

Who is God?

Can you find out the deep things of God? Job 11:7a

→ INVITE

Prayer

Opening Scripture: 1 Corinthians 2:9-10

→ INTERACT

- What has the Spirit revealed to you about God?
- How have you experienced God?
- If you were asked to explain who God is to a friend or family member, what would you say to describe God?
- What are ways you have heard God described to you, or to a friend or in the news?
- What names of God speak to who God is to you right now?

Read Romans 1:18, Romans 11:33-34, Colossians 1:15, and Hebrews 11:27. If God is invisible can we fully know God? How?

Read Deuteronomy 4:29, Jeremiah 29:13, Matthew 5:8. What does it mean to search for God?

→ INVEST

Who does scripture say our God *is*?

OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis 1:1-3, 26-27
Genesis 18:14a
Exodus 3:13-14
Leviticus 11:44-45
Deuteronomy 5:6, 5:9
Deuteronomy 7:7-8
1 Kings 8:27
Psalm 18:2
Psalm 23:1
Psalm 139:2-8
Isaiah 6:3
Isaiah 44:6, 45:21-12, 46:9
Jeremiah 23:23-24
Job 37:14-16

NEW TESTAMENT

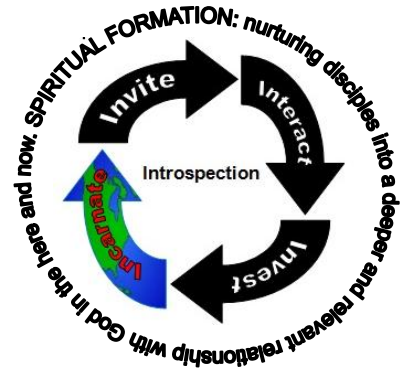
Matthew 10:29
John 3:16
Romans 1:19-20
1 Corinthians 3:16
Galatians 3:20
Ephesians 2:8
Ephesians 3:10
Hebrews 2:9
2 Timothy 2:13
1 Thessalonians 1:9
James 1:17
1 John 4:16
Revelation 4:8

- What are some names for God in scripture? What do the names of God help us understand about God? What name best describes how you understand and know God now?
- What did you learn about God?
- Where do you see this God we have described and discussed from scripture in your life, in our church and in our world today?

***This list is not exhaustive; this is but a glimpse, a starting point to begin conversation. Search the scriptures more to discover a richer, fuller understanding of God.

→ INCARNATE

- What is the difference in knowing *about* God and knowing God?
- Matthew 5:48 says, "Be perfect as your Father in heaven is perfect," and Genesis 1:27 says that we have been created in the image of God. What does it mean for us to be perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect and to live into God's image?
- In other words, how does knowing who God is change the way you live and interact with your friends, family, neighbors and strangers?
- What do God's attributes and nature reveal about you and your relationship with God?
- What qualities or attributes do you have that represent or serve as the image of God to others?



→INTROSPECTION

In your daily devotion time this week explore God's nature deeper. Read again through the above scriptures and some of the following hymns, creeds, prayers and excerpts.

HYMNS (from the 1989 United Methodist Hymnal)

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty, 64
O Worship the King, 73
How Great Thou Art, 77
We Believe in One True God, 85
To God Be the Glory, 98
A Mighty Fortress Is Our God, 110
Great Is Thy Faithfulness, 140
This Is My Father's World, 144

CREEDS

The Nicene Creed, 880
The Apostles' Creed, 881
A Statement of Faith of the Korean Methodist Church, 884
A Modern Affirmation, 885

PRAYERS

Opening Prayer, 6
Praising God of Many Names, 104
The Lord's Prayer, 895

EXCERPTS

- ✓ from "The Imperfection of Human Knowledge" by John Wesley: "How astonishing little do we know of God!—How small a part of his nature do we know of his essential attributes! What conception can we form of his omnipresence? Who is able to comprehend how God is in this and every place? How he fills the immensity of space?...What is omnipresence or ubiquity? Man is no more able to comprehend this, than to grasp the universe."
- ✓ from the 2008 *UMC Book of Discipline*: Article I of The Articles of Religion (§103)—"There is but one living and true God, everlasting, without body or parts, of infinite power, wisdom, and goodness; the maker and preserver of all things, both visible and invisible. And in unity of this Godhead there are three persons, of one substance, power, and eternity—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit."
- ✓ from "On the Omnipresence of God" by John Wesley (1788): "There is no point of space, whether within or without the bounds of creation, where God is not."
- ✓ from "The Unity of the Divine Being" by John Wesley (1789): "God is eternal...this one, eternal, omnipresent Being is likewise all-perfect...And he is omnipotent as well as omnipresent: there can be no more bounds to his power than to his presence...Holiness is another of the attributes of the almighty God. He is infinitely distant from every touch of evil. He is light, and in him is no darkness at all. He is God of unblemished justice and truth: but above all is his mercy...He made all things to be happy. He made man to be happy in himself. He is the proper center of spirits, for whom every spirit was made."
- ✓ from "On Divine Providence" by John Wesley: "This all-wise, all-gracious Being created all things, so he sustains all things. He is the Preserver as well as the Creator of everything that exists."
- ✓ From "God's Approbation of His Word" by John Wesley: "God's goodness inclined him to make all things good; and this was executed by his power and wisdom...As for God, his way is perfect."
- How are you getting to know God in a new, fresh and deeper way?
- Where do you see God in your life?
- Where do you *not* feel or see the presence of God? Why do you think that is?
- After reflecting, reading and discussing the nature and attributes of God, how would you now describe God to your family, friends and neighbors? How do plan to make God more fully known by how you live?