

LIVING STONES DISCIPLESHIP GROUP



FIRST SEMESTER
UNIT 3

"[Y]ou yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

1Peter 2:5



UNIT 3: Who is God?



IN THIS SESSION

- :: Is God even knowable?
- :: What is the Trinity? Is it biblical?
- :: How is God different from us?
- :: How much control does God have?

UNIT 3: Who is God?

// OPENING SCRIPTURE

"The Lord passed before [Moses] and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness,"

(Exodus 34:6)

// OPENING PRAYER

// FOLLOW-UP FROM PREVIOUS UNIT

Memory Verse :: 2Timothy 3:16

Homework :: Did everyone in the group complete this unit's work and activities (if applicable)?

UNIT 3: Who is God?

// CAN WE EVEN KNOW?

:: Read Job 11:7-9. What does this tell us about God?

:: Compare that passage with 1John 5:20 & John 14:8-9. What more does that tell us about the nature of God?

// WHAT IS THE TRINITY? IS IT BIBLICAL?

:: Trinity is a man-made word to describe the 3-fold nature of God. It is not in the Bible. It was the best way to describe the three-fold personhood of God evidenced in Scripture.

:: Did Jesus claim to be God? Read John 10:30-33. Did Jesus unequivocally claim to be divine?

:: Read Matthew 3:16-17. How do we see the entire Trinity involved in the baptism of Jesus?

"God eternally exists as three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and each person fully God, and there is one God."

Wayne Grudem

UNIT 3: Who is God?

// HOW IS GOD DIFFERENT FROM US?

:: Many of the attributes of God are unshared by us. This is what makes God different from us. They are what make Him different from His Creation. This is what is meant by the word “holy”. The word holy literally means “other than”, “different from”, “separate”. When the angels in heaven call God “holy”, they are saying He is altogether different from everything, and so much greater than all.

:: Look up the following Bible verses and fill out the attributes associated with each.

Bible Verses	Attribute of God
Psalms 90:2, 4; 48:14; 102:12 Revelation 1:8; John 5:8; Deuteronomy 33:27	God is _____. <i>"God has no beginning, end, or succession of moments in His being. As such, He sees all time at once. Yet, He sees events in time and acts in time."</i>
Jeremiah 23:23-24; Psalm 139:7-10; 1Kings 8:27	God is _____. <i>"God is present in all places with His whole being and does not have size or spacial dimension. Yet, God acts differently in different places."</i>
Acts 17:24-25 John 5:26; Job 41:11; John 1:1-3 Rom 11:36	God is _____. <i>"God does not need, nor is He dependent on anyone or anything in creation to be God. Yet created things and beings can glorify Him and bring Him joy."</i>
Psalms 102:25-27; 33:11; Malachi 3:6; Isaiah 46:9-11; James 1:17; Numbers 23:19	God is _____. <i>"God does not change His being, His attributes, His purposes, or His promises. Yet, God feels emotions and feels differently toward different situations."</i>

:: Think deeply on these verses and what they tell us about our God. How does this change the way we view ourselves? Our salvation? Our future? Overall perspective on life?

// HOW IS GOD LIKE US?

:: A few of God's attributes are shared by us. Love, for example. Humans are capable of love because God is love. Humans are capable of knowledge and mercy and justice because God has these attributes and gave them to us at Creation.

:: Read John 14:9 & 1John 1:1-3. God put on flesh, adding humanity to His divinity. What does the incarnation of God in Jesus teach us about God's nature?

:: List five other ways humans exhibit some of the attributes of God.

// HOW MUCH IS GOD IN CONTROL?

:: John Frame described the sovereignty of God simply. "God never fails to accomplish what He sets out to do." Many may oppose Him, but they cannot prevail. Isaiah 46:9b-10, "**I am God and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,'**" God is sovereign over all things at all times.

:: Jesus taught that God's control extends to even the smallest details. Read Matthew 5:45; 6:26, 28-30; 10:29-30. List the things Jesus says God has direct control over:

:: For His own reasons, God has decided to delay some of His intentions. Some things seem to happen outside of God's will. But as we read in Ephesians 1:11, God "**works all things according to the counsel of His will**". Even when some things don't seem to turn out the way God wants them, the Bible says God is in control even then.

:: What are some things you can think of which *appear* to happen outside of God's will?

:: How can the sovereignty of God be a comfort to His people?

BEWARE OF ERROR

OPEN THEISM: Open theism, or sometimes called 'open theology' maintains that in order for humans to maintain free-will, God does not have exhaustive knowledge of the future. Open theists believe God limits His knowledge of mankind's future decisions. God has invited humans to collaborate with Him in governing and developing His creation. Humans are free to co-operate with God or thwart His hopeful plans. God knows all the outcomes that *might* happen at any given time, but does not know what actually *will* happen in the future.

:: List some problems with "Open Theism".

UNIT 3: Who is God?

PRAYER REQUESTS // PRAISE REPORTS

Go around the room and have each person share a prayer request and/or a praise report. Members should commit to praying for these requests.

ENCOURAGEMENT & HONOR

Romans 12:10 says, “**Outdo one another in showing honor.**” Go around the room and offer 1 or 2 points of encouragement to one another.

“Encourage one another and build one another up...”
1Thessalonians 5:11, ESV

UNIT 3: Who is God?

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT

:: Memorize the following verse(s):

"The Lord passed before [Moses] and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness,"

(Exodus 34:6)

:: Complete the Unit 4 worksheets and activities (when applicable).

:: Pray for the needs of your brothers/sisters in your group.

:: Ensure you are able to attend the next session.