

# Building Blocks Teachers' Notes

Studies for teachers on God's character and nature

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# God is a Powerful Creator

(Creator; Powerful; Lord and King; Healer)

## God is Creator

Genesis ch. 1: In the beginning God created the whole universe. He continues to create new things, animals, plants and human beings. God can make every person a new being, having His character, when they trust in Jesus as their Saviour.

God can help us to create new things that will be a blessing to Him and to other people.

God was orderly in the way He created everything:

- First He created **light** to work by.
- Next He needed space to work in. He made **a space** between the vapours above and the waters below.
- Third, He made **the dry land**, in preparation for the plants for food that would be created and **the vegetation** that would provide food, clothing and shelter for man who would soon be created.
- Fourth He created the **sun, moon and stars** to provide man with light by day and night.
- Fifth God made **the birds and sea creatures**. As God created the living creatures to inhabit the earth He made first those that could exist in water and in the air, nesting in the trees above the ground. Was this because the land was not sufficiently dried out to allow animals to survive?
- On the sixth day He created **animals and man**. God prepared for man's coming to the earth following an orderly plan. He prepared a place for man to live, then plants to provide food, clothing and shelter, then animals, birds and fish over which to have dominion, and provide help with food and labour.
- On the seventh day God rested. He was pleased with His created world; He enjoyed doing it; He could rest after the job was done, and appreciate His handiwork.

In the same way that God created His world, we can be creative, making and doing things to bring joy and help to others around us.

### We are created in God's image

Genesis 1 - 3 The creation and fall.

Psalms 139 We are wonderfully made.

Acts 17:28 (a) For in Him we live and move and have our being.

Matthew 10:29-30 God knows the number of hairs on our head.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 - Our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit.

## **Our responsibility to protect God's creation**

Genesis 1 - The creation

Genesis 1:28 - Rule over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air and every living creature.

Genesis 2:19 - Now the Lord had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name.

Psalms 150 - Praise the Lord, all living creatures.

Psalms 148:9-13 - Let the creation praise the Lord.

Psalms 65:9-13 - Care for the land

## **God is Powerful**

### **God is Lord and King**

God says, "I am that I am".

He is lord of Lords and King of Kings. (Revelation 17:14)

"I the Lord make light and create darkness; I am the Lord and there is no other." (Isaiah 45:6-7)

God is holy, pure, eternal and infinite.

"I am the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end." (Revelation 1:8; 21:6; 22:13)

"You shall be holy for I the Lord am holy." (Leviticus 19:2)

"You must be perfect as your Heavenly Father is perfect." (Matthew 5:48)

God made possible the forgiveness of man's sin by providing the Lamb of God, Jesus. Jesus was a willing sacrifice and a victorious Saviour. His resurrection established for eternity His power and lordship over evil.

The Lamb of God = the Lion of Judah (Revelation 5:5-6)

MAN'S RESPONSE: To know God's character is to live in reverent fear of Him.

Jesus said, "If you love Me, obey Me." To obey the commands of Jesus is to obey God. (John 14:15,23)

God requires His people to be holy, pure, righteous; therefore they go through difficulties that refine their character. (1 John 3: 1-3)

God gives His people eternal life. (John 3:16; 1 John 5:20)

God makes available His sacrifice for sins and His victory in our lives, to renew His people:

1. for the drawing in of others (John 12:32)
2. for the glory of God (John 17:1-5)

He is the Lord of lords and King of kings (Rev 17:14)

### **God has power over creation**

Genesis 1 The creation of the universe

Psalms 24; Isaiah 45:6-7 He is the Lord over the created world.

Psalms 93:4 The Lord rules... greater than the roar of the oceans, more powerful than the waves of the sea.

Mark 4:35-41 - Jesus calms the storm.

Matthew 14:22-32 Jesus walks on water. (Jesus' power over creation)

Luke 15:1-11 The great catch

Job 36:22 - God does great things by His power.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 - There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven.

Ecclesiastes 3:11 - He has made everything beautiful in His time.

Psalms 102:12-16 - The appointed time for rebuilding Zion.

Joshua 10 - The day the sun stood still. (God has control over time).

### **Jesus, the humble King**

Matthew 1:18-24; Matthew 2:1-12; Luke 1:1-21 - The Birth of Jesus – the humble King

Matthew 21, Mark 11, Luke 19, John 12 – Jesus enters Jerusalem as King

Galatians 4:4 - When the right time finally came, God sent His own Son. He came as the son of a human mother...so we might become God's sons.

Isaiah 9:6-7 - He will govern and reign.

John 19:1-20 - The crucifixion

Acts - The apostles take the gospel to other lands

Acts 1:6-10; Matthew 16:27; Matthew 24 & 25 - The second coming of Christ;

Just as Jesus ascended into heaven, He will return as King.

Revelation 5:5-6 Jesus, the lion of Judah

Revelation 15:3-4 All nations will come and worship before you...

# **God is a Loving Provider**

**(Provider; Shepherd; Faithful; Love; Father)**

## **God is Love**

God is a loving father who loves His children faithfully, consistently. God is pleased when we love others faithfully, consistently with His love in their hearts.

God's love is a forgiving love. His love heals hearts, spirits as well as bodies.

God's love is for all people. He knows and understands at times when no one else does.

Jesus noticed and cared for the 'little people'. e.g. Zacchaeus; the widow who gave all she had, Luke 19:1-10; Luke 21:1-3; Mark 12: 41-44

God's love is a complete humbling of Himself in the person of Jesus. Jesus humbled Himself before His disciples. God is pleased when His children live in humility and love, in honour preferring one another. Rom 12:10

God desires our love. He wants us to love Him. Mark 12:30

God knows how much we love Him by how much we obey Him. John 14: 23-24.

God puts His love in our hearts through His Holy Spirit. Rom. 5:5

God enables us to love as we yield to Him. Love is a fruit of the Spirit. Gal. 5:22

We know that God's Spirit lives in us, making us new, changing us, by the love we have for others. God's love banishes fear of punishment. 1 John 4:18.

God's love is a sacrificial love. 1 John 3:16. He calls us to give ourselves as a sacrifice to others, by His spirit living in us. Rom 12:20

Jesus gives us gifts/abilities, by which His love can be given to people around us. Eph. 4:7-16.

If I don't have love the gifts of the Holy Spirit are wasted. 1 Cor. 13:1-3

God continues to lovingly provide for our needs irrespective of whether we respond to His love or not. Matt. 5:45

Lam 3:22-23 The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies are new every morning. Great is your faithfulness O God.

## **God cares for families**

Luke 15:11-32 - A story about a father who forgave his son.

Luke 2:41-52 - A visit to the temple. Jesus obeyed His heavenly Father.  
Matt 19:14; Mark 10:14; Luke 18:16 – Jesus said ‘Let the children come’.  
John 10 - The Good Shepherd; Our heavenly Father loves and cares for us.  
2 Corinthians 6:8 - I will be your Father and you shall be my sons and daughters.  
1 John 3:1 - See how much the Father has loved us! His love is so great that He has called us His children.  
Romans 12:9-10 Brotherly love.  
1 Corinthians 13:4 - Love is patient and kind.  
Galatians 5:22 - Love is a fruit of the Spirit.  
Ephesians 6:1 - Children obey your parents in the Lord.  
Joshua 24:15 - As for me and my family, we will serve the Lord.

### **God cares about me**

Psalms 139 We are wonderfully made.  
Matthew 10:29-30 The hairs on your head are numbered.  
Luke 12:6-7 You are worth much more than many sparrows.  
Matthew 6:26. Look at the birds. God cares for them. He will care for me.  
John 10 The Good Shepherd. He calls His own sheep by name.  
Psalm 23 The Lord is my shepherd.  
Luke 19:1-9 The story of Zacchaeus. Jesus knew all about him. He called him by name.  
John 1:43 Jesus called Nathanael by name.  
Isaiah 49:16 Our names are inscribed upon His hands.  
Mark 10:13-16 Jesus, special friend of children.  
Matthew 25:14-30; Romans 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 We have individual gifts and talents that we can use to serve God.

### **Jesus showed compassion**

1 Corinthians 13:4 - Love is patient and kind.  
Ephesians 4:32 - Be kind to one another.  
2 Samuel 4 & 9 - King David showed kindness to the lame prince, Mephibosheth, and allowed him to live in his house.  
Luke 6:6-10 - Jesus heals a paralyzed hand  
Mark 10:46-52 - Blind Bartimaeus receives sight  
John 9:1-34 - The man born blind  
John 5:1-18 - The man at the pool

### **God’s love is a forgiving love**

In His love he forgave those who nailed Him to the cross. He brought forgiveness to a thief who was crucified with Him. When forgiveness is asked and granted it brings healing of the mind, emotions, will, as well as body and spirit. Total love expressed towards a person brings total wholeness.  
Luke 7:36-50 – The woman who poured expensive perfume on the feet of Jesus.

### **When we love God we obey Him**

God is pleased when His children show their love for Him by having a heart attitude to obey Him always and by expressing His love to others at all times and in all circumstances, (John 14:21; John 15:10)

Mark 12:30 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul mind and strength.

## **God is Provider**

God is the provider of all man's needs. These are:

- Physical needs
- Emotional needs
- Spiritual needs

### **Physical needs**

All creation on earth was placed in the care of man, "to fill and subdue it" In creating the earth God had supplied all man's needs for food, shelter, clothing. He made us originally with whole bodies and He gives us wholeness and healing.

### **Emotional needs**

God places people in families for their mutual help, comfort and love. He has created a beautiful world of sight, sound, taste feel and smell for people to enjoy.

### **Spiritual needs**

**God** has provided guiding rules to keep us from straying from Him. When we do sin, He has a way back to Himself through the sacrifice of Jesus on our behalf. Galatians 3:19.

### **God has provided all the things on earth for the use of all people. He makes the rain fall on both the just and the unjust. Matt 5:45**

But, when individuals honour Him and live/do business/govern their country by His divine principles, His provision for them is over abundant.

Luke 6:38 Give and it shall be given unto you, pressed down, shaken together and running over.

When a nation honours God He prospers that nation. The reverse is also true: Zechariah 8:9-16; Isaiah 32:14-20; Joel 1:10; Jeremiah 23:10; Hosea 4:6  
God is pleased when His people share the provision He has made for them with others.

2 Corinthians 9:6-15: The principle of sowing that there may be reaping.  
The character qualities God would develop in His children as they understand His functions as provider are:

- gratitude to Him expressed in thankful prayer and praise.
- generosity in gladly providing the needs of others as God shows us.

### **We have a responsibility to care for the creation**

Psalms 104:10-18 - God provides for His creation.

Psalms 147:7-9 - God gives food to every living creature.

Psalms 50:10 - He owns the cattle on a thousand hills.

Matthew 25: 14-30 - The story of the talents is a story of responsibility with that which the Lord has provided for us.

Genesis 37-46 - God gave Joseph wisdom and used this wisdom in providing food for his family.

Genesis 1:28 - God said, 'Rule over every living creature.'

Genesis 1:11 - The land produced vegetation.

Psalms 92:12 - Trees of the Bible.

Genesis 2: 8-9 - Trees in the Garden of Eden.

### **God is a generous provider**

The loaves and fishes (John 6)

The wedding at Cana (John 2)

God shall supply all your needs (Phil. 4:19)

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

Genesis 1:29 (GNB)

### **God is a miraculous provider**

Elijah fed by ravens (1 Kings 17:2-6)

The great catch (Luke 5:1-11)

The widow of Zarephath (1 Kings 17:10-16)

Elisha helps a poor widow (2 Kings 4:1-7)

Elisha multiplies bread (2 Kings 4:42-44)

The loaves and fishes (Mark 6:30-44)

Miraculous provision for a widow (1 Kings 17)

Miraculous provision for another widow (2 Kings 4)

God provided for Joseph and his family (Gen. 37-46)

### **God is resourceful**

Genesis 1:30; 2:5; 3:23 - Man was instructed by God to cultivate the soil.

Psalms 104:14 - God provides grass for the cattle and vegetables for man.

Matthew 13:31 - The mustard seed - God provides when we have faith.

Matthew 26 - Do not worry.

Matthew 4:18 ; Mark 1:14; Luke 5:1; John 1:35 - The calling of the first disciples. They had to trust God to provide.

Exodus 15:22-27; Exodus 17 - God provided water for the Israelites when they trusted Him.

Job 36:26-31 - God is great. He is faithful in providing through the creation.

Psalms 119:86a - God's words can be trusted.

Psalms 56:3 - I put my trust in you.

Psalms 20:7 We trust in the power of the Lord our God.

Matthew 13:3 The Sower. God provides the seed.

### **God cares for the creation**

John 10 - The Good Shepherd.

Psalms 23 - The Lord is my shepherd.



Luke 15 - The lost sheep.  
Matthew 6:26 - God's care for animals and more so for us  
Luke 12:6-7; Matthew 10:29-30 - We are of more value than many sparrows.

### **God wants us to share his provision**

Proverbs 22:9 - Be generous and share your food with the poor.  
Isaiah 58:7-11 - Share your food with the hungry.  
John 6:1-14 - The boy who shared his lunch with Jesus.  
Matthew 25:35-40 - I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me drink.  
Luke 6:38 - Give and it shall be given.  
Mark 12:41-44 - The widow's gift.  
Luke 7:36-50 - The woman with the jar of perfume. She gave all she had.  
Luke 10:38-42 - Mary's love for Jesus  
John 12:1-8 - The precious ointment  
Psalm 112:5; Proverbs 11:25 - Be generous.  
Proverbs 3:9-10 - Honour God with your money  
Matthew 7:7 - God gives to those who ask.  
Matthew 10:8 - Freely you have received, freely give.  
2 Corinthians 9:7-9 - God loves a person who gives happily.  
2 Corinthians 8:7 - Generosity  
Mark 16:15-18 - The Great Commission  
1 John 4:16 - God is love.  
Luke 4:8 - Jesus came to bring good news to the poor.

### **God is a miraculous provider**

1 Kings 17:2-6 - Elijah fed by ravens in time of drought.  
1 Kings 17:10-16 - Oil and meal  
2 Kings 4: 42-44 - Elijah multiplies bread.  
Exodus - 16,17 - Provision for the Israelites in the desert.  
Genesis 6-8 - Noah and his family survived the flood.  
Genesis 37-47 - Joseph's family survived the drought.  
John 2:1-11 Jesus turned water to wine. (Miraculous provision)  
Deuteronomy 11:13 - I will send rain on your land if you love and serve me with all your heart.  
Matthew 24 - signs in the heavens at the end of the age.  
Mark 6:30-44 - Loaves and fishes  
Psalm 63:2; 66:3; 89:13; 146:6; 145:5 - God is powerful  
Acts 1 & 2 - The disciples receive power. God's provision of energy for our needs is symbolic of the energy He provides through the Holy Spirit.

## **God is a Shepherd**

Psalm 23 describes the Good Shepherd beautifully.

A shepherd in Eastern countries:

- cared for the sheep
- led the sheep
- protected the sheep

**The shepherd is caring**

- finding food and water for the sheep
- Treating cuts and bruises

**The shepherd leads**

- choosing the way they should go
- Keeping the flock together
- Keeping the sheep close to himself
- Knowing them all by name.

**The shepherd protects**

- from wild animals
- Finding them the shelter of a sheep fold at night
- Being himself the 'door' of the sheep fold

Scripture passages that present this picture of the shepherd are:

John 10. the Good Shepherd;

Ezekiel 34 The false shepherd then the good shepherd

Matthew 18:12-13; Luke 15:4-6

Matthew 25:31-36 Separating sheep from goats

Matthew 10:6 Sheep amongst wolves

Micah 2:12-13 the sheep gathered in the fold.

The power of the shepherd is to fight on behalf of the sheep. Jesus the Good Shepherd made this possible in a new dimension when He sent the Holy Spirit to empower His people.

David the Shepherd: 1 Samuel 17:31-40; Psalm 78: 70-72

**God is a loving and faithful shepherd**

Look at the birds (Matt. 6)

The Good Shepherd (John 10)

The lost sheep, the lost coin, the lost son (Luke 15)

Zacchaeus (Luke 19)

The Lord is my Shepherd (Psalm 23)

God knows all about me (Psalm 139)

The Lord is good. His love is eternal. (Psalm 100:5 (GNB))

## God is Faithful

God is faithful in providing us with families who care for us.

The existence of the one-parent family is a common situation in these days, even amongst Christians. When we study the family unit, the children from the one-parent family feel different from those with two parents. Various forms of problem behaviour are manifested e.g. they become withdrawn, or antagonistic to the children of whole families.

How can we deal with this? In the scriptures there are examples of how God looked after single parents with children:

The story of Ruth and Naomi illustrates how God provided for them in this situation.

1. He made provision for Naomi by giving her a faithful daughter-in-law, Ruth.
2. He provided Boaz, a God-fearing man, to look after them.
3. He provided for the whole family ultimately through Ruth's marriage to Boaz.

God is faithful in difficult circumstances. He is pleased when His children are faithful in all circumstances to Him, to family, to our friends.

### **God's love is consistent**

Children need to understand that parents are not perfect, and neither are children. But God is perfect in His love and commitment towards us.

### **God faithfully provides**

Genesis 1:29 - God said, Look, I have given you all the plants that have grain for seed. And I have given you all the trees whose fruits have seeds in them. They will be food for you."

Ruth - God provided grain for Ruth and Naomi.

Luke 2:40-52 - The boy Jesus was faithful to His Father God and His parents.

Matthew 14, Mark 6, Luke 9, John 6 - Jesus feeds the multitudes.

Exodus 15:22-27 - Bitter water made sweet in the desert , (manna and quails)

Exodus 17 - Water from a rock

Exodus 16; Exodus 3:8 - God provided food for the Israelites.

Proverbs 12:1 - He who works his land will have abundant food.

Matthew 6:25-34 - Do not worry about food or clothes.

1 Kings 17 - Miraculous provision for the widow when Elijah prays

2 Kings 4 - Miraculous provision when Elisha prays

Philippians 4:19 - My God shall supply all your needs.

Psalms 136:25 - He gives food to every living creature. His love continues forever.

Matthew 7:9-11 - God gives good things when we ask.

Psalms 89:1-4 - I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

Lam. 3:22-23 - The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases.

### **God keeps all His promises**

Genesis 8 - God faithfully kept His promise. He promised Noah that seasons, day and night, planting and harvesting of food would recur regularly.

God is to be trusted (Ps. 56:3; Ps. 20:7; Ps. 119:86)

Luke 16:10 Be faithful in little things

## God is a Father

Psalms 103 expresses much of the character qualities of God as Father to His children. Note especially verse 7: "He made known His ways unto Moses, His acts unto the children of Israel." This leads us into a study of the story of Moses, as the basis for the theme of God the Father.

The relationship of Jesus to His father in heaven is expressed in the following passages:

John 5:19-47; John 6:41-51; John 14; 15; 16; 17.

The key is, "He who has seen Me has seen the Father." John 14:9

All that Jesus expressed about His Father and Himself and their relationship together is possible for us through Him.

The idea of God as our Father is a New Testament concept, through the advent of God's Son, Jesus.

"Let the little children come to Me." In saying this, Jesus also meant, "Let the little children come to the Father, God."

Jesus is:

- the Way to God the Father
- The Truth about God the Father
- Life in God the Father

A father is

- a procreator
- provider
- protector

God the Father procreates His spiritual children. He provides for His children... food, shelter and clothing. He protects His children, spiritually, physically.

Children resemble their parents in looks, habits, how they talk, what they like to do. Parents sometimes do wrong things as well as good. God the Father only does good things. So even if human parents do bad things sometimes, because they are human, we can trust God our heavenly father to always do good.

Human parents might fail but God the Father never does. The fact that human parents can be wrong must be paralleled with the truth that children still love their parents. After all, children will admit, they do wrong but the parents still love them. Children have a keen sense of justice and will accept this proposition more readily than adults. Children can then be trained to see that the character of God, as seen in Jesus, is the character children can safely seek to grow into. Parents can be encouraged to train the children at home to develop the same attitudes of parent/child as Jesus showed towards His Father.

We as teachers must learn that only God is the perfect Father, who is always present in the form of the Holy Spirit, and He always does only good. God the Father is manifested in Jesus. Children will come to understand the perfect love of the Father as they get to know His Son.

**God is a loving Father**

God is a Father who gives good gifts ((Luke 11:1-13)

Jesus told us to say 'Our Father' (Matt. 6:7-13)

God hears us when we pray (1 John 5:14)

The patient father (Luke 15:11-32)

God will forgive us (Ps. 31:3; 86:5)

We are God's children (1 John 3:1; John 1:12-13; Gal. 4:6)

The family of God (Acts 2:46-47; Heb. 10:24-25)

Our Father expects obedience: story of Jonah

Jesus obeyed His Heavenly Father (Luke 2:41-52; Luke 4:1-13)

**God is a forgiving Father**

The lost son (Luke 15)

Your Heavenly Father will forgive you if you forgive others (Matt 6:14-15)

**God the Father provides guidance**

The fire and cloud (Exodus 13:17-22; Numbers 9:15-23).

Jesus said, "I am the way..."; "He who has seen Me has seen the Father."

((John 14:6,9)

# God is Patient and Kind

(Patient; Self-controlled; Kind; Gentle; Forgiving; Loving)

## God is Patient and Self-controlled

God is patient (i.e. He has an even temper) and self-controlled (He has self-restraint, continence) These are two sides of the same character quality. God has exercised infinite self-control in His patience with mankind ever since creation. He has exercised infinite patience to enable Him to have self control in not completely destroying mankind.

1 Peter 3:20:who in the days of Noah had refused to listen to God, though He had waited patiently for them while Noah was building the ark.  
Genesis 9:8-17

God longs for man to fellowship with Him; to be at one in spirit, word and action with Him. Because of His infinitely deep love for man He has restrained Himself from destruction of mankind, despite man having continually broken God's laws and gone his own way.

God's patience with man is shown in the way in which He gives man the opportunity to repent. He constantly gives him another chance.  
What wonderful patience and self-control from a holy God!

There are numerous examples of His patience and self-control in scripture.

- Genesis chs.6-9 Noah and the flood
- Exodus 15:22-26; Exodus 16:1-3 The Israelites constantly complained after God did great miracles to provide them with food and water, guidance and safety
- Exodus 15:22-26 Exodus 16: 4-21 They cross the Red Sea, then hanker after Egypt
- Exodus 16:4-21 Exodus 17:2-7 God provides food and water.
- Exodus 32:1-10 Whilst Moses is receiving the law from God for Israel to obey, Aaron is making a golden calf for them to worship.
- Exodus 32: 11-14 Moses pleads with God to spare Israel.
- Exodus 34:4-10 God's patience and forbearance with His people.
- Numbers 11:1-15 Complaints about food
- Numbers 11:31-33 Food provided, followed by sickness because they had too much
- Numbers 13:25-14::38 Return of the spies from Canaan. Their disbelief sends the Israelites into the desert for 40 years.
- Jonah - illustrates God's patience with an evil city. God gives the people another chance to repent and restrains His hand from destroying the city when they do repent. He shows His patience with an individual, Jonah disobeyed God at first. God didn't destroy him completely, but gave him a

clear warning. Jonah sulks and is reproved by God, whose first desire is always that men repent and be saved from punishment.

Biblical patience is a God-given or God-exercised restraint in the face of opposition or oppression. It is not passivity. The initiative lies with God's love, (or the Christian's love), in meeting wrong with patience exercised through an active love.

In the Old Testament (Aramaic) the concept is "God is long/slow to anger. In the New Testament (Greek) the word is equivalent to long-suffering/ a long holding out of the mind before it gives room to anger'

God exercises these character qualities constantly. He is pleased when His people allow His love to so live in our hearts that we can exercise infinite patience and self-control in our dealings with others.

Nehemiah showed patience and forbearance with opposition from within the ranks and outside.

Matthew 18:26-29 Parable of the unforgiving servant: "Have patience with me."

1 Corinthians 13 Love suffers long and is kind

Ephesians 4:2 Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's failures, because of your love.

Galatians 5:22 The fruit of the Spirit is patience... self-control.

### **We need to show patience in our walk with God**

1 Corinthians 9:14-15 - Run the race to win.

Philippians 3:14 - Running towards the goal

1 Peter 2:2 - As new-born babies need milk, we need God's word as our spiritual food.

Psalms 119:105 - God's word is a lamp to our feet.

Matthew 4:4 - Man shall not live by bread alone.

John 6:47-58 - Jesus, the bread of life.

Luke 2:40 - Jesus grew in stature and in wisdom.

Galatians 5:19-24 - Patience and self-control are fruits of the Spirit.

James 1:19; Proverbs 19:11; Ephesians 4:26 - self-control.

Job - Job grew in His faith through difficulties in life.

### **Patience in using our gifts for God**

Nehemiah 1-7 - Patience and diligence in rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem

Luke 18:1 - Patience and diligence in prayer

1 Kings 6,8,9; 2 Chronicles 2-7 - Solomon builds the Lord's house.

Proverbs 10:4; Proverbs 12:27; Proverbs 21:5 - Diligence

Luke 6:10 - Be faithful in little things.

Matthew 25:14-29 - Parable of the talents

### **Patience in listening to God**

Luke 10:38 - Mary and Martha

Matthew 13:10-16 - The hidden meaning of the parables. We need to listen with 'special ears'.

1 Kings 19 - God spoke to Elijah in a still small voice.

Matthew 14:23 - Jesus went to a quiet place to pray.

Psalms 85:8 - I am listening to what the Lord God is saying.

John 10:14-15 - The sheep know the shepherd's voice.

1 Samuel 3 - The boy Samuel hears God's voice.

Luke 18:10-30 - The two men at the temple. Only one communicated with God.

Genesis 2-5 - God spoke face to face with Adam and Eve.

Genesis 37-40, Daniel 2 - God speaks through dreams.

Numbers 22 - God spoke through Balaam's donkey.

Exodus 19,20 - God spoke to Moses when He gave the Ten Commandments.

Exodus 3-17 - God speaks through signs and wonders.

Samuel 1 & 2 - Jeremiah and other prophets speak God's message.

John 1 - Jesus as God's Word.

### **God is patient and persevering**

John 5:1-8 - The crippled man at the pool. He didn't give up.

Luke 11:5-13 - Ask and keep on asking. Be patient and don't give up.

Luke 18:1-8 - The parable of the widow and the judge.

Ezra 4-6; Nehemiah 1-6 - Perseverance in rebuilding Jerusalem and the temple.

1 Corinthians 9:24-25 - Run the race to win. Don't give up.

Philippians 3:14 - Running towards the goal

Matthew 25:14-30 - Perseverance in using one's talents.

Exodus 2-6 - The Israelites' patience and persistence in prayer for release from Egypt.

### **Our responsibility to show patience and diligence**

Acts 9:36-42 - Dorcas showed diligence in sewing.

Genesis 6: 14-16 - Noah showed patience and diligence in building the ark.

Hebrews 6:10-12 - Diligence in helping others.

Proverbs 31:10-29 - The diligent wife.

Proverbs 20:13; Matthew 25:1-13 - Laziness

Matthew 25:1-13 - The ten girls and their lamps. Diligence in our faith

## **God is Forgiving**

### **What is forgiveness?**

Forgiveness is a three-way process.

"Matthew 6:9: Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors." This involves my relationship with God and with others.



God expresses His relationship to me through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. To receive God's forgiveness I need to repent and ask Him to forgive me, then he will freely forgive me.

If another person hurts me, my attitude towards that person must be one of forgiveness, whether or not he has asked me to forgive him. When he asks for forgiveness I must express it in words, specifically and freely. If I hurt another person, I should waste no time in asking for forgiveness, and making whatever restitution is necessary.

To be sure the relationship has been restored it is always good and right to be specific when asking for forgiveness and to name the particular hurt in question.

e.g. "I'm sorry Ben for speaking rudely to you, please forgive me."  
NOT just "Sorry Ben."

When a person responds with merely "Oh it's OK.", or some similar remark, it puts the one asking for forgiveness in confusion. For him, it was important enough to come and ask for forgiveness. If he's told 'It didn't matter,' it creates confusion in his mind. Was it wrong of him to come and ask forgiveness? So, for the sake of the one who needed to ask forgiveness it is good to respect the attitude of heart and to respond to him in love and sincerity.

These attitudes can be worked out in the lives of our children in day to day situations. When any offence is noticed between children it can be lovingly used as a teaching point from which the whole group can learn.

Forgiveness and repentance are two sides of the same coin. For a full relationship to be established between two people (either God-man or man-man) there first needs to be repentance in the heart of the offender, then a loving relationship can be established as forgiveness is expressed towards the offender. The offended one can have an attitude of forgiveness towards the offender, whether or not he has expressed repentance, but only repentance on the part of both parties can establish a full relationship between them.

Luke 23:34 Jesus forgives.

Acts 7 Stephen martyred. He expressed forgiveness.

We forgive others because God has forgiven us.

Luke 7:36-50 The sinful woman

Mark 2:1-12 The paralytic man

Acts 16:1-40 Paul and Silas forgave their persecutors. They ministered to the jailer.

Luke 23:34 Jesus said 'Forgive them for they know not what they do.'

# God is Kind and Gentle

*The kindness and gentleness of God are fully expressed in His Son, Jesus.*

Man had strayed away from God; God's justice would have required man's death as punishment for his sins. But God sent His Son, 'in the likeness of sinful flesh' in order to condemn sin in man. Romans 8:3. What a merciful kindness!

The life of Jesus on earth expresses the Father's heart towards His people.

Jesus expressed special kindness towards

People in need:

- the traveler and the Good Samaritan Luke 10: 25-37
- the sick Mark 1: 29-34

The weak and those unable to defend themselves against society

- little children Mark 10 :13-16
- the woman taken in adultery John 8:1-11
- the Samaritan woman at the well John 4

Jesus taught kindness in attitudes to others.

- Luke 10:38-40 Martha chided for her critical attitude. Mary commended for choosing to be in the presence of Jesus.
- Mark 12:41-44 He commended the widow who gave all she had
- John 12:1-11 He defended Mary of Bethany against critics who thought her wasteful to use costly ointment on Jesus' feet.

God is pleased when His children express kindness to others, irrespective of who they are. It was His gentleness and kindness that won us back to Himself, and it will be His kindness in our hearts that will win others back to Him through us.

Jeremiah 31:3 I have loved you with an everlasting love, therefore with loving kindness have I drawn you.

There are times when the kindest act is to speak the truth, but that must be done gently, in love. Jesus spoke the truth to the woman at the well, but the bringing to light of the truth about herself was the means of her change of heart. John 4:16-18; 28-29.

Like surgery, it may hurt at first, but when spoken gently, with a loving attitude, the truth will set a person free. Ephesians 4:15.

Romans 13:14: Put on the Lord Jesus Christ.

## **God is kind to all people**

Jesus was kind to the outcasts (Luke 17:11-19; Matthew 8:1-4)

Jesus was a friend of publicans and sinners (Matt. 9:9-13)  
Jesus healed the blind and brought good news to the poor (Luke 18:35-43;  
Luke 4:18)  
The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)  
have loved you with an everlasting love; I will draw you with loving kindness  
(Jeremiah 31:3)

### **Jesus is a faithful friend**

Mark 10:13-16 - Jesus, friend of children  
John 15:12-14 - Love one another.  
Joshua 1:5; Hebrews 13:5 - I will never leave you or forsake you.  
John 11 - Jesus helped His friends, Mary, Martha and Lazarus.  
1 Samuel 18-20 - Faithful friendship between David and Jonathan.  
Galatians 5:22 - The Fruit of the Spirit  
Proverbs 18:24 - Jesus is a friend who is closer than a brother.  
Luke 10:25-38 - The Good Samaritan  
Matthew 26 - Jesus was betrayed by His friends.  
John 17:1-26 - Jesus was a faithful friend to the disciples.  
Luke 10:4; Matt. 17:27; John 21:15 - Jesus loved and forgave His friends.  
Luke 12:35-47 - Jesus, the faithful servant.  
Proverbs 17:17 - A friend loves at all times.

### **God loves everyone equally**

Luke 10:25-38- The Good Samaritan  
Luke 10:27; Matthew 22:39 - Love the Lord with all your heart...and your  
neighbour as yourself.  
1 Corinthians 13:14 - Love is patient and kind.  
Acts 10:34 - God treats everyone on the same basis.  
James 2:1-9 - Warning against prejudice.  
John 3:16 God's love for the whole world.  
John 13:34 - A new commandment...love one another.

### **God is forgiving, patient and kind**

Matthew 18:21-22; Colossians 3:12-13; Ephesians 4:32 - We should forgive  
one another.  
John 3:16 - God's love for the whole world  
Acts 10 - Peter called to the Gentiles.  
1 John 3:11-18 - Love one another in word and deed.  
Luke 10:25-38- The Good Samaritan  
Luke 10:27; Matthew 22:39 - Love the Lord with all your heart...and your  
neighbour as yourself.  
1 Corinthians 13:14 - Love is patient and kind.  
Acts 10:34 - God treats everyone on the same basis.  
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# God is Wisdom and Truth

(Wisdom; Truth)

## God is Wisdom

**In our dictionaries wisdom is defined as “having knowledge of what is true or right, coupled with just judgment.”**

God is the creator of all things. His word says, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. A good understanding have all those who practise it.” Therefore He has the complete knowledge of all things and how they are best put to use.

1 Corinthians 1-30 God is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom, our righteousness and sanctification and redemption.

As God’s Holy Spirit lives in His people it is His wisdom we use in choosing: how to behave towards other people how and what we apply our minds/emotions to how to know God and to respond to His call on our lives.

John 14:6 (The Holy Spirit) will teach you all things and bring all things to your remembrance.

John 16:13 The Spirit of truth will guide you into all truth.

That is:

1. the truth about God : who He is and what He has done is wisdom in the Spirit.
2. the truth in what /how we learn, and how we spend our leisure. He will give us a desire to learn and enjoy only those things that please Him and an aversion to those things He hates. We can have the mind of Christ. 1 Cor 2:16. We have the mind of Christ
3. the truth in living in good relationship with others. Jesus (all He taught regarding living in harmony with others) is made unto us wisdom. (1 Cor 1:30

The fear of the Lord (the response of loving obedience to the Lord) is the beginning of wisdom, and to depart from evil is understanding. Job 28:28. *The law said*, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength, and love your neighbour as you love yourself.” *Jesus said*, “If you love Me, obey Me.) i.e. Keep my commandments.

So we could quote the law, “You shall obey the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength, and love your neighbour as you love yourself.” We can only achieve this in the wisdom of God... having His mind, His wisdom in us to give His light on what His choices are for us.

Luke 2:40 Jesus *was filled* with wisdom.

Luke 2:52 Jesus *increased* in wisdom.

We should continue to grow in wisdom and understanding of God and His ways. Even after our bodies cease to grow our spirits must continue to grow.

Parents can claim God's blessing on little children, even before birth, that He will fill them with His wisdom. As the parents follow God's wisdom in bringing up the child, he/she will look more and more to Him and grow in his /her own spiritual wisdom.

Wisdom was the first creative act of God, according to Proverbs 8:22. The Lord created me (wisdom) at the beginning of His work, the first of His acts of old. Each created thing was planned and brought forth in wisdom. (Proverbs 8:23-36.)

God had a meaningful plan for each person/thing He created. When we are obedient to the principles expressed in His Word, i.e. we have the wisdom to fear the Lord, then all His creation will function with the perfection He originally intended.

### **Wisdom, understanding and knowledge**

Wisdom and knowledge are not the same although they are often used as synonyms. Wisdom has two applications, the wisdom of man, which can be labeled humanism, and the wisdom of God.

Job 28: 28 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

*A man must have a heart attitude towards God that persistently desires to know what God wants him to do and the willingness of heart to do what He has directed.*

*To seek God's wisdom is to seek to have an obedient heart towards Him.*

### **The wisdom of the world**

*The world's wisdom has an attitude of academic superiority*

1 Cor 2:4 (Paul') When I came to you brothers I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God...

*The world's wisdom prevents men from seeing God, i.e. having a knowledge of Him.*

2 Cor. 4:4 The god of this age has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

1 Cor. 3:19, 20 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight. As it is

written, "He catches the wise in their craftiness." And again, "The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile."

Psalm 94:11 The Lord knows the thoughts of man; He knows that they are futile.

1 Cor 1:27 God has chosen the foolish things of this world to shame the wise. God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.

*The Sophists were not committed to truth necessarily, but to make their own point of view prevail. This was the basis of Greek philosophy which is still alive today.*

1 Cor. 2:4 My message and preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom but on God's power.

*Man's wisdom based on human commands is futile.*

Col. 2:23 Such regulations (the religious rules) have an appearance of wisdom with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.

*Worldly wisdom produces strife and envy and selfish ambition.*

James 3:14-15 But if you harbour bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such 'wisdom' does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. For where you have envy and selfish ambition there you find disorder and every evil practice.

### ***The wisdom of God***

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

*A person who has a heart attitude to desire to know what God wants of him in all things and a willingness of heart to carry it out, is one who possesses the wisdom of God.*

*To have the wisdom of God is to be obedient to Him in all things.*

### **God makes his wisdom available to us through the Son and the Holy Spirit**

1 Cor 1:20-24 Jesus Christ Himself is the power of God and the wisdom of God.

1 Cor 2:13 This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the spirit, expressing spiritual truth in spiritual words

Col. 1:9 we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of His will through all spiritual will and understanding

### **God's wisdom in us is demonstrated by our obedience to Him**

Deut. 4:6 Observe them (the law) carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations.

### **The wisdom of God enables us to know Him better**

This is enriching to our spiritual growth / our lives.

Ephesians 1:17-18 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better. I pray also that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints.

*In His wisdom God lavishes on us all the riches of His grace.*

Col. 2:3 In Christ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.  
*i.e. the knowledge of God which enriches our lives.*

### **God's wisdom enables us to live in good relationship with others**

James 3:13-18

Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. But if you harbour bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. For where you have envy and selfish ambition there you will find disorder and every evil practice. But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness

### **God's wisdom gives us grace to live lives holy and sincere before God and in good relationship with others.**

2 Cor 1:12 Our conscience testifies that we have conducted ourselves in the world and especially in our relations with you, in the holiness and sincerity that are from God. We have done so, not according to worldly wisdom but according to God's grace.

### **God's wisdom is available for the asking**

James 1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, he should ask God who gives generously to all without finding fault; and it will be given to him.

### **God's wisdom generates creativity**

Exodus 31:3 And I have filled him (Bezaleel) with the spirit of God, in wisdom and in understanding and in knowledge and in all manner of craftsmanship *(to make the ornaments for the tabernacle)*

Exodus 28:3 Tell all the skilled men to whom I have given skill in such matters,  
that they are to make garments for Aaron, for his consecration, so he may serve me as a priest.

Note: 1 Kings 4:29 God gave Solomon wisdom at his request, but it became very much man's wisdom. He gained a great amount of information, untold material possessions, through his wisdom, but he grew away from God in the midst of it all.

1 Cor 8: 1. Knowledge (i.e. information) puffs up, love builds up.

### ***Understanding***

*When we have learned from God what He wants us to do ( the fear of the Lord, the beginning of wisdom) we will demonstrate that we **understand by doing** what He has said to do.*

### **Understanding is doing God's will**

Psalms 119:34 Give me understanding and I shall keep your law and obey it with all my heart.

Psalms 119:73 Give me understanding to learn your commands.

Prov.3:5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths.

*Do what God wants, not what you want.*

Prov 2:11 Discretion shall guard you, understanding shall protect you.

*There is safety in right actions*

Prov. 11:12 A man who lacks judgment derides his neighbor, but a man of understanding holds his tongue.

Ex. 31:3 I have filled him with the spirit of God in wisdom, (skill), in understanding and in knowledge of all kinds of craftsmanship. (*Amplified*)

### **Those without understanding do not what God wants**

Psalms 14:2,3 The Lord looks down from heaven to see if there be any who understand, any who seek God. All have turned aside; they have together become corrupt; there is no-one who does good, no, not even one

Isaiah 5:13 Therefore My people shall go into exile for lack of understanding. *i.e. they have not obeyed God.*

### **Understanding implies progress forward, walking in God's way**

Psalms 111:10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, all who follow His precepts have good understanding.

Prov. 9:6 Leave your simple ways and you will live; walk in the way of understanding.

Prov. 15:21 Folly delights a man who lacks judgment,; but a man of understanding keeps a straight course.

Jer. 3:15 Then I will give you shepherds after My own heart who will lead you with knowledge and understanding.



## **Knowledge**

God's purpose for His people is that they should have a knowledge of Himself—who He is and what He has done in His world. All teaching presented to children must come from this premise. They are to grow up with a developing awareness of God in not only the spiritual sense of relationship with Him, but also in the broad sense of God as the Creator and Lord over the whole of His creation.

The knowledge of God is the basis for all teaching and experience

Col 1:15-17 He (Christ) is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation. For by Him all things were created, things in heaven and things on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities;

All things were created by Him and for Him. (*So, whatever we teach about, God is the originator of it.*)

Col 1:9 For this reason we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of His will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding . And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please Him in every way; bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God. (*Living lives of obedience to God i.e. In His wisdom, He leads us into greater knowledge of Him in a personal relationship.*)

There is a scriptural sequence – wisdom, understanding, knowledge.

Isaiah 11:1 The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, the spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the spirit of counsel and of power, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.

Prov 1:7 The fear of the Lord (*ie. Wisdom*) is the beginning of knowledge.

Prov 2:1-6 My son, if you will accept my words and store up my commands, turning your ear to wisdom, applying your heart to understanding.. then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord gives wisdom and from His mouth come understanding and knowledge.

Prov.9:10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

Prov. 21:11 When a wise man is instructed he gets knowledge.

Ephes:1:17 I pray that God may give you a spirit of wisdom, and of revelation of Him so that you may know Him better.

The way to knowledge of God the father is through the Son

Matt 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.

2 Cor 4:6 For God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness". Made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Gaining a knowledge of God implies continually learning more about His character.

Jer 9:23-24 Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, or the strong man boast of his strength, or the rich man boast of his riches, but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight, declares the Lord.

Hosea 4:1 There is no mercy, no love, no knowledge of God in the land.

*This is the effect of not pursuing the knowledge of God.*

Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge

Isaiah 11:11 By knowledge of Him shall my righteous servant justify many

Col. 1:9 For this reason we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of His will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the

Lord and may please Him in every way; bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God. *i.e growing in the manner in which we live the fruits of the Spirit.*

The knowledge of God is the most precious of treasure and riches

Col. 2:2 My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love so that they may know the mystery of God, namely Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Phil. 3:4-8 *(prefaced by Paul's credentials)* Whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things.

Phil 3:10 I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection

Rom 11:33 Oh! the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out.

Prov. 24:3-4 By wisdom a house is built, through understanding it is established, and through knowledge the rooms are filled with all rare and beautiful treasures.

Prov.8:8 Wisdom says," All the words of my mouth are just; none of them is perverse or crooked." Choose my instruction instead of silver, knowledge rather than choice gold.

Knowledge of God will one day be universal

Isaiah 11:6-9 The wolf will lie down with the lamb... For the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Habakkuk 2:14 For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Ephes. 4:11-13 He gave some to be apostles, some teachers, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service. So that the body of Christ may be built up until we reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God.

Jer.31:31-34 This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel....I will put My laws into their minds and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God and they shall be My people... for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest.

Also Heb.8:10-12

The spiritual battle over the world is focused on the knowledge of God.

*Satan's purpose is to prevent man knowing God. Thus the temptation in man to gain academic achievement (Gen. 3), and the humanistic premise that man can solve all his own problems and answer all his own questions outside of God.*

2 Cor 10:3-6 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

Luke 11:52 Woe to you experts in the law, because you have taken away the key to knowledge i.e. *the true knowledge of God as distinct from legalism in rites and religious formalities*

2 Cor 4:4 The god of this age has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Col. 2:8 See to it that no-one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.

### **Wisdom in obedience**

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 - Our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 10:29-30; Luke 12:6-7 - We are of more value than many sparrows.

Proverbs 4:20-22 - Listening to God's words is health to our bodies.

Exodus 15:26; Deut 7:15 - In obeying health laws, God promised to protect the Israelites from the diseases of the Egyptians.

Genesis 1 - God rested on the Sabbath.

Proverbs 14:16-17 - Wisdom in our actions

### **Wise choices and decisions**

Proverbs 3:5-8 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart.

James 1:5 - Ask God for wisdom.

Proverbs 2:6-10 - Only the Lord gives wisdom.

1 Corinthians 3:18-19 - The wisdom of this world is foolishness to God.

Genesis 11 - The people who built the tower of Babel relied on their own wisdom.  
Psalm 16:7-8 - The importance of allowing God to guide us.  
Proverbs 1:9-10 - Ask for God's wisdom in making decisions.  
Proverbs 8:11 - Wisdom is better than riches.  
Matthew 19:16-29 - The rich young ruler's choice.  
Joshua 24:14-16 - A choice between the true God and false gods.  
John 16:12 - When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth.  
Matthew 10:38; Matthew 16:24 - The greatest decision we can make.  
Matthew 7:13-14 - The broad and narrow way  
John 14:6-7 - I am the Way, the Truth, the Life.  
John 10:1-8 - The Good Shepherd. The sheep recognise His voice.  
John 18:37 - Everyone that is of the truth hears my voice.

### **Wisdom in working together as a community**

Proverbs 6:6; Proverbs 30:24-25 - The wisdom of the ant  
Matthew 25:1-13 - The wise and foolish virgins  
Matthew 7:24-28 - The wise and foolish builders  
Matthew 6:19-21 - Wisdom in storing up heavenly treasure  
1 Corinthians 3:9 - We are workers together for God  
Romans 12:4-6 - One body, many members  
Exodus 17:9-13 - Aaron and Hur supported the arms of Moses and worked together to win the battle.

### **Wisdom in being prepared**

Romans 8:20-22 - The creation was subjected to frustration; The creation groans, waiting to be brought into freedom.  
Genesis 6-8 - The Great Flood - the greatest natural disaster so far in history  
James 1:5 - Ask God for wisdom.  
Matthew 25:1-13 - The ten girls and their lamps - a story of being prepared.  
Matthew 7:24-28 - The wise and foolish builders.  
Psalm 17:8; 32:7 - God is our shelter.

### **Wisdom in following God's guidance**

Psalm 16:7 - I praise the Lord because He guides me. Even at night I feel His leading.  
Exodus - God guided the Israelites on their journey to the promised land.  
Exodus 13:21-22 - Guided by fire and cloud.  
Matthew 2 - The magi were guided by the star and the scriptures; an angel guided Joseph through a dream to make the journey to Egypt, and later, back to Israel.  
Psalm 119:105 - God's word is a lamp to our feet.  
Proverbs 6:20 - Our parents guide us to maturity.  
Proverbs 13:10 & 20 - It is good to take wise advice.

# God is Truth

“God is Truth” is an abstract statement, but as in all the teaching of Jesus, He related abstract statements of spiritual truths to examples from the living world, from experiences in everyday situations. In fact, according to Matthew 13:34, He said nothing to them without using a parable.

Psalm 78:2

Give ear, O My people, to my teaching! I will open my mouth in a parable, I will utter dark sayings from of old; things that we have heard and known; that our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children.

Isaiah 6: 9-10

And he said “Go, and say to this people.....

Everyone benefits from receiving information or explanation using clear illustrations, but this is particularly true of children.

Matthew chs. 5, 6, 7, contain many “how to live the Christian life” parables and other illustrations.

## **Build your life on the truth**

Matthew 7:24 - Build your life on truth.

Luke 11:9-10 - Ask, seek, knock. He that seeks the truth will find it.

Matthew 6:33 - Seek first God's kingdom.

Matthew 13:44-45 - The pearl of great price.

John 20:24-29 - Unbelief prevented Thomas from knowing the truth.

John 1:17 - Truth came through Jesus Christ.

John 16:13 - When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth.

## **The word of God is truth**

John 5:46-47 - "If you do not believe what Moses wrote, (Genesis), how can you believe what I say?"

John 14:6 - Jesus is the Way, the Truth, the Life.

Mark 4:1-8 - The parable of the Sower shows the need for a solid foundation of faith.

Proverbs 30:5-6 - The word of God is truth.

Psalm 119:105 - God's word is a lamp to our feet.

Ephesians 6:17 - God's word is a sword.

Luke 24:13-35 - The two followers on the road to Emmaus. They did not recognize the truth because of unbelief.

Genesis 1 - God created living things after their own kind.

## **Seek the truth**

Proverbs 3:5 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Never rely on what you think you know. (GNB)

John 16:13 - When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth.

Acts 14:7 - God has always given evidence of His existence by the things He does. (GNB)

Luke 11:9-10 - He that seeks finds.

Matthew 16:13-20 - Peter declared that Jesus was the Son of God, a truth given directly by the Father.  
Acts 7:51-60 - Stephen gives his life for believing the truth.

### **Jesus, the way, the truth, the life**

John 14:6 - Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life.  
Matthew 7:13-14 - The broad and narrow way  
Matthew 16:13-17 - Jesus asks, "Who am I?"  
Acts 4:12 - There is no other name by which we are saved.  
John 10:1-8 - The Good Shepherd. The sheep recognise His voice.  
Matthew 7:15-21 - Wolves in sheep's clothing.  
Acts 17:16-34 - The unknown god  
Exodus 20:3-4; Isaiah 42:8 & 17 - No other gods.

### **Discern the truth**

Proverbs 11:1 - The Lord hates dishonest scales, but He is pleased with correct weights.  
Matthew 7:15-21 - Wolves in sheep's clothing.  
John 18:38 - Everyone that is of the truth hears my voice.  
John 10:1-8 - The Good Shepherd. The sheep hear His voice.  
John 14:6-7 - I am the way, the truth and the life.  
Matthew 7:13-14 - The broad and narrow way  
Exodus 20:3-4; Isaiah 42:8 & 17 - No other gods.  
2 Peter 2 - False teachers.  
2 Corinthians 11:13-14 - False apostles, and Satan as an angel of light.  
1 Peter 5:8 - Satan is a roaring lion.  
Luke 4 - Jesus knew how to deal with Satan.

### **God is a Rock**

Psalms 18:2; 19:14; 40:2; 61:2; 92:15 - God is our rock  
Isaiah 26:4  
Matthew 7:24 - the man who built his house on the rock, (Build your life on the Truth)

# God is Pure and Holy

(Good; Righteous; Holy)

## God is Good, Righteous and Holy

Psalms 145:17 God is righteous in all His ways and holy in all His works. Isaiah 6 is Isaiah's account of how he learned that God requires holiness in His people before they can be called into special work for Him.

Revelation 15:3 They sang the song of Moses, the servant of God and the song of the Lamb, saying, "Lord God almighty great and wonderful are your deeds! How right and true are your ways, O King of the ages. Who shall not fear and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations shall come and worship you for your judgments have been revealed."

God is pleased when His people reflect His goodness, righteousness, holiness.

"Be holy for I am holy." Leviticus 19:2; Lev. 20:7; Lev. 44.

God has provided a way for His people to be good, righteous, holy through Jesus Christ: Hebrews chs 9, 10; 2 Cor 5:21

Matt. 5:48: "Be perfect even as your Father in heaven is perfect."

Romans 8:1. There is therefore now no condemnation for those that are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

1 Cor 6:19 Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? And you are not your own, you are bought with a price. So glorify God in your body and in your spirit which are God's.

Genesis 27. In the story of Jacob and Esau, Jacob tried to do God's will the devil's way. When we do this we bring trouble on ourselves and on others, often upon family members.

God's holiness is expressed through His life in us, not in our striving to be good. In the story of Ishmael and Isaac, Abraham's idea of fulfilling God's promise to him was to have a son by Hagar. Considering his age this would be something of a miracle, but it was not God's BEST. The birth of Isaac to Rachel was God's full promise. We should be sure we do not allow the GOOD to prevent us from enjoying God's BEST, which is God's holiness in me by faith.

In the lives of these men and their families we see evidence of God fulfilling His plans and purposes for good despite their human weaknesses. This was because in their heart attitude towards God was a desire to please Him first of all.

### **Holiness is showing the fruit of the Spirit**

Galatians 5:22-23 - The fruits of the Spirit

Mark 12:30-31 - **Love** your neighbour as yourself.

Acts 3 - The lame man healed, walking and leaping with **joy**.

Matthew 6:26 - Do not worry. (Have **peace**)

Ezra 4-6; Nehemiah 1-6 - **Patience** in rebuilding Jerusalem

2 Samuel 4 & 9 - **Kindness** to the lame prince, Mephibosheth

Luke 10: 25-37 - The Good Samaritan is a story of **kindness** and **gentleness**

Ephesians 5:8-11 - Show **goodness**, by living as children of the light

Jonah - Being **faithful** is obeying the Lord.

1 Samuel 17; 1 Samuel 26 - King Saul lacked **self-control**. His jealousy caused him to lose his temper.

Ephesians 6 - Put on the armour of God so that we may do the things God wants us to do.

### **The effect of sin on God's perfect creation**

Genesis 1-2 - the perfect creation

Genesis 2:15 God took man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work and take care of it.

Genesis 2 - the fall

Romans 5:12 - Sin came into the world through Adam

Genesis 4 - The sin of Cain

Psalms 18:30 - God's way is perfect.

Isaiah 1:18 & 43:25 - God forgives our sin.

1 Peter 1:19; Hebrews 9:14 - Jesus was without sin.

Romans 3:23 - No one is without sin.

1 John 1:9 - Jesus made a way to God, providing an answer to the separation caused by sin.

Romans 8:19-22 The creation groans, waiting to be freed from bondage.

### **God forgives and makes us clean**

Matthew 23:13-27 - Jesus said that we must be clean on the inside, not just the outside.

Matt 6:12 – Forgive us the wrongs we have done, as we forgive the wrongs that others do to us.

Mark 7:1-16 - The ceremonial cleansing by the Pharisees did not really make them clean.

Luke 19:1-19 - Zacchaeus was forgiven and he changed his ways.

1 Samuel 16:7 - Man looks on the outside appearance but the Lord looks on the heart.

Matthew 26:69 & John 21:15 - Jesus forgives Peter.

1 Peter 1 & 1 John 3 - We are made pure through Jesus.

Psalms 51:7 - Take away my sin and I will be clean. Wash me and I will be whiter than snow.

Luke 15:11-12 – The Loving father and the lost son. God the Father loves His children consistently, in spite of their failure to always please Him.

Acts 9:1-19 – Repentance and forgiveness from God brings us into a new relationship with Him.



### **Christians are the salt of the earth**

Job 6:6; Isaiah 30:24 - Salt for preserving food.

Ezekiel 16:4 - Salt as an antiseptic.

Leviticus 2:13; Ezekiel 43:24 - Salt as an offering.

Numbers 18:19; 2 Chronicles 13:5 - Covenants made with salt.

Matthew 5:13 - You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled by men.

Luke 14:34-35; Mark 9:49-50 - Salt

Colossians 4:6 - Salted conversation

Ezekiel 47, especially 47:11 - Salt is retained

1 John 1:5-7 God's light casts out evil

Ephesians 6 - The armour of God

Galatians 5:22-23 - The fruit of the Spirit, especially 'goodness'

Philippians 4:8 - Whatever is true, noble, right and pure - think about such things.

2 Corinthians 3:18 - With unveiled faces we reflect the Lord's glory, being transformed into His likeness.

Exodus 25 - Materials for building the Ark: Metals including pure gold; gemstones; only the best for the most holy God.

Hebrews 9 & 10 - We can now enter into the Most Holy Place through the blood of Jesus.

Revelation 21 & 22 - The purity of Heaven; a holy city made of pure gold, with gates of pearls and foundations of precious jewels.

### **God is Light, (a symbol of purity)**

Genesis 1 - God's light

Ephesians 5:8-11 - Live as children of the light.

Deuteronomy 6:18 - Do that which is right and good.

Galatians 5:22 - Goodness is a fruit of the Spirit.

Romans 13:12 - Put on the armour of light.

Matthew 5:13-16 - Christians as salt and light.

John 8:12 - Jesus, the light of the world

1 John 2:28-29 - Everyone who does what is right is of God.

1 John 1:5-7 - Walk in the light as He is in the light.

Matthew 6:22-23 - If your eye is clear your whole body will be full of light.

Genesis 9 - The sign of the rainbow

### **God judges sin**

Genesis 6-8 - The Great Flood

Jeremiah 18 - Jeremiah at the potter's house.

Matthew 21:12-13 - Jesus didn't tolerate sin in His Father's house.

1 Chronicles 16:33; Psalm 7:11; Psalm 96:13; Acts 17:31 - God is a just and fair judge.

Revelation 20:4 - God judges sin because He is holy.

Romans 3:23 - All have sinned.

Psalm 97 - God uses the creation to proclaim His righteousness.

### **Holiness through Jesus**

Acts 2:1-18 - The disciples received the Holy Spirit.

Leviticus 16:11-13 - God chose fire to remind people of purity and holiness.  
Hebrews 10:5-9 - God no longer requires sacrifices.  
Hebrews 10:10 - We are made holy through Jesus.  
Luke 18:9-14 - The righteous Pharisee  
1 Kings 18:1-40 - God of Israel or Baal? The fire of the Lord burned up the sacrifice.  
Hebrews 12:29 - Our God is a consuming fire.  
Zechariah 13:9 - God's refining of His people like the purifying of silver and gold.  
Genesis 19 - Sodom and Gomorrah destroyed by fire.  
Jeremiah 18:1-4 - God can change us.  
Malachi 3:2-3 - The refiner's fire

### **God cleanses us from sin**

1 John 1:9 - If we confess our sin God will forgive us.  
Psalm 51:1-7 - Wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.  
Isaiah 1:18 - I will wash you as clean as the snow.  
Psalm 145:17 - The Lord is righteous in everything He does.  
1 Peter 1:19; Hebrews 9:14 - Jesus was without sin.  
Isaiah 43:25 - I am the God who forgives your sins.  
Matthew 9:1-7 - Jesus not only healed the paralyzed man but forgave his sin.  
John 4 - Jesus forgave the sins of the woman at the well.  
John 18 - 19 - Because Jesus was without sin He was able to die for us.  
Exodus 30:17-21 - Those presenting an offering had to wash their hands for purity.

### **God's law is perfect**

Genesis 11:1-9 - The tower of Babel is a story of people wanting to build their own kingdom, excluding God.  
Psalm 19:7-8 - The law of the Lord is perfect; the statutes of the Lord are trustworthy.  
Psalm 66:11-9 - God rules the nations.  
Exodus 20 - The Ten Commandments  
Esther - A story of God's hand in ruling a nation  
Exodus - God's rule won over Pharaoh's rule.  
Matthew 2 - Jesus was born as King  
John 12:12-19 - The triumphal entry.  
John 18:28-38 - Jesus on trial for being King.  
Acts 1:6-10 - Jesus will return as King.  
Psalm 47 - God is King of all the earth.  
Isaiah 9:6-7 - He will govern and reign.  
Romans 13:1-7 - Pray for those in authority.

### **God is good**

Don't forget to do good and to share (Heb 13:16)  
Give thanks to the Lord for He is good (Psalm 106:1)  
Learn to do good (Isaiah 1:17)  
The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord (Ps 37:23)

# God is a Powerful Protector

(Protector; Peace)

## God is Protector

God protects His people through:

- i. the blood of Jesus
- ii. the name of Jesus
- iii. the word of God

Through the blood of Jesus we have protection from the punishment for sin

- protection from enemy attack in the spirit world.
- protection from sickness and disease
- In the name of Jesus we have protection from sickness
- protection from physical danger
- protection from demonic attack

2 Corinthians 10:3-6; Ephesians 6:10-20; Proverbs 18: 10; Mark 16:15-17

The word of God protects our *minds* from enemy attack.

Psalm 119:11 I have laid up thy word in my heart that I might not sin against thee.

As we learn / memorise God's word /promises and treasure them in our minds they will be easily recalled in times of testing and become a great encouragement.

Psalm 34:19-20 The good man does not escape all troubles—he has them too. But the Lord delivers him out of them all; God even protects him from accidents.

God protects the daily walk of His children, as they go in the faith that He is their protector.

Psalm 91: expresses the psalmist's faith in God's constant protection. Special mention is made in it of angels. It is good to remind ourselves and our students of the constant presence of angels.

God's protection is demonstrated in the story of Moses in Exodus.

Moses was protected as a baby, a child specially chosen by God. The Israelites were protected from the death of the eldest child at the Passover time, by the sign of the blood of a lamb over their doorposts. This typifies the sacrifice of Jesus that protects those who believe in Him from eternal spiritual death.

The column of cloud in the day and fire in the cloud at night protected the Israelites from the Egyptians before they crossed the Red Sea. God protected the Israelites from thirst and starvation by the provision of manna, quail meat and water from the rock.

Ephesians 6:10—20 describes the spiritual armour which God has provided for:

- the protection of His people.
- the breast-plate of righteousness. My heart is made righteous by my faith in the blood of Jesus, protecting me from punishment for past sin and from the temptations of present sin.

2 Cor 5:21 (see Living Bible or Good News Bible for a simple version for children) 1 Cor 1:30

- Loins girded with truth
- The word of God expressed through His people and in His written word.
- Shoes of peace... peace with God through the blood of Jesus; peace in our own hearts because of His Spirit within us; peace with other people.
- The shield of faith.. the invisible protection of the powerful blood of Jesus to forestall the enemy's attacks on the mind, body or spirit. The power of the name of Jesus.
- The helmet of salvation... the protection particularly of the mind. Sin begins in the mind, in our thinking about an act until it becomes a reality
- The sword of the Spirit; the use of the word of God

### **God protects us from danger**

Psalm 91 - Angels protect us

Psalm 23 - The Lord is my Shepherd

Ephesians 6:10-18 - The armour of God

2 Kings 6 - Elisha and God's army of angels

Psalm 4:8 - God makes us dwell in safety

Psalm 27 - The Lord is my light, whom shall I fear?

Isaiah 41:10 - Fear no for I am with you.

Isaiah 43:10 - You will walk through the fire and not be burned.

Daniel 3 - Three men in the fiery furnace.

Acts 5:29 - We ought to obey God rather than men.

### **God protects us when we are walking in his will**

Daniel 3 - Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego

Daniel 6 - Daniel in the lion's den

Psalm 4:8 - God will keep me safe.

Psalm 37:39-40 - The Lord protects the righteous in times of trouble.

Psalm 46 - God is with us.

Luke 8:22-25 - Jesus protected His disciples in the storm.

Psalm 27:1 - The Lord protects me from all danger. I will never be afraid.

(GNB)

### **The blood of Jesus provides healing and protection**

Hebrews 13:20 - The blood of Jesus began the agreement that God made with His people.

Luke 22:7-20 - Cup of the new covenant in Jesus' blood poured out for us; protection from sin, Satan and eternal alienation from God.  
Ephesians 1:7 - In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our sins, according to the riches of His grace.  
Exodus 7-12 - God rescues His people from slavery; the blood over the door posts gave protection from the angel of death.  
John 3:16 - God's rescue plan for us  
Psalm 91 - No plague shall come near your dwelling.  
Deuteronomy 7:12,15; Exodus 15:26 - If you pay attention to my commands I will put none of these diseases upon you. I am the Lord who heals you.  
Leviticus 22:4 - 8 - Ceremonial health laws concerning infectious skin disease, touching a dead body, eating of meat torn by wild animals. These laws were given for the protection of the Jews, long before other cultures knew that disease was passed on by germs, carried by blood, and transferred from animal to man.

### **God is our guiding light**

Psalm 27:1-14 - The Lord is my light...I will not be afraid.  
Acts 27 & 28 - God protected Paul during the shipwreck. God protects him from drowning and protects him from effect of the snake bite.  
Matthew 16:18 - Protection from snakes and poisons  
Luke 8:24 - Jesus protected the disciples during the storm.  
Isaiah 43:1-2 - Fear not.  
Psalm 32:7; Psalm 27:5 - Protection in times of trouble.  
2 Kings 4:38-41 - Protection from effects of a poisonous plant.  
Acts 16:6 - God protects Paul and Silas and rescues them from jail.  
Psalm 56:3 - When you are afraid, trust in the Lord.  
John 8:12 - Jesus, the light of the world  
Matthew 7:24-27 - The house on the rock was protected from the storm.  
Exodus 13:21-22 God guided the Israelites by a cloud by day and provided fire (light) by night

### **God is our shelter**

Psalm 27:4-14 - Shelter in the house of the Lord.  
Psalm 56:3 - Trust in God when you are afraid  
Psalm 4:8 - God will keep us safe.  
Psalm 17:8; Psalm 32:5 - God is a shelter for us.  
Esther 1-10 - God used Esther to protect His people.  
Ephesians 6:10-18 - The armour of God  
James 4:7 - Resist the devil  
Proverbs 18:10; Psalm 18:2; Psalm 61:13 - God is a strong tower; a fortress.  
Proverbs 30:5 - God is our shield  
Psalm 18:30-36; Psalm 61:3 - God is our protector.  
Jeremiah 16:19; Psalm 46:1 - God is our refuge  
Psalm 121:5-8 - The Lord watches over you

### **God is our refuge and strength**

Psalm 46 - God is our refuge and our strength, an ever-present help in the time of trouble.

2 Samuel 22:2 & 32; Psalm 18:30-36; Psalm 31:3; Psalm 71:3; Psalm 89:26;  
Psalm 91:5 - God is a rock  
2 Samuel 22:33 - It is God who arms me with strength  
Proverbs 18:10; Psalm 61:13 - God is a strong tower  
Exodus 7-14 - God set the Israelites free, and by His strength He held back  
the Red Sea.  
Judges 6-8 - Through His power God used Gideon to set the Israelites free.  
Joshua 6 - The walls of Jericho. God's power is greater than man's strength.  
Joshua 10 - By His strength and power God caused the sun to stand still.  
Luke 1:37 - Nothing is impossible with God.

### **God sends angels to protect us from harm and evil**

Psalm 91 - Angels protect us  
2 Kings 6 - Elisha and God's army of angels  
Isaiah 41:10 7 43:1-2 - Fear not  
Acts 12:1-9 - An angel saves Peter  
Psalm 4:8 - God makes us dwell in safety  
Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart.  
Isaiah 31:5 - The Lord protects Jerusalem.  
Isaiah 54:10 - Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet  
my unfailing love for you will not be shaken.

### **Protection through obedience**

Exodus 17:8-13 - Joshua's army overcame the Amalakites as long as Moses  
held up his hands. Aaron and Hur held up the hands of Moses until sunset.  
This is a symbol for us. Pointing upward to God wins the battle.  
Exodus 20:1-17 - The Ten Commandments are God's rules for our protection.  
Colossians 3:20 - Children obey your parents.  
1 Peter 1:14 - Be obedient to God.  
Deuteronomy 11:22 - Obey faithfully all the laws I have given you.  
Jonah 1 - Jonah went in the opposite direction to get away from the Lord.  
Psalm 119:9-11 - Obey God's word.  
Psalm 119:105 - God's word is a lamp to our feet.  
Matthew 7:24-27 - The house on the rock.  
Psalm 121:1,2 - Where does my help come from?

## **God is Peace**

*Peace is an attitude of heart and mind, irrespective of the circumstances in  
which we find ourselves.*

Peace is the result of a clear relationship between the individual and his God.

Psalm 23; Psalm 91. These are two of many examples in scripture of this  
inner peace.

Isaiah 32: 17 The effect of righteousness shall be peace, and the result of  
righteousness , quietness and trust for ever. It is good to apply this truth to the  
state of discipline in a classroom, school or home.

Galatians 5:22. Peace is the fruit of the fruit of the Spirit. If we have all the other fruits of the Spirit operating in our lives... love, joy, patience, truth, goodness etc. etc... then we have peace within our inner spirits. Peace is the gift of God to His children.

John 14:27; John 16:33. Jesus *gives* His peace to us; we don't have to work for it.

Romans 5: 1. Being justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Peace is a characteristic of secure people. Secure children are children with an inner peace, because they know who they are—(children of God.)— why they are here—(to live for God)—and where they are going—( following Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life).

Jesus was a secure child. e.g. the 12 year old in the temple with the Pharisees.

People with peace in their hearts will be peacemakers with others.

As teachers we need to establish in children's minds an understanding of who they are in God first, what is their calling in Him, and then they will readily accept all other truths about Him.

## God is Preserver

Goodness, holiness, purity of life are the qualities that preserve God's people. 'Preserve' simply means being kept safe and whole physically, mentally, spiritually

God preserves our lives because He loves goodness in His people. He first makes us clean when we ask Him to forgive our sin, then He preserves the goodness in us. He hates evil and does not wish to preserve it.

2 Chron. 13:5 A covenant of salt was an unbreakable agreement between people. Numbers 18:19

Ezra 6:9; Leviticus 2:13; Ezekiel 43:18. Offerings to God had always to have salt in them. They were to be good, pure offerings. Salt preserved the offering, both physically and spiritually

Mark 9:49: Salt symbolized purity, hospitality, durability. Jesus said, "Everyone shall be salted with fire and every sacrifice shall be salted with salt. Have salt in yourselves and have peace with one another.

Col:4-6 Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt.

Ephesians 4:39 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying.

Mark 9:50: Jesus said, "Salt is good". Can we express this as "Salt is goodness"? Have goodness (salt) in yourselves and have peace with one another.

Try substituting the word 'good' for the word 'salt'.

Matt 5:13 Jesus said to His disciples, "You are the salt of the earth" He wants us to be good people in the world so that it will be a place where God can be honoured.

Psalms 97:10. God preserves the lives of His saints. He loves those who hate evil

Psalms 37:28 The righteous shall be preserved forever.

Psalms 31:23 The Lord preserves the faithful but abundantly requites those who act haughtily.

Psalms 145:20 The Lord preserves all those that love Him.

Psalms 116:6 The Lord preserves the simple

Psalms 86:2 Preserve my life for I am godly; save thy servant who trusts in thee.

Psalms 25:21 May integrity and uprightness preserve me

Psalms 61:6-7 Prolong the life of the king; may his years endure to all generations. May he be enthroned before God; Bid steadfast love and faithfulness watch over him. O prepare mercy and truth which may preserve him

Proverbs 2:11 Discretion shall preserve you, understanding shall keep you..

Proverbs 4:6 (wisdom) Forsake her not and she shall preserve you.

Proverbs 22:12 The eyes of the Lord preserve knowledge and He overthrows the words of the transgressor.



# God is a Humble Servant

(Servant; Meek; Humble; Healer)

## God is a Servant

God has a servant heart for the people He created. His desire is that His creation should live in harmony and peace with Himself and His created world.

*Deuteronomy 5:29 O that they had such a mind as this always, to fear Me and to keep My commandments, that it might go well with them and with their children for ever.*

Therefore He desires us to grow into His character qualities the way He intended when we were created in His own image. There is no other way we can live fully to His glory in the world, except His way.

Jesus is the perfect example of God's perfect servant. He lived in absolute obedience, humility, patience, and all His Father's character qualities.

Consider the "Servant Chapters of Isaiah.. Chapters 41-45. also John 14:28 Philippians ch 2.

God calls His people to be His servants

1. to Himself
2. to others in the Christian family
3. to poor and needy people in the world.

God's servants in scripture:

- **Moses:** Numbers 12:7-8; Joshua 1: vs 2, 7, 13.
- **King David:** Psalm 18; Psalm 36, Psalm 143:12
- **Paul:** Romans 1:1 ; 1 Cor 9:19
- **Samuel:** 1 Samuel 3:9-11
- **Joshua:** Joshua 24:29

Ministering to the Christian family: Romans 16:1; Luke 22:24-27; Mark 9:35  
Ministering to the poor and needy in the world: Matthew 25:40-45. Isaiah 58: 6-12

The Holy Spirit is the servant of the Godhead. John 14:28. "The Father is greater than I."

Psalm 116:16: As we grow in the knowledge of God and His character we develop a heart attitude towards Him of desiring to be His servant.

Servant-hood must be total: Matthew 6:24; Luke 16:13. No man can serve two masters. Everyone who commits sin is a servant of sin.

God is pleased when we are wholeheartedly committed to being His servants.

### **Jesus, the willing and obedient servant**

John 12:26 - Jesus said, "Whoever wants to serve me must follow me."

Joshua 24:15 - As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

Luke 2:41-52 - A visit to the temple - Jesus obeyed His Heavenly Father.

John 2:1-11 - Jesus helped as his mother asked and helped the hosts at the wedding.

1 Samuel 3 - The boy Samuel served in the temple. He obeyed Eli, and also obeyed God.

Ephesians 6:1 - Children, obey your parents in the Lord.

Luke 4: 1-13 - Jesus, when tempted by Satan, obeyed God.

John 13:3-5 - Jesus washed the disciples' feet.

Galatians 5:13 - In love, serve one another.

Matthew 20:20-28 - If you want to be great, then you must be a servant.

Isaiah 1:19 - Be willing and obedient.

### **Going the extra mile**

Matthew 5:41-42 - The extra mile

John 15:13 - Laying down one's life for his friends.

Ephesians 6:7 - Serve wholeheartedly.

Matthew 8:14-17 - Jesus healed Peter's mother, even when he felt too tired to do any more work.

Luke 18:10-28 - Jesus healed a crippled woman.

Galatians 6:2 - Carry one another's burdens.

Luke 10:30-37 - The Good Samaritan served the wounded man, even when he may have been looked down on for helping someone from an opposing country.

### **Serve without complaining**

1 Peter 4:8-11 - Each one should use whatever gift he has to serve others.

John 13:4-5 - Jesus washed the disciple's feet.

Luke 16:10 - Be faithful in little things.

Matthew 5:14 - Christians are lights to the world.

Luke 12:35-47 - Faithfulness in serving Jesus.

2 Cor 9:7 - A cheerful giver- (Serving is giving)

Matthew 16:24 - Take up your cross.

### **Serving by obeying the Great Commission**

Matthew 28:16-20 - Go and make disciples of all nations...I am with you always.

Mark 16:15-18 - Go into all the world and preach the Good News...and these signs will accompany those who believe.

John 14:12 - You will do greater things.

Acts 8:26-40 - Philip shares the Good News with an Ethiopian.

Acts 16:6-15 - A call from Macedonia.

Acts 19:23-41 - Trouble at Ephesus

Acts 7:51-60 - Stephen gives his life for Jesus.

2 Timothy 1:11-12 - Paul made sacrifices to serve.

Hebrews 13:15-16; 1 Peter 2:5 - Sacrifices we can make.

Ephesians 5:2 - Jesus gave Himself up for us.

Revelation 2:10 - Faithfulness to the end

### **The Holy Spirit gives us power to share the Gospel with others**

Acts 1:8; Acts 2 - The disciples receive power.

Matthew 28:18-20 - Jesus said, "All power in heaven and on earth is given to me. So go and make disciples of all nations..."

Mark 16:14-20 - "Go into all the world..."

Acts 3 - Peter and John demonstrate power.

Acts 13:4-12 - Barnabas and Paul demonstrate power.

Luke 4:18; 7:22 - Jesus came to bring the Good News

Romans 10:14; Ephesians 6:15 - Feet to spread the Good News

1 Corinthians 12 - The gifts of the Holy Spirit

## **God is Resourceful**

When we give our lives to God He can use us for His kingdom. In order for God to use us, a humble heart is required, so that the glory goes to God and not ourselves.

- God is able to use people... young or old, weak or strong, in good circumstances or difficult.
- The key to His being able to use people is not their talents or abilities, but their attitude of heart towards Him... their willingness of heart to listen to Him and obey Him.
- God is pleased when we use our available resources and abilities for Him, as He directs.
- Hebrews 13:5 Be content with such things as you have. God made us as we are. He has placed us in the circumstances in which we find ourselves; so we can be used in His purposes, just as we are, if we have been obedient to Him and have an open heart and mind towards Him.

### **Be faithful in little things/ allow God to use your talents**

Matthew 25:14-29 - Parable of the talents

Luke 6:10 - Be faithful in little things

Luke 12:35-47 - Be faithful in doing what Jesus wants us to do.

Acts 8:1-4 - The disciples continued to be faithful in the face of danger.

Acts 1-2 - The disciples received power to work for Jesus.

1 Corinthians 12 - Spiritual gifts

Matthew 5:15 - Don't hide your light under a bushel.

Luke 18:9-14 - The rich man and the tax collector, (pride versus humility).

Luke 14:7-11 - Don't make yourself important.

Matthew 20:20-28; Mark 10:35-45 - A servant of all

## God is Meek and Humble

Jesus, the Son of God demonstrated His Father's meekness and humility by riding into Jerusalem on a donkey. In Eastern countries the ass is the animal of peace and honour.

Jesus allowed the Jews to honour Him as king, and obeyed God His Father, knowing that He was in reality riding to His death on a cross. He knew that He must die in order to rise again and demonstrate His power over sin and death. God is pleased when His children obey Him through obeying their parents, teachers and other leaders.

Jesus has a meek and humble spirit. He taught His disciples this by example and in parables. Luke 14: 10: The parable of the marriage feast: "Come up higher, friend."

Victory over the world is found in exercising a meek and humble spirit: Matthew 21:1-11. King Jesus enters Jerusalem knowing He was riding to His death but also His victory over death.

Proverbs 25:6-7 He who tries to honour himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself shall be honoured.

The ass in the east is known for its intelligence, gentleness, meek submission and great power of endurance. It is the symbol of peace and honour, whereas the horse is the animal of war.

Jesus taught that humility is being willing to be known for who you really are. That means our lives are completely open before God and men. Matthew 18:3; Luke 9:17; "Be as little children."

1 Peter 5:5-6. Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God that He may exalt you in due time.

Numbers 12:1-16. Moses was the meekest of men (v3). Other leaders criticized him but he left it to God to deal with him. Moses didn't have to defend himself. If we are sure we are doing what God wants we don't have to be concerned about what other people think of us. God will look after that for us.

### ***Jesus, the humble servant***

Jesus born in a stable (Luke 2)

Jesus was baptized (Matt. 3:13-17)

Jesus washed the disciples feet (John 13:3-5)

The rich man and the tax collector (Luke 18:9-14)

The humility of a child (Matt. 18:1-4)

Don't make yourself important (Luke 14:7-11)

A servant of all (Matt. 20:20-28; Mark 10:35-45)

# God is Healer

## Healing of mind, will and emotions

God is the healer of body, mind, will, emotions, spirit. His desire is to restore wholeness to His creation. This includes both man and the created world, Romans 8:19-22.

Man receives healing of body, mind, will, emotions for God's glory. e.g. John 9 - the man born blind.

When people call upon God in repentance He will heal their land, 2 Chronicles 7:14.

God can heal others through me when I am submitted to His will, Acts 9:36.

In many cases repentance and subsequent forgiveness are prerequisites to the healing of body, mind and spirit.

Jesus demonstrated God's power over all manner of ailments: Matt 4:23-25; Mark 6:53-56; Matt. 15:30-31; Matt 19:1-2; Luke 6:17-19; Mark 1: 32-34; Luke 4:40; John 2:23.

When children manifest the need for healing in these areas there can be a hidden factor—fear of something or someone, e.g. fear of the dark; a child fails to do a requested task because it involved him going into the dark; fear of a new situation; won't go to or with certain people because they are new and different. It is necessary for a discerning person to find the hidden cause of the fear and deal with it lovingly.

## Jesus, the healing servant

The healing miracles of Jesus:

John 9:1-34 - The man born blind

John 5:1-18 - The man at the pool

Luke 8:43-48 - The woman who touched the hem of His garment

Luke 5:18-25 - Through the roof

Luke 6:6-10 - Jesus heals a paralyzed hand

Luke 22:50-51 – Jesus healed the ear of the man who had come to arrest Him.

Matthew 8:5-13 – The Centurion's servant

Mark 7:31-37 – The deaf and dumb boy

Luke 4:38-39, Mark 1:29-31 – Peter's mother-in-law

Mark 10:46-52 - Blind Bartimaeus receives sight

Matt 8:28-34; Mark 5:1-20; Luke 8:26-39 – Healing of the demoniac from Gadara

Matt 17:14-20; Mark 9:14-29 – Healing of the epileptic boy

Matthew 4:23 - Jesus healed all kinds of diseases

Luke 4:18 - He has chosen me to bring good news to the poor and recovery of sight to the blind...

Luke 6:17-18 - They had come to hear Him and to be healed of their diseases.

Matthew 14:14 - He was filled with pity for them and healed those who were ill.

Matthew 9:35-36 - Jesus healed people with every kind of disease.

Revelation 22:3 - The leaves of the tree are for healing of the nations

# **God is our Redeemer, Life and Peace**

**(Light of life; Just; Merciful; Gracious; Joy of life)**

## **God is the light of life**

Light is associated with life, both in the physical realm and the spiritual. In Him was life and the life was the light of men. John 1: 4. God created light first, then life, because light is necessary to life.

### **Plant life**

Light shining on the leaves of plants activates cells in the leaves to enable the plant to manufacture carbohydrates. The existing leaf substance is changed into another form to enable growth to occur (photosynthesis).

### **Life and light in the spirit of man**

In the spirit, as the light of God's love is allowed to shine into our inner being, it changes what is there and transforms us first internally, in our inner self. As God's light works on us and in us, the change and transformation is evident externally. The light of the knowledge of God shines in our faces. This is the external evidence of internal, spiritual growth.

*Light enables life to exist. New life in God is associated with light*

### **The life of Jesus**

At His birth: Luke 2:8-14 - The shepherds saw the light from heaven, then the angel announced the birth of Jesus.

Luke 2:32 - elderly Simeon prophesies. "My eyes have seen your salvation... a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for the glory of thy people Israel."

John 8:12 - Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life."

John 9:5 - "As long as I am in the world I am the Light of the world."

Jesus transfigured - Matt.: 1-5 The heavenly Father declares Jesus His only beloved Son. Jesus' face and clothing shone with supernatural light.

The resurrection Matt. 27:2-3. The angel appeared like lightning, and his raiment white as snow.

Matt. 27:45 - Light was removed from the earth temporarily from the earth when Jesus died.

Matt 17:1-5 - The transfiguration. Peter saw the full brightness of Jesus' life.

## **The coming of the Holy Spirit**

Acts 2:3 -When the Holy Spirit fell on the apostles at Pentecost, tongues of fire settled on their heads.

*Light shows the way and enables progress.*

## **God's Word**

Psalms 119:105 -Your word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path

Psalms 119:130 - The entrance of your words gives light (GNB). The explanation of your teachings brings wisdom to the ignorant.

2 Cor 4:6 - God, who said "Let light shine out of darkness", has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. (The knowledge of God.. knowing that He is Creator, Father, loving friend, all power, and all the other attributes... is what gives light to our inner- most being.)

Psalms 139:23-24 – Search me O God. (God shines His light into our lives to reveal the things He does not desire.)

## **New life for individuals**

Acts 9 - Saul, confronted with the risen Lord, surrounded by a dazzling light, with a dramatic change in him, becomes Paul the Apostle.

Acts 13:47 - God had appointed Paul to be "a light to the Gentiles."

## **The Gospel is light for all believers**

1 Peter 2:9 - You are God's own people...that you may declare the wonderful deeds of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.

*Light reveals faults and enables us to be rid of faults.*

## **Walking in the Light**

1 John 1:7 -If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another.

1 John 2:9-10 - He who says he is in the light and hates his brother is in the darkness still He who loves his brother abides in the light and in it there is no cause for stumbling. But he who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in darkness and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

Luke 8:16 - No-one after lighting a lamp covers it with a vessel, or puts it under a bed, but puts it on a stand, that those who enter may see the light. For nothing is hidden that shall not be made manifest, nor anything secret that shall not be known and come to light. Take heed then how you hear, for to him who has shall more be given, and from him who has not, even what he thinks he has shall be taken away.



Matt. 5:14-16: Jesus said, "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

As the light of the life of Jesus shines out through His people, others are attracted to Him.

Eph. 5:8: Now you are light in the Lord, walk as children of light

1 Thess 5:5: You are all children of the light and of the day.

Luke 11:34 Your eyes light up your inward being. A pure eye lets sunshine into your soul. A lustful eye shuts out the light and plunges you into darkness. If you are filled with light within, with no dark corners, then your face will be radiant too, as though a flood-light is beamed upon you. (Living Bible)

### **Light for the Nations**

Isaiah 49:6 I will give you as a light to the nations, that My salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.

Isaiah 60:1 Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For, behold, darkness shall cover the earth and thick darkness the peoples. But the Lord shall arise upon you and His glory shall be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light and kings to the brightness of your rising.

Isaiah 60: 19 The sun shall be no more your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you by night. But the Lord shall be your everlasting light and your God shall be your glory. Your sun shall no more go down nor the moon withdraw itself; for the Lord Will be your everlasting light and your days of mourning shall be ended.

### **Jesus, the resurrection and the life**

Psalms 150 - Praise the Lord, all living creatures.

Genesis 2:7 - God gave life to man.

Acts 17:28 - In Him we live and move and exist.

Matthew 9:9-12; Mark 2:13-17; Luke 5:27-32; John 1:43-50 - Jesus called the disciples to a new life.

John 5:24-25; John 6:53-54 - Eternal life.

John 11:25 - Jesus, the resurrection and the life

### **God is the sustainer of life**

John 15 - The Vine

Matthew 4:4 - Man shall not live by bread alone.

John 6:47-58 - Jesus, the bread of life.

John 4 - Jesus, the living water

1 Peter 2:2 - God's word as our spiritual food

John 1:2 & 14 - Jesus is the Word

## God is Just, Merciful and Gracious (Our Saviour)

*Although grace, mercy and justice are three distinct qualities, each one is incomplete without the other two.*

God has established laws, principles, and commandments for man to live by.

When a person breaks a law, God's justice (righteousness) would require that the sin is dealt with and the sinner should receive punishment

*God is just. He gives us what we deserve.*

But God is merciful and therefore He has provided for man to be saved from His wrath and punishment. He sent Jesus to earth to be the Savior of man:

1. to show people how God wants them to live on earth,
2. to take the punishment for man's sin (Hebrews 10:4-10)
3. to demonstrate God's power over sin and death by raising Jesus from death.

*God is merciful. He doesn't give us what we deserve.*

God is gracious. He gives us forgiveness, wholeness of body, mind and spirit. He gives the power of the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

*God is gracious. He gives us what we don't deserve.*

### **Our response:**

God is pleased when we respond to His grace and mercy by being gracious and merciful in our dealings with others. God delights in mercy (Micah 7:18) and He is delighted when we delight in being merciful to others.

1 Cor 15:22: As in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. This is a concise expression of God's justice, mercy and grace.

Psalms 103:8: The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and plenteous in mercy. He will not always chide, neither will He keep His anger for ever. He is pleased when we reflect His mercy by following Romans 12:20,21... If your enemy is hungry, feed him, if he is thirsty give him a drink, For in so doing you will heap burning coals on his head. Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good.

If this seems difficult or impossible James 4:6 is an encouragement. "He gives more grace; therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble"

Jesus is the supreme expression of God's justice, mercy and grace.

### **God is our Saviour**

Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:14-20 - The Great Commission

Romans 10:14; Ephesians 6:15 - Feet to spread the Good News

John 14:6-7 - Jesus, the Way, the Truth, the Life

1 Corinthians 7:23 - We were bought with a price

Romans 5:10 - We were God's enemies, but He made us His friends through His death on the cross.

John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son

Romans 1:20 - God's invisible qualities - His eternal power and divine nature - have been clearly seen.

Ecclesiastes 3:11 - He has set eternity in the hearts of men.

Acts 13 & 14 - Paul and Barnabas spread the Good News

Acts 16 - Timothy, Paul and Silas

Acts 17 - Paul in Athens - 'to the Unknown God'

Acts 19 - Paul in Ephesus

## **God is Joyful / God gives Joy**

*Joy is one of the fruits of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5:21. Being such a gift we can be assured that if we have the Holy Spirit in our hearts we have joy in our lives irrespective of our life circumstances. Joy is not the same as happiness. If circumstances are difficult the inner joy we feel can be maintained in our hearts to gain for us the victory over the circumstances.*

Jesus was faced with the cruel death on the cross; He knew His friends were all going to desert Him, yet He was able to encourage them at such a time with the words, "Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." That was an inner victory, a call to inner joy in the face of the cruelest experience a human being had to endure. This is the victory that overcomes the trials of the world—our faith in the ultimate victory of Jesus. He went to the cross believing that His Father would raise Him from the dead. He did.

God sent joy into the world when He sent Jesus. He gives us joy in families when they live to please Him. Jesus must have brought much joy into His family.

God is joyful. He rejoices when people repent and turn to follow His ways. e.g., Luke 15: the Lost Coin, the Lost Sheep, the Lost Son. We please God when we follow His ways with joyful obedience at home, at school, at all other times. Matthew 25:14-30 Story of the talents, The Golden Rule: Matt. 7: 12

Joy is a fruit of the Holy Spirit that God has placed within all His children, those who have committed their lives to Him. Joy does not depend on our circumstances or feelings. God is able to turn difficult situations into joyful ones. We are encouraged to rejoice in the Lord *always* (Phil 4:4). The joy God has placed within us is expressed when we rejoice in all circumstances and

situations because we know God is faithful and He knows the end of the circumstances far better than we do.

God is joyful. He gives joy as a fruit of the Spirit to His children. Joy expressed in music, in praise to God, brings glory to Him and also achieves victory (a) in individual lives, (b) in the nation.

Examples in scripture of music associated with victory for God's people: Miriam in Exodus; David brings back the ark; Joshua takes Jericho; Hezekiah re-consecrates the Temple; Nehemiah completes the re-building of the wall of Jerusalem.

God gives joy, peace, all the other fruits and gifts of the Spirit to those who are wholly committed to Him. The account of the Spirit's work is told in Acts, illustrating that God works in the lives of His committed people no matter what the circumstances. They grew in grace as they grew in obedience to God.

### **God gives abundant life**

John 7:37-39 - Rivers of living water

John 4:5-30 - The woman at the well.

Ezekiel 47, Revelation 22 - The river of Life

Revelation 7:13-17 - Robes washed in the blood of the Lamb

Acts 3:1-26 – The lame man was healed and expressed joy.

Neh 8:10 – The joy of the Lord is your strength.

John 14:26 - The Holy Spirit gives joy.

Acts 10:44-48, Acts 11:15-17 - The promise of the Holy Spirit is for us

Jeremiah 17:13 - The Lord is a spring of living water.

Zechariah 14:6-9 - Living water flowing out of Jerusalem

Psalms 1:1-3 - Those who obey the Lord are like trees that grow beside a stream.

## **God is our Peace**

Romans 3:23; 5:8; 6:23 - When people sin they are separated from God. Sin forms a barrier between people and God

Colossians 1:20 - Christ's death on the cross broke the barrier.

Ephesians 2:14 - He is our peace. He has broken down the wall.

Romans 5:1; 1 John 1:9 - If we ask Jesus to forgive us, and we have faith in God, we can have peace with God.

Matthew 5:9 - Blessed are the peace-makers

Matthew 5:21-23 - Make peace with your brother.

Mark 9:50; 1 Thessalonians 5:13 - Peace with one another.

Psalms 2; Ephesians 2:22; Romans 10:12-21 - Peace for nations.

Romans 12:17 - Don't repay evil for evil.

Romans 12:18-21 - Don't take revenge.

Matthew 5:38-42 - Don't fight back.

Matthew 5:38-42 - Love your enemies.

Luke 10:25-37 - The Good Samaritan

Matthew 26:50-56; Luke 23:34 - Jesus set the example

## **God is a Person / Jesus is a friend**

We can have a personal relationship with the Father, through the Son. God is a person who relates to His children as one person to another.

God is a person with a mind, will and emotions. He thinks, speaks, sees, hears, and has feelings – e.g. joyful, sad, pleased, angry. He loves good and hates evil, He can remember or forget what He wishes to.

Consider these scriptures: Isaiah 55:8-9; Exodus 33:7-23; Genesis 16:13; Zeph. 3:17; Isaiah 1:14; Prov 6:16; Heb 10:17

Because God is Lord over all He created His personal presence in the Holy Spirit is in all places at all times, so any man can have personal communication with Him at any time and any place.  
John 14:16-18; John 15:1-17; Psalm 139

God, the person, cares personally for each of His children:  
Matt 10:29-31; Luke 12:6-7; Psalm 103:13

God the Father provides personally for His children.

He is Father to children all over the world – John 10:1-8.

He loves consistently with a father's perfect love for His children – Luke 15:11-32.

God displayed all His character qualities as a person. He made man in His image so His original purpose for man was that he should have these same attributes in all the fullness God has them. Because man sins he fails to live in that fullness but the presence of the Holy Spirit in a Christian's life enables him to grow and be changed more and more into the likeness of God.

God is pleased when His children know His personal presence with them and communicate with Him, gaining in His knowledge and growing in His character.

Mark 12: 30, 31: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength, and love your neighbour as yourself.

John 15: 1-17: Jesus is the Vine. Stay connected to Jesus, our Saviour and friend.