

The character of God... and values

Values: What are they?

- A set of standards that we value, and live by
- Principles that guide us in the way we act and behave
- Principles that help us know right from wrong

Values: Who sets the standard?

- People have different ideas about what is right and wrong.
- Some believe that the God of the Bible is the one we look to for our guiding principles.
- Some don't believe in God make their own rules.

Values have a faith basis ... either faith in God or faith in human nature. But human nature fails, so it makes sense to look to the One who made us for our values. He sets the standards.

What is God like?

Before we can set standards, we need to know what God is like, because His character tells us about His standards.

The attributes of God (examples)

God is...

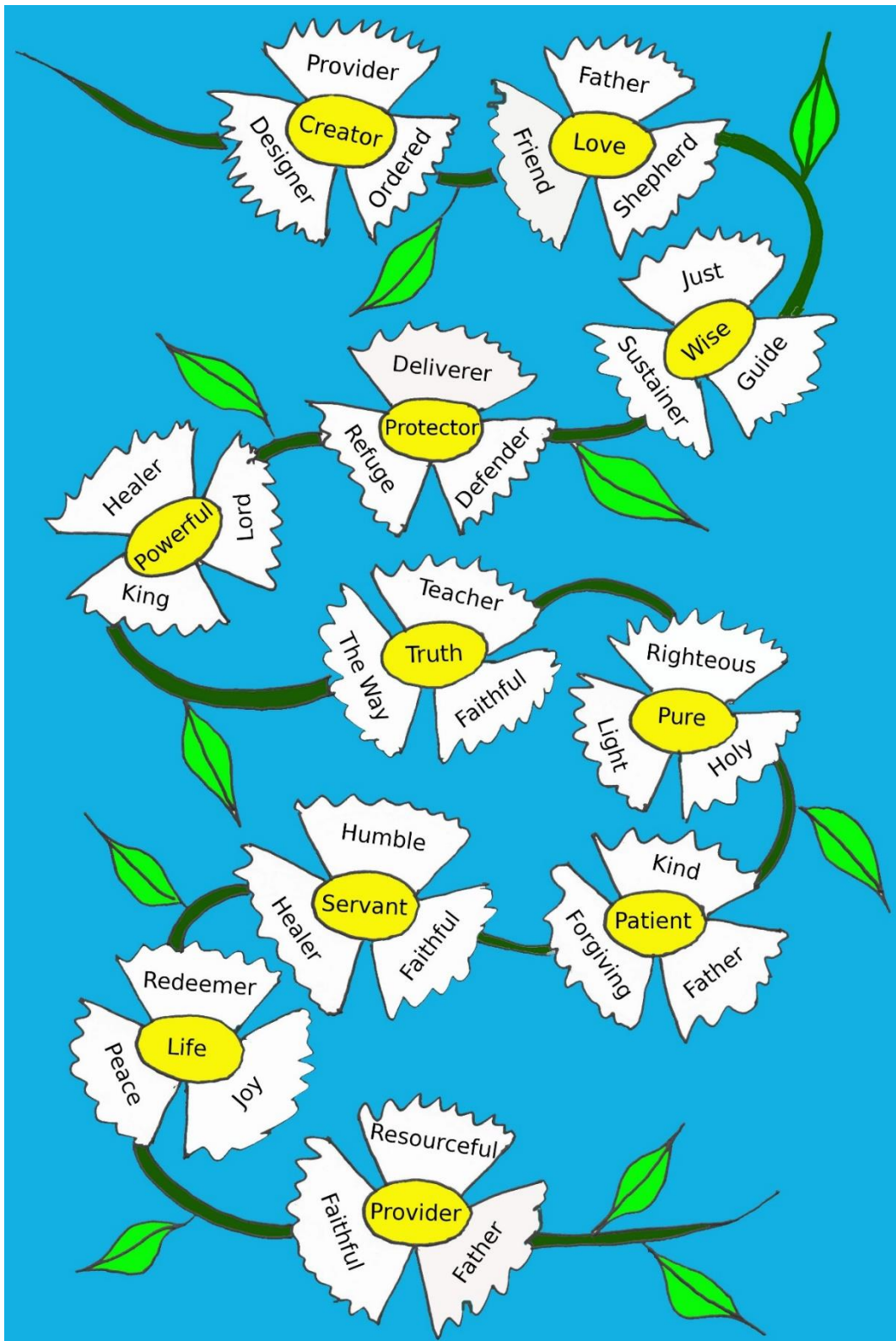
- A Creator
- Loving
- Wise
- A Provider
- A Protector
- Truth

Our values should reflect the character of God.



Character and values

Some attributes of God in groups:



As we get to know God's character and nature we can make these responses:



God is Creator

We are amazed at God's power; we believe God's plan for the world, beginning with creation.

The sun knows the time to set. Psalm 104:19



God is Love

We love others as Jesus loves us. We forgive others, show kindness, gentleness and compassion.

Jesus the loving shepherd - John 10



God is Wise

We seek God's opinion, not our own; we know that wisdom comes from obeying God.

Learn from the wisdom of the ant - Prov.6:6



God is Protector

When we understand that God is our protector we have trust and confidence in a great and powerful God, a loving father.

The name of the Lord is a strong tower. Proverbs 18:10



God is Powerful

This is to believe in God's supernatural ability; to have faith.

God rules...more powerful than the waves of the ocean.

Psalm 93:4



God is Truth

We weigh up information against God's standards; we tell the truth and live the truth.

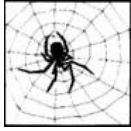
Live a life that measures up to the standard God set. Eph 4:1



God is Pure and Holy

We ask for God's forgiveness; we live according to God's standard; we are careful in the words we speak and in what we think.

Wash me and I will be whiter than snow. Psalm 51:7



God is Patient

We are patient with ourselves and others; we demonstrate self-control.

Learn from the spider, a patient builder.

Be patient with everyone. 1 Thess 5:14



God is a Servant

God is our helper; He wants us to help one another.

Learn from the bees who work to serve the hive.

Let love cause you to serve one another. Gal 5:13



God is Life

God has given life to every living thing. We can look to Him to guide us through life and give us eternal life.

No one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.

John 3:3.



God is a Provider

We have trust and confidence that God cares for us and will provide for us. We let God take care of all our worries.

I have provided all kinds of grains and all kinds of fruits for you to eat.

Gen 1:29



God is Peace We are at peace, knowing that God is with us

The Holy Spirit came as a dove bringing peace to mankind, (John 1:32).

We have peace through God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Rom 5:1

God is the starting point for values

All values that are good and true come from God Himself, not from our own human effort.

How do we teach values?

- Focus FIRST on who God is, e.g. God is Love.
- THEN teach the value that comes out of knowing who God is, e.g. kindness
(Kindness is a response to knowing the God is Love.)

Values should be founded on God's standards

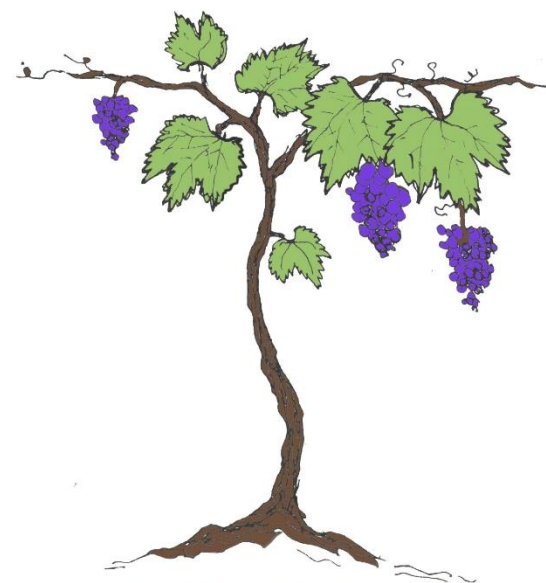
- We love because God loves us.
- We serve by showing humility and concern for others.
- We are patient because God is patient with us.
- We do what's right because God is pure and holy.
- We are thankful and generous because God is our provider.

Teaching values without acknowledging that they come from God only leads to **PRIDE** in human effort.

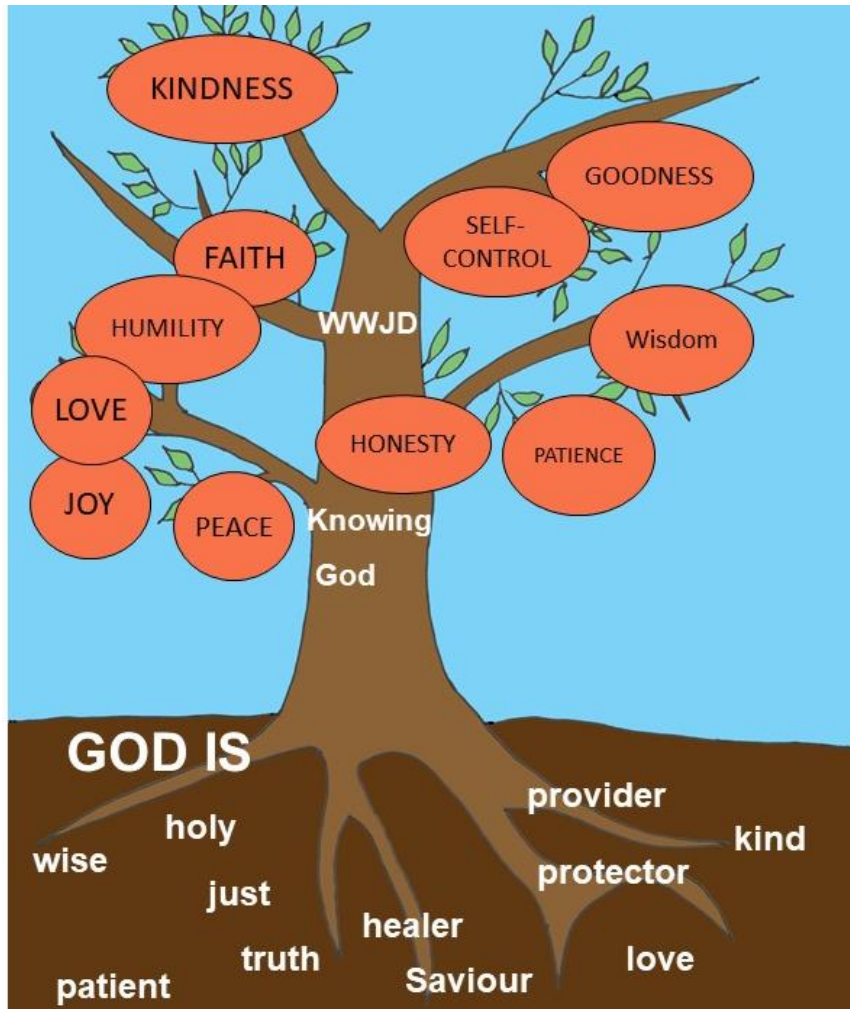
Pride goes before a fall.



Stay connected in all you teach *I am the Vine and you are the branches...apart from Me you can do NOTHING. Jn 15:5*



JESUS
*is the vine,
we are the branches*



Activity: Character match

For each of these attributes of God, match some responses. Explain why you have chosen these.

Attributes:

God is Love, God is Provider, God is Truth, God is a servant, God is Pure and Holy

Responses:

generous, humble, kind, honest, obedient, faithful, thankful, friendly, responsible, caring, courageous