

SUMMIT 1 SAMPLE LESSONS

Welcome to DiscipleLand's all-new ***SUMMIT Large-Group/Small-Group Bible Curriculum!***

SUMMIT is a 100% downloadable, adventure-based, Large-Group/Small-Group Curriculum. ***SUMMIT*** is fun and easy-to-use and provides a solid Biblical foundation for kids ages 6-12.

- Focuses on God's Word and making lifelong disciples.
- God-centered. Bible-based. Doctrinally-sound. Family-friendly.
- Engages kids, teachers and parents.
- Integrates church and home—gets parents involved training their children.
- Helps kids grow in their relationship with God and people.
- Equips kids to navigate today's culture and helps them live out their faith.
- Simple. Fun. Easy-to-use.
- ***One price for all class sizes.*** Quarterly and annual bundles for all group sizes and budgets.

Can *SUMMIT* be used for Sunday school?

Yes! Great when you have combined elementary ages together for Sunday school. ***SUMMIT*** brings them all together for large group and then breaks kids into two or more small groups. Everyone learns the same Bible truths. When attendance increases, the number of small groups increases.

Can *SUMMIT* be used for Mid-Week?

Absolutely! A great mid-week curriculum when you want a large-group/small-group format. All elementary kids learn the same Bible truths and break into small groups by age or gender. Includes an optional awards program with patches and pins!

Sample Lessons

The four sample lessons of **Trail 1** (1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4) on the following pages consist of a 6-8 page *Lesson* for Large and Small-Group leaders followed by a 1 page *Small-Group Activity Sheet* for students. Every ***SUMMIT*** lesson includes the following:

Trail and Lesson Overview

Large-Group Time (30-70 minutes)

- Assemble Together (5-10 min) — Opening Activities
- Worship Together (5-15 min) — Prayer, Praise, & Give
- Spark Interest (5-15 min) — Object Lessons
- Explore Scripture (20-30 min) — Bible Teaching

Small-Group Time (20-50 min)

- ReConnect (5-15 min) — Review & Discussion
- Explore More (10-15 min) — Activity Sheets & Games
- Inspire Action (10-20 min) — Application & Bible Memory

Scope & Sequence

You'll find a set of Scope & Sequences (a comprehensive roadmap) at the end of this document.



WHO IS GOD?



Trail 1: Supreme Lord—Summary

BIG IDEA: *The LORD alone is supreme and perfect; He defeats death and transforms life.*

In the Scriptures, a person’s name often describes his or her character. The same is true of God’s names. God has two primary Old Testament names—*Elohim* and *Yahweh*.

Elohim means “mighty One with supreme authority.”

Yahweh is God’s personal name. *Yahweh* means “I AM.”—the self-existent One.

God reveals His names because people are important to Him. It is incredible to realize that though God is absolutely independent and needs nothing from anyone, He wants to establish relationships with people! The Lord wants human beings to know who He is, what He is like, what He has done, and what He can do.

The four segments of this **Trail** will equip your kids to answer these essential questions:

Trail 1.1 Who Is God?—God is Supreme. The one, supreme God exists as three persons: Heavenly Father, Obedient Son, and Holy Spirit.

Trail 1.2 What Is God Like?—God is Perfect. The LORD has every excellent quality. He is infinite, majestic, upright, and loving.

Trail 1.3 What Has God Done?—God Defeats Death. The LORD frees enslaved people. God pursues people so they can respond to His offer of love and forgiveness.

Trail 1.4 What Can God Do?—God Transforms Life. The LORD rebuilds believers from the inside out. God sets Christians apart from the world to be His very own people.

Trail 1.1: Who Is God?—Overview

God is the uncaused Cause of all that is good. He generates all life. Everything exists through Him and for Him.

BIG IDEA: *God is Supreme. The one, supreme God exists as three persons: Heavenly Father, Obedient Son, and Holy Spirit.*

BIBLE PASSAGE: (various topical verses)

SUPPLIES: large beach ball or “Wubble” to represent the sun, 8 marbles (or tiny BBs) to represent the planets, flashlight, small plant (living or artificial)



DISCIPLE TARGETS

Along this trail, your children will...

KNOW (truths)

- God is Supreme—unique and matchless beyond comparison
- One God exists as three persons: Heavenly Father, Obedient Son, and Holy Spirit
- God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit have different (but interdependent) roles and jobs

FEEL (emotions)

- Glad that God made them to be “one-of-a-kind”
- Satisfied that God’s three-in-one nature is true—but beyond human comprehension
- Eager to discover more about God’s different roles as Father, Son, and Spirit

DO (actions)

- List ways that God has made them “unique”
- Compare the sun’s gravity, light, and heat to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
- Look up Bible verses that identify several roles of the Father, Son, and Spirit

PowerPoint Presentation

As you plan your lesson, select PowerPoint slides that correspond to the lesson elements you choose. In the “Slide Sorter” View, you can rearrange and/or delete the slides as necessary. For descriptions of the included slides and tips on their use, see the notes accompanying each slide.



LARGE GROUP TIME (30-70 minutes)

Leader guides kids through each segment via PowerPoint slides.



Assemble Together (5-10 minutes)



CONNECT: As the children arrive, sherpas (small-group leaders) meet and greet the kids in their group.

MOVE: True About You—*This movement-based activity reveals how God made each person unique.* Have all the kids sit in chairs or on the floor. Invite them to jump to their feet each time a statement you read is true about them.

I have blue eyes (brown/green/black)...

I have ridden a horse (pony/llama/grocery-store horse/polar bear)...

I have blond hair (brown/black/red)...

I am the only child in my family (oldest/youngest)...

I love spaghetti (ice cream/spinach)...

Say to your children, **This activity shows how everyone here is unique—one of a kind. All seven billion people on earth are different from each other. Even “identical” twins have different fingerprints, retina scans, and personalities. God made you—and only you—to be you!**

Worship Together (5-15 minutes)

PRAY: Lead the children in prayer.

PRAISE: Select worship songs appropriate for your learners and for this lesson topic. Suggestions: *How Great Thou Art*; *God of Wonders*; *How Great is Our God*

GIVE: Collect the kids’ offering.

Suggestions for Trail 1.1

Traditional: *How Great Thou Art; Great is Thy Faithfulness*

Contemporary: *God of Wonders (Third Day); How Great is Our God (Chris Tomlin)*

Kids Worship: *God is Creator (Seeds Family Worship); I Can Count on God (Yancy)*

GIVE: Collect the kids' offering.

Spark Interest (5-15 minutes)

INTRODUCE TRAIL 1: We're starting out on a new trail together. Along this trail, we'll answer these four essential questions about God:

Trail 1.1 Who Is God?—God is Supreme. The LORD exceeds the greatness of everything else; He is matchless. *[show slide]*

Trail 1.2 What Is God Like?—God is Perfect. The LORD has every excellent quality; He is flawless. *[show slide]*

Trail 1.3 What Has God Done?—God Defeats Death. The LORD unchains souls who are enslaved by sin; He is selfless. *[show slide]*

Trail 1.4 What Is God Doing?—God Transforms Life. The LORD rebuilds believers from the inside out; He is tireless. *[show slide]*



PRESENT THE OBJECT LESSON

The solar system illustrates God's supremacy over all people—and the entire universe. The Sun's gravity, light, and heat energy also illustrates the Trinity.

Supplies: large beach ball or "Wubble" to represent the sun, eight marbles (or tiny BBs) to represent the planets, flashlight, small plant (living or artificial)

This big ball represents the Sun. These small marbles represent the eight planets in our solar system. Our Sun is a star, the center of life to all the planets. The Sun is so huge that it contains 99.86% of the mass of the entire solar system. Hold the "sun" in one hand. All the planets, comets, and asteroids make up only .14% of our solar system. Hold up the marbles in your other fist. The Sun overshadows and dominates all the planets in our solar system. *[show slide]*



The Sun has three important jobs:

- **The Sun's gravity keeps the planets in orbit.** As you talk, line up the eight marbles neatly on a table or the stage floor. The Sun's great mass creates a gravitational field that attracts smaller objects and holds them in place. *[show slide]*
- **The Sun's light helps us see.** Hold the "sun" to the side of the "planets" and shine a flashlight on them. As the Sun burns immense amounts of hydrogen, it radiates brilliant light in every direction. *[show slide]*
- **The Sun's heat energy helps things grow.** The surface of the Sun is more than 9900°F. Shine the flashlight on the plant. Thankfully, only a small fraction of that heat reaches the earth. *[show slide]*



One Sun has three different functions. The Sun's gravity, light, and heat all come from one source. The Sun is three-in-one. This fact helps us understand something about who God is, too.



TEACH THE BIBLE LESSON—VARIOUS TOPICAL VERSES

#1: DEUTERONOMY 4:32-40

Moses brought all God's people together to learn who the Lord is so they would always obey Him. Read/explain Deuteronomy 4:39. *[show slide]*



Summary #1: Moses told God's people why the Lord was their God.

Principle #1: God is Supreme—the Lord reigns over everything.

Question #1: Who is your Lord?

Application #1: Since the Lord is supreme Ruler over all, follow and obey Him!

[show slide]

#2: DEUTERONOMY 6:1-15

Right after Moses reminded the people to always obey God's Ten Commandments, he told them why. Read/explain Deuteronomy 6:4-5. **The Lord is the only true God. The Lord wanted His people to follow the commandments for their own good.**



Summary #2: Moses reminded God's people to love and revere the Lord, the only true God.

Principle #2: God is One—the Lord exists as a unique, indivisible Being.

Question #2: Do you believe there is only one God?

Application #2: Trust the Lord, the one, true God who knows what's best for you!

[show slide]

#3: GENESIS 1:26; MATTHEW 28:19

Read/explain Genesis 1:26. **The plural references ("Us" and "Our") hint of God's tri-unity.**

Read/explain Matthew 28:19. **Matthew breaks the rules of grammar by linking a singular subject ("name") with a compound predicate "Father, Son, and Holy Spirit." He is saying, in effect, all three Persons are one God.** (You may also want to refer to: Isaiah 48:16; Matthew 3:16-17; 2 Corinthians 13:14.)

Bring back the "sun" and hold it above your head. **Just as one Sun has three different functions in our Solar System, one God exists as three united, yet distinct, Persons with three different jobs:**

- **The Sun's gravity keeps the planets in orbit. Similarly, God the Father created and rules the universe** (Hebrews 11:3; Ephesians 4:6).
- **The Sun's light helps us see. Similarly, God the Son came to earth as the "light of the world." Jesus showed people what God is like and how to follow Him** (John 8:12).
- **The Sun's heat energy helps things grow. Similarly, God the Holy Spirit enables believers to grow in their faith** (Ephesians 2:21-22).

Just as all the planets circle the Sun that stands alone in the center of our Solar System, all our activities should revolve around God who is supreme over all.



[show slide] This diagram shows that:

- **The Father, Son, and Spirit are all God.**
- **The Father, Son, and Spirit are united to each other, yet distinct from each other.**



Lead kids through the PowerPoint matching activity. **[show slides]**

Summary #3: The Bible reveals that the Father, Son, and Spirit are all one God.

Principle #3: God is Three-in-One—one God exists as three Persons—Heavenly Father, Obedient Son, and Holy Spirit.

Question #3: What will happen when you choose the Lord as your God?

Application #3: The one, supreme God will transform your life! [show slide]



Prayer: Praise God, the supreme Being of the universe, who has revealed Himself as heavenly Father, obedient Son, and Holy Spirit.

SMALL GROUP TIME (20-40 minutes)

Small Group Leaders discuss the Bible lesson and encourage kids to apply God's truth to their lives.



ReConnect (5-15 minutes)

REVIEW THE "BIG IDEA": Who is God?—God is Supreme. The one, supreme God exists as three persons: Heavenly Father, Obedient Son, and Holy Spirit.

ASK DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What do people like best about you? / What makes you unique?
2. Why is it important to get to know who God really is?
3. What is your favorite name of God / What is your favorite job that God performs?

Explore More (Option A—Worksheets/Guidebooks) (10-15 minutes)

Complete the activities together on the worksheet found at the end of this lesson or on page 16 in your **God's Greatness** Guidebooks.

Explore More (Option B) (10-15 minutes)

GOD'S ROLES: God has many different names and jobs. Let's find out more about who He is.

1. GOD THE HEAVENLY FATHER. The Father governs the universe—everything seen and unseen.
 - The LORD is **Creator**. God forms everything from nothing—for His own glory (Genesis 1:1).
 - The LORD is **Father**. God fashions each human being in His own likeness (Isaiah 64:8).
 - The LORD is **King**. God reigns over all creation from His heavenly throne (Psalm 47:7-8).
 - The LORD is **Lord**. God exercises absolute authority; He is the Master in charge (Deuteronomy 3:24).
 - The LORD is **Judge**. God determines right from wrong; He appraises each thought and deed (Ecclesiastes 12:14).
 - The LORD is **Commander**. God leads angelic and human forces to conquer His foes (Isaiah 42:13).
 - The LORD is **Defender**. God shields His children from enemy assaults (2 Timothy 4:18).

What are some of your questions about God the Father?

2. GOD THE OBEDIENT SON. The Son becomes human and always fulfills the Father's will.
 - Jesus is **the Word**. God's Son expresses living messages that penetrate heart and soul (Hebrews 4:12-13).
 - Jesus is **Prophet**. God's Son proclaims the Father's plans and purposes (John 12:49-50).
 - Jesus is **Priest**. God's Son ministers to the many needs of people (Hebrews 2:17-18).
 - Jesus is **Servant**. God's Son subordinates Himself in order to elevate others (Mark 10:45).
 - Jesus is **Savior**. God's Son sacrifices Himself to rescue people from sin (John 4:42).
 - Jesus is **Shepherd**. God's Son guards and guides His beloved flock (John 10:14-15).
 - Jesus is **Bridegroom**. God's Son marries His virtuous bride (Revelation 19:7).

What are some of your questions about God the Son?

3. GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT. The Spirit glorifies God's Son and guides God's people. (We'll take a closer look at these roles during the next few weeks.)

- God's Spirit is like a **gentle dove**. He seeks peace between God and people (Matthew 3:16-17).
- God's Spirit is like a **bank deposit**. He purchases salvation for all who believe (Ephesians 1:13-14).
- God's Spirit is like a **legal seal**. He secures believers as God's property (2 Corinthians 1:21-22).
- God's Spirit is like **refreshing water**. He sustains believers day after day (John 7:37-39).
- God's Spirit is like **cleansing fire**. He purifies believers from personal sin (Matthew 3:11).
- God's Spirit is like **precious oil**. He authorizes and empowers believers to do God's work (1 Samuel 16:13).
- God's Spirit is like **heaven-sent wind**. He guides believers along God's path (John 3:8).

What are some of your questions about God the Holy Spirit?

Inspire Action *(10-20 minutes)*

BE TRANSFORMED NOW: Just as all the planets circle the Sun that stands alone in the center of our Solar System, all our activities should revolve around God who is supreme over all. What are some activities that you need to START/STOP so that God becomes your Supreme Leader in every way?

[Complete the items below in Small Groups OR as you reassemble for Large-Group.]



REHEARSE THE BIBLE VERSE: (select the Bible translation that you prefer) *[show slide]*

Trail 1 Key Verse: *God Is Supreme—Deuteronomy 4:39 (same verse for 4 weeks)*

Trail 1.1 Verse: *God Is Supreme—Deuteronomy 4:39 (new verse each week)*

PRAY TOGETHER: Thank God for being the supreme Lord—heavenly Father, obedient Son, and Holy Spirit. Invite God to reveal Himself to you each time you read the Scriptures.

BE TRANSFORMED AT HOME:

1. During the next week, remember that God made you a unique person. The Lord wants to establish a one-on-one friendship with you. He already knows everything about you—inside and out. What are some things you would like to know about God? Make a list of all the names and roles of God you can think of. Then keep adding to your list.



2. Encourage kids to complete Trail 1.1 in their God's Greatness Guidebook during the week. Do you know what your name means? That's one thing you can find out this week in Trail 1.1. Don't forget to complete the rest of Trail 1.1 with a parent! [show slide]

To purchase a digital or printed Guidebooks, visit DiscipleLand.com.



WHO IS GOD?



God is supreme! The Lord is exceedingly great. He is matchless! The Bible reveals that God exists as three-in-one or the **Trinity**—Father, Son (Jesus), and Holy Spirit.

▼ Match each member of the Trinity to the description:



FATHER •

- died to forgive sins and rose to give new life (Romans 5:8)



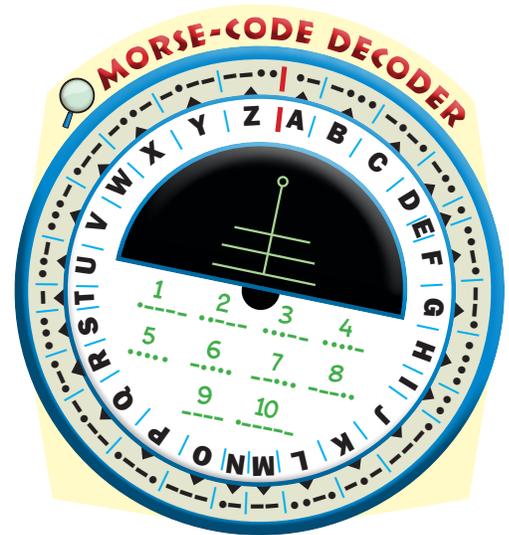
SON •

- lives in believers, strengthening them to be holy (Ezekiel 36:27)



SPIRIT •

- adopts believers into His own family (John 1:12-13)

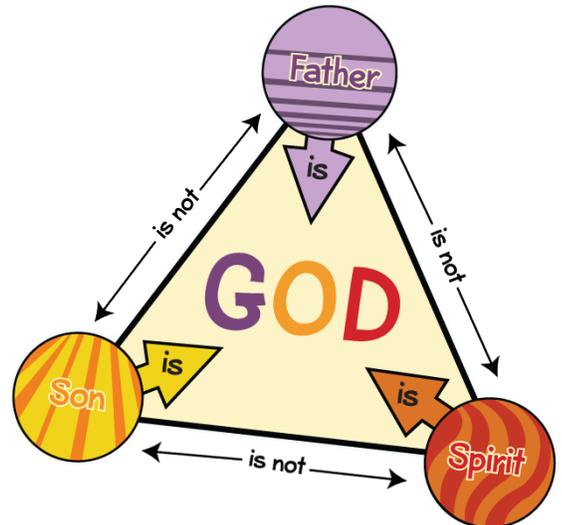


▼ Understanding the Trinity can be confusing. This comparison might help: We have **one** sun, but it has **three** different jobs. (To find the answers, use the **decoder**  on this page.)

1. The sun's keeps the planets in place.
(**God the Father** created and rules the universe.)

2. The sun's helps you see.
(**God the Son** is the "light of the world.")

3. The sun's energy helps things grow.
(**God the Spirit** enables believers to grow in their faith.)



The sun's gravity, light, and heat all come from one source. One sun has three different functions. Similarly, one God exists as three distinct Persons. Just as all the planets circle around the sun, all our activities should revolve around God!



God is Supreme. The one, supreme God exists as three persons: Heavenly Father, Obedient Son, and Holy Spirit.



Trail 1 Key Verse—*God Is Supreme: Deuteronomy 4:39*
Trail 1.1 Verse—*God Is Supreme: Deuteronomy 4:39*



WHAT IS GOD LIKE?



Trail 1: Supreme Lord—Summary

BIG IDEA: *The LORD alone is supreme and perfect; He defeats death and transforms life.*

The four segments of this **Trail** will equip your kids to answer these essential questions:

Trail 1.1 Who Is God?—God is Supreme. The one, supreme God exists as three persons: Heavenly Father, Obedient Son, and Holy Spirit.

Trail 1.2 What Is God Like?—God is Perfect. The LORD has every excellent quality. He is infinite, majestic, upright, and loving.

Trail 1.3 What Has God Done?—God Defeats Death. The LORD frees enslaved people. God pursues people so they can respond to His offer of love and forgiveness.

Trail 1.4 What Can God Do?—God Transforms Life. The LORD rebuilds believers from the inside out. God sets Christians apart from the world to be His very own people.

Trail 1.2: What Is God Like?—Overview

We learn “what God is like” by exploring what the Scriptures say about His nature and personality. Even when scanning the Bible casually, we make two very *different* discoveries. First, God’s greatness extends far beyond our ability to comprehend or imagine. Scholars say that God is “transcendent”—He exists apart from the material universe and He is not subject to any of its limitations. In short, God is far above us!

Second, the Bible reveals that God is intimately involved with people on this planet. God truly cares about us and frequently interacts with us. Theologians say that God is “immanent”—He personally influences and sustains life on earth. In short, God is among us! These two amazing facts—that God is far above us and that He is personally among us (transcendent *and* immanent) are keys that unlock our understanding of what God is really like.

“There is such a perfection in God’s nature and being that nothing is wanting to it or defective in it, and nothing can be added to it to make it better.”—A. W. Pink, author and biblical scholar

BIG IDEA: *God is Perfect. The LORD has every excellent quality. He is infinite, majestic, upright, and loving.*

BIBLE PASSAGE: (various topical verses)



DISCIPLE TARGETS

SUPPLIES: geode (or another item with many different facets—such as a crystal, or disco ball), hammer, thick cloth

Along this trail, your children will...

KNOW (truths)

- God is perfect and complete. He has zero flaws or shortcomings
- God’s character qualities describe His abilities and personality—what He is like
- God’s character qualities can be sorted into groups: infinite, majestic, loving, and upright

FEEL (emotions)

- Surprised that God is so perfect that He can never improve or change
- Eager to discover more and more about what God is really like
- Amazed that the Lord has so many good and desirable qualities

DO (actions)

- Read Bible verses that describe God’s character qualities
- Place 24 of God’s character qualities into groups. Circle 3 qualities that they would like to grow in
- Describe to a friend or family member qualities that reveal what God is like

PowerPoint Presentation

As you plan your lesson, select PowerPoint slides that correspond to the lesson elements you choose. In the “Slide Sorter” View, you can rearrange and/or delete the slides as necessary. For descriptions of the included slides and tips on their use, see the notes accompanying each slide.



LARGE GROUP TIME (30-70 minutes)

Leader guides kids through each segment via PowerPoint slides.



Assemble Together (5-10 minutes)

CONNECT: As the children arrive, sherpas (small-group leaders) meet and greet the kids in their group.

MOVE: Character Counts—*This team-building activity encourages kids to give and receive affirmation about their own positive character traits.* Say to your children, **Everyone has character qualities that other people observe and value. Walk around the room and tell five different people one character quality that you admire in them.** (Or, you may want to assemble in small groups for this opening activity.)

Worship Together (5-15 minutes)

PRAY: Lead the children in prayer.

PRAISE: Select worship songs appropriate for your learners and for this lesson topic. Suggestions: *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee; Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty; Majesty (Worship His Majesty)*

GIVE: Collect the kids’ offering.

Spark Interest (5-15 minutes)

REVIEW TRAIL 1: Say, **We’re on the “SUPREME LORD” trail together. Along this trail, we’ll answer these four essential questions about God: Who is He?, What is He like?, What has He done?, and What can He do?**

Trail 1.1 Who Is God?—God is Supreme. He is “Number 1.” *[show slide]*

Trail 1.2 What Is God Like?—God is Perfect. He has zero flaws. *[show slide]*



PRESENT THE OBJECT LESSON

A geode illustrates God's many fascinating character qualities. **Supplies:** geode (or another item with many different facets—such as a crystal, diamond, or disco ball), hammer (to break geode open), thick cloth (to wrap around geode when cracking it open)



This rock looks pretty ordinary from the outside. It is not all that interesting—just another rock. Do you sometimes think about God that way? There just doesn't seem to be that much you need to know about Him. [show slide] If you have access to a geode that has already been sliced in half and polished, simply show the “rock” side at this time.



But lets find out what's inside this ordinary rock. You may want to invite the kids to gather around you. Carefully wrap geode in cloth. Smash the geode with the hammer (do this on a concrete floor, board, or another non-marring surface). **Look at all the different crystals inside! This ordinary-looking rock is a geode with hundreds of beautifully shaped crystals that glisten in the light. Each tiny surface or facet is slightly different from all the others. [show slide]** Or, show the “sparkling” side of your sliced geode at this time.

This geode reminds us that God is very special. Even though at first He may seem ordinary, once we start to explore what the Lord is really like, we realize that He is fascinating. The closer we look, the more exciting God is!

Explore Scripture (20-30 minutes)

SHARE THE “BIG IDEA”: What is God like?—God is Perfect. The LORD has every excellent quality. He is infinite, majestic, upright, and loving.

INTRODUCE TRAIL 1.2—WHAT IS GOD LIKE?: Many people are confused about what God is really like. To some, He is a complete mystery. Others come up with their own ideas about the Lord—sometimes those ideas are right and other times they're very confused. The Bible is the only reliable source to learn about God's character. By exploring the Scriptures, we can truly understand His personality and truly know what He is like.

Let's see how many of God's different character qualities we can name. What is God like? Invite kids to suggest various traits. Be sure to affirm each idea, but be aware that some suggestions may not accurately reflect God's character.

TEACH THE BIBLE LESSON—VARIOUS TOPICAL VERSES

To see the big picture of God's perfections, we're going to look at them in four groups. The Lord is: infinite, majestic, loving, and upright. I'll explain each one along the way. God has Infinite perfections, Majestic perfections, Loving perfections, and Upright perfections.

#1: PSALM 145:1-7

"Infinite" means without end, limitless, or unending—something infinite goes on and on and on forever. The "infinity symbol" looks like this. Trace the infinity symbol with your finger. Once you start tracing this symbol, you can go on and on and on. Demonstrate this.

What are some ways that God is infinite?

- There is no end to God's power—He is Almighty; He can do anything.
- There is no end to God's knowledge—He knows everything.
- There is no end to God's location—He is everywhere all the time.
- There is no end to God's life—He is Eternal; He has no beginning or ending.

King David wrote an ancient hymn that describes God's infinite greatness. Read/explain Psalm 145:4-5. If God had limitations, He would not be God.



Summary #1: David praised God for His unending greatness and perfection.

Principle #1: God is infinite—the Lord faces no barriers; He is endless in every way.

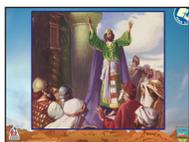
Question #1: Do you think God expects you to become "perfect"?

Application #1: God alone is infinite and perfect; you will always need His help!

[show slide]

#2: 1 CHRONICLES 29:1-21

"Majestic" means splendid, awesome, spectacular, or "wow!" If we were to meet a king or queen, we would say "Your Majesty" or "Your Highness" to show great respect to someone who is very, very important.



Near the end of his life, King David met with God's people. He told everyone about the Temple that Solomon, his son, would build in Jerusalem. Then David and many others gave generous offerings for the Temple. David ended the day with a wonderful prayer that describes God's majesty. Read/explain 1 Chronicles 29:11. God is majestic in these ways: The Lord is glorious; He is light; He is beautiful; He is sovereign; He is awesome; He is wise; and He is worthy. *[show slide]*

Summary #2: David praised God for His unsurpassed magnificence.

Principle #2: God is majestic—the Lord displays perfect grandeur; He is magnificent in every way.

Question #2: Do you someday hope to be famous or to look magnificent?

Application #2: You exist to honor the Lord; He cannot share His glory with you or anyone else. *[show slide]*



#3: PSALM 119:137-44

“Upright” means honorable and honest. God perfectly follows all His rules. Everything He does is exactly right. God never does anything with even a hint of wrong.

The longest chapter in the Bible (Psalm 119) reminds God’s people that the Lord is always upright. Read/explain Psalm 119:137-38. God is upright in these ways: The Lord is good; He is holy; He is truth; He is righteous; He is just; He is jealous; and He is wrathful.



Summary #3: The Psalmist proclaimed God’s uprightness and fairness.

Principle #3: God is upright—the Lord maintains perfect integrity; He is blameless in every way.

Question #3: Can you ever do enough good things to be right with God?

Application #3: God refuses to lower His upright standards for you or anyone else! *[show slide]*

#4: 1 JOHN 4:11-21

Although we use the word “love” all the time, God takes love to the very highest level. God’s love is perfect—it stays strong no matter what. God’s love never fails.

Read/explain 1 John 4:16. God is loving in these ways: The Lord is gracious; He is patient; He is humble; He is faithful; He is compassionate; He is merciful; and He is joyful.



Summary #4: The Apostle John encouraged Jesus’ followers to truly love one another.

Principle #4: God is love—the Lord demonstrates perfect affection; He is caring in every way.

Question #4: Are you 100% convinced that God loves you?

Application #4: God IS love; He loves you no matter who you are or what you have done. *[show slide]*

Prayer: Praise God for all His amazing qualities.

SMALL GROUP TIME (20-40 minutes)

Small Group Leaders discuss the Bible lesson and encourage kids to apply God's truth to their lives.



ReConnect (5-15 minutes)

REVIEW THE "BIG IDEA": What is God like?—God is Perfect. The LORD has every excellent quality. He is infinite, majestic, upright, and loving.

ASK DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What would it be like to be perfect—with zero character flaws?
2. What are some ways human beings are *like* God (made in His image)?
3. Why can God be the most wonderful Friend that you can ever have?

Explore More (Option A—Worksheets/Guidebooks) (10-15 minutes)

Complete the activities together on the worksheet found at the end of this lesson or on page 20 in your **God's Greatness** Guidebooks.

Explore More (Option B) (10-15 minutes)

These are some ways that God is INFINITE:

- The LORD is **Almighty**. God possesses inexhaustible power to do whatever He pleases. (Jeremiah 32:17) [*omnipotent*]
- The LORD is **All-knowing**. God understands everything about everything. (Psalm 139:16) [*omniscient*]
- The LORD is **Everywhere**. God occupies all of space all the time; He is present everywhere. (Jeremiah 23:23-24) [*omnipresent*]
- The LORD is **Eternal**. God lives and lasts forever—without beginning or ending. (Psalm 90:2) [*immortal*]
- The LORD is **Unchanging**. God remains endlessly the same in being and purpose. (Psalm 102:26-27) [*immutable*]
- The LORD is **Mysterious**. God surpasses comprehension; His ways are unsearchable. (Romans 11:33-34) [*inscrutable*]
- The LORD is **Independent**. God needs absolutely nothing; He is free and self-sufficient. (Acts 17:24-25) [*autonomous*]

What are your questions about God's INFINITY?

These are some ways that God is MAJESTIC:

- The LORD is **Glorious**. God enjoys incomparable greatness and renown. (Psalm 19:1-2)
- The LORD is **Light**. God illuminates the darkness—making everything visible. (1 John 1:5)
- The LORD is **Beautiful**. God radiates elegance and virtue; He is altogether desirable. (Psalm 27:4)
- The LORD is **Sovereign**. God controls the course of every event; nothing blocks His will. (Psalm 103:19)
- The LORD is **Awesome**. God instills fear and respect through His marvelous wonders. (Psalm 89:6-7)
- The LORD is **Wise**. God designs the best plans and discerns the best paths. (Proverbs 3:19)
- The LORD is **Worthy**. God deserves unceasing praise, reverence, and allegiance. (Psalm 18:3)

What are your questions about God's MAJESTY?

These are some ways that God is UPRIGHT:

- The LORD is **Good**. God promotes the well-being of all creation; He stands against evil. (Psalm 119:68)
- The LORD is **Holy**. God separates Himself from sin; He is absolutely pure. (Isaiah 6:3)
- The LORD is **Truth**. God presents what is factual and true; He cannot lie. (Numbers 23:19)
- The LORD is **Righteous**. God does what is right; He never violates His sacred laws. (Psalm 11:7)
- The LORD is **Just**. God judges rightly and fairly—without prejudice or partiality. (Genesis 18:25)
- The LORD is **Jealous**. God defends His name, honor, and reputation. (Exodus 34:14)
- The LORD is **Wrathful**. God resolves every wrong; He destroys sin and evil. (Deuteronomy 9:7)

What are your questions about God's UPRIGHTNESS?

These are some ways that God is LOVING:

- The LORD is **Gracious**. God gives favor that is neither earned nor deserved. (Ephesians 2:8-9)
- The LORD is **Patient**. God waits with calm restraint; He never worries or gives up. (2 Peter 3:9)
- The LORD is **Humble**. God exhibits meekness and modesty; He detests pride and arrogance. (Philippians 2:5-8)
- The LORD is **Faithful**. God shows unswerving loyalty; He keeps every promise forever. (Deuteronomy 7:9)
- The LORD is **Compassionate**. God conveys heartfelt sensitivity and sympathy. (Psalm 103:13)
- The LORD is **Merciful**. God pardons wrongdoers who sincerely repent. (Jonah 3:10)
- The LORD is **Joyful**. God delights in all that pleases Him; He celebrates each victory. (Psalm 16:11)

What are your questions about God's LOVE?

Inspire Action *(10-20 minutes)*

BE TRANSFORMED NOW: God created people in His own image. This means that human beings can develop many of His character qualities. We can't acquire His INFINITE or MAJESTIC qualities, but we can grow in all of His UPRIGHT and LOVING qualities. Identify three traits that you would like God to build in you.

[Complete the items below in Small Groups OR as you reassemble for Large-Group.]



REHEARSE THE BIBLE VERSE: (select the Bible translation that you prefer) *[show slide]*

Trail 1 Key Verse: *God Is Supreme*—Deuteronomy 4:39 (same verse for 4 weeks)

Trail 1.2 Verse: *God is Majestic*—1 Chronicles 29:11 (new verse each week)

PRAY TOGETHER: Praise God for His Infinite and Majestic character qualities. Ask the Lord to help the children develop the Upright and Loving traits that they need most.

BE TRANSFORMED AT HOME:

1. During the next week, describe to a friend or family member some qualities that reveal what God is like. Next time we get back together, I look forward to hearing your stories!



2. Encourage kids to complete Trail 1.2 in their God's Greatness Guidebook during the week. Do you know who is more beautiful than anyone else? That's one thing you'll find out this week in Trail 1.2. Don't forget to complete the rest of Trail 1.2 with a parent!

[show slide]

To purchase digital or printed Guidebooks, visit DiscipleLand.com.

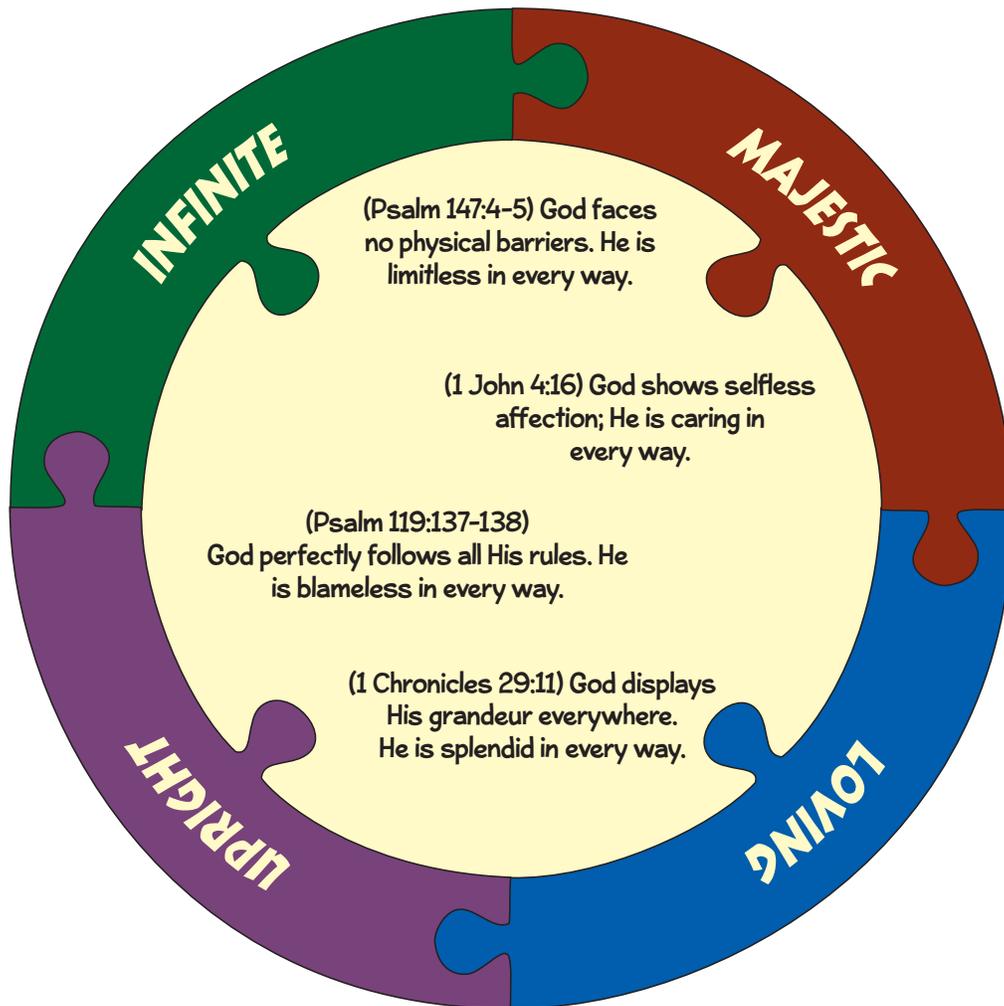


WHAT IS GOD LIKE?



When you piece together God’s character qualities (sometimes called “attributes”), they form a picture of what He is like. Those qualities fit into four different groups.

▼ Read the Bible verses. Then draw a line from each definition to the correct puzzle piece.



God is Perfect. The Lord has every excellent quality. He is infinite, majestic, loving, and upright.



Trail 1 Key Verse—*God Is Supreme*: Deuteronomy 4:39
Trail 1.2 Verse—*God Is Majestic*: 1 Chronicles 29:11



WHAT HAS GOD DONE?



Trail 1: Supreme Lord—Summary

BIG IDEA: *The LORD alone is supreme and perfect; He defeats death and transforms life.*

The four segments of this **Trail** will equip your kids to answer these essential questions:

Trail 1.1 Who Is God?—God is Supreme. The one, supreme God exists as three persons: Heavenly Father, Obedient Son, and Holy Spirit.

Trail 1.2 What Is God Like?—God is Perfect. The LORD has every excellent quality. He is infinite, majestic, upright, and loving.

Trail 1.3 What Has God Done?—God Defeats Death. The LORD frees enslaved people. God pursues people so they can respond to His offer of love and forgiveness.

Trail 1.4 What Can God Do?—God Transforms Life. The LORD rebuilds believers from the inside out. God sets Christians apart from the world to be His very own people.

Trail 1.3: What Has God Done?—Overview

God the Holy Spirit is actively involved throughout the earth throughout each day. Seven biblical symbols reveal the Spirit's primary roles in saving people from sin and in setting Christians apart to do His work:

SALVATION (Trail 1.3)

- Dove** (God's peace): He **SEEKS**
- Deposit** (God's payment): He **SAVES**
- Seal** (God's pledge): He **SEALS**

SANCTIFICATION (Trail 1.4)

- Water** (God's provision): He **SUSTAINS**
- Fire** (God's purification): He **PURIFIES**
- Oil** (God's power): He authorizes and **EMPOWERS**
- Wind** (God's pathway): He **GUIDES**

BIG IDEA: *God Defeats Death. The LORD frees enslaved people. God pursues people so they can respond to His offer of love and forgiveness.*

BIBLE PASSAGE: (various topical verses)

SUPPLIES: handcuffs or heavy chain



DISCIPLE TARGETS

Along this trail, your children will...

KNOW (truths)

- God frees people who are slaves to selfishness and sin
- The Holy Spirit is like a gentle dove who seeks peace between God and people
- The Holy Spirit is like a bank deposit that pays their sin debt
- The Holy Spirit is like a legal seal that secures believers as God's own children

FEEL (emotions)

- Sorry for all the wrong things they have done
- Glad that God pursues people who need His love and forgiveness
- Amazed that God has paid their huge debt and purchased their salvation
- Joyful that those who trust Jesus' death belong to God's own family

DO (actions)

- Decode key words that explain what God does when someone becomes a Christian
- Share what God did (or what is God doing) to **SEEK**, to **SAVE**, and to **SEAL** them
- Pray for the people they know who need to hear about Jesus' love and forgiveness

PowerPoint Presentation

As you plan your lesson, select PowerPoint slides that correspond to the lesson elements you choose. In the “Slide Sorter” View, you can rearrange and/or delete the slides as necessary. For descriptions of the included slides and tips on their use, see the notes accompanying each slide.



LARGE GROUP TIME (30-70 minutes)

Leader guides kids through each segment via PowerPoint slides.



Assemble Together (5-10 minutes)



CONNECT: As the children arrive, sherpas (small-group leaders) meet and greet the kids in their group.

MOVE: My World—*This relational activity encourages kids to seek out the interests of others.* Say to your children, **We all enjoy doing things together with other people. Walk around the room and ask at least 3 people you do not know very well to tell about one activity they enjoy doing with others.** (Or, you may want to assemble in small groups for this opening activity.)

Worship Together (5-15 minutes)

PRAY: Lead the children in prayer.

PRAISE: Select worship songs appropriate for your learners and for this lesson topic. Suggestions: *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross; To God Be the Glory; In Christ Alone*

GIVE: Collect the kids’ offering.

Spark Interest (5-15 minutes)

REVIEW TRAIL 1: Say, **We’re on the “SUPREME LORD” trail together. Along this trail, we’ll answer these four essential questions about God: Who is He?, What is He like?, What has He done?, and What can He do?**



Trail 1.1 Who Is God?—God is Supreme. He is “Number 1.” *[show slide]*

Trail 1.2 What Is God Like?—God is Perfect. He has zero flaws. *[show slide]*

Trail 1.3 What Has God Done?—God Defeats Death. He lived on earth, died for our sins, and came back to life. *[show slide]*

PRESENT THE OBJECT LESSON

A set of handcuffs illustrates that people are slaves to self, to sin, and to Satan. People need someone to set them free. Jesus accomplished this through His death on the cross. He took our place so we might be free. **Supplies:** handcuffs or heavy chain

Some people don't realize it, but they are slaves to their own selfishness and sin. Show the handcuffs and ask for a volunteer to assist you. Secure one of the volunteer's wrists to yourself in the handcuffs. **The Bible says that everyone who has done wrong is a slave of sin and Satan. Let's pretend that I am Satan—and because you have done wrong things, you are now my slave. Unless you are more powerful than me, I can take you wherever I want. Now let's pretend that this direction [point to your right] is heaven, and the opposite direction is hell.** Slowly pull the volunteer toward hell. Ask, **"Why are you on your way to hell?"** (volunteer's sin and selfishness)

There is only one way to escape your slavery to sin and Satan—someone who has never sinned must be willing to take your place. Ask, **Is anyone here free from sin? Who will take [volunteer's name] sins and go to hell instead of [volunteer's name] so he/she can be free?** Invite kids to respond.



Of course, Jesus is the only one who can set us free from Satan—because He never sinned. Remove handcuffs. *[show slide]*

Explore Scripture (20-30 minutes)

SHARE THE "BIG IDEA": What has God done? —God Defeats Death. The LORD frees enslaved people. God pursues people so they can respond to His love and forgiveness.

INTRODUCE TRAIL 1.3—WHAT HAS GOD DONE?: God has always required "blood" or "life" to pay for sins. In the very beginning, God warned Adam and Eve that if they disobeyed Him, they would experience death. Read Genesis 2:16-17. Even before Adam and Eve committed the very first sins, God had a plan to rescue them. Because sin led to death, the only way to pay was a sinless substitute—an innocent life must be sacrificed—blood must be shed.

Are you ready find out what God has done to defeat death?

TEACH THE BIBLE LESSON—VARIOUS TOPICAL VERSES

#1: LUKE 15:1-7

The Bible often refers to God as a Shepherd and to people as sheep. Read/explain Luke 19:10. *[show slide]*



Summary #1: Jesus revealed that God cares so much for each lost sheep that He searches and searches until He finds it.

Principle #1: God seeks—the Lord pursues people who need His love and forgiveness.

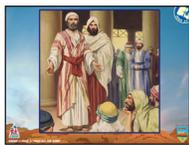
Question #1: Do you need to make peace with God?

Application #1: Your personal sin separates you from the Lord! *[show slide]*



#2: ACTS 4:8-12

The Holy Spirit is like a bank *deposit* that purchases salvation for all who believe (2 Corinthians 1:21-22). **Why did God make a deposit? —To pay a huge debt that we owed. Our account was hopelessly overdrawn—we could never pay it all back. But Christ volunteered to pay our debt with His own precious blood. God paid what we owed; now we can be free!**



In the early days of the Church, the Jewish leaders demanded Jesus' disciples to explain how a man who had been crippled was now healed. Read/explain Acts 4:12. **[show slide]**

Summary #2: Peter declared that God delivers people from sin's penalty and power through Jesus Christ alone.

Principle #2: God saves—the Lord pays the debt of all who trust His Word.

Question #2: Has Jesus rescued you from your sins?

Application #2: God invites you to respond to the Good News! [show slide]



At this time, you may want to clearly present the Gospel message and invite the kids to respond. See "Good News for Kids!" from the *Supplemental Resources* of this download.

#3: EPHESIANS 1:13-14

The Holy Spirit is like a legal *seal* that secures disciples as God's own. At the exact instant when you truly believe that Jesus died as your substitute for your sins, God seals the deal. He implants the Holy Spirit into your life. God writes your name in the Lamb's book of life. That is the most wonderful news imaginable! Read/explain Ephesians 4:30.

Summary #3: Paul explained that the Holy Spirit places His seal on people who believe the Gospel.

Principle #3: God seals—the Lord confirms believers as His treasured possession.

Question #3: Do you belong to God?

Application #3: If you believe Jesus took your place and died for your sins, you belong to God. He has freed you from slavery to sin and Satan. He has adopted you into His family! [show slide]



Prayer: Thank God for seeking those who wander from Him, for saving those who respond to Jesus, and for sealing those who truly believe.

SMALL GROUP TIME (20-40 minutes)

Small Group Leaders discuss the Bible lesson and encourage kids to apply God's truth to their lives.



ReConnect (5-15 minutes)

REVIEW THE "BIG IDEA": What has God done? —God Defeats Death. The LORD frees enslaved people. God pursues people so they can respond to His love and forgiveness.

ASK DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What makes the Gospel such "Good News"?
2. Has God forgiven your sins and adopted you into His family?
3. Why is the Gospel message so important for every person to hear and understand?

Explore More (Option A—Worksheets/Guidebooks) (10-15 minutes)

Complete the activities together on the worksheet found at the end of this lesson or on page 24 in your **God's Greatness** Guidebooks.

Explore More (Option B) (10-15 minutes)

These are some ways that God SEEKS people:

- The LORD **knows**. God examines people inside and out; nothing escapes His scrutiny. (Psalm 139:1-4)
- The LORD **blesses**. God extends His benevolent hand to all people. (Matthew 5:44-45)
- The LORD **convicts**. God exposes personal sin and warns of coming judgment. (John 16:8-11)
- The LORD **draws**. God motivates people to desire forgiveness and peace with Him. (John 12:32)
- The LORD **calls**. God invites people to believe in Him and follow His ways. (Matthew 11:28-29)

What are your questions about how God seeks people?

This is what takes place when God SAVES people:

- The LORD **dies**. God's innocent Son takes the place of guilty people. (1 Peter 3:18)
[substitution]
- The LORD **pays**. God's sinless Son delivers the ransom price for sinful people. (1 Peter 1:18-19)
[redemption]
- The LORD **satisfies**. God's holy Son fulfills every demand of divine Law. (Romans 7:5-6)
[propitiation]
- The LORD **chooses**. God selects undeserving people who embrace the truth. (Deuteronomy 7:6)
[election]
- The LORD **acquits**. God declares individuals "righteous" through faith alone. (Romans 5:8-9)
[justification]

What are your questions about how God saves people?

This is what takes place when God **SEALS** people:

- The LORD **raises**. God confers new life upon sinners who were spiritually dead. (Ephesians 2:4-6) [*regeneration*]
- The LORD **befriends**. God reconciles with people who were formerly His enemies. (Romans 5:10-11) [*reconciliation*]
- The LORD **adopts**. God welcomes into His own family children who were wayward. (Romans 8:15-16) [*adoption*]
- The LORD **indwells**. God resides inside all who trust Him as Savior. (Romans 8:11) [*indwelling*]
- The LORD **identifies**. God identifies His followers with a mark of ownership. (1 Corinthians 12:13) [*circumcision/baptism*]

What are your questions about how God seals people?

Inspire Action (10-20 minutes)

BE TRANSFORMED NOW: Share with our small group what God did (or what is God doing) to **SEEK** you, to **SAVE** you, and to **SEAL** you.

[Complete the items below in Small Groups OR as you reassemble for Large-Group.]



REHEARSE THE BIBLE VERSE: (select the Bible translation that you prefer) [*show slide*]

Trail 1 Key Verse: *God Is Supreme*—Deuteronomy 4:39 (same verse for 4 weeks)

Trail 1.3 Verse: *God is Savior*—Isaiah 12:2 (new verse each week)

PRAY TOGETHER: Thank God for taking the punishment you deserved and freeing you from the penalty of sin. Pray for the people you know who need to hear about Jesus' love and forgiveness.

BE TRANSFORMED AT HOME:

1. During the next week, tell someone about your personal experience of trusting Jesus to save you. Or, have a conversation with someone who can help you understand more about what it really means to be a Christian.



2. Encourage kids to complete Trail 1.3 in their *God's Greatness* Guidebook during the week. Did you know that Christians belong to two families? That's one thing you'll find out this week in Trail 1.3. Don't forget to complete the rest of Trail 1.3 with a parent! [*show slide*]

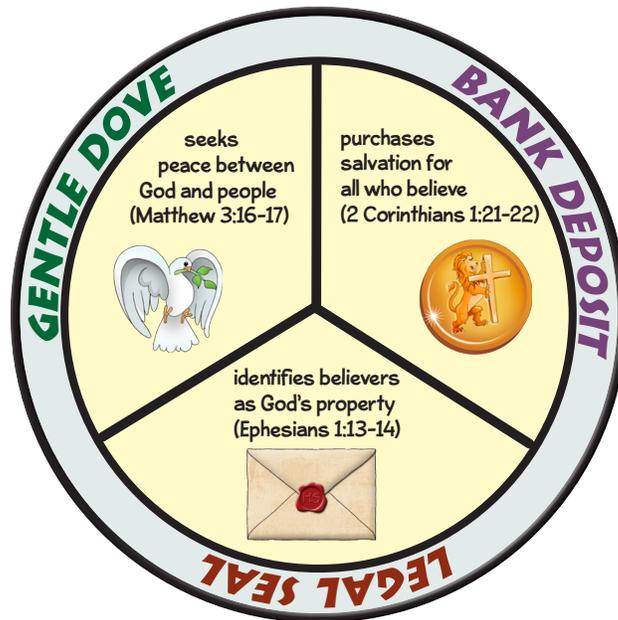
To purchase digital or printed Guidebooks, visit DiscipleLand.com.



WHAT HAS GOD DONE?



When a person decides to follow Jesus, God's Spirit is like:



▼ Here's what takes place when someone becomes a Christian. Read each Bible verse; then decode the key words.

• **1 Peter 3:18**—God for you.

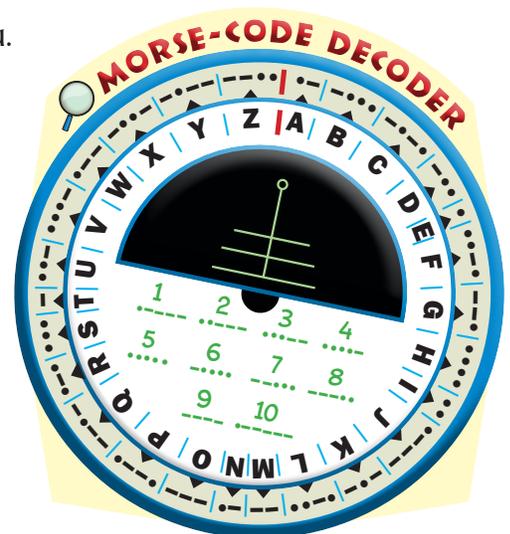
God's innocent Son takes the place of guilty people.

• **1 Peter 1:18-19**—God you.

God's sinless Son pays the ransom price for sinful people.

• **Romans 5:10**—God you.

God befriends those who had previously been enemies.



God Defeats Death. The Lord frees enslaved people. God pursues people so they can respond to His offer of love and forgiveness.



Trail 1 Key Verse—*God Is Supreme*: Deuteronomy 4:39
Trail 1.3 Verse—*God Is Savior*: Isaiah 12:2



WHAT CAN GOD DO?



Trail 1: Supreme Lord—Summary

BIG IDEA: *The LORD alone is supreme and perfect; He defeats death and transforms life.*

The four segments of this **Trail** will equip your kids to answer these essential questions:

Trail 1.1 Who Is God?—God is Supreme. The one, supreme God exists as three persons: Heavenly Father, Obedient Son, and Holy Spirit.

Trail 1.2 What Is God Like?—God is Perfect. The LORD has every excellent quality. He is infinite, majestic, upright, and loving.

Trail 1.3 What Has God Done?—God Defeats Death. The LORD frees enslaved people. God pursues people so they can respond to His offer of love and forgiveness.

Trail 1.4 What Can God Do?—God Transforms Life. The LORD rebuilds believers from the inside out. God sets Christians apart from the world to be His very own people.

Trail 1.4: What Can God Do?—Overview

God is not passive or disengaged from the events on earth; He is dynamically involved throughout His creation. From Israel’s early history to the present day, God’s activity can be seen in the life of believers and the Church.

The Lord accomplishes His work of sanctification via these four ministries of the Holy Spirit:

- Water** (God’s provision): He SUSTAINS
- Fire** (God’s purification): He PURIFIES
- Oil** (God’s power): He authorizes and EMPOWERS
- Wind** (God’s pathway): He GUIDES

BIG IDEA: *God Transforms Life. The LORD rebuilds believers from the inside out.*

BIBLE PASSAGE: (various topical verses)

SUPPLIES: “transformer” action figure; (optional) two small stones: one dark, one red (or brightly-colored)



DISCIPLE TARGETS

Along this trail, your children will...

KNOW (truths)

- God sets Christians apart from the world to be His very own people
- The Holy Spirit is like... a cleansing fire that purifies disciples from personal sin
- ...refreshing water that sustains disciples day after day
- ...precious oil that authorizes and empowers disciples to do God’s work
- ...heaven-sent wind that guides disciples along God’s path

FEEL (emotions)

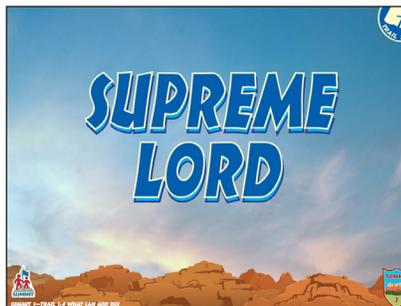
- Motivated to stay close to the Lord instead of following the world’s ways
- Courageous to submit to God’s purifying fire and His guiding wind
- Excited that God’s Spirit can empower them to obey the Lord

DO (actions)

- Read 1 John 2:15-17 and list reasons they should avoid loving the world
- Ask God to transform them from the inside out
- Invite God to fill them with the Holy Spirit

PowerPoint Presentation

As you plan your lesson, select PowerPoint slides that correspond to the lesson elements you choose. In the “Slide Sorter” View, you can rearrange and/or delete the slides as necessary. For descriptions of the included slides and tips on their use, see the notes accompanying each slide.



LARGE GROUP TIME (30-70 minutes)

Leader guides kids through each segment via PowerPoint slides.



Assemble Together (5-10 minutes)

CONNECT: As the children arrive, sherpas (small-group leaders) meet and greet the kids in their group.

MOVE: Father Knows Best—*This question-answer activity prompts kids to consider God’s plan for their lives. Who knows you best: you, your parents, or God? Since God knows you best of all, He can make the best plan for your life. Walk around the room and ask three people, “What is one thing you hope God’s plan for your life might include?”* (Or, you may want to assemble in small groups for this opening activity.)



Worship Together (5-15 minutes)

PRAY: Lead the children in prayer.

PRAISE: Select worship songs appropriate for your learners and for this lesson topic. Suggestions: *Take My Life and Let It Be; Have Thine Own Way, Lord; Trust and Obey*

GIVE: Collect the kids’ offering.

Spark Interest (5-15 minutes)

REVIEW TRAIL 1: We’re finishing the “SUPREME LORD” trail. Along this trail, we’ve answered these four essential questions about God: Who is He?, What is He like?, What has He done?, and What can He do?

Trail 1.1 Who Is God?—God is Supreme. He is “Number 1.” *[show slide]*

Trail 1.2 What Is God Like?—God is Perfect. He has zero flaws. *[show slide]*

Trail 1.3 What Has God Done?—God Defeats Death. He lived on earth, died for our sins, and came back to life. *[show slide]*

Trail 1.4 What Can God Do?—God Transforms Life. He rebuilds believers from the inside out. *[show slide]*



PRESENT THE OBJECT LESSON

A “Transformer” action-figure illustrates how God changes people from what they were to what He wants them to become. **Supplies:** “transformer” action figure; two small stones: one dark, one red (or brightly-colored)

(If you can find an action-figure with a chest compartment that opens up, place the dark stone inside (to represent the “old heart”).) **After we believe in Jesus and start following Him, God begins to work on us from the inside out. He doesn’t let us stay the way we were. He wants to change us so we can serve Him. Watch this action-figure morph from one form to another.** Demonstrate. **That is what God wants to do to us—completely change us.**



The Lord starts transforming us by performing open-heart surgery—He removes our selfish heart that was disobedient and cold to Him. God replaces that old heart with a new heart that wants to obey Him and do what’s right. Read Ezekiel 36:26-27. Demonstrate this with the colored stones. *[show slide]*

Explore Scripture (20-30 minutes)

SHARE THE “BIG IDEA”: What can God do?—God Transforms Life. The LORD rebuilds believers from the inside out.

INTRODUCE TRAIL 1.4—WHAT CAN GOD DO?: The more we cooperate with God, the more He changes us. God sets believers apart from the world to carry out His wonderful plan. There are four important ways that God works to change each of us. Are you ready find out what God wants to do to transform your life?

TEACH THE BIBLE LESSON—VARIOUS TOPICAL VERSES

#1: 1 PETER 5:6-10

God cares so much for us that He never leaves our side. He never stops helping us deal with problems in life. We can trust the Lord to protect us from danger. We can trust Him to provide everything we truly need. We can trust Him to answer our prayers. We can trust Him to heal our diseases. God also gives us other believers who support us like devoted teammates. Read/explain 1 Peter 5:9-10.

The Holy Spirit is like refreshing water that sustains disciples day after day (John 7:37-39). **Why is the Holy Spirit like water? Without water, we die. We cannot survive a single day without Him. God sustains us.**



Summary #1: Peter encouraged believers to resist Satan because God will sustain them through difficult times.

Principle #1: God sustains—the Lord undergirds believers so they trust His providence.

Question #1: Who do you depend on to hold you up when you need help?

Application #1: You can trust God to sustain you and to supply your daily needs!

[show slide]

#2: MALACHI 3:1-6

God views each of His children as a valuable treasure. But that treasure is not pure. It is like gold ore mixed with worthless minerals. Do you know how gold and silver is refined? When miners find rocks that have flecks of gold or silver, they put those rocks into an iron pot and build a fire that gets so hot that it melts the rocks! After everything cools off, the gold or silver separates from the worthless minerals. The refiner throws everything else away, but keeps the valuable gold or silver in a safe place. *[show slide]*



That's what God does to us. He removes the impurities from our lives. To do this, sometimes He puts us through the fire—which is not much fun. But the result is worth it! Read/explain 2 Timothy 2:21-22.

The Holy Spirit is like cleansing *fire* that purifies disciples from personal sin (Zechariah 13:9). Why does God use fire to refine us? The Lord is holy and wants to make us holy as well. The fire burns up the rotten stuff and refines the good stuff to make us pure.

Summary #2: God promised to send a messenger to purify His people from sin.

Principle #2: God purifies—the Lord refines believers so they acquire His holiness.

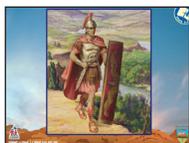
Question #2: What part of your life needs to be purified?

Application #2: God can clean up your sinful habits, wrong actions, and selfish desires! *[show slide]*



#3: EPHESIANS 6:10-18

God's enemy, Satan, is determined to stop what the Lord is doing throughout the world, and in your life. The only way believers can build God's kingdom is through the power that God supplies. The Lord strengthens us and gives us armor to stand firm—no matter what opposition we face. Read/explain Ephesians 6:10-12. *[show slide]*



The Holy Spirit is like precious *oil* that authorizes and empowers disciples to do God's work (1 Samuel 16:13). Oil symbolizes God's authority and power. God anoints people to show that He has appointed them to an office for His service. God also empowers them to do the work He gives them.

Summary #3: Paul told Christians to wear God's armor to stand against evil forces.

Principle #3: God empowers—the Lord strengthens believers so they build His kingdom.

Question #3: What do you need God's power to help you overcome?

Application #3: God will empower you to do the work He gives you! *[show slide]*



#4: GALATIANS 5:16-26

Remember that a real battle takes place inside us each day. The flesh fights against the Spirit. The Spirit tells us what is right and what He wants us to do. But the flesh tries to sidetrack us from God's plan by doing wrong. Read/explain Galatians 5:16.

The Holy Spirit is like heaven-sent *wind* that guides disciples along God's path (John 3:8). Have you ever tried to run or bike against the wind? It's hard! But when the wind is blowing hard in the same direction you are running, it's easy. God wants us to move with the Spirit, not against Him.

Wind is invisible. Sometimes we can feel the wind, but we can never actually see it. Because we cannot see God's Spirit, we must listen for Him. Make a conscious effort to listen for the Spirit's voice inside your heart. The Holy Spirit often whispers where He wants us to go and what He wants us to do.



.....
Summary #4: Paul advised Christians to let the Holy Spirit direct their lives.

Principle #4: God guides—the Lord directs believers so they carry out His will.

Question #4: What does the Holy Spirit whisper to you about?

Application #4: The Holy Spirit always directs you to do the right thing! *[show slide]*
.....

Prayer: Ask God to transform you from the inside out, keep in step with the Holy Spirit, and walk by faith, not by sight!

SMALL GROUP TIME (20-40 minutes)

Small Group Leaders discuss the Bible lesson and encourage kids to apply God's truth to their lives.



ReConnect (5-15 minutes)

REVIEW THE "BIG IDEA": What can God do?—God Transforms Life. The LORD rebuilds believers from the inside out.

ASK DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why can God do a much better job directing your life than you can?
2. What can you do to plan your life so that it counts for all eternity?
3. How do you need God's help to sustain, to purify, to empower, and to guide you?

Explore More (Option A—Worksheets/Guidebooks) (10-15 minutes)

Complete the activities together on the worksheet found at the end of this lesson or on page 28 in your **God's Greatness** Guidebooks.

Explore More (Option B) (10-15 minutes)

This is what takes place when God SUSTAINS people:

- The LORD **provides**. God supplies everything that His children truly need. (Philippians 4:19)
- The LORD **protects**. God shelters His followers from dangers and fears. (2 Thessalonians 3:3)
- The LORD **hears**. God responds to the prayers and predicaments of His people. (2 Chronicles 7:14)
- The LORD **heals**. God restores wounded bodies, hearts, minds, and spirits. (Psalm 34:18-19)
- The LORD **unites**. God unifies the faithful to live in harmony with one another. (Acts 4:32-33)

What are your questions about how God SUSTAINS you?

These are some ways that God PURIFIES people:

- The LORD **transforms**. God refashions each follower to become like Himself. (Romans 12:2)
- The LORD **disciplines**. God corrects His beloved children to walk uprightly. (Hebrews 12:10-11)
- The LORD **forgives**. God releases the penitent from personal sins and guilt. (1 John 1:9)
- The LORD **prays**. God's Son and Spirit intercede on behalf of believers. (Romans 8:26-27)
- The LORD **ordains**. God consecrates His people as priests in sacred service. (Exodus 19:5-6)

What are your questions about how God PURIFIES you?

This is what takes place when God EMPOWERS people:

- The LORD **anoints**. God appoints specific people to perform vital ministries. (1 John 2:27)
- The LORD **fills**. God infuses His children with the Spirit's enabling power. (Acts 1:8)
- The LORD **equips**. God distributes supernatural gifts to build up believers. (Ephesians 4:11-12)
- The LORD **joins**. God partners with His followers to produce spiritual fruit. (John 15:5)
- The LORD **sends**. God commissions His messengers to make disciples everywhere. (Matthew 9:38)

What are your questions about how God EMPOWERS you?

This is what takes place when God **GUIDES** people:

- The LORD **leads**. God conducts His followers along purposeful paths. (2 Corinthians 2:14)
- The LORD **teaches**. God reveals truths that train His children how to live. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
- The LORD **speaks**. God imparts His thoughts and desires to the faithful. (Hebrews 1:1-2)
- The LORD **enlightens**. God grants divine wisdom to all who ask for insight. (Proverbs 2:6-7)
- The LORD **rewards**. God repays individuals exactly as they deserve. (Jeremiah 17:10)

What are your questions about how God **GUIDES** you?

Inspire Action *(10-20 minutes)*

BE TRANSFORMED NOW: Give your kids the opportunity to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Guide them through these steps (also, see page 29 in the **SUMMIT 1** Guidebook):

- **Thirst**—Strongly desire to be filled with the Holy Spirit (John 7:37-39)
- **Repent**—Confess your sins and turn to God (1 John 1:9)
- **Trust**—In faith, ask God to fill you with the Holy Spirit (Luke 11:13)
- **Obey**—Submit to God as your Lord and Master (Galatians 5:16)

[Complete the items below in Small Groups OR as you reassemble for Large-Group.]



REHEARSE THE BIBLE VERSE: (select the Bible translation that you prefer) *[show slide]*

Trail 1 Key Verse: *God Is Supreme*—Deuteronomy 4:39 (same verse for 4 weeks)

Trail 1.4 Verse: *God is Sanctifier*—Leviticus 20:26 (new verse each week)

PRAY TOGETHER: Ask the Lord to sustain, purify, empower, and guide you.

BE TRANSFORMED AT HOME:

1. During the next week, walk around your house (especially your bedroom) and look for things that keep you connected to the Lord—and those that may be bridges to temptation from the world.



2. Encourage kids to complete *Trail 1.4* in their *God's Greatness* Guidebook during the week. **What happens to Christians who rely on themselves instead of God? That's one thing you'll find out this week in Trail 1.4. Don't forget to complete the rest of Trail 1.4 with a parent! *[show slide]***

To purchase digital or printed Guidebooks, visit DiscipleLand.com.



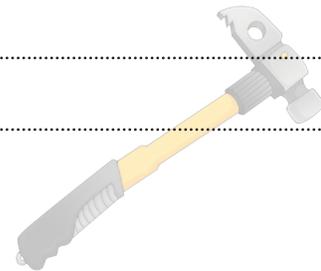
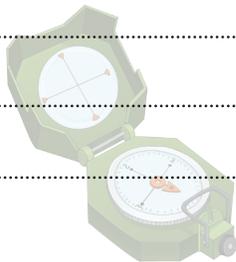
WHAT CAN GOD DO?



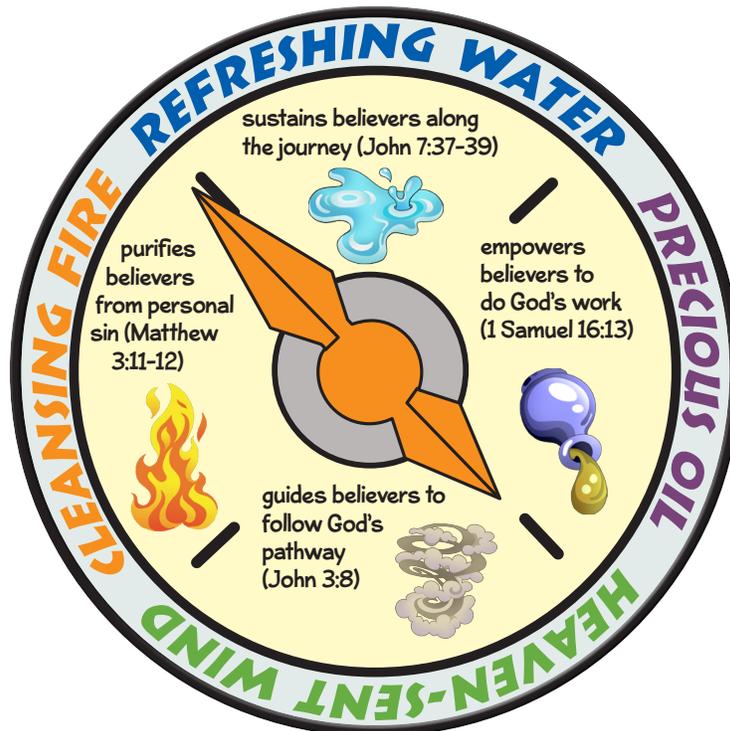
God sets Christians apart for His own purpose and service.

▼ Read **1 John 2:15-17**. List reasons God's children should avoid loving what the world has to offer:

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.....
.....
.....



God's plan for every believer includes these things:



God Transforms Life. The Lord rebuilds believers from the inside out.



Trail 1 Key Verse—*God Is Supreme*: Deuteronomy 4:39
Trail 1.4 Verse—*God Is Sanctifier*: Leviticus 20:26

SUMMIT 1—GOD’S GREATNESS SYLLABUS

SUMMIT 1 QUARTER A



1 SUPREME LORD

BIBLE REF

- 1.1 Who Is God? various topical
- 1.2 What Is God Like? various topical
- 1.3 What Has God Done? various topical
- 1.4 What Can God Do? various topical



2 VIRTUES OF THE SOUL

Psalm 1

- 2.1 Virtues and Vices Psalm 1
- 2.2 Wise vs. Foolish 1 Kings 3:3-28
- 2.3 Creative vs. Unimaginative Gen. 1; Ex. 35-36
- 2.4 Virtue Review various Matthew



3 HOW TO WORSHIP

- 3.1 Show God Worth John 4:20-24; Psalm 95
- 3.2 Worship One-on-One Psalm 63:1-11
- 3.3 Worship Together 2 Chron. 29:1-30:27
- 3.4 Worship by Serving Matt. 25:31-46

SUMMIT 1 QUARTER B



4 FAITH JOURNEY

- 4.1 Know God Intimately Proverbs 2:1-12
- 4.2 Love God Passionately John 14:15-26
- 4.3 Serve God Selflessly Matt. 20:20-28
- 4.4 Trust God Daily 1 Cor. 3:1-15



5 CARDINAL VIRTUES

- 5.1 Courageous vs. Cowardly Joshua 1:1-9
- 5.2 Self-Controlled vs. Impulsive 1 Sam. 18-26
- 5.3 Just vs. Corrupt 1 Kings 18
- 5.4 Virtue Review various Matthew



6 HOW TO PRAY

- 6.1 Honor God with Praise Matt. 6:5-13
- 6.2 Examine Your Life 1 John 1:5-10
- 6.3 Ask and Request Matt. 7:7-11; James 5:13-16
- 6.4 Thank God for Blessing You Luke 17:11-19

SUMMIT 1 QUARTER C



7 FAMILY PLAN

BIBLE REF

- 7.1 Marriage Gen. 2:18-24
- 7.2 Husbands and Wives Eph. 5:21-23
- 7.3 Fathers and Mothers Deut. 6:1-9
- 7.4 Children 1 Cor. 13:1-13



8 HEAVENLY VIRTUES

- 8.1 Trusting vs. Doubtful Gen. 12:1-9; Rom. 4:17-24
- 8.2 Hopeful vs. Despairing Exodus 14:1-31
- 8.3 Loving vs. Hateful Jonah 1-4; John 4:16-19
- 8.4 Virtue Review various N.T.



9 HOW TO LOVE GOD

- 9.1 Heart and Soul Matt. 16:13-30
- 9.2 Mind various topical
- 9.3 Strength 1 Sam. 17:32-54
- 9.4 Love Your Neighbors Luke 10:25-37

SUMMIT 1 QUARTER D



10 CREATION SCIENCE

- 10.1 Wonders of the Universe Gen. 1:1-19
- 10.2 Wonders of Life Gen. 1:20-25
- 10.3 Wonders of People Gen. 1:26-31
- 10.4 Wonders of Design Psalm 104



11 PERSONAL VIRTUES

- 11.1 Good vs. Evil Esther 2-5
- 11.2 Honest vs. Deceptive Joshua 7
- 11.3 Pure vs. Immoral Gen. 39:7-23
- 11.4 Virtue Review various Matthew



12 HOW TO FOLLOW GOD’S PLAN

- 12.1 God’s Plan for the Universe various topical
- 12.2 God’s Plan for Every Christian various topical
- 12.3 God’s Plan for You (Knowledge) various topical
- 12.4 God’s Plan for You (Character and Conduct) various topical

SUMMIT LARGE-GROUP/SMALL-GROUP SCOPE & SEQUENCE

SUMMIT	Qtr	Knowledge	Character	Conduct—How To...
God's Greatness				
	A	• Supreme Lord	• Virtues of the Soul	• ...Worship
	B	• Faith Journey	• Cardinal Virtues	• ...Pray
	C	• Family Plan	• Heavenly Virtues	• ...Love God
	D	• Creation Science	• Personal Virtues	• ...Follow God's Plan
God's Word				
	A	• Holy Book	• Values of the Heart	• ...Use the Bible
	B	• Bible Times	• Friendship Values	• ...Navigate the N.T.
	C	• Bible Archaeology	• Social Values	• ...Navigate the O.T.
	D	• Bible Prophecy	• Personal Values	• ...Memorize God's Word
God's Son				
	A	• The Prophet	• Attitudes of the Mind	• ...Meet with God
	B	• The Priest	• Dynamic Attitudes	• ...Know the Truth
	C	• The Shepherd	• Social Attitudes	• ...Show Respect
	D	• The King	• Personal Attitudes	• ...Be Jesus' Disciple