

## Section 2: Attributes of God | *Theology Proper*

### Lesson 2.1—Monotheism

#### Memorize

Q2.1— Is our God the only God? | *Monotheism*

A2.1— "I am the LORD, and there is no other; there is no God besides Me." – Isaiah 45:5

#### Exploration (What Do We Think?)

1. Do all religions basically lead to the same place? **(Oddly enough, most religions don't even *claim* to lead to the same place. For instance, there is no personal God to get to in Buddhism, in Hinduism you are that impersonal god, in Islam you are not with allah, and in Christianity you are with a personal God.)**
2. What do other religions claim that contradict the Bible?

#### Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)

1. Isaiah 45:5—The term “monotheism” means the belief that there is only one God. What does this verse teach us that shows us that is what we should believe?
2. Joseph Smith, the founder of Mormonism, plainly taught that there are many gods. In a sermon he gave, he said, “I will preach on the plurality of Gods... The head God organized the heavens and the earth. I defy all the world to refute me.” Read and discuss the following verses that refute Smith:
  - a. Isaiah 46:9
  - b. Isaiah 43:10
  - c. Isaiah 42:8
  - d. 1 Kings 8:60
3. Read and discuss the following verses about what monotheism means to God:
  - a. 1 Corinthians 8:4 **(An idol is just a false god. It has no power. It is not a real god.)**
  - b. Exodus 20:3 **(Whether there are real gods that exist is not the point. It is that people have a tendency to make up gods in their own minds and worship them. God is forbidding that anyone should attempt to make Him just one God out of many.)**
  - c. Hosea 13:4 **(God is a personal God. He is “Your God.” He is “savior.” He is jealous for their worship.)**
  - d. Zechariah 14:9—What will happen when Jesus returns? **(The world will recognize that He is the only God.)**
  - e. John 17:3—How do we know this one and only God? **(With Jesus Christ.)**
4. What is really important here is to understand that there is no salvation apart from the one true God known through the person of Jesus Christ. Read and discuss:
  - a. Proverbs 14:12 **(Even if a person is “sincere” in their beliefs, that changes nothing about whether those beliefs can actually save. People can easily be sincere and wrong at the same time.)**
  - b. Matthew 7:13–14 **(Jesus did not claim that all roads lead to heaven. He claimed that He was the one way and that way is extremely hard and narrow.)**
  - c. John 3:18
  - d. John 14:6 **(No one can claim to know God while rejecting Jesus as *the* way.)**
  - e. John 8:24
  - f. Acts 4:12
  - g. Galatians 1:8–9
  - h. 1 Timothy 2:5
  - i. 1 John 5:12
  - j. 2 John 1:9

**Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)**

1. In light of what you studied, how would you respond to someone saying, “It just seems closed-minded to say there’s only one way.”

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### Lesson 2.2—Aseity of God

#### Memorize

Q2.2—Was God created?

A2.2— "Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God." – Psalm 90:2

#### Exploration (What Do We Think?)

1. When theologians talk about the “aseity of God,” they are talking about the concept that God is self-existent and independent. He is the uncaused first cause and is dependent on no one. Why is this important to believe? What issues could arise if a person rejected this as a true belief?

#### Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)

1. Psalm 90:2—What do you see? **(The key phrase here is “from everlasting to everlasting.” That is to say, from eternity past to eternity future He has been God. He did not become God. He did not need to earn His position as God. So the question “who created God” is mistaken. The moment you are talking about a “created” God is the moment you are no longer talking about God, by definition.)**
2. Exodus 3:11–14
  - a. 3:11—Why was Moses hesitant? **(Pay attention to the intentional words: “Who am I?” This is a contrast statement with what God will say about Himself. Here Moses is considering himself as a mere creature. Any one of us can say this statement: “Who am I?” Rightly so. We are dependent creatures who are limited. That is in contrast with God’s aseity.)**
  - b. 3:12—What was God’s response? How should this comfort Moses? **(The almighty God will be with Him. Moses is limited and dependent. God is not.)**
  - c. 3:13—What does Moses want to know? **(God’s name. Students should recognize that the concept of a name implies what can best define who this God is.)**
  - d. 3:14—What is God’s “name?” What significance is this? What does this tell us about God and His aseity? **(To be “I AM WHO I AM” means God simply is who He is and that does not change based on who is around Him. He cannot be influenced.)**
  - e. 3:14—The Greek version of the Old Testament translates “I AM WHO I AM” as “The Being One.” What does that teach us? **(It is a phrase meant to stress His aseity. He is the uncaused first cause.)**
3. Isaiah 43:10—How does God’s aseity relate to what we talked about in the previous lesson with regards to God being the only God **(The moment you have multiple separate gods, you no longer have an uncaused first cause. So Mormonism for instance, claiming to have God be someone who used to be a man, among other “gods” who used to be men is by definition not God. To be God means that you are uncaused and share that glory with no other.)**
4. Does Jesus have aseity in the same way the Father has aseity? John 1:1–3 **(The Son is dependent on no one for His existence. The Father is dependent on no one for His existence. They were together, and yet they were the same.)**
5. Revelation 1:8, 17–18—What does Jesus claim about Himself? How does this statement prove that Jesus is God? **(This is a go to verse when discussing with virtually any cult or religion that denies that Jesus is God. For instance, Muslims will often ask where Jesus claimed He was God. One thing you can point out is how often Allah refers to himself as “the first and the last” and how such a title belongs only to God. Then show them these verses. Here one who has died and is now alive again claims to be the first and the last. This can only be Christ.)**
6. Isaiah 40:28—What does this tell us about God’s aseity? **(He does not get tired. He does not have to strive. God is NOT in a back-and-forth battle with Satan. He is totally in control.)**

7. Colossians 1:16–17—What does this tell us about the aseity of Christ? **(He is before *all* things. He is truly the uncaused first cause. More than that, things are held together in Him.)**
8. Hebrews 13:8—Did Jesus ever lose His aseity? **(Absolutely not. He never ceased to be God, even when He fully depended on His Father as truly man.)**
9. Psalm 102:25–27
10. Micah 5:2
11. Job 36:26—What does this tell us about God’s relationship to time? **(God is outside of time. He does not progress.)**
12. Isaiah 42:5—What would happen if God did not exist?

#### **Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)**

1. Acts 17:24–25—What are ways that we in our foolishness sometimes think we can “give” or “take away” from God?

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### Lesson 2.3—Eternality/infinite nature of God

#### Memorize

Q2.3— Does God have a body? | Eternality/infinite nature of God

A2.3— "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." – John 4:24

#### Exploration (What Do We Think?)

1. Does God have a body? What difference would it make either way?
2. If God does not have a body, why does Scripture mention things like His hands or sometimes depict Him seated on a throne?

#### Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)

1. John 4:19–24
  - a. How does the woman talking about a physical location relate to what Jesus says when He declares that God is Spirit? **(The woman was concerned about the *physical* place of worship as important. Jesus is emphasizing that it has nothing to do with a physical place since God Himself is not physical)**
  - b. What does it mean that God is Spirit?
2. Exodus 33:20—What do we learn about God here? How do we make sense of people who received visions of heaven and described imagery of God? **(These were just that, visions. They were not seeing God in all of His fullness. God in His fullness cannot be seen. What size would He be if He could be seen in all His fullness? It would be impossible.)**
3. Deuteronomy 4:15–19—What do we learn about making depictions of God? Or how God compares to creation?
4. 1 Kings 8:27—What does this tell us about the infinite nature of God? **(Again, to say that God in His fullness is constrained by a body would mean that God is limited to one space in time at a time. He could not possibly be everywhere if in His fullness He was in a body. Christ has a body now, but in His fullness He remains the unlimited God.)**
5. Psalm 18:15—Is the Psalmist claiming that God moves waters and earth by breathing out of His nose very hard? **(Clearly not. Yet such verses are used by Mormons who insist that God has a body and looks like a human being with flesh and bones just like us.)**
6. Psalm 34:15—How do we know these are not physical eyes and ears? **(It would mean he was limited in who/what He can hear/see.)**
7. Isaiah 41:10—Is God literally upholding us with His hand? How else can this be interpreted? **(He is speaking to all of Israel. He is clearly speaking spiritually.)**
8. Isaiah 55:8–9—How infinite are God's thoughts and ways?
9. Isaiah 59:1 **(If God had a literal physical hand and arm, they actually *would* be too short to save because God would be limited to a specific space and time. He would also be subject to change.)**
10. Remembering that Jesus said that God *is* Spirit, discuss Luke 24:39. **(If God is Spirit, then He does not have flesh and bones besides through the incarnation of Jesus Christ as the God-Man.)**
11. Colossians 1:15—How is Jesus described? **(God in His fullness cannot be seen. Jesus became human so that we could get a picture of God. Jesus is the true image of God.)**
12. 1 Timothy 1:17—What descriptions do we get of God in this passage? **(Ask them individually what it means that God is “eternal” [no beginning and no end], “immortal” [cannot fade or grow old or weak], “invisible” [cannot be seen in His fullness].)**
13. How do we explain God making Himself known through visions or through relating with us if He is so infinitely beyond our comprehension?
  - a. John 1:18 **(Jesus is how we understand God. He has humbled Himself to make Him known.)**

- b. Isaiah 6:1, John 12:41 (**Isaiah was seeing Jesus. But again, this is not Jesus in all of His glory. This is an image. A limited way of expressing Himself to human eyes and ears.**)

### **Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)**

1. Why is it important to understand that God in His fullness does not have a body?

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### Lesson 2.4—Greatness of God

#### Memorize

Q2.4— How great is God?

A2.4— "Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and His greatness is unsearchable."

– Psalm 145:3

#### Exploration (What Do We Think?)

1. What makes someone a “great” man or woman?
2. What does it mean that God is great?

#### Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)

1. Psalm 145:3—What does we learn about God’s greatness? **(It defines Him, great praise is what a great God deserves, and the depths of His greatness are unsearchable.)**
2. Psalm 145:3—Would you say you praise God in a way that matches how great He is? What are ways our praise might not be expressing God’s greatness? **(When we simply read the words and sing them without thinking about what it is we are saying. When we can grow bored and wish that praising God was over already. When we make it about us instead of Him.)**
3. Deuteronomy 10:14–22—What do you see? **(God owns all things. He is a relational God who chose His people He delivered them with great power. He calls for worship from the heart. He is the God over all false gods. He is the Lord over all lords. He is mighty. He takes no bribes because He cannot be given anything He does not have already, and He cannot do injustice. He cares for the needy. He is deserving to be served. He is our praise. He is our God. He has done great and awesome things we can testify of.)**
4. 1 Chronicles 29:11 **(Greatness belongs to God.)**
5. Psalm 147:5—What do we learn about the greatness of God’s understanding? What does it tells us about God’s greatness that we cannot always understand what He is doing even in our own lives?
6. Isaiah 55:8–9—What does this show us about God’s greatness?
7. Jeremiah 10:3–8—Jeremiah compares God’s greatness with the lack of greatness of the false gods. Read and discuss:
  - a. 10:3–5—What adjectives would you use to describe this scenario? How does Jeremiah describe it? **(futile, fragile, dependent, useless)**
  - b. 10:6—How does God compare when you consider the false gods that are the result of man’s imagination?
  - c. 10:7–8—What comparisons does Jeremiah give between God and false gods. What does this say about His greatness?
8. Ephesians 3:20—What is God able to do in our lives? Where is this power located? **(In us!)**
9. The book of Daniel tells all about the greatness of God and how He rules even over the strongest kings. Read and discuss:
  - a. Daniel 4:1–3—Why did Nebuchadnezzar share this? **(To tell of the greatness of God.)**
  - b. 4:4–5, 18—Why did Nebuchadnezzar believe Daniel could interpret his dream? **(The Spirit of God lived in Him. He knew Daniel worshiped a great God.)**
  - c. 4:20–27—What did the dream mean? How could Nebuchadnezzar have spared himself? **(By humbling himself before a great God.)**
  - d. 4:28–33—What was the punishment? What is God trying to show? **(God is the only true great one.)**
  - e. 4:34–35—What testimony did Nebuchadnezzar give once he was humbled?
10. Revelation 4:2–11—What do you see? **(One thing to point out is who is worshiping Him and what they are saying. They are saying, “You are worthy.” God is worthy to receive all this praise.)**

11. Revelation 5:1–4—What is the problem? **(The one on the throne has a scroll no one is “worthy” to open. Remember that the praise the one on the throne received was “you are worthy.” If someone were found worthy, they would be equal to God.)**
12. Revelation 5:5–12—What is the result? What does this tell us about Jesus? **(Jesus is praised as “worthy.” A description only given to God in heaven.)**
13. Revelation 5:13–14—Who is worshiped here? **(The one on the throne AND the Lamb. The ONE who lives forever and ever. This is a great God.)**

#### **Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)**

1. Evaluate your life. How often are you living in a way that shows you believe God is *worthy* of your behavior/speech/thoughts? How are you displaying your truly believe in a *great* God?



## Section 2: Attributes of God | *Theology Proper*

### Lesson 2.5—Omnipotence of God

#### Memorize

Q2.5— Is God all powerful?

A2.5— "The everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable." – Isaiah 40:28

#### Exploration (What Do We Think?)

1. What does the word “omnipotent” mean? What comfort should it give a person to know that God is all powerful?
2. Do you think Jesus remained all powerful when He was born truly human? Are there examples in Scripture you can give to support what you think?

#### Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)

1. Isaiah 40:28—What do we see is true about God in this verse?
2. Genesis 18:10–15—What happened in this story? What do you see? Why did Sarah laugh? Are there times we might think the same way as Sarah?
3. Job 42:2—What did Job say when God appeared to him? How does God’s omnipotence lead us to a fear of God? **(The fear of God is just that: fear. A trembling before God. This is the beginning of wisdom as it recognizes that God is deserving of our fear.)**
4. Psalm 62:8–11—What are the ways men can delusionally think they have power in a way that does not need God? **(When they are trusting themselves or their own hearts, when they fear man, when they are considered as being of high degree.)** What does God say about “important” people in this passage? **(Weighed together they are nothing.)** What does God warn us about regarding things we put our trust in? **(Not to set our hearts on them.)** What is the end advice? **(Power belongs to God. Therefore, trust in Him.)**
5. Jeremiah 32:17—What is one example this verse gives for why God is all powerful? **(He made the heavens and the earth by that power.)** What is too hard for God? **(Nothing.)**
6. Matthew 19:23–26—What does this passage teach us about the power of God? **(It applies even to making sure people are saved. God is never powerless to save. The Arminian view sometimes presents salvation as God offering a gift, but being helpless to lead us to take it. That is not accurate. Jesus puts salvation firmly in God’s hands here.)**
7. Luke 1:35–38—How does the virgin birth of God in the flesh demonstrate the power of God? **(A virgin birth might have been something people had previously declared impossible. Or the concept of God being a man would have possibly been thought of as an illogical possibility. This concept still stumbles Muslims who cannot wrap their mind around the concept of a God who would lower Himself to become man. This is the power of God.)**
8. Romans 1:20—What are the attributes people can know about God even if they never read the Bible? **(He is a God who exists and is different than us, and He has eternal power.)**
9. Ephesians 3:14–21—What is God’s power seen as being able to do in this passage? **(He is able to change the human heart for salvation. He is the one working in us to be able to comprehend His love, to be rooted in love, to be filled with the fullness of God.)**
10. Revelation 19:1–7—What do you see in this passage? How is God’s omnipotence seen in the end? **(God judges the world with severe wrath. The result is praise in heaven that God is just and does right. The end is a praise of “Alleluia” and a declaration that the Omnipotent God reigns. Scripture ends with God, in all His power, reigning as king.)**
11. Did Jesus remain omnipotent when He became truly man? Read and discuss:
  - a. Matthew 28:18
  - b. Mark 1:27

- c. Luke 8:24–25
- d. John 2:19 (**He would raise Himself up from the dead.**)
- e. John 5:21
- f. John 8:58
- g. Colossians 1:16–17 (**If Jesus ceased to be omnipotent, this entire universe would have imploded. He is the one who upholds all things.**)

### **Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)**

1. There are particular passages where Jesus says that He can do nothing without the Father. This has confused some people into thinking Jesus was not omnipotent on this earth. But if He ceased to be omnipotent, then He would cease to be God. Jesus did not cease to be omnipotent, rather, as truly man He chose to rely on the Father to only do as He told Him. He was a sinless man. A sinless man obeys at all times with total dependence on God. That is why Satan tried to tempt Jesus to turn stones into bread. He knew He had omnipotence still. He was trying to tempt Him to prove Himself apart from the Father's command.

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### Lesson 2.6—Holiness of God

#### Memorize

Q2.6—How is God different from all others?

A2.6— "Who is like You, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like You, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?" – Exodus 15:11

#### Exploration (What Do We Think?)

1. To be holy means to be “set apart.” What does that mean? What does it mean for humans to be holy? How is that different from God being holy?

#### Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)

1. Exodus 15:11—Who is God set apart from in this verse? **(Even the “gods.” It is a way of saying that even among the fictional gods or the angels or demons, God is holy. There is none like Him.)**
2. Exodus 3:4–6—What did God command Moses to do, and why? **(Remove his shoes because he is on holy ground. There is a respect to be shown when drawing near to God.)**
3. Isaiah 6:1–5
  - a. 6:1—What picture is Isaiah giving us of God? **(A glorious one. God is on a throne as a king. He is high and lifted up, meaning He is set apart. He has a robe, the train of which fills the entire temple. This is a terrifying picture.)**
  - b. 6:2—What are these seraphim (burning ones) doing? **(Covering themselves. Even these angelic creatures hide themselves at the presence of the Lord.)**
  - c. 6:3—What are they crying out about God? **(This is called the trisagion [pronounced: tri-SAH-gee-on]. A praise to the “thrice Holy God.” Many take this as an allusion to the trinity.)**
  - d. 6:4–5—What was Isaiah’s response? Should we be as concerned about being people of unclean lips who dwell among people of unclean lips?
4. Isaiah 57:15—How is God described here? Yet who does He dwell with? What does it mean to have a contrite and humble spirit? Why would a holy God like that?
5. Isaiah 64:6—What do our best efforts look like compared to God’s holiness?
6. Habakkuk 1:12–13—What is Habakkuk crying out about? **(God is a holy God who cannot behold evil. And yet, He is patient in delivering His final wrath. He is a good and patient God.)**
7. 1 Peter 1:12–19
  - a. 1:12—How holy is the gospel we have received? **(We received it from the Holy Spirit and even angels long to look into it. We should not take it for granted.)**
  - b. 1:13–14—In light of the holiness of the gospel, what does Peter command us?
  - c. 1:15–16—Why should we live holy lives? **(The Holy God called us.)**
  - d. 1:17—How should we conduct our lives? Why? What does it look like to conduct ourselves in fear? **(Time is so short here. We will someday face the judgment of God. That should lead us to lead fearful lives before God.)**
  - e. 1:18–21—Sometimes people ask why a Christian ought to obey if they are forgiven by Christ. This is a major misunderstanding of why Christians obey. How does Peter relate Christ’s death to us living holy lives? **(Because Jesus’s death was so precious and holy, we should be holy.)**
8. Jesus remained the holy God even during His incarnation. Read and discuss:
  - a. Mark 1:23–24
  - b. Luke 1:35 **(He was conceived of the Holy Spirit. He is called the Holy One. He was born of a virgin to symbolize His purity. He was called the Son of God.)**
  - c. 2 Corinthians 5:21 **(Only because Jesus was perfectly holy Himself was He able to be our substitutionary atonement.)**

- d. Hebrews 7:26 (**Jesus is a holy high priest. A high priest who never sinned and can truly make access for us.**)
- e. 1 Peter 2:22

### **Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)**

1. Peter insisted that we be holy because God is holy. Read and discuss how the Bible calls us to holiness:
  - a. Leviticus 11:44 (**Holy behavior is expected, especially as we worship.**)
  - b. 2 Corinthians 7:1 (**We wash ourselves through God's promises.**)
  - c. Ephesians 1:4
  - d. Colossians 3:12 (**Catch the path: Because we already are elect, holy, and beloved, so we put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, etc.**)
  - e. 1 Thessalonians 4:7 (**We were not saved to be lawless. To be saved does not mean to simply be pardoned. It means to be saved from having to live in that sin any more.**)
  - f. Hebrews 12:14

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### Lesson 2.7—Goodness and justice of God

#### Memorize

Q2.7—Can God do anything evil? | *Goodness and justice of*

A2.7— “He is the Rock, His work is perfect; for all His ways are justice, a God of truth and without injustice; righteous and upright is He.” – Deuteronomy 32:4

#### Exploration (What Do We Think?)

1. If God were completely sovereign but not completely good and just, what difference would that make?

#### Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)

1. Deuteronomy 32:4
  - a. What is God compared to and what does that show us about who God is? **(A rock. He is steady. He can be trusted to have complete faithfulness.)**
  - b. What descriptors do we see in this verse about God? **(Perfect. All His ways, not just some of His ways are justice. Truth. Without injustice. Righteous. Upright. Talk about all of these terms with students)**
2. Psalm 119:68—Because God is good and does good, what does the psalmist pray? Why would this be what we would ask a good God?
3. Nahum 1:7—How could difficult times (“times of trouble”) lead a person to see God’s goodness *more*? How might it tempt them to see it less? **(When God is all we have left, it might point us to fall on Him in a way we never might have otherwise. At the same time, we must resist the temptation to let hard times drive us away from God. Falling on God doesn’t always mean everything is all better and we feel great, but it is trusting Him because we know He is good even if we cannot see or feel it.)**
4. Mark 10:18—What did Jesus mean here? **(He was not denying to be God or good. He was pointing out that He is indeed God, but the questioner did not know that. In any case, that God is the only one who is good means that any goodness we have is derived from Him. He is goodness itself. He does not make up good laws just because He feels like it or says so. Goodness is what is in line with His nature.)**
5. James 1:13, 17—How does God’s goodness relate to temptation **(While God might test us, He will not attempt to lead us into sin. A temptation is meant to lead us into sin. A test is meant to make us choose godliness and become more holy.)** What does it tell us about God that everything that is good and perfect comes from God? **(It means whatever we have to give thanks for, it comes from God. It is common for people to sometimes be tempted to look at bad circumstances and blame God, but it is sadly difficult at times to look at all the good things we have to thank God for.)**
6. 1 John 1:5—Why is this message so important?
7. Exodus 34:5–7
  - a. 34:5—What was God declaring? **(His name. This is meant to say that God is declaring His nature. What He should be most known as.)**
  - b. 34:6—What descriptions does God give of Himself in this verse? **(Merciful—He has compassion on us and not deal with us according to our sins. Gracious—He loves to give to us more than we deserve. He is not only good and truthful, He is *abounding* in goodness and truth.)**
  - c. 34:7—What does it mean that God forgives iniquity and transgression and sin, but will still by no means clear the guilty? **(This is a picture of the cross. The cross *pays* for sins, it does not**

**merely let all sinners off the hook. Sin *will* be punished. This shows God's justice, even as He is good in being kind to forgive sinners.)**

8. Genesis 18:25—What does Abraham say about God and why? **(God did end up destroying Sodom and Gomorrah. This shows that while He is a good judge, He will indeed punish unrepentant sin.)**
9. Psalm 7:11—What do you see?
10. Ecclesiastes 12:14—How is this a terrifying verse and a comforting one?
11. Isaiah 61:8—What does God's justice relate to in this verse? **(Hating wickedness.)**
12. Jeremiah 9:24—What are we supposed to glory in? Why is this important?
13. Romans 2:6—What does this tell us about God's justice?
14. Romans 12:19—How should God's justice impact our response when people wrong us?
15. Titus 1:2—What comfort should this give believers?

### **Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)**

1. Lamentations 3:22–23—What does this teach us about God's goodness, even when He must discipline His people?
2. Isaiah 55:8–9—What does this teach us about when we cannot understand God's goodness and justice?
3. How does the cross combine God's goodness and His justice? **(God was gracious to forgive sins. And yet, sins are paid for, not merely pardoned. This maintains God's justice, even as He is good and merciful.)**

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### Lesson 2.8—Faithfulness of God

#### Memorize

Q2.8—Can God lie | *Faithfulness of God*

A2.8—“God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?” – Numbers 23:19

#### Exploration (What Do We Think?)

1. What does it mean that God is faithful?

#### Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)

1. Numbers 23:19
  - a. How does this verse show us God’s faithfulness?
  - b. What comfort should it give us to know that God is consistent?
2. God is faithful in His nature. Read and discuss the following:
  - a. Deuteronomy 7:9—What does this say about God’s promises even as time goes by?
  - b. Lamentations 3:22–23—What is the testimony of God’s faithfulness here? **(Lamentations was written to lament the discipline God gave to the Jews by putting them in horrible exile in Babylon. Judah was annihilated and the picture of lamentations is not a pretty one. Yet God is faithful even in the fact that He gave them a new morning to cry out to Him for deliverance and to repent and be changed.)**
  - c. Titus 1:2—How does the fact that God cannot lie comfort believers?
3. God is faithful to keep His promises. Read and discuss:
  - a. Joshua 21:45 **(Israel was promised to go into the land and to take it. Under Joshua’s leadership, that happened exactly as God said it would because God keeps His promises.)**
  - b. Isaiah 55:10–11—What does this teach us about the faithfulness of God’s promises, especially as found in His Word?
  - c. Romans 4:16–22—What do we see about Abraham’s faith being founded in God’s faithfulness? **(Even though everything natural was against this promise being fulfilled, Abraham believed because God promised him. He believed because God had faithfully proven that He is a God who calls into existence things that do not exist. Abraham was fully convinced that God made a promise and He would keep it. This was credited to him as righteousness.)**
4. Psalm 119:90—How is God’s faithfulness seen every day? **(Not only did He create the world, He is continuing to faithfully sustain it.)**
5. Isaiah 40:8—How is God’s Word faithful? **(It does not change. It stands forever. It is trustworthy.)**
6. Jesus is consistent and true in who He is. He is a picture of God’s faithfulness:
  - a. John 14:6 **(Not only does He always faithfully tell us the truth, He *is* the truth.)**
  - b. Revelation 3:14 **(Jesus is described as the Faithful and True Witness. “Beginning of the creation of God” is *not* the same thing as “first one to be created.” It means He has been there with God since creation. He is the source of creation. All things were made through Him.)**

#### Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)

1. Read and discuss the following verses that call us to respond to God’s faithfulness:
  - a. 1 Corinthians 1:9 **(We are called to fellowship with Christ because of God’s faithfulness.)**
  - b. 1 Thessalonians 5:23–24 **(We must trust that God is able to continue to sanctify us.)**
  - c. Hebrews 10:19–23 **(Because Jesus is our high priest, because He has given us full assurance, we can keep the good confession without wavering because the one who promised that we would be kept is faithful.)**

d. 1 John 1:9 (**Confess and He *will* be faithful to forgive us and cleanse us.**)



## Section 2: Attributes of God | *Theology Proper*

### Lesson 2.9—Omnipresence of God

#### Memorize

Q2.9— Is God everywhere? | *Omnipresence of God*

A2.9— “Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?” – Psalm 139:7

#### Exploration (What Do We Think?)

1. The word “omnipresent” means “always here.” It is the concept that God is always present. Is this difficult to comprehend for our limited brains? Do you think you can explain this well?

#### Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)

1. Psalm 139 is where our main verse comes from. Much of this Psalm meditates on the reasons the omnipresence of God is so comforting for believers:
  - a. 139:1–3—What comfort does this give us? How might this be scary to think about?
  - b. 139:4—What does this say about how present God is with us?
  - c. 139:5–6—What is David’s response to thinking carefully about God’s omnipresence? (**He cannot comprehend it.**)
  - d. 139:7—What does this say about God’s omnipresence? (**We could not flee it if we wanted to. We are never hidden.**)
  - e. 139:8–12—What do you see?
  - f. 139:13—How far does God’s omnipresence extend in this verse? (**He was with us even in the womb!**)
2. Jeremiah 23:23–24—What is God warning the people of? What does He say is true about Himself? (**He is present everywhere. We cannot hide our secret life from Him. He always sees. He fills heaven and earth.**)
3. 1 Kings 8:27–29
  - a. 8:27—What does this teach us about the concept that God can only be found in a church building? (**God can be found anywhere. We can always cry out to Him.**)
  - b. 8:28–29—What does this teach us about respecting church buildings? (**There is a special prayer here that the temple would be sacred before God. Church buildings should be treated with a reverence and respect as a place consecrated solely to God.**)
4. Deuteronomy 4:39—Where is God? (**He is both in heaven and on earth. People get the false idea that God is physically in a body sitting on a throne in heaven in His fullness. While people might have received visions (limited images to help them understand) of God on a throne, that does not mean God is limited to a throne. That is why Scripture says no one has ever seen God. God in His fullness is not limited to any one space or time.**)
5. Proverbs 15:3—What comfort does this give us? What warning?
6. Acts 17:24–28
  - a. 17:24—What does Paul teach the people of Athens about God? How does this differ from ancient Greek understanding that the gods lived in temples?
  - b. 17:25—How does this differ from the concept of making and worshipping a statue?
  - c. 17:26–27—What does Paul say about people’s ability to discover that God exists?
  - d. 17:28—What does it mean to live, move, and have our being in Him? (**All things were made through Him and He sustains all things. Everything we do can only happen because of His provision.**)
7. Matthew 1:23, 28:20—What does this teach us about Jesus? (**Even in the flesh, Jesus did not give up His ability to be omniscient in His fullness. This is a great mystery. But 28:20 shows us, even though He remains in His body to this day, He is not limited in space and time. He is God with**

**us. It is interesting that Matthew opens His book by saying Jesus is God with us, and then closes with Jesus saying He is with us forever, another claim to be God.)**

8. Hebrews 4:12–13—How should God’s omnipresence train us to change biblically? **(We should recognize that we stand exposed before Him. This should lead us to humility and change.)**
9. John 1:45–51—What is going on here? **(Apparently Nathanael was praying something or doing something under the fig tree. Something significant. Jesus simply says that He saw Nathanael at that time, and it leads him to confess Jesus as the Son of God and King of Israel. This shows Jesus’s omnipresence even in this situation.)**
10. Psalm 23:4—How does God’s presence comfort us in dark times? How do we remind ourselves of this presence? **(His Word.)**
11. Romans 8:38–39—What comfort does this give believers in the midst of persecution and trials?

#### **Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)**

1. Psalm 16:11—In what sense is God’s presence here something more than just His general omnipresence? **(This psalmist is in God’s Word. He is seeking to see God more clearly. In that sense, there are pleasures and fullness of joy for the believer who communes with God in a special, intimate way.)**
2. James 4:8—While God is always near us, what does James mean by this statement? **(Similar to Psalm 16:11. There is a special nearness in the presence of God that a believer experiences when they walk in obedience by faith.)**

## Section 2: Attributes of God | *Theology Proper*

### Lesson 2.10—Love of God

#### Memorize

Q2.10— Is God loving?

A2.10— “God is love.” – 1 John 4:8

#### Exploration (What Do We Think?)

1. Why do you think that even for people who might not be Christians, the concept of “a God of love” sounds appealing?

#### Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)

1. Our Scripture this week comes from 1 John 4. Read and discuss the following verses from this chapter:
  - a. 4:7—For what reason should we love one another? **(Because God is love.)** What is this verse saying about our ability to love without knowing God? **(Truly loving others cannot happen without loving for God’s glory. It is choosing to do the actions and have the feelings of love, but for all the wrong reasons. While this might benefit from an earthly perspective, it still does not give God the glory He deserves. John is trying to emphasize that love is rooted in who God is.)**
  - b. 4:8—How is this a warning to Christians who might be holding on to bitterness or seeking vengeance on others? **(God is love. He calls us to love.)**
  - c. 4:8—How is “God is love” different from saying “God is loving?” **(God is the standard of love, just as He is the standard of good. Remember that a God who was not Trinity would not be able to say He is love. But a trinitarian God has communed in love for eternity.)**
  - d. 4:9—While there are many emotional examples of love, how does John say we will best see the love of God? How is this true? **(The Son of God being given for us is the best example of God’s love toward us.)**
  - e. 4:10—How does John describe love? How do people twist the order to be that we loved God and then He loved us? **(When we know God’s promises that He saves sinners, but then we question our salvation based on how well we have obeyed or how well we have loved God or “feel close” to God, we are assuming we love and then He loves us. That is not the case.)**
  - f. 4:11—This is essentially repeating what He said in verse 11. Why is loving one another so important? **(Think of the common criticism of the church that people have when churches do not get along.)**
  - g. 4:12—What is the sign of Christian maturity that reflect God’s image in a powerful way according to this verse? **(Loving one another. This is a sign that God abides in us. It is easy to grow in maturity in explaining a doctrine of love, but it requires absolute surrender to truly love others well. It is not for explaining doctrine that we will be judged, but we will be judged for our love or lack of love. Loving others is a telling sign of Christlikeness.)**
  - h. 4:13–16—What do you see? How important to John is the concept of the love of God and loving one another because of God’s love?
  - i. 4:17—How does having assurance of God’s love give us boldness for the day of judgment? **(Many people talk about feeling “far from God.” But this is unbiblical speech. The Gospel is that if you are saved, Christ is in you. Perhaps your fellowship might be strained because of a lack of obedience, but here John is saying that if we simply believe the simple gospel of “Jesus loves me, this I know” we will be ready for the day of judgment.)**
  - j. 4:18—What does it mean that perfect love casts out fear? How does this relate to a Christian who struggles to believe that they are truly saved? **(1 John was written so Christians can have assurance of their salvation. This verse is saying that to rest in the gospel that God loved**

**you and sent His Son, and to believe that, is what leads to no more fear of God punishing you. This is summed up perfectly in the next verse.**

- k. 4:19—When people doubt their salvation because they think they have weak faith or they think they have disobeyed too much, how is that thinking a reversal of this verse? **(It is a denial of the gospel. The gospel says that we love Him because He first loved us. When we question our salvation based on our own merit, we are saying God cannot love us unless we first love Him. We are making ourselves God!)**
- l. 4:20–21—What is John saying here? Why is how we love people a good reflection of how we love God?
- 2. Ephesians 2:4–5—How is God’s love at the center of the gospel?
- 3. Jeremiah 31:3—What do you see here? **(If God loved Jeremiah with an everlasting love, then this must be a special covenant love that existed even before the foundation of the world. This is a verse that can be used to defend unconditional election. It is a testimony to just how certain God’s love is for His elect. He draws us not with mere warnings, but with lovingkindness. This is similar to Romans saying it is God’s kindness which leads us to repentance.)**

#### **Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)**

- 1. John 15:13—What does this tell us about the cross? What does it tell us about how we should seek to display love to one another? **(We should be aiming to lay down our own desires to meet the needs of others. Love is a giving of ourselves for the good of another.)**
- 2. Ephesians 5:2—How does this help us understand how to practically love others? **(Again, loving others is based on loving as we have been loved. This is the goal of the Christian life: Christlikeness in all things.)**

## Section 2: Attributes of God | *Theology Proper*

### Lesson 2.11—Wrath of God

#### Memorize

Q2.11— Is God angry?

A2.11— “God is a just judge, and God is angry with the wicked every day.” – Psalm 7:11

#### Exploration (What Do We Think?)

1. Why is the concept of a God of wrath not usually pleasant to American ears?

#### Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)

1. Our Scripture this week comes from Psalm 7 where David is crying out to God concerning a situation involving an adversary of David, possibly aligned with Saul’s house. David is crying out for protection and for justice. Read and discuss the following verses from this Psalm:
  - a. 7:1—Where did David put his trust when he was persecuted? **(In God.)**
  - b. 7:4–5—What does this tell us about David’s innocence in this situation? **(He is certain he has complete integrity and is suffering injustice.)**
  - c. 7:6—How does the context that these people have committed horrible injustice change how we might respond to this passage? **(Jesus taught us to pray for our enemies. But at the same time, David is crying out for justice. He is essentially asking God to take vengeance for him. He is putting vengeance back where it belongs, in the hands of the Lord.)**
  - d. 7:7–8—This is a prophecy of Christ’s return. Where does wrath fit in to Christ’s return?
  - e. 7:9—When we consider that God is a righteous/just judge who knows all hearts and minds, and knows all the worst wickedness on earth, how does that impact our view of the wrath of God? **(While it is a very American thing to think of the wrath of God as unfair, there are many countries where it is more difficult to comprehend a loving God than it is a wrathful God. Many countries they recognize their guilt and assume there is no answer for it. Our culture is different, we assume our goodness and are offended that we might be punished.)**
  - f. 7:10–11—When you consider that God’s wrath being poured out is to make things right, and is a response to the cry of the oppressed, how does that change our view of the wrath of God? **(Just think of horrible situations where people suffer at the hands of great evil. Such situations rile up in us a recognition that there must be some justice beyond the grave.)**
2. John 3:18—What does it mean that the people who refuse to believe were “condemned already?” **(Christ did not need to come to condemn anyone. All men were *already* condemned without Him. He came that whoever would receive Him would *no longer* be condemned.)**
3. Romans 1:18—Who is God’s wrath revealed against? **(Men who suppress the truth. It’s not that they do not know the truth, it’s that they refuse to love the truth. They suppress it.)**
4. Romans 2:5
5. Ephesians 5:3–7—Why is this a message relevant to today? **(People do indeed try to deceive us with empty words. Acting like sexual immorality, unclean “entertainment,” covetousness, etc. will not lead to wrath, but can be gladly practiced as a Christian. These are lying words and ignore that Paul clearly said not to be deceived by such speech.)**
6. Hebrews 10:28–31—Some people assume because we are under grace we can get away with more sin. This is a mistake. Being under the new covenant means the standards are much higher. Read and discuss:
  - a. 10:28–29—Consider the ways people were punished in the Old Testament? What does the Hebrews author say about those who sin now that Christ has revealed a greater covenant? **(Worse punishment.)**
  - b. 10:30–31—How do these verses warn us? **(We worship a holy God. A God who punishes sins and is a just judge. It should be a sobering thing to all of us to recognize that God is a judge.)**

7. Zephaniah 1:15—What is the day of the Lord like? **(Have them discuss the descriptions here.)**
8. Revelation 6:15–17—What do you see here in this passage about the coming of Jesus? How does this differ from the false view that the Old Testament God is one of wrath but Jesus is always a God of kindness? **(Jesus indeed is always filled with kindness. This coming is the judge the filth of sin and unrepentant sinners who hardened their hearts against Him and persecuted His people. They will beg mountains to crush them rather than have to stand before the gentle Lamb who was slain. Because they rejected and despised His humble nature as the Lamb of God, they will fall before Him as terrifying judge.)**
9. Revelation 14:9–11—Is this just a temporary punishment? **(“forever and ever.” This same language is used to refer to hell by Jesus in the gospels for anyone, not just those living in the end times.)**
10. Revelation 19:1–5—As horrifying as the coming wrath will be, what do these words tell us about God’s wrath when it comes to justice and righting what was wrong? **(He is purifying the world. Removing all that is evil. Our view of humanity is greatly mistaken if we think that means many humans will not be judged.)**

#### **Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)**

1. Psalm 2:12 provides two distinct options. Discuss this. **(Believe in the Son, and the wrath of God no longer abides on you. You are blessed. But not believing in the Son means His wrath remains on you.)**

## Section 2: Attributes of God | *Theology Proper*

### Lesson 2.12—Grace of God

#### Memorize

Q2.12— Is God gracious?

A2.12— “The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.” – Psalm 103:8

#### Exploration (What Do We Think?)

1. One definition of the Greek word for “grace” is “to show kindness to someone, with the implication of graciousness on the part of the one showing such kindness.”<sup>1</sup> Based on that, how would you describe God’s grace?

#### Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)

1. Psalm 103:8—What do you see? How would this differ in real life situations if God were not a gracious God, but always chose instant just wrath?
2. One of the best examples of God’s grace being poured out on helpless sinners is Psalm 107. Read and discuss this Psalm:
  - a. 107:1—Why are we called to give thanks to God? **(The word “mercy” is the Hebrew term *Hesed*. This is an equivalent to the concept of grace as defined earlier. It is in many ways an untranslatable word because of how much it carries when referring to God. It emphasizes God’s grace, kindness, gentleness, mercy, lovingkindness, loyalty, faithfulness, etc. I like CSB’s translation of “faithful love.” This sums it up as well as one can. It is because of God’s grace that we should give thanks.)**
  - b. 107:2—How has God had grace on us? To be redeemed is to be purchased back. What does that mean when it comes to the cross? **(Christ bought us with His blood. He paid our debt. This is grace!)**
  - c. 107:4–5—How would you describe the hope these people felt?
  - d. 107:6–7—What was the solution to their situation? **(Crying out to the Lord. He delivered them by His grace and led them to a safe space!)**
  - e. 107:8—What is the psalmist pleading for? **(That we would reflect on God’s grace and give thanks.)**
  - f. 107:10–12—How did these people end up in the hopelessness they ended up in? **(By their own rebellion. By despising God’s counsel.)**
  - g. 107:13–14—What was the solution? **(Crying out to God. Keep emphasizing this concept of crying out to God for deliverance to the students!)**
  - h. 107:15—What is the psalmist pleading for?
  - i. 107:17–18—Why were these people fools? How did they get to their place of misery? **(Their own folly. Their own transgressions and iniquities.)**
  - j. 107:19–20—What was the solution? **(Oh, what a testimony this is. Cry out to God and be delivered. Here the Word of God heals them. How many of our students are hurting or sad yet never looking for the solution by crying out to God and reading His Word?)**
  - k. 107:21–22—What is the psalmist pleading for?
  - l. 107:23–27—Keeping in mind that the sea was a symbol of a place of chaos and danger, what is the psalmist describing here? How would you describe the hope/emotions of these people?
  - m. 107:28–30—What was the solution? Do you think Jesus knew this passage? **(Surely, He fulfilled this when He calmed the storm.)**
  - n. 107:31—What is the psalmist pleading for?

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<sup>1</sup> Louw, Johannes P., and Eugene Albert Nida. 1996. In [\*Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains\*](#), electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., 1:748. New York: United Bible Societies.

- o. 107:32—How should God's grace impact our worship when we gather together? **(There should be great joy. We should all be testifying of God's grace to us.)**
- p. 107:43—What is the challenge we are left with?

**Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)**

- 1. Joel 2:13—How should we respond when we are ashamed of our sin
- 2. Ephesians 2:8–9—How is this different than being saved by our own works? Why is it by grace? **(To remove all boasting and to give all the glory to God.)**
- 3. Romans 3:24—What is the cost of salvation? **(It is free.)**
- 4. Romans 5:20–21—What if we continue to struggle with sin we are trying to kill? **(Grace abounds. God will deliver us.)**
- 5. Titus 2:11—What did Jesus reveal to all men?
- 6. Hebrews 4:16—Because of grace, and because of Jesus, what is possible now?
- 7. James 4:6—How do we enjoy God's grace? **(Increasing humility. Death to self, more of Christ.)**



## Section 2: Attributes of God | *Theology Proper*

### Lesson 2.13—Sovereignty of God

#### Memorize

Q2.13— Is God sovereign? | *Sovereignty of God*

A2.13— “Our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases.” – Psalm 115:3

#### Exploration (What Do We Think?)

1. How should the concept of God’s sovereignty comfort us? How might it trouble us?

#### Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)

1. Psalm 115:3—What do you see?
2. Genesis 50:20—How was God’s sovereignty seen even when Joseph’s brothers committed an evil act?
3. 1 Samuel 2:6–7—Is God sovereign even over who lives and dies? What else is he sovereign over?
4. Job 42:1–6—After God appeared to Job and testified of His own sovereignty, what was Job’s response? Why would he have this response?
5. Proverbs 16:9—What does this say about God’s sovereignty and our lives? **(We do make real plans and make real choices, but God is the one who is directing those choices wherever He wants them to end up.)**
6. Isaiah 46:9–10—What does God’s sovereignty mean for his control over events? **(He is completely in control. He does whatever He pleases.)**
7. Jeremiah 10:23—Is the way of man in himself? Who directs his steps?
8. Daniel 4:28–35—Read and discuss how Nebuchadnezzar’s experience shows God’s sovereignty:
  - a. 4:28–30—What does this tell us about Nebuchadnezzar’s view of his own sovereignty? **(He thought he was in control of all things. How often do we think we are more in control than we actually are?)**
  - b. 4:31–33—What does this teach us about God’s sovereignty?
  - c. 4:34—How does this picture of the leader of the greatest empire on earth at the time praising God for His dominion and kingdom display God’s sovereignty?
  - d. 4:35—What does Nebuchadnezzar testify of God’s sovereignty?
9. Matthew 10:29–30—What does the cheap price of the sparrows emphasize about God’s sovereignty? **(As inexpensive as they were, God is the one who wills even the time of their death. He is totally sovereign.)**
10. Acts 17:26—What does this say about the sovereignty of nations, kings, and presidents? **(God is the one who appoints even the boundaries of countries.)**
11. Romans 8:28—Could God make this promise if He was limited in any way by human will?
12. Ephesians 1:11—On what basis did God predestine some? **(According to the counsel of His own will.)**
13. Psalm 2:2–4—What is God’s response when the greatest men on earth seek to destroy His counsel? **(He laughs and holds them in derision.)**

#### Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)

1. How far does God’s sovereignty reach?
  - a. John 6:44—Can anyone come by their own free will? What is necessary first? **(Yes, men can come by their own will. But that will must be because God Himself drew them to Himself.)**
  - b. John 6:65—What is necessary for someone to come to Christ? **(It must be granted to him by the Father. Not that anyone would seek Christ honestly without the Father. That’s exactly the point. Without God willing it, NO ONE would choose Christ. Left to their own free will without God’s sovereignty pulling them toward Himself, all men would turn away from Him.)**
  - c. Acts 13:48—Who believed? **(As many as had been appointed to eternal life. Appointed by who? The sovereign king even over salvation.)**

- d. Romans 8:29–30—Who will be justified? **(Those who were foreknown and predestined. Foreknown means to be known in an intimate way others were not. This cannot be based on any goodness in them, or that would give them reason to boast. It is solely by God's own will.)**