massive power throughout his life (v. 37), and he was confident enough to confront those who didn’t believe (vv. 26–30).

Throughout the rest of his life, David would write of his trust in God based on what he knew to be true about his Creator. Consider all the attributes of God that David included in just one psalm (25): God is deliverer, truth, salvation, merciful, loving, good, eternal, upright, faithful, a friend, gracious, forgiving, the Redeemer. He proclaims, “O my God, in you I trust” (Psalm 25:2). Take a glance through David’s psalms, and notice how often he rehearses God’s attributes to himself and how often he reminds himself to trust in God, no matter his circumstances. In times of trouble or times of ease, David trusted God. Because he knew the Word of God, he knew who God is and trusted him because of it.

Think about it.

How well do you know the one true God? Do you know enough about him and his attributes to trust him completely with your life? Do you rehearse God’s attributes to yourself (and your family and the children in your care)?

Consider what we’ve studied about God this week: he is great, almighty, ruler, Emmanuel, and trustworthy. How does embracing and clinging to these attributes

change your perspective on your job, your relationships, your bank account, your home, your family, your life? What fears keep you from trusting God more fully? Is there one attribute that you need to meditate on to help you overcome those fears? Are there other attributes you need to remind yourself of or uncover through Bible study?

Today, let’s make sure our hearts are firmly trusting in the one true God as we encourage the children toward trusting God. May we pray with the Puritans:

Thou art all my good in times of peace,  
my only support in days of trouble,  
my one sufficiency when life shall end.  
Help me to see how good thy will is in all,  
and even when it crosses mine  
teach me to be pleased with it.  
Grant me to feel thee in fire, and food and every  
providence,  
and to see that thy many gifts and creatures  
are but thy hands and fingers taking hold of me.  
Thou bottomless fountain of all good,  
I give myself to thee out of love,  
for all I have or own is thine,  
my goods, family, church, self,  
to do with as thou wilt,  
to honour thyself by me, and by all mine.  
If it be consistent with thy eternal counsels,  
the purpose of thy grace,  
and the great ends of thy glory,  
then bestow upon me the blessings of thy comforts;  
If not, let me resign myself to thy wiser  
determinations.  
(Excerpt from “The All-Good” from *The Valley of Vision*)

## Introduce It (5 min)

So, you've survived our formidable challenges and made it to the last day here at Mystery Island.

**What has been the most exciting part of the week?** Discuss answers.

**What have you discovered about God this week, or thought about in a new way?** Discuss answers.

**In our first lesson, we looked at Paul's address to the Athenians. What did he teach them about God?** He pointed out that although they didn't know him, God was knowable. He taught them that there was one true God who created all things. He cannot be fashioned by human hands or made to be what we want him to be. He is who he is, unchanging and revealed in Scripture. He went on to share the gospel, teaching that Jesus was crucified and resurrected.

**Next, we looked at one of David's psalms. In Psalm 139, we saw which three attributes of God?** We saw God's omniscience, omnipotence, and omnipresence. He is almighty.

**In our third lesson, we explored Isaiah's vision of the heavenly throne room. What did we learn about God?** We learned that God is the ruler of all things. He is holy, righteous, and perfect. We also saw that the God of the New Testament is the same as the God of the Old Testament. God does not change.

**Yesterday, we talked about God as Immanuel—God with us. Although we walked through a variety of attributes, which one did we focus on yesterday?** We focused on the love of God.

**God demonstrated his love for us by sending his only Son, Jesus—God himself—to die for our sins. It is because of Jesus' sacrifice that we can be forgiven and reconciled to God. He wants to have a relationship with us.**

Today we will be looking at an attribute from which we can draw great application.

## Teach It (30–35 min)

**In order to discover our attribute for today's lesson, I've got one final puzzle for you. This one is a kind of Bible scavenger hunt. Match the references given with the attributes of God they correspond with. Then unscramble the associated letters to determine the attribute we will be studying today.**

Note: Each reference only correlates with one attribute, and thereby one letter. There will be attributes in the bank that are not used.

Optional: To make the challenge more active or more challenging, do not provide the bank of attributes. Instead, write each attribute and its corresponding letter on a sticky note or index card and hide the options around the room. Then have students seek out the attribute referred to in each reference.

Have students work in small groups to solve the puzzle.

Jeremiah 23:24 — Omnipresent — M

Proverbs 3:19 — Wise — A

James 1:17 — Immutable — N

John 1:47–48 — Omniscient — N

- Bible Scavenger Hunt, 1 per person
- Writing utensils, 1 per person
- Bible

2 Corinthians 5:10 — Just — T

Daniel 4:35 — Sovereign — M

Isaiah 11:5 — Faithful — I

Psalm 90:2 — Eternal — E

God is immanent.

That is probably a word you are not familiar with. According to the *Merriam-Webster Dictionary*, *immanent* means that something is within the limits of possible experience and knowledge. When we talk about the immanence of God, we mean that he is not only present in creation, he is also close to and involved with his creation. This word is often confused with two similar words. *Imminent* means it will happen soon. *Eminent* means it is superior or excellent. We use all three of these in theological terms: Christ's eminence is displayed in his immanence, and we await his imminent return.

Now, we have to be careful to understand this idea correctly, in reference with all the other things we've talked about. What attribute did we start with? He is the one and only God, the awe-inspiring Creator.

We also talked about God's holiness. What did we say it meant that God was holy? He is perfectly righteous and pure, set apart from creation.

When we think about these attributes, we think of God as transcendent. He is distinctly separate from creation and above or beyond all that we can know, understand, or experience. Like Paul (Romans 11:33), we can exclaim, "Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgements and how inscrutable his ways!"

But we must be careful not to make the mistake of deism. Deists believe in a transcendent Creator God who is distinct from creation and remains entirely separate from creation. In other words, he created everything, including the laws that govern the universe, and then he sits back and refrains from interacting or interfering in creation. Based on what we've learned so far, why is this a heretical and dangerous understanding of God? Discuss answers. God is Creator, and he is transcendent, but if he does not interact with creation, then Jesus could not have come to die for our sins. Also, this belief rejects the authority of Scripture, which teaches that God interacts with his creation. Read Acts 2:22—God did many mighty works, wonders, and signs in the midst of the men of Israel.

As we talked about yesterday, although God is holy, righteous, just, almighty, and ruler of all things, he is also loving and compassionate, faithful and merciful. God not only interacts with creation, he fills creation. Remember what Isaiah's vision said of God—"the whole earth is full of his glory." And David, in Psalm 139, said that God's Spirit was entirely pervasive, everywhere and in everything. And yesterday we saw how God wants a relationship with each of us, and how he entered creation, suffered, died, and rose again so that we might be reconciled to him. God is transcendent, but he is also immanent.

Let's take a closer look at what that means. Turn to Hebrews chapter 2. Have someone read the chapter.

**What actions do you notice that illustrate God's involvement with creation?**

Allow answers. God declared the message to his people; he performed miracles; he distributed gifts of the Spirit to his children; he is mindful of man; he stepped into flesh; he suffered death for everyone; he sanctifies people; he calls men brothers; he partook

of flesh and blood; he delivers those subject to slavery; he helps the offspring of Abraham; he became like his brothers; he experienced temptation in order to help those who are tempted.

**God is intimately active in creation. He has spoken directly to men, giving them visions of himself and of the future, providing commandments, and calling them to repent. He has supernaturally intervened in the natural order—raising the dead, commanding a fish to eat a man, withholding rain, controlling storms, causing fire that does not consume, causing flour and oil to not be exhausted, etc. We have studied his sovereignty and his omnipotence—nothing is too difficult for him (Jeremiah 32:17). Take a look at Colossians 1:15–17. Read the verses. God created all things; through Christ all things were created, and “in him all things hold together.”**

We often think of God’s omnipresence as existing everywhere physically. But God is not only everywhere, but also in and through all things. He is not bounded by things like walls and objects, or even by time and space. Even his immanence is transcendent, in a sense. This is one of the great mysteries of God.

Here is another opportunity for caution. We must not fail to understand that God is a person, distinct from creation. Pantheism focuses on the idea that God and creation are one, or that God is the soul of the world, the essence of animation. This belief teaches that God is in all things and that he is near, but it fails to recognize that God is distinct and separate from his creation. In fact, pantheists do not think of a being who is God, they think of a mystic or metaphysical force that permeates all things. God is everything and everything is god. But we know that he is a personal God, Creator of the world, and Savior of mankind. To understand his immanence apart from his transcendence is to misrepresent the great and almighty Creator God, ruler of the universe, and loving Immanuel.

The one true God revealed to us through his written Word and his incarnate Son is both transcendent and immanent. He is beyond all we can understand, all-powerful and sovereign over all things. But he is also loving and personal. He cares about his creation, even to the point of taking on flesh to suffer and die for our sins so we could be reconciled to him. So why have we spent so much time trying to understand attributes of God this week? Discuss answers.

It is important to know God because he wants us to know him. He has revealed himself to us so that we might have a relationship with him. But it is interesting—the more we know God, the easier it becomes to trust him and to follow him. When we know who God is, we know that he is trustworthy.

**Who is familiar with the account of David and Goliath?** Have a student summarize the account, give a summary yourself, or read all or part of the account from 1 Samuel 17.

**When Goliath challenged the Israelite army, they all fled from him in fear. Why was David’s response different?** Discuss answers. Read 1 Samuel 17:37 and 17:45–47. David had experienced God’s protection before, and he knew that this would be no different. In fact, this time God’s deliverance would not just be for David’s sake, but for the sake of God’s glory.

David trusted in God because he knew that God would be jealous for his holy name (i.e., he would defend his honor), that he would be faithful to deliver his people, and that God was stronger than any enemy. David knew that the battle





was the Lord's; the Lord was in control and David was confident he would win with the Lord's help.

And the battle happened exactly as David trusted it would. God delivered Goliath into David's hand, and the Philistine army into the hands of the Israelite army. David trusted in God because he knew that God is faithful, God is perfect, God is powerful, God is great, God is good, and God cares. David had mighty trust in God, and God wants you to be mighty in trust as well! When you read some of the psalms, you will see David continued to trust God all the days of his life. He wrote many of the psalms, and they are a great testimony of his trust in the Lord. Read Psalm 46:1.

We've been learning about who God is—and all these things we've learned about God show why we can trust him. For instance, we learned God is loving, so we can trust him because he will be loving to his children. God is everywhere, so we can trust him because he's always with us. God is the only God and the Creator, so we can trust him because no one is stronger or greater than he is. He is our strong and steady Rock.

In fact, we can learn about God for all of eternity and never run out of stuff that's great about him. Isaiah 26:4 says, "Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock." The Bible says we can trust in God forever—and now we know some of the reasons why! God is great!

As we wrap up our study, I want to encourage you to continue your diligent search of Scripture. What we have discussed through the last few lessons only scratches the surface of who God is, what he has done, and how we can trust in him. God has revealed himself to us through the Bible, his own Words. God is personal, knowable, and he wants to be known by us. He wants us to have a relationship with him. You can study for the rest of your life and never learn everything there is to know about God.

Paul encouraged the Colossians to continue to seek the "full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Colossians 2:2-3). Notice his reasoning in verse 4: "I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments." We must strive to know God better, to understand the mystery of the gospel (see 1 Timothy 3:16), so that we will be prepared to discern truth from error. We must know the Scripture on which we stand if we are to allow its authority to guide our beliefs and actions.

Let's close by reading Psalm 19:7-14 and let the prayer of our hearts reflect David's. Read Psalm 19:7-14.

## Apply It (5-10 min)

Throughout this study, we've seen that God is the one and only Creator, great and awe-inspiring. He is all-knowing, all-powerful, and ever-present. He is the sovereign ruler of all things, majestic, holy, righteous, and perfect. He is just and merciful, loving and personal. He is God with us, our Savior. He is triune, unchanging, and eternal. And he is trustworthy, our rock and refuge. He is worthy of all our praise, adoration, and worship. And we should strive to know him more, to treasure his Word, and to better reflect his holiness.

Use the following discussion questions in small groups or as a class to review the lesson and determine how the truths apply to our lives today.

**What have you learned about God this week, or what have you thought about in a new way?** Discuss answers.

**How will you actively treasure the Word of God going forward?** Discuss answers, leading toward specific plans for reading, studying, and meditating on the Word. If appropriate, include plans of accountability.

**Which of God's attributes gives you the most comfort in trusting him? Which attribute have you never connected with his trustworthiness before?** Discuss answers.

**In what ways have you neglected one attribute of God in favor of another? How has this study given you a more balanced view of God's attributes?** Discuss answers.

**Is there something going on in your life that you need to entrust to the almighty, all-knowing God? How can you move toward a greater trust in this area?** Discuss answers. Consider giving a personal example, and if appropriate, direct discussion toward plans for growth. You may wish to present the gospel here.

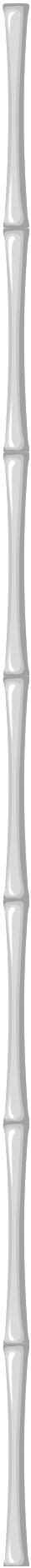
## **The New Age Movement** (DVD, 64 min)

As we talked about God's immanence today, how he is a personal and present God, we noted a couple inadequate views of God. God is transcendent, but he is not only transcendent. He is immanent, but not only immanent. He is both transcendent and immanent. He is both the almighty Creator and the loving Savior. Deists and pantheists ignore one side or the other of this mysterious combination. The New Age movement is another system of beliefs that has an incorrect view of God. They are pantheistic in their view of divinity. They believe that all of nature is connected to a divine force; divinity exists within every person. While we worship the Creator, they worship the creation. As we watch this video, think about what we've discovered in Scripture and how it compares to the New Age movement.

Play the video *The New Age Movement* and then use the following questions to discuss the ideas presented.

1. Why is the New Age movement like looking into a kaleidoscope?
2. How extensive is the New Age movement? Are you surprised by its influence in these areas?
3. How is the New Age movement a feel-good belief system?
4. Does it surprise you that children are so influenced by the New Age movement? Why or why not? How have you noticed this influence in your own life?
5. What terms and phrases have you heard or seen that refer to New Age ideas?
6. Have you seen any of movies or TV shows that include New Age ideas? Did you recognize the ideas? Would you be able to identify them now?
7. What is the New Age movement?
8. What are the three ideas the New Age worldview centers on?
9. How does this worldview compare with the biblical view of the divine?
10. How does Transcendentalism connect with the New Age movement?
11. What is the connection between the modern New Age movement and the occult?

- DVD player
- Disc 3, *The New Age Movement*

- 
12. How is the New Age movement related to Secular Humanism? How is it similar or different?
  13. Which of the eclectic New Age characteristics have you encountered? Were you aware of its connection to New Age or occultic practices?
  14. What are the dangers of values clarification (discovering one's own values)?
  15. What is the goal or purpose of New Age beliefs?
  16. How have these ideas infiltrated the Christian church?
  17. How are God, the Bible, and salvation viewed within the New Age movement? How do those views contrast with biblical Christianity?
  18. How should you approach a conversation with a New Ager? Why is it important to be loving and to define terms?
  19. What are some of the main ideas you would address as you try to share the gospel with a New Ager?
  20. Which of the questions presented in the video for approaching a New Ager stands out to you most? Why?

### **Fill It!**

Choose from the following activities to fill your remaining class time. Memory verse review ideas are on the last page of this guide.

### **Game**

Check the game guide for suggestions. Choose one appropriate to your situation.

### **Snack**

Instead of coffee and doughnuts, serve snacks that also teach an important point. Check the snack guide for more information on today's suggested snacks.

### **Experiment**

The experiments given in the science and crafts guide are geared toward children. However, if your teens or adults would like to participate, see the science and crafts guide for more information.

# Day 1 Puzzle

Use the provided clue to decode the cipher and complete the puzzle, uncovering today's truth about God. Remember, the Bible is the key to understanding who God is.

46.8.6.24

C

1 Corinthians 8:6

2.20.11.20

1.1.1.10

19.33.6.11

44.17.24.1

23.40.28.17

51.1.16.21

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

# Day 2 Puzzle

Solve the following series of riddles to uncover today's truth about God.

*You will seek me, you will find me when you search with all your heart.  
But even if you do not look, you'll still find me in part.  
The more you have, the more you miss,  
But those without may call it bliss.  
Use me now and think, think hard; maybe you will feel real smart.*

Clue: Psalm 139:1-6      Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

*I'm sought by the young and treasured by the old.  
I can be earned, but I can't be sold.  
Everybody owns me to a certain degree,  
But if you want more, it won't be free.  
You can find me with an ox, a pillar, or even with a brute.  
Sometimes I surprise myself and sometimes I'm a suit.  
Who am I?*

Clue: Job 9:2-12      Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

*It was true of there when you were there; it's true now that you're here.  
It's false of there when you are near, and when you go it will be false of here.*

Clue: Isaiah 65:1      Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

*What is small, but means everything  
To everyone, peasant or king?  
Without exception,  
Could be perfection.  
So tiny, and yet it's encompassing.*

Clue: 1 Chronicles 29:10-13      Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

Now connect the answer to riddle four with each of the previous answers to discover three attributes of God.

God is: (1) \_\_\_\_\_, (2) \_\_\_\_\_, and (3) \_\_\_\_\_

# Day 3 Puzzle

Use the provided pigpen cipher key to decode the list of clues.  
Then use the clues to determine the attribute of God.

7:26-28  
 ▯ ▯ ▯ ▯ ▯ ▯ ▯ ▯

1:46-49  
 ▯ < ▯ ▯

1:12  
 ▯ ▯ ▯ ▯ ▯ ▯ < ▯

38:23  
 ▯ ▯ ▯ ▯ ▯ ▯ ▯ ▯

57:15  
 ▯ ▯ ▯ ▯ ▯ ▯

15:11  
 ▯ > ▯ ▯ < ▯

1:16  
 ▯ ▯ > ▯ ▯

20:26  
 ▯ ▯ ▯ ▯ > ▯ ▯ < ▯

29:1-2  
 ▯ ▯ ▯ ▯ ▯ ▯

4:8-11  
 ▯ ▯ ▯ ▯ ▯ ▯ > ▯ ▯ ▯ ▯

A	B	C
D	E	F
G	H	I

J	K	L
M	N	O
P	Q	R

	S	
T		U
	V	

	W	
X		Y
	Z	

Attribute: \_\_\_\_\_

# Day 4 Puzzle

Solve the following ABC Puzzle by placing only one A, one B, and one C in each row and in each column of the grid. The letters provided around the edges are not part of the grid itself, but they tell you which of the letters must come first or last in that row or column. For example, an A at the start of a row would mean that the first letter encountered in that row (reading left to right) must be an A. This immediately tells you the first cell must be a blank or an A, as it could not be a B or a C without breaking the rules.

			<b>A</b>		
<b>&lt;</b>					
<b>&lt;</b>					<b>B</b>
		<b>B</b>			

Use the solved ABC puzzle to determine which characters you need from the following grid.

<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>J</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>L</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>R</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>

Characters: \_\_\_\_\_

Attribute: \_\_\_\_\_

# Day 5 Puzzle

Match the references below with the attributes of God they correspond with. Then unscramble the associated letters to determine the attribute we will be studying today.

## References:

Jeremiah 23:24 \_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 3:19 \_\_\_\_\_

James 1:17 \_\_\_\_\_

John 1:47-48 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Corinthians 5:10 \_\_\_\_\_

Daniel 4:35 \_\_\_\_\_

Isaiah 11:5 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 90:2 \_\_\_\_\_

Attributes	Letter
Omniscient	N
Holy	S
Sovereign	M
Gracious	A
Eternal	E
Independent	V
Faithful	I
Immutable (unchanging)	N
Just	T
Merciful	D
Wise	A
Infinite	L
Omnipresent	M
Omnipotent	O

God is \_\_\_\_\_



# Treasure Verse Review

This section is for those who want to add a memory verse review time to their schedule. A Memory Verse Songs Leader Set (either contemporary or traditional) is included with the purchase of a Super Starter Kit or is available to purchase separately. Check with your director for the set. Display the memory verse posters in your area.

## Materials

- Memory Verse Songs Leader Set (available with the purchase of a Super Starter Kit or at AnswersBookstore.com [contemporary: 11-8-069; traditional: 11-6-063])
- Memory Verse Posters
- Device on which to play songs

## Day 1

To review today's verse and the theme verse, write "clap your hands" and "wave your hands" on separate pieces of card stock. As the students say the verse, hold up one paper, switching throughout the verse. Let students take turns holding up the papers. Explain to the students that *extol* means to "enthusiastically praise" God.

## Theme Verse

I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. Psalm 145:1 (ESV)

I will extol thee, my God, O king; and I will bless thy name for ever and ever. Psalm 145:1 (KJV)

## Day 1 Verse

Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable. Psalm 145:3 (ESV)

Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable. Psalm 145:3 (KJV)

## Day 2

To review today's verse, write words that have to do with exploring an island (swimming away from a shark, hiking, running, looking around, climbing a coconut tree, fishing, surfing, digging for treasure, paddling a boat) on individual pieces of paper, and place in a paper bag. Students can take turns drawing a piece of paper out of the bag. Everyone says the verse while doing the action.

Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh. Is anything too hard for me? Jeremiah 32:27 (ESV)

Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me? Jeremiah 32:27 (KJV)

To review the memory verse, play the appropriate song from the Memory Verse Songs Leader Set (either video or audio) several times and encourage students to sing along. Then play a game to review the verse.

## Day 3

To review today's verse, students sit in a circle and pass around a beach ball, each student saying a word of the verse as she gets the item.

And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!" Isaiah 6:3 (ESV)

And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. Isaiah 6:3 (KJV)

## Day 4

### Juniors and Primaries

Before class, print the verse large on a piece of paper, one per student. Cut apart the words and place each set in a bag. Give one bag to each student. Students race to see who can put their verse back together in the correct order.

But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8 (ESV)

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8 (KJV)

## Day 5

Lay out a series of toy hoops so that they are near each other in a path. Students start at one end of the path and say the verse as they jump from hoop to hoop.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Proverbs 3:5-6 (ESV)

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Proverbs 3:5-6 (KJV)

# Leading a Child to Christ

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.” Romans 1:16

VBS presents an ideal opportunity to share the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ with all attending. Every leader and team member should be ready to clearly present the gospel and counsel those wanting to learn more. Children are usually soft-hearted toward things of the Lord, and some will be interested in becoming a follower of Christ. Be ready, because eternal matters matter most!

## BEFORE

- **Pray.** Salvation is God's work, not ours. We cannot bring about salvation for anyone. We need to ask God to prepare the children and open their hearts to him.
- **Be prepared.** Learn more about presenting the gospel and counseling a child about salvation.

## DURING

The gospel will be presented during the lesson time. Opportunities may arise, however, to share with a child one-on-one or with a small group of children. If so, keep the following in mind:

- Becoming a child of God involves repenting of one's sin and having faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Repentance involves understanding what sin is (disobeying God's commands) and desiring to turn from that sin.
- You can use *How Can I Become a Child of God?* to explain the plan of salvation. Along with this, use your Bible. Children need to see and hear God's Word, so have your Bible opened and marked ahead of time with the appropriate scriptures.
- Avoid abstract phrases like “asking Jesus into your heart.” Instead, use terminology like “becoming a child of God.” Most children still think in concrete terms and need examples that are easy to understand.
- If a child indicates an interest to know more after hearing the gospel presentation, ask questions (such as one or more of the following) that require more than a “yes” or “no” answer:
  - » What do you want to talk to me about?
  - » Do you know what sin is?
  - » Can you think of a specific sin (wrong) you have done? Are you bothered by your sin?

**These questions are important.** A child who cannot verbalize a sin or does not seem to be repentant about being a sinner may not fully understand his need for a Savior. In this situation, you might list a child-oriented example of sin and ask him to notice any time he catches himself sinning over the next few days. Give him *How Can I Become a Child of God?* Pray with him, then send him on his way. Check back a day or two later, if possible.

- » Why did Jesus come to earth? Why did Jesus need to die? Why did Jesus rise again?
- » Why do you want Jesus to be your Savior?
- » Why should God let you into his family? (Make sure the

child understands that salvation is not based on what he does, but is a gracious gift of God through faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus.)

- Pray for discernment while listening to a child's answers.
- When a child seems to have a basic understanding of salvation (belief in Jesus' death and resurrection, admission of and repentance from sin, and a desire to follow the Lord), encourage him to talk to his parents about what it means to become a child of God (if they are followers of Christ). Encourage a child who comes from a non-Christian home to verbalize his understanding to the Lord through prayer. There is no one prayer that should be prayed. Encourage him to ask the Lord to forgive him and help him know he is a child of God.
- Let him see in your words and your face that you are excited that he wants to become a child of God! Read Luke 15:10 to him.
- Some children may not want to make decisions but may want to learn more, to be assured of salvation, or to confess sin. Read Romans 10:9–10 and John 10:28–29 with children who are seeking assurance of their salvation. Encourage them to ask the Lord to help them know they are his children. If a child wants to confess sin, read 1 John 1:9 with him and encourage him to ask the Lord to help him know he is forgiven when he repents.

## AFTER

- Review what it means to be a child of God.
  - » How long does God keep his children? (Hebrews 13:5b, John 10:28–29)
  - » Can anything separate God from his children? (Romans 8:38–39)
  - » What happens when God's children sin? (1 John 1:9)
  - » What do children of God believe? (Romans 10:9)
- Explain that Jesus loves his children and wants to spend time with them. Discuss practical ways to grow as a child of God. Provide him with *Growing Up in God's Family*, and share the following:
  - » Read your Bible, and obey what you read. You can start your Bible reading with the short Bible study you will receive the last day of VBS. (Make sure he has a Bible at home, and if not, provide one. Write his name, the date, and the occasion [VBS] on the presentation page.)
  - » Pray every day. Prayer is talking to God.
  - » Go to a church that believes and teaches the Bible as the Word of God.
  - » Tell others about Jesus. Tell your friends, family, and neighbors how they can become children of God.
- Fill out a Decision Card. Turn in to the VBS director.
- Stay in touch with the child through postcards, visits, or phone calls. Invite him to upcoming church events.



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