

SESSION ONE God

foothold

Q | who is God?

God is personal, eternal Spirit, Creator of the universe, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father:

“Lord, through all the generations you have been our home! Before the mountains were born, before you gave birth to the earth and the world, from beginning to end, you are God.”—Psalm 90:1-2, NLT

climbing higher

- **God Is Spirit...**“God is spirit” means God is unseen by the natural eye. In a sense God is like the wind. You cannot see the wind. You can see what the wind does—how it tosses the branches of the trees, makes your kite soar in the sky, or bends the grass as it moves across the field. You know the wind is there because of what it does. In a similar way you can know that God is near by the things he does—for God is always acting on our behalf.
- **God Is Everywhere...**The Church uses the word “omnipresent” to refer to the fact that God, while unseen, is present everywhere. By this

word the Church simply means that God is always near us and that there is no place we can be where God is not.

- **God Is Almighty...**Omnipotent is the word the Church sometimes uses to express that God is all-powerful. By all-powerful we mean that God can do anything God wants to do. And since God is good and loving as well as almighty, we can be assured that God controls the world so that his purpose will be achieved in the end. Whenever Christians become disturbed about the power of evil in the world, they ought to look to God and shout, "Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigns!"
- **God Is All-Knowing...**Omniscient is a big word with a simple meaning, God is all-knowing. God knows everything about us, everything good, everything bad and everything in between. And the wonderful thing about it is that God still cares for us and wants to help us.
- **God Is Holy...**There are two things the word holy means when we use it related to God. It reminds us first of God's unspeakable greatness, majesty, and elevation above all created beings. Have you ever been in church and felt yourself very small and humble in God's presence? Isaiah had such an experience when he came into the Temple and saw a vision of the Lord (Isaiah 6:1-8). It is God's holiness which awakens this feeling of awe and reverence.

The word holiness also leads us to think of the righteousness of God—of his opposition to all evil, hatred of all sin and love for his creation. Have you noticed how closely this is related to the first meaning of holiness? It was when Isaiah felt himself in the presence of the high and majestic Lord that he knew how sinful he was and how great, powerful and all-loving God was.

- **God Is Love...**Christians have no doubt that God loves them (John 3:16). Why does God love you? It is not because you are attractive or because you are good, although God rejoices in your goodness. God's love toward you doesn't depend on any of these things, but only on the fact that God can't help loving because that's who God is. "But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

Adapted from According to Thy Word

your daily journal

DAY ONE: From the creation narrative

Read: Genesis 1:1-10

Key Verse: Genesis 1:1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

What do you learn about God from this reading?

What do you hear God saying to you in this reading?

DAY TWO: Moses and the burning bush

Read: Exodus 3:1-15

Key Verse: Exodus 3:6

Then he said, "I am the God of your father; the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

What do you learn about God from this reading?

What do you hear God saying to you in this reading?

DAY THREE: Walk in light of your presence

Read: Psalm 89:11-17

Key Verse: Psalm 89:14

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne;
love and faithfulness go before you.

What do you learn about God from this reading?

What do you hear God saying to you in this reading?

DAY FOUR: Shout for joy

Read: Psalm 100:1-5

Key Verse: Psalm 100:3

Know that the LORD is God.

It is he who made us, and we are his;

we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

What do you learn about God from this reading

What do you hear God saying to you in this reading?

DAY FIVE: The Father revealed in the Son

Read: Matthew 11:25-30

Key Verse: Matthew 11:27

All things have been committed to me by my Father: No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

What do you learn about God from this reading?

What do you hear God saying to you in this reading?

DAY SIX: Being one

Read: John 17:20-26

Key Verse: John 17:24

Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

What do you learn about God from this reading?

What do you hear God saying to you in this reading?

DAY SEVEN: Children of God

Read: Romans 8:12-17

Key Verse: Romans 8:14,15

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."

What do you learn about God from this reading

What do you hear God saying to you in this reading

FOLLOW-UP: How do you respond to these readings about God?

Head—New insights

Heart—What I believe

Hands—Implications for my life
