

Chapter Six: The God of the Bible is a Saving God None Other by John MacArthur

“The church should be a fellowship of those who recognize their own fallenness and utter helplessness, who have laid ahold of Christ for salvation, and whose business on earth is showing other needy sinners the way of salvation.”

Warm-Up:

1. **Memory Verse:** For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God (John 3:16-18).
2. As you meditate on this passage, explain the following.
 - a. Who was Jesus communicating to originally?
 - b. Who did Jesus say the initiator and actor of salvation is?
 - c. What did Jesus say is a person’s responsibility?
 - d. What did Jesus say God’s goal was for the world?
 - e. What did Jesus say happens when God’s love is rejected?
3. Before you begin your study, take a moment to contemplate what you just learned. Then pray and worship God! You can pray for those who need salvation. You can pray for opportunities to share the gospel. You can worship God by thanking Him for His saving love.

Prepare and Discuss:

4. Scripture reveals that the will to save is intrinsic to who God is.¹ Look up the following verses; what are some important aspects of God’s nature?
 - a. 1 John 4:8, 16

God is
 - b. 1 Timothy 1:1

God is

¹John MacArthur, *None Other* (Sanford, FL: Reformation Trust, 2017), 110-11

c. Psalm 145:8-9

God is

5. Despite what you have learned about God so far, what do many liberal theologians claim about God in the Old Testament?²
6. Would the writers of the Old Testament agree? What do they claim about the God of the Old Testament?
 - a. Psalm 18:2
 - b. Psalm 62:1-2
 - c. Isaiah 45:21
7. Compare the God of the Old Testament with the Canaanite god Ba'al (2 Kings 1:2-3, 6, 16). According to your reading, did Ba'al take any initiative to provide salvation, forgiveness, or deliverance to anyone who has incurred his wrath? Include in your answer what you learned from Elijah's encounter in 1 Kings 18:22-28.³
8. Our God redeems people rather than destroying them when they sin (Mal. 3:6). His wrath is real but it does not provoke Him to alter His Word, revise His will, revoke His promises, or change His mind. How does knowing that God is unchangeable provide a steady comfort for you?⁴ Explain how you might use this truth to encourage another person who is facing a difficult trial.

²MacArthur, 111

³Ibid, 111-13.

⁴Ibid, 114, 116

9. Ultimately, God in human flesh is an expression of His sympathy and identification of our weakness (Heb. 2:17-18; 4:15). According to Scripture, how did God the Son sympathize with physical weakness?⁵
- a. Matthew 4:23
 - b. Mark 7:32-35
 - c. Luke 8:43-48
10. Although God has a heartfelt concern for our physical welfare, what was the main purpose of Jesus' message and His coming?⁶
- a. Luke 19:10
 - b. Matthew 4:17
 - c. Matthew 11:29
 - d. Hebrews 2:17
 - e. Ephesians 1:7
11. What does the gospel announce that physical healing only symbolizes?

Application:

12. We have learned that our God is a saving God and a God of loving kindness. Thus, if we are to be imitators of Him, we must show that same mercy toward others. Think through Luke 14:12-14 carefully and explain how this should characterize your relationships with others on a personal level. Then pray and make a commitment to God to reach out so that Christ might be glorified in all that you do.⁷
13. If someone came up to you and asked, "What was the most important thing you learned this year in Women Walking Wisely that you can apply to your life," what would you say? End your time in prayer, thanking God for all that you have learned.

⁵MacArthur, 118-19

⁶Ibid, 118-19

⁷Ibid, 123.

Digging Deeper:

To enhance your study and worship time, we invite you to listen to the following sermon given by Pastor John MacArthur: *Belief, Judgment, and Eternal Life*,
<https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/43-17/belief-judgment-and-eternal-life>.

I Know Not Why God's Wondrous Grace⁸

I know not why God's wondrous grace
To me He hath made known,
Nor why, unworthy, Christ in love
Redeemed me for His own.

Refrain:

But "I know Whom I have believed
And am persuaded that He is able
To keep that which I've committed
Unto Him against that day."

I know not how this saving faith
To me He did impart,
Nor how believing in His word
Wrought peace within my heart.

I know not how the Spirit moves,
Convincing men of sin,
Revealing Jesus through the Word,
Creating faith in Him.

I know not what of good or ill
May be reserved for me,
Of weary ways or golden days,
Before His face I see.

I know not when my Lord may come,
At night or noon-day fair,
Nor if I'll walk the vale with Him,
Or "meet Him in the air."

⁸Daniel W. Whittle