

LESSON 2 God

I was a little child when my mother taught me how to enjoy storms. She would put her arms around me as we stood at the window of our house in Latin America. The wind would whip through the banana trees in our front yard. It was magnificent to see the tossing leaves, wet with rain, shining when the lightning flashed. The thunder sounded like drums telling the story of how the grass and flowers loved the refreshing rain.

People can enjoy or fear a storm, depending on what they have been taught about it. It is also important to know what kind of a storm it is—beneficial or destructive.

How can you understand a storm? What is the shape of the wind and rain and lightning? Can you put a storm in a bottle? Of course not. A storm is understood when we study its parts: for example, the cold air meeting the hot. We can study its effects—what it does to the land or the sea.

In a way, God can be compared to a storm. Some people fear Him and others love Him—depending on what they have been told and what they do about it.

You cannot see God, but you can study what He does. In Lesson 1 we learned that the Bible tells us all about God—about His qualities and how He deals with humankind. In this lesson we will look into the Bible and explore a few of the many things it has to say about God.

The Plan

- A. His Relationship to Us
- B. Our Relationship to Him

The Goals

1. List several attributes of God.
2. Explain what your attitude toward God should be.

A. HIS RELATIONSHIP TO US

Goal 1. List several attributes of God.

The Bible says in John 4:24 that God is a Spirit. God is the Creator, who gives life to all of His creation. Because He is a Spirit, He cannot be seen unless He chooses to show himself in some visible form.

He did show himself through His Son. John 1:14 says, “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father.”

God has revealed himself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, three Persons called the Godhead or Trinity. The three are referred to in many places, one of which is Matthew 28:19: “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

One way to learn more about God is by studying His attributes or qualities. God is good, holy, just, all-powerful, all-knowing, and eternal. Let us look at a few verses that mention these qualities.

He [God] passed in front of Moses, proclaiming,
“The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and
gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love
and faithfulness.” (Exodus 34:6)

“I am the Lord your God; consecrate
yourselves and be holy, because I am holy.”
(Leviticus 11:44)

And the fact that He is all-powerful can be seen in Daniel 4:35: “No one can hold back his hand or say to him: ‘What have you done?’”

God Knows Everything

Nothing can be hidden from God; everything in all creation is exposed and lies open before His eyes. It is to Him that we must all give an account of ourselves (Hebrews 4:13).

Revelation 10:6 tells us that God is eternal. An angel “swore by him who lives for ever and ever, who created the heavens and all that is in them, the earth and all that is in it, and the sea and all that is in it.”

The few verses that we have read, verses that give a little description of God, help us to realize how great He is. He is powerful and He is strong—but He is also merciful and kind. And He wants to have a close relationship with us, His creation.

Application

1 Read the Scripture references and fill in the correct words in the statements following.

- a)** Matthew 6:9–11. God is likened to a loving
who provides for his
- b)** Isaiah 66:13. God comforts even as a
comforts her

2 Look up the following Scriptures. Write by each one of the references the attribute of God that it suggests to you.

- a)** 2 Kings 4:42–44
- b)** Genesis 9:13–17
- c)** 2 Chronicles 7:13–14
- d)** Exodus 3:7
- e)** Psalm 97:10–12



If you want to know more about the attributes of God, choose another psalm and as you read it write down the descriptions of God that are especially meaningful to you. Psalm 103 and Psalm 139 are filled with beautiful descriptions of God.

B. OUR RELATIONSHIP TO HIM

Goal 2. Explain what your attitude toward God should be.

In Matthew 22:37 Jesus said, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”

There are various ways of showing God that we love Him. Our worship and praise can put our love into words said directly to Him. But we should also show our love.

What does the LORD your God ask of you but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to observe the LORD's commands and decrees.
(Deuteronomy 10:12–13)

John writes, “If anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him” (1 John 2:5). If we want to show our love to God, we will follow the instructions He gives us in His Word.

Another way to show our love to God is by giving and sharing with others. First John 3:17–18 says,

If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.

The love that is obedient and sharing will be a satisfying and rewarding love. Jesus says in Luke 10:28 that if we love God above all else we will live. Some people think that real living is wealth, power, and position. But these things in themselves will

never satisfy because we were made in God's likeness and for His glory. Our spirits must be satisfied with the spiritual.

Real living is loving God. Jesus said, "Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Matthew 6:33). Do not limit yourself to the less important things. Love God with all your heart.

Application

- 3** Circle the letter in front of the correct completion for the following statement. Above all else, you should love
- a)** power so that you are in control of your life.
 - b)** God, and put that love into practice.
- 4** Read the following verses and circle the ones that tell you what your first responsibility toward God is.
- a)** Deuteronomy 6:5
 - b)** Deuteronomy 10:12
 - c)** Deuteronomy 13:3
 - d)** Joshua 22:5
 - e)** Mark 12:30
 - f)** Jude 21
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Check Your Answers

- 1** **a)** father, children.
 b) mother, child.
- 3** **b)** God, and put that love into practice.
- 2** You may use your own words, but your answers will be something like these:
 - a)** all-powerful
 - b)** merciful.
 - c)** forgiving.
 - d)** all-knowing or all-seeing.
 - e)** holy.
- 4** You should have circled all the letters because every verse tells you that your first responsibility toward God is to love Him.