



9

What Is God Like?

Key Themes

- God reveals His character in the Bible

Key Passages

- Psalm 147:5, 145:3; 1 Chronicles 29:11; Psalm 48:1a

Lesson Focus

- God is great. There is no one like our God.



Lesson Overview



Come On In

Students will play with puzzles and/or play dough.



Circle Time

Prayer—Using the Prayer page of the Flip Chart, discuss prayer and give each child the opportunity to pray after determining what type of prayer you will offer today.

God's Word—God's greatness is infinitely vast and unsearchable! Everything in heaven and on earth belongs to Him. He is great! We should continually praise Him for how great He is!

Song—Students will use hand motions, clap, stomp, and snap as they sing the songs God Is Great and No One Like God!



Activity 1: You Can't Measure God

Students will color the You Can't Measure God coloring sheet.



Activity 2: Binoculars

Students will make and decorate binoculars.



Memory Verse Review/Snack

Children will review the memory verse while enjoying the snack for the day. You may want to use the snack as incentive to recite and/or repeat the memory verse.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



FOR THE TEACHER

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.

- Student Take Home Sheets



COME ON IN

- Set a puzzle and/or play dough at each child's seat before class begins.

- Puzzles and play dough



CIRCLE TIME

- Practice the "God Is Great" song and the "No One Like God" song. These can be found at the back of this Teacher Guide.

- Bible
- Lesson Flip Chart
- Tape measure
- Binoculars



YOU CAN'T MEASURE GOD

- Print one You Can't Measure God coloring sheet for each student.

- You Can't Measure God coloring sheet for each student
- Crayons



BINOCULARS

- Print and cut out one Scripture Tag for each student.
- Collect toilet paper rolls or paper towel rolls cut in half, two per student
- Pre-cut yarn into 17-inch pieces, one per student.
- Complete a pair of binoculars to show the children.

- Completed pair of binoculars to show as a sample
- Scripture Tags
- Toilet paper rolls or paper towel rolls (use paper or cardstock if rolls aren't available)
- Pre-cut yarn
- Hot glue gun or regular glue
- Crayons
- Stickers and other decorating items
- Hole punch



MEMORY VERSE REVIEW/SNACK

- Prepare and bring snacks.

- Lesson Flip Chart for memory verse review
- Snacks



Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

In order to prepare your heart and mind for this lesson, read Exodus 34:4–8; 1 John 4:7–21; Romans 5:8.

What is God like? How can we presume to answer this question? Our God is nothing but incomprehensible—He can never be fully understood. In fact, as believers we anticipate an eternity of discovering new things about Him.

David said of Him, “Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and His greatness is unsearchable” (Psalm 145:3). And, “Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty; for all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and You are exalted as head over all” (1 Chronicles 29:11). We can’t say it any better than the Apostle Paul, “Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out” (Romans 11:33)! The glimpses of God we observe from His Word are far, far from complete.

Question 4 of the historic Westminster Catechism, penned in the 1640s asks, “What is God?” The answer? God is Spirit (John 4:24), infinite (Jeremiah 23:24), eternal (Psalm 90:2), and unchangeable (Malachi 3:6) in His being (James 1:17), wisdom (Romans 11:33), power (Revelation 19:6), holiness (1 Samuel 2:2), justice (Psalm 7:11), goodness (Psalm 107:8), and truth (Deuteronomy 32:4).

When the Lord descended in the cloud to speak with Moses, He gave testimony to His very character—He proclaimed Himself as merciful, gracious, longsuffering, abundant in goodness, always truthful, forgiving, and at the same time, just—not clearing the guilty (Exodus 34:6–7).

Knowing God and knowing that He is perfect in every one of His attributes is imperative to maturing in the Christian faith. That is why we have incorporated teaching these attributes as part of this Bible curriculum. So the next generation will know, love, honor, revere, and fear the God of all creation!

APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

Because there is no way to comprehend the vast depth of our holy God, we are at risk of conjuring up in our minds what we want Him to be. This is not acceptable. We can only begin to know who God is by the revelation of His Word.

God is all-loving (1 John 4:7–21). But this attribute has been skewed by many Christians and non-Christians alike. The tendency of many is to make God a type of butler—one who waits at our beck and call and exists in order to answer our demands for blessing and comfort. We seldom witness the awe and wonder His very name deserves in our world today.

This attitude reeks of misunderstanding the holiness of God. His holiness demands that He despise each and every sin committed. Knowing His frightful hatred for sin should bring us to a reverent and godly fear of the One who is a consuming fire (Hebrews 12:28–29). Only true fear of the Lord will bring knowledge (Proverbs 1:7).

It is not until we fear God for who He is that we will humbly begin to understand the depths of His love—which is beyond all love. It is amazing that He would love us so much to send His only Son to die a horrible death in order to provide forgiveness to all who would believe (John 3:16). Because of the depth of His love, He was willing to offer the life of the One who committed no sin, yet was made sin for us—despicable sinners—so that we could be made the righteousness of God (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21).

God is love, yes. But His definition of love goes way beyond the scope of ours. His love is demonstrated in the gospel—that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, He was buried, and He rose again the third day (1 Corinthians 15:3–4). It is only through our sincere and reverent fear for the holy, sinless God that His amazing love through the free gift of salvation can finally be appreciated.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

What is God like? We have settled the question that He is beyond explanation—but His Word does give us a hint of the vast dimension of His character.

Historically this is what we know. In the beginning, when God created Adam and Eve in the very good world, they saw God clearly. Scripture tells us that God talked with Adam and Eve, and He walked with them in the garden (Genesis 3:8). It is understood that before their disobedience, Adam and Eve enjoyed sweet fellowship with their Creator. They knew what God was like.

But sin entered the world through one man’s disobedience (Romans 5:19). They were no longer welcome to walk with God (Genesis 3:23–24) because God cannot dwell with evil or wickedness (Psalm 5:4).

Since then, man has wondered about God but has not been allowed to see Him as Adam and Eve did.

Moses was once bold enough to ask to see more of God (Exodus 33:18). Although God is compassionate and gracious, He would not allow Moses to see His face lest Moses die. God instructed Moses to hide in the cleft of the rock while His glory passed by (Exodus 33:22–23).

In Jesus, we know of God yet have not seen Him, “No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him” (John 1:18). And Paul recorded to Timothy, “[God] who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen” (1 Timothy 6:16). So for now, God keeps Himself in unapproachable light—masked to us until He is ready to be revealed.

But what a day that will be when His children will be like Him for they will see Him as He is (1 John 3:2)! How we long for the day we will once again see God, talk with Him, and enjoy the fellowship that was originally intended—but broken because of sin. “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who

according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope” (1 Peter 1:3).

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.



BEFORE THE THRONE

Father God, holy Creator of the universe, how can I presume to know what you are like? Your perfection, your character, your essence is beyond my understanding. Please humble me and help me, Lord, to give this lesson some justice as I try to impress on these young minds something of what you are like. And, Lord, as they continue to learn more about who you are, open their minds to the truth of your gospel—the salvation that you offer through your perfect, spotless Son. Thank you, Lord, that the light of the world has shone in my heart. Please bless these children in the same way. Have mercy on them, Lord, and make them your own.



COME ON IN

As children arrive . . .

- They will play with puzzles and play dough.

During this time you should be at the door welcoming the children as they come in and directing them to sit down at the tables and begin the activity. Have an aid/helper ready to engage the children with the activity.



REVIEW

Using the Flip Chart, quickly review the previous lessons with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the lesson pages from the Flip Chart. Remind the children of each lesson's focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds, and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



Circle Time

In an orderly manner, have the children assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chair.

Bring your Bible, stuffed animal, Flip Chart, tape measure, binoculars, completed pair of Activity 2 binoculars, and any other props you brought or prepared for this lesson.

PRAYER

This prayer time is designed to get children to begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to get them to understand that they can pray. Use a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—or appropriate object to pass around the circle as each child gets his/her turn to pray. Only the child with the stuffed animal is allowed to pray or speak during this time. Using the same stuffed animal or other object all year will add continuity and structure to this time.

After the children are situated in the circle, say:

We start our Bible Study with prayer. Let's pray. *Turn to the Prayer page in the Flip Chart. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there. Then determine which type you want the children to pray today.*

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I'm sorry prayers—Confession
- Thank you prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

Today Supplication is suggested. You might proceed this way.

Today let's say prayers of supplication—and ask God for something we need.

The prayers you begin with should be specific to your needs. This will model to the children that you believe God does care about all the details of your life and you pray to Him about these things. Your example will increase their confidence in praying to God.

I'll start. Dear God, you say we can come to you for anything. You care for us and love us. Today, Lord, could you please. . . (insert personal prayer here).

➤ Prior to making your transition to circle time, we suggest you take time for restroom breaks and hand washing.

➤ Preschoolers need to move. This is a good opportunity to get them to move. Make an orderly transition to the circle time. You can have carpet squares if you want to sit on the floor, or help them to move their chairs into the circle.

Pass the stuffed animal around the circle giving all the children an opportunity to say a prayer asking God for something.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away and we'll get into God's Word.

GOD'S WORD

These first four questions will be repeated each week. The repetition of these questions will help to solidify these simple but foundational truths in the children's minds at a young age.

- ? Before we begin, what is this? *Hold up your Bible. The Bible!*
- ? What is in this Bible? *God's Holy Word!*
- ? What does the Bible tell us? *Everything we need to know!*
- ? And all God's words in this Bible are what? *True!*

► As you teach, refer often to the Flip Chart picture to keep the children engaged.

Last week we learned that God is, God was, and He will be forever! So we know that God exists and will always exist. But who is God? We can answer that question by knowing what God is like.

- ? Who can tell me something you know about God? *Give the children an opportunity to share their thoughts.*

There are so many things we can know about Him! Today, we are going to learn about how great God is!

- ? Do you know anyone who is great? I mean someone who is very, very special? *Give the children an opportunity to share their thoughts.*

I think my dad is great. He is so kind, and strong, and smart! But no matter how great I think my dad is, God is infinitely greater! No one is like God!

I have my Bible open to Psalm 147. Listen as I read to you about God's greatness. *Read Psalm 147:5 out loud to the students, emphasizing His understanding is infinite.*

- ? God's understanding is what? *Infinite.*

Repeat that word with me. Infinite. Have you ever heard that word? *Repeat the word several times. Infinite.*

- ? What does infinite mean? *Give the children an opportunity to answer.*

Infinite means you cannot measure it. It goes on and on and on forever!

- ? *Hold up a tape measure. What am I holding in my hand? A tape measure.*

With a tape measure, I can see just how big something is. In fact, I want to see how big some of you are!

- ? Who would like to be measured? *Take one volunteer at a time. Measure up to three students as time allows. Enthusiastically share with the class just how tall the volunteers are. Have the volunteers return to their seats.*

- ? How big do you think God is? *Give the children an opportunity to share their thoughts.*

God is infinitely big! We cannot measure Him! And God's understanding is infinite. He knows everything. What He knows goes on and on and on forever! We cannot measure what He knows. We cannot come close to knowing everything God knows! God is great. No one is like our God!

Psalm 147:5

Now listen as I read another verse from God's true Word. Listen for the word "great" as I read. *Read Psalm 145:3 out loud to the students, emphasizing "great."*

? Who is great? *The Lord.*

Yes. This verse says that the Lord is great! And we should praise Him for His greatness. The Bible says that His greatness is unsearchable! That means we can never know everything about God. There is so much to know about Him! We could search and search and search to know everything there is to know about God . . . and we would NEVER find it all! He is unsearchable! *Bring out your binoculars. When we search for something that is far away, we sometimes use binoculars like these! But remember, no matter how much we search and search, we will never know everything there is to know about God. Allow the children to look through the binoculars as time allows.*

Now I am going to read from another book in the Bible called 1 Chronicles. Listen to this! It talks about God's greatness, too! *Read 1 Chronicles 29:11 out loud to the students. Read with excitement about God's greatness!*

Did you hear that? Everything belongs to God! The Bible says that greatness is God's! Power belongs to God! Glory belongs to God! Victory and majesty are God's! Everything that is in heaven and earth belongs to God! The kingdom is His, and He is above everything! God is great! No one is like our God!

? Let me ask you, who is great? *God!*

Yes, God is great! The Bible tells us over and over that He is great. There is no one like our God. Let me read one more verse to you. When we know how great God is, it makes us want to do something. Listen carefully and tell me what we should do. *Read Psalm 48:1a. Emphasize "greatly to be praised!"*

? What does God want us to do? *Praise Him!*

Yes! God is so great; He wants us to praise Him. We can praise Him by loving Him, obeying Him, and reading His Word.

? Remember. The Bible said that God is infinite! What does that mean? *Hold up the tape measure as a hint. He can't be measured!*

That's right. He can't be measured. He goes on and on forever. He was never born and He will never die!

? And the Bible says that God is unsearchable! Who remembers what that means? *We can search and search and never know everything about Him.*

God is great. There is no one like Him. Everything belongs to Him! He is worthy of our praise.

SONG

We can praise God by loving Him and obeying Him. We can also praise Him by singing! Let's do that now! First, I have a song called "God is Great." Let's sing that! *Sing "God is Great" with the children several times.*

Our God is truly great AND there is no one like Him. Let's sing a song about that! It's called "No One Like God." Sing "No One Like God" several times. The lyrics to these songs can be found at the back of this Teacher Guide and on the Song Page of the Flip Chart.



You Can't Measure God

We are going to do some coloring now!

Color your picture!

MATERIALS

- You Can't Measure God coloring sheet for each student
- Crayons

INSTRUCTIONS

Pass out the coloring sheets and crayons.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

We use a tape measure to see how tall or how wide something is. But God is so big, so vast, and so great that we cannot measure Him!



Binoculars

Psalm 145:3 says, "Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and His greatness is unsearchable." When we search for something, sometimes we use binoculars. Binoculars help us see things clearly that may be far away. Let's make binoculars to help us see more clearly. *Show children the sample, assembled binoculars.*

MATERIALS

- Toilet paper rolls or paper towel rolls cut in half, two per student (paper or cardstock could be used if you can't gather enough cardboard rolls)
- Scripture Tags
- Hole punch
- 17-inch yarn pieces, one per student
- Hot glue gun or glue
- Crayons
- Stickers

INSTRUCTIONS

Instruct the students to color and decorate their rolls and the Psalm 145:3 Scripture tag. Glue the rolls together to make binoculars. If using a hot glue gun, keep the hot glue gun in a safe place away from the children. Next, punch two holes on the opposite ends of the binoculars to attach the yarn. Also punch a hole in the Psalm 145:3 verse. String the Scripture verse through the yarn. Help the students pull and tie yarn through the holes on their binoculars like lanyards so they can hang them around their necks.

Color and decorate your binoculars!

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

? Can we see the full greatness of God with these binoculars? *No.*

The Bible tells us that God's greatness is unsearchable! We can search and search and never know everything there is to know about God. But, we can learn more about Him by reading His Word, the Bible. *Hold up your Bible.*



Memory Verse/Snack

Psalm 119:89 Forever, O Lord, Your Word is settled in heaven.

After thanking God for your snack, review the memory verse with the children while enjoying the snack for the day. You may want to use the snack as incentive to recite and/or repeat the memory verse.

Use the Memory Verse page in the Flip Chart. Explain the verse to the children as you go over the verse together. Say the verse and point at each picture several times. Ask the children if anyone wants to try to say it on their own.



Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

God has many attributes, or qualities, that make Him God. Today, we learned about how great God is. His greatness is infinite; it goes on and on forever! His greatness is unsearchable, too! Though we can know about God from His Word, we will never fully be able to understand just how great He really is. Everything in heaven and on earth belongs to Him because He is great and the Creator of all things! We should praise God continually for His greatness!

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

God's Word tells us about who God is. His Word says He is great! We can learn more and more about God as we study His Word. You can learn about God, too. By asking your mom, dad, aunt, uncle, brother, or sister to read a little bit of the Bible to you every day. That way, even before you can read, you can start learning who God is and what He has done.

Now let's pray to our great God!

► Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children to practice the memory verse this week.



Group Prayer Time

- Praise God for His greatness
- Thank God for the Bible.
- Pray that we will all know Him better by reading the Bible.

Do you still have more time? Review the past lessons using the Flip Chart, add another coloring page, recite and review the current and past memory verses, sing more songs, bring out play dough. Keep the children occupied with intentional, God-centered activities until their parents come to pick them up.

Song Sheet

GOD IS GREAT

(To the tune of "I'm a Little Teapot")

When we read the Bible we learn of God.

(I'm a little teapot short and stout.)

No one will ever be like Him.

(Here is my handle, here is my spout.)

He is oh so great, So great He is.

(When I get all steamed up, here me shout.)

I just have to praise His name!

(Tip me over and pour me out!)

NO ONE LIKE GOD

(To the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It")

There is no one like our God, no there's not!

(If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands.)

Shake head to say no, point finger and move side to side. Clap, clap.

There is no one like our God, no there's not!

(If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands.)

Shake head to say no, point finger and move side to side. Clap, clap.

For His ways we cannot know.

(If you're happy and you know it,)

Point both index fingers to the head; shake head.

In all things His greatness shows.

(Then your face will surely show it.)

Spread arms out wide.

There is no one like our God, no there's not!

(If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands.)

Shake head to say no, point finger and move side to side. Clap, clap.