

## Getting Started

- When you think of God or picture God, what comes to your mind?
- When was the last time you were overwhelmed with WHO GOD IS?

## Discussion

In the religions of today's world, there are many so-called gods and just as many opinions about what God (or god) is like. The Bible, on the other hand, claims to be the revelation of the one true God. The Bible never tries to prove that God exists; it simply states, " \_\_\_\_\_ ..." (Genesis 1:1)

*"The history of mankind will probably show that no people has ever risen above its religion, and man's spiritual history will positively demonstrate that no religion has ever been greater than its idea of God."*

*A right conception of God is basic not only to systematic theology but to practical Christian living as well.... I believe there is scarcely an error in doctrine or failure in applying Christians ethics that cannot be traced finally to the imperfect and ignoble thoughts about God."*

— A. W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy*

- Respond to these two quotes by A.W. Tozer related to the importance of knowing God and thinking correct and great thoughts about God.
- Why do men question the existence of God? How has God revealed Himself to man? (Consider Romans 1:18-22; 2:14-16)
  - How God has made Himself evident within men – Romans 1:19
  - How God can be seen in creation – Romans 1:20 (Psalm 19:1)
  - How God has revealed Himself to me within their conscience – Romans 2:15
- What is the result when men ignore God's creative power, ignore their conscience, and turn from God? (Romans 1:21-22, Psalm 14:1)
- Rather than boasting in wisdom, might, or riches, what one thing does God say a man should boast about (Jeremiah 9:24)? What is the difference between *knowing about God* and *knowing God*?
- What are some practical ways for someone to grow to know God?
  - Set your mind and desires to seek God - Psalm 27:8
  - Fill your mind with His Word and obey it – John 14:21
  - Learn to fear God; this is the beginning of wisdom – Proverbs 9:10
  - Other ideas ...

Central and unique to the Christian faith is the belief that the one God has disclosed himself eternally as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. There is plurality within the identity of the one God. The word *Trinity* is not found in the Bible, but the doctrine of the Trinity is clearly taught. Here's a definition of the tri-unity of God ... *There is one living and true God eternally existing in three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. They are co-equal, co-eternal, and consubstantial (of the same essence), and therefore, each deserves the same worship and obedience.*

- What are some ways that you have heard others attempt to describe or illustrate the concept of the Trinity?

Here are a few passages that reinforce the doctrine of the Trinity ...

- There is only one God (Is 43:1-, 45:22)
  - Yet God refers to Himself in the plural as us and our (Gen 1:26a, 3:22)
  - The Father is God (John 6:27)
  - Christ is God (Titus 2:13, John 1:1, 14; 8:58)
  - The Holy Spirit is God (Acts 5:3-4)
  - At baptism of Christ (Mark 1:10-11)
  - Trinitarian statements – 2 Cor 3:14, 1 Peter 1:2, 1 Cor 12:4-6, Matt 28:19
- Knowing God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) involves knowing His attributes or His character. Studying God's attributes allows us to have a limited understanding of His person. Even though some concepts exceed the limits of our comprehension, our ideas concerning God need to be as true as possible. Make a list of as many attributes of God that are true of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (i.e., Holy, Eternal, All-knowing, etc.)
- Based on what Pastor Lee shared on Sunday, why does our view of God matter? Include in your discussion your understanding of what other religions believe about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit (i.e., Jehovah Witness, Mormonism, Islam, etc.)
- Share an incorrect statement you have heard someone make recently about God. What scripture refutes that statement?
- What sin have you chosen to ignore or idol that you may be clinging to that is keeping you from knowing God to the fullest?

## Prayer

Use Psalm 103 to praise God for who He is and thank Him for the ways that you have experienced His character in your life. Ask God to reveal Himself to those in your life who may not know Him yet. Pray for that He would give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation so that you might know Him better (Ephesians 1:17)