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# DOCTRINE OF GOD

## *Natural Attributes of God—Part 1* (Omniscience, Omnipresence, and Omnipotence)



### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To show how deep is the love of the Omniscient God
- To show that everything is an act of worship or dishonor because God is Omnipresent
- To assure that an Omnipotent God can overcome all our spiritual weaknesses



### SCRIPTURE PORTION

Eph.1:18-20 (The Omnipotent God)



### MEMORY VERSE

Eph.1:19-20: ... His incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength He exerted when He raised Christ from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms,



## INTRODUCTION

Today we will learn about what God is like. We will begin with three of His natural qualities—His Omniscience, His Omnipresence, and His Omnipotence.

**Omniscient** means that God knows all things:

- He knows exactly what X (name of a student) was doing at 4 o’ clock yesterday
- He knows how many hairs are there on Y’s (name of another student) head
- He knows exactly how many problems Z (name of a student) is having at school

God knows all things!

**Omnipresent** means that God is everywhere:

- Right now God is sitting with X, though we can’t see Him with our eyes
- But right now, God is also sitting with Y’s mummy, who is in another place
- And right now, God is also on the moon!

God is everywhere at once!

**Omnipotent** means that God has the power to do all things:

- God is powerful enough to answer all of X’s prayers
- God is powerful enough to send rain, when we pray for it

- God is powerful enough to bring a dead person back to life

Nothing is impossible for God!



## ATTENTION GETTER

### Activity: One-minute Quiz

Give a list of Bible events and ask the children to identify whether it illustrates the Lord's omniscience, omnipresence, or omnipotence best. (Some may have more than one, but emphasize the strongest trait in each).

1. When Jonah ran from God and ended up in the belly of a great fish. Omnipresence.
2. The Lord created the heavens and the earth. Omnipotence.
3. Gabriel told Mary she would conceive a son by the Holy Spirit. Omniscience.
4. The Lord told Noah to make an ark because a flood was coming. Omniscience.
5. When Jesus turned the water into wine. Omnipotence.
6. When Jesus calmed the storm. Omnipotence.
7. When David hid so King Saul could not kill him. Omnipresence.
8. When Jesus told the disciples He would rise from the dead in three days. Omniscience.

9. As Nathanael sat under the fig tree, Jesus told him that Philip came to tell him about Jesus. Omnipresence.
10. When Jesus asked Saul/Paul the reason he was persecuting Christians. Omnipresence.
11. When Jesus fed the 5000. Omnipotence.
12. When Jesus told the Pharisees they were plotting to kill Him. Omniscience.



## TEACHING CONTENT

Divide the children into three groups, and ask them to read Ps.139:1-18

- The first group must identify the verses that describe the Omniscience of God, and explain to the rest of the class what the verses say.
- The second group must identify the verses that describe the Omnipresence of God
- The third group must identify the verses that describe the Omnipotence of God



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

***Note: All discussion questions must be answered by the children, and NOT by the teacher. The guidelines given here are only meant to assist the teacher during the discussion.***

### Omniscient God

**When you came to the Lord for His salvation, did the Lord know about all the future sins you would deliberately commit after salvation?**

[God is omniscient. This means He would have known already about your future sins]

**If God knows our future sins, then why does He grant us His salvation?**

[It demonstrates His great love! In spite of knowing every manner in which you'd betray Him, He still chose to grant you salvation]

**If God grants me salvation in spite of knowing all my future sins, does this give me the license to continue sinning?**

[Rom.2:4 says, "... do you show contempt for the riches of His kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?"]

In spite of knowing our future sins, God grants us salvation because He believes that this great love and kindness will melt our hearts, and make us long to bring joy to Him]

## **Omnipresent God**

**Why do we behave respectfully in church?**

[We know that God's presence is in the church, and we want to show Him respect. We behave respectably as an act of worship to Him]

**Why is it wrong to use bad language on the playground?**

[Because God's presence is everywhere. Because He is present at the play field, everything we think, say and do on the playground automatically becomes an act of worship or an act of dishonor—just like inside the church building]

**Does this mean we should never talk loudly, crack jokes or laugh?**

[God created us to relax and enjoy life. As long as we don't disobey the Lord in any way, as long as we don't hurt the people around us and as long as we don't break the rules of the authorities He has placed over us, we're free to relax and be ourselves. Our relaxation and enjoyment of life is an act of worship to Him]

**Omnipotent God**

**Some people fall into the same sins again and again? Will they ever be able to change?**

[Because God is Omnipotent, He is **able to sanctify us**. He is able to change our character, no matter how big our problems are. Eph.1:18-20 says, "I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe Him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated Him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms."]

**If God is Omnipotent, then why do some people continue to fall into the same sins again and again?**

[Because God doesn't force His Omnipotent power upon us. He patiently waits for us to submit to Him. And we can resist the devil only after we submit to the Lord

**Jam.4:7-10 says,** "Surrender to God! Resist the devil, and he will run from you. Come near to God, and he will come near to you. Clean up your lives, you sinners. Purify your hearts, you people who can't make up your mind. Be sad and sorry

and weep. Stop laughing and start crying. Be gloomy instead of glad. Be humble in the Lord's presence, and He will honor you.

- Maybe we haven't spent enough time with God. So we barely know Him and don't realize how wonderful He is
- Maybe we still stubbornly believe that God gives us commandments to destroy the fun and joy in our lives (rather than to bring joy and abundance)
- Maybe we're not yet sorry enough about our sinfulness to seriously start cleaning up]

**How do we 'submit' to God's Omnipotent power in overcoming our spiritual weaknesses?**

- [We choose to humbly spend time in God's presence, so that He can teach us new things and renew our thinking
- We choose to humbly believe God's Word over the opinions of the world—even if God's Word sounds outdated and foolish to our brains
- We choose to 'clean up' by giving up all things that contaminate—including wrong friends, wrong TV programs, wrong music, etc.

When we submit in this way, God's Omnipotent power begins to operate in our lives. Like powerful dynamite, His great power will begin to break down every evil stronghold in our lives]



## APPLICATION

God is Omniscient and knows everything. This means He even knows all your thoughts.

This week, every time you have an angry thought or a jealous thought, know that God knows. And ask God to help you get rid of that negative thought.

God is Omnipresent. He is everywhere at once... he is with you even when you are all alone. So honor Him through all your thoughts, words and actions.

God is Omnipotent. He is all-powerful and He can solve even your most difficult problems.

So even if you're worried about something, stop being worried!

Next week, make sure that you come with a testimony of how the Omniscient, Omnipresent, and Omnipotent God changed your life.



## CLOSE WITH PRAYER



# DOCTRINE OF GOD

## *Natural Attributes of God—Part 2* (Unchanging, Self Existent and Self Sufficient God)



### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To assure children that God is unchanging, and will always be there for them
- To help them see the privilege involved in giving to an All-Sufficient God



### SCRIPTURE PORTION

Mal.3:6; Exo.32:14 (The Unchanging God)



### MEMORY VERSE

Mal.3:6: “I the Lord do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed.

### Materials Needed:

Crystal show piece with three-dimensional design



## RECAP

- What did we learn about last week?
- HOW do we ‘submit’ to God’s Omnipotent power, in overcoming our spiritual weaknesses?
- What does ‘Omniscient’ mean? Why do we call God ‘Omniscient’?
- Recite the Memory Verse for last week (Heb.4:13)



## INTRODUCTION

Last week we learnt that God is Omniscient, Omnipresent and Omnipotent. These are called His “natural qualities.” Today we will learn about two more of his natural qualities -His Unchanging nature and His Self-Existent and Self-Sufficient nature.

Things constantly change in our lives. Bad times and good times come and go. Friends and family members change. Your home, school or church may even change. And your hair, that will probably change too!

But you have to know that God will never change. If you have a relationship with Him, He will never leave you. He will always be there to help you through. God says that He has made everything beautiful in its time. That means that He can take even the worst seasons of life and turn them into something more beautiful than we could ever have imagined. Our God is incredible!



## ATTENTION GETTER

Show the children a crystal show piece with a three-dimensional design on the inside (These are commonly available in most homes now-a-days. You can borrow one from a friend)

Ask the children to look at the design on the inside from different angles.

### **Observe:**

The design looks different from different angles. In fact when we look from certain angles, we cannot even understand what design it is.

But the design doesn't change. It stays the same always. Only the way we look at the design and understand it, changes.

### **Explain:**

Just like the three-dimensional design inside this crystal show piece, God too never changes. He always stays the same.

However, we tend to look at God from different angles; and so we end up seeing Him differently at different times.

For instance, when I sin against God, I may feel uneasy in His holy presence and seeing Him as an angry God who doesn't love me.

But during a week when I have been especially obedient, I may see God as being very loving and kind; and I don't feel scared of Him.

The angle from which I look at Him changes my viewpoint about Him. But the fact remains that God didn't change. He loved me absolutely when I was obedient. And He continued to love me just as much when I was disobedient.



## TEACHING CONTENT

God is not only Unchanging, but He is also totally Independent.

He doesn't depend on anyone or anything to exist. Nobody made him; and he doesn't need anyone's help and support to continue to exist.

Because **God is not dependent on His creation, He cannot be manipulated by it.** So, we can't use black magic, chants or sacrifices to 'force' God into granting us power, wealth or fame.

Demonic powers 'crave' worship. They feel unsatisfied if they don't receive worship. So people use sacrifices and chants to worship them and get favors from them. But God is not needy or dependent on us. So we can never manipulate Him!



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

***Note: All discussion questions must be answered by the children, and NOT by the teacher. The guidelines given here are only meant to assist the teacher during the discussion.***

### Unchanging God

In Mal. 3:6 the Lord says, "I am the LORD All-Powerful and I never change..."

- **However, Exo.32:14 says, “... even though the Lord had threatened to destroy the people, He changed His mind and let them live.”**

**If God changes his mind, why do we call Him “Unchanging?”**

[Depending on the choices made by people, God responds in different ways. God expresses anger when people sin and refuse to repent. And God expresses forgiveness when people pray for mercy.

So God chooses to respond differently on different occasions, depending on the choices and behavior of the people involved.

However His QUALITIES and His PROMISES NEVER CHANGE. For instance, God showed his unchanging quality of justice when He considered wiping out the Israelites. And He showed his unchanging quality of justice when He chose to listen to Moses’ request of forgiveness.

Sin deserves punishment. And a prayer for forgiveness deserves pardon. Both these are parts of God’s justice.

So in this particular incident, God’s quality of justice never changed. He stayed Unchanging]

**Why do we feel more loved by God sometimes than at other times? Doesn’t this indicate that God changes from time to time?**

[We tend to feel more loved when we obey God and are doing good. This is because we don’t sense His Spirit correcting us for any wrong doing.

But when we disobey Him, we feel uneasy on the inside. We can sense the Spirit telling us that we're doing wrong and that we should repent. When the Spirit corrects us in this way, we sometimes feel *condemned*.

However we must realize that our feelings are 'wrong.' God doesn't condemn those whose sins have been washed with Christ's blood (Rom.8:1). In fact such people are His children, and He disciplines them purely out of love (Heb.12:5-10).

So God's attitude of deep unconditional love toward us doesn't change at all. It's just that He expresses his love by commending us (praising us for our obedience) sometimes. And at other times, He expresses His love through discipline and correction.

So, His quality of love toward us stays Unchanged].

**In the Old Testament, God ordered people to offer sacrifices. But in the New Testament, He strictly forbids sacrifices. If He is unchanging, why does He keep changing His mind?**

[Even before the Creation of the world, God already knew that humans would sin against Him. And the Lord decided that He would send Jesus as a sacrifice, to take the punishment for our sins upon himself (Rev.13:8).

However, during Old Testament days, it was not yet the right time for Jesus to come into the world. So, in those days, the Lord asked the people to sacrifice animals as a 'symbol' of what Jesus would do once He came.

After Jesus' sacrifice and resurrection, now we don't need these 'symbols' anymore. Jesus is better than any 'symbol' and He has finished the work of completely redeeming and

restoring us on the Cross. So the Lord doesn't need us to make sacrifices anymore.

As we can see, God never changed His mind on the topic of sacrifices. His salvation plan for humans always remained unchanging. He just revealed it to us, stage by stage].

### **Self-Sufficient, Self-Existent, Independent God**

**If God can't be manipulated, why do people say that we can 'force' God to answer our prayers through fasting prayer?**

[We cannot 'force' God into giving us anything simply by giving up a little food.

God asks us to fast and pray so that we can spend more time with Him, learning from Him. Food takes up time. Making plans to cook, serve, eat, clean up, wash the dishes, etc., wastes time. So God asks us to skip our meals altogether, so we can stay focused during our time with Him.

During this time of fasting prayer, God teaches us many new things; and we begin to see God and see our situations very differently. This helps prepare us to receive the answers to our prayers.

So, fasting prayer has nothing to do with 'forcing' God's hand].

**If God is self-sufficient and doesn't need anything or anybody, then why did He create us? Didn't He create humans because He felt lonely?**

[God was never lonely because He is Triune. He is One God, but He is also three persons, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. So he always had adequate fellowship within Himself and never needed anyone else.

So God didn't create us because He 'needed' us. He created angels and human beings simply so that we can enjoy His abundant love. He didn't want us to miss out on this incredible experience of being loved unconditionally].

**If God is independent and doesn't need our help, why do we give Him money every Sunday?**

[God doesn't need our money. He doesn't need to buy earthly clothes, because He is already richly clothed in glory. He doesn't need to buy food from the earth. In fact He doesn't need to buy anything because he isn't 'needy.' He is self-sufficient!

Moreover, He doesn't need our Sunday offerings to support missionaries and their families. All the gold reserves in all the banks of the world belong to Him. He can make this money go to the people who're working for His kingdom, whenever He wishes to do it (Isa.61:6).

So why do we give money? We simply do it to express our love to him.

It's like a little child excitedly gifting her billionaire father with a one rupee coin. The father doesn't accept that coin because he needs it. He accepts it because his child is giving it to express her love.

In the same way, the few thousands that we give God, is a very small amount in His eyes. They are like a one rupee coin to a billionaire. But the Lord accepts this money because we're giving it out of love.

So we should be honored that this Self-Sufficient, Independent God is gracious enough to accept such a small amount from our hands.

We NEVER do God a favor by giving Him money.

He in fact does us a big favor by accepting the little that we give].



## APPLICATION

### Unchanging God

This week remember that God NEVER changes. He ALWAYS loves you lots!

Bad things may happen to you this week:

**Maybe** you will study hard for a test, and get poor marks.

But remember that God hasn't changed. He still loves you and He still wants to help you. Continue to trust Him and work hard. And you will gradually see things improving.

**Maybe** your best friend will fight with you, and stop being friends with you.

But remember that God hasn't changed. He still loves you and He still wants to help you.

Continue to trust Him and pray for help. And God will either give you back your friend or He will give you a new better friend.

**Maybe** your parents will face a serious money problem at home.

But remember that God hasn't changed. He still loves you and He still wants to help you.

Continue to trust Him and pray for help. And you will gradually see things improving.

Next week, make sure that you come with a testimony of how the Unchanging God helped you in your different situations.

### **Self-Sufficient, Self-Existent, Independent God**

The Self-Sufficient God doesn't need anything from you. If you give to Him, it will not make Him richer. And if you refuse to give, it will not make Him poorer.

He doesn't 'need' your money... or even your worship

But in spite of this, He chooses to give you the PRIVILEGE of giving to Him.

How do you want to use this privilege this week? How do you wish to express your gratitude to Him for pouring out His love upon you?

Write down **three specific things** that you will do to honor this Self-Sufficient God.

Next week, make sure that you come with a testimony of how you used your privilege.



**CLOSE WITH PRAYER**



# DOCTRINE OF GOD

## *Moral Attributes of God—Part 1*



### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To show the loving nature of God in the way He expresses Justice
- To show that we can obey God completely only when we trust in His love



### SCRIPTURE PORTION

Rom.6:23; Jn.15:13; Ps.9:10 (Just and Loving God)



### MEMORY VERSE

Job 33:27: And they will go to others and say, 'I have sinned, I have perverted what is right, but I did not get what I deserved.



## RECAP

- What did we learn about last week?
- This week, how did you use your privilege to give to the Self-Sufficient Lord?
- How did the Unchanging God help you throughout this week? Give examples.
- Recite the Memory Verse for last week (Mal.3:6)



## INTRODUCTION

Last week we learnt about two natural qualities of God, His Unchanging nature and His Self-Existent and Self-Sufficient nature. Today we will learn about two of His moral qualities —His Loving nature and His Just nature.



## ATTENTION GETTER

**Question: I hire three men to carry boxes upstairs. All three boxes are the same shape and size. If I'm paying the first man Rs. 200 for his work, how much do the other two men deserve?**

[They deserve the same amount, because all are working equally hard].

**Question: What if two of the men were carrying boxes filled with sponge, and one of them was carrying boxes filled with stones? Now, who deserves a higher pay?**

[The man carrying a heavy load].

**Question: What if the man carrying stones works for just one hour and then spends the rest of the time talking on**

**his mobile? If the other two work hard the whole day, then who deserves a higher pay?**

[The ones who worked hard the whole day].

**Observe:**

We have a very clear opinion regarding who **‘deserves’** what. If someone is given something that they don’t deserve, we see it as ‘injustice.’

Today we will learn more about the justice of God, and how it should influence our attitudes and actions.



**TEACHING CONTENT**

**Read Aloud:**

**Rom.6:23:** ... the wages of sin is death...

**Ask:**

What do you think these words mean?

**Explain:**

‘Wages’ means “salary paid.” Depending on the kind of things we do, we ‘deserve’ a particular salary.

For instance, in the example we were discussing earlier, the two men who worked hard the whole day received higher salaries. They ‘deserved’ higher salaries. But the man who wasted time on his mobile phone ‘deserved’ a lesser salary because of his actions.

According to this verse, people who have committed at least one sin—even if it is a little lie—‘deserve’ death. The word

‘death’ here indicates eternal separation from God. So, if I live a good life all through the years, but commit just one little sin, the salary I deserve because of my action is “eternal death in hell,” separated from God forever!

This verse clearly teaches that all of us ‘deserve’ to spend the rest of eternity in hell.



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

***Note:*** *All discussion questions must be answered by the children, and NOT by the teacher. The guidelines given here are only meant to assist the teacher during the discussion.*

### God of Justice

#### What does the word ‘justice’ mean?

[It means “being fair” and ‘impartial.’ It means giving each person what they deserve]

**If we ‘deserve’ eternal death in hell (because each of us have committed at least one single sin in our lives), then how can God allow us inside heaven? If He gives us what we don’t deserve, will this not be ‘injustice’?**

[Justice involves giving what is deserved. Sinfulness—even if it’s just one sin—‘deserves’ eternal death in hell. The punishment has to be paid!

So because God is a God of justice, He did give the punishment. Only, instead of putting the punishment on us, He chose to put it on Himself. He did this for us out of His great love for us].

**If Jesus has taken the punishment for our sinful deeds, does this mean all of us will go to heaven?**

[God will freely give His salvation to everyone willing to receive it. If we confess the sinful things we have done, and if we make a commitment to follow the Lord sincerely now onwards, He will make us part of His family. He will not send us to hell after death.

However, if we refuse to admit our sins and ask for forgiveness, then we will have to bear our own punishment. If we don't make a commitment to turn over our lives to Jesus and follow Him, then He cannot help us.

So we mustn't be foolish to refuse the salvation that Jesus is freely offering us].

**If God has given us what we DIDN'T DESERVE, how should we pray?**

[Some Christians are so demanding in their attitude.

They grumble:

- “Lord why aren't you answering my prayers, right now? You have no right to make me wait so long.” OR
- “Lord I have a right to better marks at school. So increase my marks.” OR
- “Lord I have a right to more money. So make my parents increase my pocket money.”

We must realize that, in reality, we **don't have a right to anything**. We have a right to only eternal death in hell.

The only reason we enjoy **the right to a full, abundant life** is because Jesus took our punishment, and restored us to Him.

So, we must be humbly grateful (rather than demanding) in our attitude.

We must pray:

- “Lord earlier I didn’t deserve the answer to even one prayer. But now through Jesus, I can have all my prayers answered. So teach me to wait patiently.” OR
- “Lord earlier I had no right to anything but failure. Yet, because of what Jesus did for me on the Cross, I can now have success. So please help me improve my marks.” OR
- “Lord earlier I deserved only poverty. But now through Jesus, I can have all my needs met. So please provide for me in Your perfect time.”]

## **God of Love**

**If God has given us what we DIDN’T DESERVE, what does it teach us about God’s love?**

[He was willing to bring punishment upon Himself rather than punish us. This shows the great extent of his love for us. This is why Jn.15:13 says, “Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”]

**To what extent can we trust a God who loves us in this way?**

[We can trust such a God completely].

**If such a God asks us to do something dangerous (like giving away all our money to follow Him), can we trust Him?**

[We can... because he loves us a lot.

How much does He love us? Enough to have died for us!  
This shows that we can confidently trust Him to any extent!]

**What if God asks me not to copy in the exam? Should I trust Him and obey Him even in such a situation?**

[Even if God asks me to do something difficult, I can trust Him and do it. Because I have trusted Him, He will pour out His great love on me and reward me.

In the short run, obedience may cost me. For instance, I may fail in the exam because I didn't copy.

But in the long run, because God loves me, He will bless me richly for my trust and obedience]

**Why does it disappoint God when we disobey Him?**

[When we obey God in all things, however difficult it may be, it clearly shows God that we trust Him. And this brings Him great joy.

But when we disobey God, it shows Him that we don't trust Him. This disappoints Him because he has tried to prove to us how deeply He loves us.

The **proof** of His immense love is clearly seen on the cross. If He didn't love us utterly, He would never have undergone that horrible punishment for us.

And He wants us to respond to this great love by trusting Him totally].

**How can I start trusting God more?**

[Ps.9:10 says, "Those who know your name trust in you, for you, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you."

The more time I spend with the Lord, worshipping Him, praying to Him and studying His Word, the more I will begin to know Him personally. Then I will begin to discover and understand His love more and more. Then I will find it easier to trust Him.

On the other hand, those who don't know God personally (through personal interaction with Him) will never be able to trust Him when difficult issues arise. Their obedience will always remain shallow].



## APPLICATION

### God of Justice

Begin to approach God in a new way. Have an attitude of gratitude because He has given you what you DON'T DESERVE!

### God of Love

This week, spend more time with God, in worship, prayer and Bible study. The more you get to know Him, the more you'll begin to understand how deeply you're loved. And then your trust in Him will begin to increase, leading to an increase in your level of obedience.



## CLOSE WITH PRAYER



# DOCTRINE OF GOD

## *Moral Attributes of God—Part 2* (Righteous and Impartial God)



### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To motivate children to imitate the Righteousness of Christ
- To show that God is Impartial toward every one of us



### SCRIPTURE PORTION

Hab. 1:13; Gen.4:7; Lk.18:27 (Righteous God who makes us Righteous)



### MEMORY VERSE

1 Pet.3:12: For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil

**Materials Needed** : Three sheets of paper—Clean sheet, Dirty sheet and Very Dirty sheet



## RECAP

- What did we learn about last week?
- If God is a God of justice, why didn't He send us to hell for our sins?
- This week, how much time did you spend with the Lord? How did you spend it (doing what)?
- Recite the Memory Verse for last week (Job 33:27)



## INTRODUCTION

Last week we learnt about two moral qualities of God, His Loving nature and His Just nature. Today we will learn about another two of His moral qualities, His Righteousness and His Impartiality.

When we say that God is 'righteous' we mean that He is totally good and right. Hab. 1:13 explains, "Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrong."

So God will never do anything evil, and there are absolutely no imperfections or defects in Him.



## ATTENTION GETTER

### Activity: How Clean is Clean?

#### Step 1

Place two sheets of paper before the children—a Dirty sheet and a Very Dirty sheet.

**Ask:**

Which one of these would you call a ‘clean’ paper?

**Pick up the Dirty paper and assert: I think this is a clean sheet of paper. Do you agree with me?**

(The children may not agree. They may insist that it can’t be labeled as ‘clean’).

**Argue:**

**This sheet is so clean! Just compare it with the Very dirty sheet. Then you’ll automatically see how clean it is! Now do you agree that we should call it ‘clean’?**

(The children may still not agree... because they can see the dirt on the sheet)

**Step 2**

Now place the third sheet of paper (the clean sheet) before the children

**Ask:**

**Would you call this sheet ‘clean’?**

[Yes]

**What about the other sheet (the dirty paper)? Do you still feel it isn’t clean?**

[Yes]

**Observe:**

When we compare the dirty paper with the very dirty paper, some of us may be willing to call the dirty paper as ‘clean’ (because it is not as dirty as the other sheet... it is ‘cleaner’ than the other sheet).

However, once we compare the dirty sheet with the clean sheet, none of us can call the dirty sheet ‘clean’ anymore (because now we can see what a clean sheet really looks like. It’s spotlessly clean without even a speck of dirt).

**Explain:**

God’s Righteousness is something like this clean sheet of paper. He is absolutely moral, completely good and totally right. There is absolutely no defect or imperfection in His goodness and ‘rightness’.

Usually we compare ourselves with other people... with our friends, with our parents, teachers or pastors and with people that we come in contact with. And depending on how we measure up against them, we either feel good about ourselves or we feel bad about ourselves.

For instance, I may compare myself against the pastor and feel that I’m not a very good or righteous person. On the other hand, when I compare myself against classmates who lie and cheat a lot, I may feel that I’m a very good and wonderful person.

So, because I’m not as bad as some people, I may start thinking of myself as a very good person. This attitude will make me stop noticing my defects and I will not make the effort that I should, to clean up my life.

**Personalize:**

The dirty paper appears to be quite clean as long as we keep comparing it against the very dirty paper. But once we compare it against the totally clean paper, we begin to realize how dirty this sheet really is.

In the same way, if we compare ourselves against other people, we cannot grow in God. Rather we must make God our role model because He is perfectly righteous... with absolutely no defect. Our goal must be to become like Him because He is the only one who can set the right standard for us.

So I mustn't say to myself, "I'm good because I don't lie as much as my classmates." Rather I must ask myself, "Am I as truthful as Jesus?" If I haven't reached that standard yet, I have no right to become self-satisfied. I must continue to change and grow until I become completely like Him.



## TEACHING CONTENT

Because God is completely Righteous, He is also Impartial. He doesn't show favoritism to a few (as that would make him Unrighteous)

This means that God loves all of us equally:

- He absolutely loves the murderer who has killed thirty people (even though he totally disapproves of the man's cruel actions).
- He loves YOU just as deeply as He loves the murderer!
- And He loves the most holy missionary on earth, just as much as He loves you!

This also means that God judges everyone equally:

- If a man murders, He will receive the judgment that he deserves (even if he escapes the authorities on this earth, He will receive full punishment on Judgment Day).

- If YOU tell a little lie, God will judge you too. (He will not excuse you just because your sin is ‘smaller’ than the murderer’s)
- If a person more godly than you chooses to suddenly start copying in the exam, God will judge that person too (and make them suffer the consequences of what they’ve done, some day if not immediately).

This also means that God’s promises apply to all people equally:

- If the murderer repents and seeks forgiveness, the Lord will wipe away his sins (the man may go to jail, but the Lord will begin rebuilding his life and blessing him, just as promised in the Bible).
- If YOU claim a promise from the Bible, the Lord will fulfill it in your life too (as long as you fulfill the conditions attached to that promise).
- If the holiest missionary on earth claims that very same promise, they too will receive that promise to the same extent that you received it (that person doesn’t get a better version of that promise than you).

Because God loves all of us equally, He will treat all of us equally. Each and every one of us is “God’s Favorite Child.”



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

***Note: All discussion questions must be answered by the children, and NOT by the teacher. The guidelines given here are only meant to assist the teacher during the discussion.***

## Righteous God

### Why is it dangerous to compare ourselves with people rather than with God?

[When we compare ourselves with people, we don't get a true picture of ourselves. We may wrongly conclude that we have no defects. But when we compare ourselves against God's perfect righteousness, we clearly begin to see in which areas we need to change and grow.

If we don't make the necessary changes, God will not be able to bless us. In fact Gen.4:7 says, "If you do the right thing, won't you be accepted? But if you don't do the right thing, sin will be waiting at the door ready to strike..."

When we don't realize our defects, it gives Satan entry into our lives, and he begins to destroy us. So it's dangerous to compare ourselves against people and remain satisfied with our defects.]

### Does this mean we should never have human role models—people whose godliness we can imitate and copy?

[There is nothing wrong in looking up to a good, godly Christian and wanting to be like them. In fact Paul urged people to imitate him in living a holy life (1 Cor.11:1).

However, each person has their own set of defects. For instance, a person may be so honest that everybody praises him for it. And you may admire that person and want to be like him. However, that person may have a problem with controlling his temper sometimes.

If this person is your role model, you may begin to feel that it's not a bad thing to lose your temper sometimes. After all,

everybody praises that person for his honesty! So you may conclude that having a temper is not a bad thing.

As a result, you may neglect dealing with your own bad-temperedness.

On the other hand, if Jesus is your main role model, you will realize that even a little bad-temperedness is 'sinful.'

So we can follow human role models only to a certain extent.]

**Is it really possible for us to become like Jesus? Why must we struggle for something that's impossible to achieve?**

[Some people asked Jesus, "How can anyone ever be saved?" Jesus replied, "There are some things that people cannot do, but God can do anything" (Lk.18:27). Nothing is impossible with God!

This is why Jude described Jesus as the One "...who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before [God's] glorious presence **without fault** and with great joy" (Jude 1:24).

So, if you'll cooperate with the Lord, He will help you overcome every one of your defects. The process will not be completed while you're still on this earth, but the Lord will help you reach such a high level of holiness that you won't feel ashamed when you stand in the Father's presence]

**Impartial God**

**If God is impartial, then why do we see some families enjoying greater blessings than others?**

[God offers His promises equally to all people.]

However, some people fail to fulfill the conditions attached to the promises.

For instance, in Isa. 48:18 the Lord says, “If only you had paid attention to my commands, your peace would have been like a river, your well-being like the waves of the sea.”

Those who pay greater attention to His commands, and do exactly what He says, will enjoy more well-being in their homes than others].

**If God is impartial, then why did he give the Israelites preferential treatment during Old Testament times?**

[God did not show preferential treatment to the Israelites because He loved them more than the other nations.

Rather, He gave them special treatment because He wanted to *prepare and use them* to bless **all** the nations that He loved.

Whenever they refused to let Him prepare and use them, He punished them severely for their stubbornness.

So the Lord did not show partiality towards them]

**If God is impartial, then why does He create some people more intelligent than others?**

[Just like the Israelites, God gives “special treatment” to different people in different areas of their lives. He does this because He wants to *prepare and use* different people in different ways.

He makes some people very intelligent so that they can excel in their studies and use their intelligence to glorify Him in a particular way. To others, He may give other talents—such as

artistic skills, linguistic skills, mechanical skills, etc. He does this so that He can *prepare and use* them to help people in different ways.

For instance, God gave Isaac Newton great intelligence in the area of science and maths, so that he could take the world into a new era of scientific discovery and expertise. If it wasn't for Newton, rocket science would never have developed, and people would never have conquered space. And today we wouldn't even have satellite-operated mobile phones to use!

However, God did not give Newton special writing skills. Rather, He gave this to C. S. Lewis. And Lewis went on to write books that changed hundreds of lives, bringing people closer to God.

So God gives each of us “special treatment” in different ways, depending on how He plans to *prepare and use* us. And His goal in doing this is so that we can help **all** people—for He loves all people equally.]



### APPLICATION

This week make Jesus your role model. Think of three specific areas of your life that need improvement, so that you become more like Jesus.

And next week, make sure that you come with a testimony of how you imitated your new Role Model.



### CLOSE WITH PRAYER

# DOCTRINE OF GOD

## *Adonai—My Lord And Master*



### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To clearly establish that we're God's property because He bought us
- To teach total submission to the Heavenly Master



### SCRIPTURE PORTION

Jos.5:13—6:27 (Joshua's Lord and Master)



### MEMORY VERSE

Mt.7:21: Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.



### RECAP

- What did we learn about last week?

- How did you imitate Jesus' Righteousness during this week? Give examples.
- If God is impartial, then why does He create some people more intelligent than others?
- Recite the Memory Verse for last week (1 Pet.3:12).



## INTRODUCTION

Last week we learnt about two moral qualities of God, His Righteousness and His Impartiality. Today we will study about an important name of God that is recorded in the Bible—Adonai.

In Hebrew, the word 'Adon' means "Lord and Master." And the word 'ai' means 'my.' So 'Adonai' basically means "My Lord and Master."

**Trivia:** Jews used to believe that God is so holy that they shouldn't utter His name with their sinful lips. So they did not like to speak the name of God, YHWH, with their lips. As a result, while reading the Bible, whenever they came across the word 'YHWH,' instead of pronouncing that word, they simply said 'Adonai.'



## ATTENTION GETTER

**Discuss:**

**What do you think are some of the differences between a servant and slave?**

(Allow the children to express their opinions freely).

**Note:** The basic difference between a slave and servant lies in the area of ‘submission.’ A slave has to do anything and everything that the master orders, because the master has purchased him. He is the master’s property. However, a servant can resign his job and walk away if he doesn’t wish to do something that the boss requires.



## TEACHING CONTENT

### ADONAI

When the Bible uses the word ‘Adonai,’ it mainly refers to three things:

#### **Total Ownership:**

The Master owns the slave as well as everything that He has given to the slave. He even owns the slave’s family!

#### **Total Responsibility:**

Because the Master completely owns the slave, He is also completely responsible for the slave. He must take care of every single need of the slave, as well as the slave’s family.

#### **Total Capability:**

A wise Master will ask His slave to only do things that He is able to do. This means that the slave will be able to do anything and everything that the Master asks him to do.

### ADONAI in JOSHUA’S LIFE

We will now see how the Adonai worked in the life of Joshua.

Joshua had just finished leading the people across the Jordan into the Promised Land, and they were now getting ready to fight against the powerful city of Jericho. This is what happened next...

**Read Aloud:**

**Jos.5:13-15:** ... while Joshua was there near Jericho: He looked up and saw right in front of him a man standing, holding his drawn sword. Joshua stepped up to him and said, "Whose side are you on—ours or our enemies?"

He said, "Neither. I'm commander of GOD's army. I've just arrived." Joshua fell, face to the ground, and worshiped. He asked, "What orders does my Master have for His servant?"

GOD's army commander ordered Joshua, "Take your sandals off your feet. The place you are standing is holy."

Joshua did it. (The Bible)

**Elaborate:**

**Total Ownership Displayed:**

As soon as Joshua realized that he was talking to God, he immediately fell to the ground and worshipped. And the very next words he spoke were, "What orders does my Master have for His servant?"

Joshua clearly understood that he was God's slave. The Lord completely owned him, in every way. So Joshua immediately prepared his heart and mind to do whatever His Master would now order him to do. Let's see what happened next...

## **Read Aloud:**

### **Jos.6:1-6:**

Jericho was shut up tight as a drum because of the People of Israel: no one going in, no one coming out.

GOD spoke to Joshua, "Look sharp now. I've already given Jericho to you, along with its king and its crack troops. Here's what you are to do: March around the city, all your soldiers. Circle the city once. Repeat this for six days. Have seven priests carry seven ram's horn trumpets in front of the Chest. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, the priests blowing away on the trumpets. And then, a long blast on the ram's horn—when you hear that, all the people are to shout at the top of their lungs. The city wall will collapse at once. All the people are to enter, every man straight on in." So Joshua son of Nun called the priests and told them...

(The Bible)

## **Elaborate:**

### **Total Ownership Displayed:**

All the people had a very clear idea of God's total ownership over them. None of them protested saying, "This is a foolish idea! Walking around a city wall cannot make it collapse." They submissively obeyed whatever their master had ordered.

## **Read Aloud:**

Jos.6:20-21; 24

The priests blew their trumpets again and the soldiers shouted as loud as they could. The walls of Jericho fell flat. Then the soldiers rushed up the hill, went straight into the town, and captured it. They killed everyone, men and women, young and old, everyone except Rahab and the others in her house. They even killed every cow, sheep and donkey...

... they burned down the city and everything in it, except for the gold and silver and the bronze and iron vessels—all that they put in the treasury of GOD's house... (The Bible)

## **Elaborate:**

### **Total Responsibility and Total Capability displayed:**

- The Israelites simply blew their trumpets and shouted. This cannot bring down a city wall! Yet the walls came crashing down. This shows that the Master always gives His people the capacity and capability to accomplish the task that He gives them.
- Moreover, the Lord took full responsibility for them. Even though all the enemies died that day, not even one Israelite died! The master takes care of His people and meets their every need.



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**Note:** *All discussion questions must be answered by the children, and NOT by the teacher. The guidelines given here are only meant to assist the teacher during the discussion.*

While discussing the questions, ask the children to open up their Bibles and read out the different scriptures.

**Are Christians slaves? Does the Bible really teach that we are slaves?**

[1 Cor.7:23 explains that God “bought us with a price.” When we chose to sin, we became slaves of sin and death. Not wanting us to suffer in this way, Jesus decided to buy us from our slavery. However, He couldn’t simply buy us with gold or silver. He had to die on the Cross for us and buy us with His life-blood! So, in this sense we’re His slaves. He owns us completely, and we must submit to him.

However, Jesus doesn’t wish to treat us like lowly slaves. So He explains in Jn.15:15 that He won’t call us ‘slaves’ anymore but ‘friends.’]

**If Jesus calls us ‘friends’ rather than ‘slaves,’ does this mean we don’t have to submit to him?**

[Rom.10:9 explains, “... you will be saved, if you honestly say, ‘Jesus is Lord’...” You cannot have the salvation that Jesus is offering unless you’re willing to honestly declare Him as Adonai and Master over your life. You must totally submit to Him in every area of your life.

However. you can have the assurance that He loves you deeply and looks upon you as a friend. And the Father looks upon you as His child]

## **What exactly am I supposed to submit to Adonai?**

[Everything!]

- He owns your body. So you must use your eyes to only see what He approves of. You must use your hands and legs only for actions that He has permitted. And because He owns your entire body, you cannot use it for cricket during the time He has allotted for studying. Your body must do only what He has appointed it to do, during every part of the day and night.
- In the same way, He owns your pocket money. You must use it in a way that He would approve of. And you must devote at least some of the pocket money for His Kingdom work, because all of that money actually belongs to Him.
- In the same way, He owns your time as well. You're supposed to use your 24 hours in a way that pleases Him. If you choose to spend all your time in front of the TV rather than studying, He would consider it 'misuse' of the time He has given you. Similarly, staying up the whole night playing video games, and then falling asleep in the class the next day, would also be regarded as serious 'misuse' of God's time. All your time is owned by Him. He is your Master]

## **What happens if I choose not to submit to Adonai?**

[Everyday we see examples of people who refuse to submit to the Lord. They do whatever they want, ignoring His ownership over them. However, their rebelliousness comes with an expensive price tag:

- Ps.91:9-10 says, “The Lord Most High is your fortress. Run to Him for safety and no terrible disasters will strike you or your home.” Those who refuse to submit to the Lord, are like people who choose to live outside the safety of the fortress. Satan rips them apart, destroying their life in various ways. They experience many hardships, a deep sense of dissatisfaction, and are never quite at peace, or content.
- Gal.6:7-8 says, “Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction...”
- Jn.15:7 says, Stay joined to Me and let My teachings become part of you. Then you can pray for whatever you want, and your prayer will be answered.” Those who choose not to submit to the Lord will have many unanswered prayers. Their sinfulness will block their prayers].

### **What are the rewards of submitting to Adonai?**

[Submission to our Lord and Master leads to His blessings:

- Deut.11:13-15 says, “... if you faithfully obey the commands I am giving you today—to love the Lord your God and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul—then I will send rain on your land in its season... I will provide grass in the fields for your cattle and you will eat and be satisfied.”
- In other words’, God will take care of every one of our needs.

- Jn.9:31 says, “We know that God listens only to people who love and obey him. God doesn't listen to sinners.”
- In other words, God will listen to our prayers and answer them
- Isa.1:19 says, “If you willingly obey me, the best crops in the land will be yours.
- In other words, God will provide us with the very best.]

**Why do many people choose not to submit to the Lord? Is it an impossibly difficult thing to do?**

[It is not impossible to submit to God because He helps us and strengthens us:

- Phil.2:13 says, “God is working in you to make you willing and able to obey Him.” God is at work in our hearts, making us able to obey Him.
- Eph.1:18-20 says, “I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God’s power for us who believe Him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead...” If we choose to obey, God will give us His own resurrection power, so that we will have the strength to resist and overcome temptation.

1 Cor.10:13 says, “You are tempted in the same way that everyone else is tempted. But God can be trusted not to let you be tempted too much and He will show you how to escape from your temptations.” The Lord will show us ‘how’ to submit to Him in difficult situations.]



## APPLICATION

**In Mal.1:6 the Lord says, “... Children respect their fathers, and servants respect their masters. I am your father and your master, so why don't you respect me?”**

- When we refuse to submit completely to the Lord, we show Him great disrespect. This is no way to treat the One who bought us from Satan with His own blood!

**Therefore, the Lord says in Mt.7:21, “Not everyone who calls me their Lord will get into the kingdom of heaven. Only the ones who obey My Father in heaven will get in.”**

- So, simply calling God ‘Adonai’ doesn’t mean anything. We must show that He is truly Adonai and Master by respecting Him and submitting ourselves completely to Him. Only those who have truly made Him Adonai of their lives will go to heaven.

As we can see, making Jesus our Adonai is a matter of life and death. It will determine whether or not we make it into heaven after death.

**Here is a brief checklist that helps you determine whether or not Jesus has truly become your Adonai**

Ask the children to tick the relevant column):

		Not submitted	Submitted to some extent	Submitted to a great extent
1	<p>I have submitted my body to the Lord</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• My eyes (what I watch and read, etc.)</li> <li>• My ears (music I listen to/ the conversations I have, etc.)</li> <li>• My hands (things I do)</li> <li>• My feet (places that I go), etc.</li> </ul>			
2	<p>I have submitted my pocket money</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I spend carefully/wisely</li> <li>• I give to the needy</li> <li>• I give to the Kingdom of God; etc</li> </ul>			
3	<p>I have submitted my time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I spend enough time on Bible Study/Prayer</li> <li>• I spend enough time on studies</li> <li>• I spend correct amount of time on sleep/rest</li> <li>• I make time to help my parents/family; etc.</li> </ul>			
4	<p>I have submitted my friendships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I don't make close friendships with people who follow wrong values</li> <li>• I don't imitate my friends when they do sinful things</li> <li>• I try to be a friend to the needy; etc.</li> </ul>			
5	<p>I have submitted to the godly authority placed over me</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I obey my parents in everything, always</li> <li>• I obey my teachers</li> <li>• I obey the rules of the government (traffic rules, etc.)</li> </ul>			
6	<p>I have submitted my character to the Lord</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I don't lie, cheat, steal, etc.</li> <li>• I forgive those who hurt me</li> <li>• I don't display sinful anger; etc</li> </ul>			

**Note:** If you have not properly submitted even these basic areas to the Lord, then maybe you never truly made Jesus your Adonai!

True children of God will grow in obedience and submission every day. If this isn't happening in your life every day, then find out how to become a part of Jesus' family.

**Explain the Salvation Plan:**

If some of the children realize that they have not truly made Jesus Lord of their lives, explain to them Jesus' salvation plan.

1. Admit you are a sinner.

“All of us have sinned and fallen short of God's glory.”  
**(Romans 3:23)**

2. Be willing to turn from sin (repent).

“... you can be sure that if you don't turn back to God, every one of you will also die.” (Lk.13:5)

3. Believe that Jesus Christ died for you, was buried and rose from the dead.

“God loved the people of this world so much that he gave His only Son, so that everyone who has faith in Him will have eternal life and never really die.”  
**(John 3:16)**

4. Through prayer, invite Jesus into your life to become your Adonai and Savior.

“So you will be saved, if you honestly say, ‘Jesus is Lord’ and if you believe with all your heart that God

raised Him from death. God will accept you and save you, if you truly believe this and tell it to others.  
**(Romans 10:9-10)**



**CLOSE WITH PRAYER**



# DOCTRINE OF GOD

## *El Elyon—The Most High God*



### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To teach that there is no god or force higher than the God of the Bible
- To show that the Most High God doesn't force His help and protection upon us
- To encourage children to follow El Elyon and enjoy His provision and protection



### SCRIPTURE PORTION

Gen.14:8-24 (The Most High God helps Abram)



### MEMORY VERSE

Dan.4:37: Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and exalt and glorify the King of heaven, because everything He does is right and all His ways are just. And those who walk in pride, He is able to humble.



## RECAP

- What did we learn about last week?
- Why does the Bible say that we're slaves of Jesus Christ?
- In what ways did you submit yourself to the Adonai during this week? Give examples.
- Recite the Memory Verse for last week (Mt.7:21)



## INTRODUCTION

Last week, we studied an important name of God that is recorded in the Bible—Adonai. This week we will look at another significant name of His—El Elyon

El Elyon basically means “The Most High God.” It indicates that there is no god, person, force or power greater than the God of the Bible and therefore He alone deserves all worship.



## ATTENTION GETTER

### Story:

Ten persons start a little business, making very unique and special soft toys. They try selling them at the road side, but nobody buys them.

Then one person in the group, Thomas, says, “People are not buying our toys because we're selling them on the road. This is making people think that our toys are inferior. So I

will go to all the toy shops in the city and start selling them to the shop keepers. If our soft toys are displayed in the shops, people will be more willing to buy them.

The idea pays off and a lot of money starts coming into the business. Thomas begins to manage the money and maintain the accounts, and his friends call him the **Manager** of the company.

As time goes by, the business extends over the whole State of Karnataka. They hire people to manage the business in each city, and these people are called ‘Regional Managers’. As a result, Thomas’ title is changed from Manager to **General Manager** (as he now has many Regional Managers under him).

After a while, the business expands all over the country. Now people are hired to manage the work in each State of the country. And they are called ‘General Managers.’

**Ask:**

Thomas used to be the General Manager. But now he has several General Managers working under him. So now, what new title should be given to Thomas? What should we call him, so that people realize **he isn’t just one of the** General Managers, but that **he is above** the General Managers?

[Ask the children for their suggestions. Chief Executive Officer (CEO) could be one of the suggestions].

**Observe:**

We use titles to show the ‘position’ of a person. The person at the top must be given a special title, so that people realize

that his position is **greater than** the position of the people under him.

### **Explain:**

We see the same thing in the Bible. In the time of Abram, people were worshipping different demonic forces. And they called all of them ‘gods.’

To differentiate these ‘gods’ from the One who created everything, the Lord provided a new name for Himself—the Most High God. This name made it clear to everyone that He was the highest, and that nobody was higher than Him.



## **TEACHING CONTENT**

*[Note: The Passage is taken from the Contemporary English Version. This new translation was published by the American Bible Society in 1995. Originally intended as a **Children's Translation**, it uses a very simple, contemporary style. It is independent of traditional translations and freer of "biblical" terms]*

### **Story: The Most High God helps Abram**

The king of Sodom marched out with the king of Gomorrah, the king of Admah, the king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela, that is, Zoar. They drew up in battle formation against their enemies in the Valley of Siddim... four kings against five.

The Valley of Siddim was full of tar pits. When the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, they fell into the tar pits, but the rest escaped into the mountains. The four kings captured

all the possessions of Sodom and Gomorrah, all their food and equipment, and went on their way. They captured Lot, Abram's nephew who was living in Sodom at the time, taking everything he owned with them.

A fugitive came and reported to Abram the Hebrew... When Abram heard that his nephew had been taken prisoner, he lined up his servants, all of them born in his household—there were 318 of them—and chased after the captors all the way to Dan. Abram and his men split into small groups and attacked by night. They chased them as far as Hobah, just north of Damascus. They recovered all the plunder along with nephew Lot and his possessions, including the women and the people.

After Abram returned from defeating Kedorlaomer and his allied kings, the king of Sodom came out to greet him... Melchizedek, king of Salem, brought out bread and wine—he was priest of The High God—and blessed him: Blessed be Abram by The High God, Creator of Heaven and Earth.

And blessed be The High God, who handed your enemies over to you.

Abram gave him a tenth of all the recovered plunder.

The king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me back the people but keep all the plunder for yourself."

But Abram told the king of Sodom, "I swear to GOD, The High God, Creator of Heaven and Earth, this solemn oath, that I'll take nothing from you, not so much as a thread or

a shoestring. I'm not going to have you go around saying, 'I made Abram rich.' Nothing for me other than what the young men ate and the share of the men who went with me, Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre; they're to get their share of the plunder." (Gen.14:8-24)



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

***Note:*** *All discussion questions must be answered by the children, and NOT by the teacher. The guidelines given here are only meant to assist the teacher during the discussion.*

### **The Most High God does ONLY Good—NOT Evil**

**How could the Most High God allow Lot's family to be captured and be taken away as slaves? Didn't He know how deeply Abram loved his nephew?**

[When bad things happen to the people we love, one of the first questions we ask is, "Lord why did you allow this to happen?"

But Mt.7:11 says, "If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask Him!"

According to this verse, God gives good things to His people—not bad things.

On the other hand, Jn.10:10 says regarding Satan, "A thief comes only to rob, kill and destroy." According to this verse, Satan is the one who does bad things to us and our loved ones.

So we can safely conclude that it was Satan who arranged for Lot's family to be captured—NOT God.]

## **The Most High God allows us to reap the Consequences of our Choices**

### **If the God of the Bible is the Most High God, then why didn't He stop Satan from capturing Lot's family?**

[Lot chose to make friends with the people of Sodom, and live with them... and these people were not under the protection of the Most High God. So when they got captured, Lot got captured too.]

Most of the time we choose to live a certain way... and bad things happen to us because of the choices we make. For instance, some people blame God if they can't find a good job after they grow up. But they forget that they're the ones who chose not to study properly in school and college. After making their own choices, now they say to God, "If you're the Most High God, why are you not providing me even a job!"

We must remember that the Most High God gives us the freedom to make our own choices. And He doesn't forcibly stop the consequences of our wrong choices.

[Lot made the wrong choice of living with sinful people, and he suffered the consequences of his wrong choice]

## **The Most High God made Adam the Original Ruler of this World**

### **If we follow the Most High God sincerely, and make the right choices, then will only good things happen to us?**

[2 Cor.4:4 calls Satan "the god who rules this world." When God created the world, He made Adam the ruler of the

world. But when Adam chose to sin, he gave the rulership to Satan. So now Satan is the ruler of this world.

And Satan has come “only to rob, kill and destroy” (Jn.10:10). So he tries to do bad things to us all the time.

Therefore, because Adam foolishly gave the rulership to Satan, Satan does bad things to all of us—including those who follow the Lord sincerely]

### **The Most High God Limits the Powers of the “god of this world”**

**If we’re sincerely following the Most High God and making right choices, then will He help us against the “god of this world?”**

[Even though the “god of this world” does bad things to us, the Most High God wants to give only “good gifts” to His children (Mt.7:11). So He limits the damage that Satan can do to us.

- For instance even though Satan tried to destroy Job, the Most High God allowed Satan to do only certain things, and that too only for a short time.
- Similarly even though Satan put Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the fire, the Most High God chose to protect them from all harm.
- Likewise even though Satan tried to destroy Peter by making him betray the Lord, the Most High God helped Peter to come back to Him and grow in Him.

So, Satan will do bad things to us as long as he is the “god of this world.” But the Most High God will limit his actions, as long as we stay close to the Lord and follow Him sincerely]

### **The Most High God brings Good out of Evil**

**Does this mean, we have to live with loss, suffering, poverty and ill-health as long as the “god of this world” is ruling?**

[The “god of this world” will try to bring suffering and loss into our lives at regular intervals. The Most High God deals with this in three different ways:

- Sometimes the Most High God will STOP the suffering or loss from taking place. For instance he stopped Laban from attacking Jacob (Gen.31:24)
- However, sometimes He will lead us through the suffering and loss, to show us how to overcome and crush Satan. For instance, He allowed Joseph to be sold into slavery. But He also showed Joseph how to crush Satan, so that Joseph would never become bitter against God or betray Him. So, even in slavery, Joseph lived a life of joy and victory.
- Also, when God allows the suffering instead of stopping it, he “works in” the negative events (Rom.8:28) to bring good out of them. For instance, He used Joseph’s negative circumstances to preserve the life and future of the entire family (Gen.50:20).

Therefore God may allow suffering and loss for a temporary period of time. But it’s always ‘temporary’—meant only for a short while].

## **The Most High God ALWAYS helps those who Follow Him**

**If Lot made wrong choices and reaped the consequences, then why did the Most High God rescue him later on?**

[Abram loved his nephew deeply and wanted to rescue him. And the Most High God helped Abram fully, because Abram had always tried to follow the Lord fully.

The Most High God will ALWAYS help those who follow Him. So it was fortunate for Lot that he had an Uncle who followed the Most High God fully].



### **APPLICATION**

Because our Lord is the Most High God, nothing is impossible for Him. He is the God who helped an ordinary man like Abram to defeat five powerful kings. He is the God who helped a slave to become the Chief Administrator of a powerful kingdom.

If you choose to sincerely follow this Most High God, He will do miracles in your life too. He will always be there to help you.

So take a few moments to reflect upon your thoughts, words and actions over the past few months. Have you been deliberately making any wrong choices—just like Lot did?

If so, make a conscious choice to give up those wrong attitudes and practices. Instead, choose to be like Abram and Joseph, who followed the Most High God and enjoyed His protection and blessings.

El Elyon—The Most High God

And next week, make sure that you come with a testimony of how the Most High God, El Elyon, helped you with your current circumstances and situations.



**CLOSE WITH PRAYER**



# DOCTRINE OF GOD

## *Emmanuel—God With Us*



### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To show that the Lord stays with us even when we make a mess of our lives
- To encourage children to welcome the Lord by cleaning up their ‘homes’



### SCRIPTURE PORTION

Isa.7:14; Jn.14:16-18; Heb.13:5 (God with Us Always and Forever)



### MEMORY VERSE

Jn.14:23: Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves Me will obey My teaching. My Father will love them, and We will come to them and make our home with them.

**Materials Needed:** 2 bendy straws and 2 ants



## RECAP

- What did we learn about last week?
- Did you make any deliberate choices to give up something wrong, during the week?
- Because Satan is currently the “god of this world,” do we have to suffer troubles and loss always? If No, why not?
- Recite the Memory Verse for last week (Dan.4:37).



## INTRODUCTION

Last week we studied a significant name of God that’s found in the Bible, El Elyon. This week, we will study another important and beautiful name of God—Emmanuel.

This name was first mentioned by the Prophet Isaiah when he predicted the birth of Jesus, in Isa.7:14. ‘Emmanuel’ basically means “God with Us.”

However, the significance of this name lies in the arrangement of the words. ‘Emmanu’ means “with us” and ‘El’ means ‘God.’ So the literal translation would be “With US God” (with primary emphasis on the words ‘With us’)

It expresses awe and wonder at the thought of a **Perfect** God being willing to rub shoulders **with** imperfect humans!



## ATTENTION GETTER

**Prepare beforehand:** Bendy straws are quite flexible. Bend them in three to four places, so that the straws are no

longer straight. Then dip them in fruit juice (so that they taste sweet).

Also, place two ants in a closed box and take them to the class with you.

**Activity: Ant Race**

Divide the children into two groups. Give them a juice-coated straw each. Open the box and ask each team to pick up one ant.

Each team has to gently insert their ant into one end of the straw, and somehow encourage it to come out of the other end of the twisted and bent straw.

The first team that succeeds will be declared the winners.

***Note:** If the ants refuse to emerge out of the opposite end, terminate the activity after a minute of waiting. Don't waste time waiting further.*

**Ask:**

Did you face any difficulties in accomplishing the task?  
(Collect feedback from the children).

**Ask:**

Did you explain to the ants that they're running a race, and they must make every effort to go through the straw quickly and come out from the opposite end?

**Ask:**

**Why do you think the ants didn't show much interest in the race? What do you think was mainly holding their interest?**

[The ants were probably focusing on the sweetness of the straw. They wanted to taste and enjoy it. As for the race, they were not even aware of it].

**Ask:**

**What can we do to help the ants understand about the race?**

[If I become an ant, I can communicate with them much more easily].

**Explain:**

It's easier for an ant to communicate with other ants!

This is one of the reasons why God chose to send His Son to us in human form. As humans, we find it easier to understand another human being.

In Old Testament times, the people had a very unclear picture of who God really is. When the Lord came to meet them in all His glory on Mt. Sinai, they were so terrified of Him that they wouldn't go near the mountain (Exo.20:21).

However, people were not scared of Jesus, because He looked like an ordinary human being—like one of them. So they were willing to sit with Him and listen to His teachings.

And they began to discover that God is very loving and selfless... that in fact they can relate to Him the same way a little child relates to his father.

Looking at Jesus helped people to understand what God is really like.

Moreover, Jesus didn't just stay on the earth with people for a few years. He continues to be with us even today.



## TEACHING CONTENT

### Story: The Old Ladies of North Dakota

I want you to imagine two little old ladies, both in their young 80s. They were old spinsters living in North Dakota. They were not only living in North Dakota, they were living on a farm in North Dakota. It was not only a farm in North Dakota, it was a dumpy farm in North Dakota. It was the dumpiest farm you have ever seen in North Dakota. The chicken coop was falling down. The barn was falling down. The rusted machinery was falling apart, and the old rusted spinsters were falling apart. These were two old spinsters and they were as tough as nails. They had weathered every storm for the past sixty years and they were tough. Well, it so happened that a nephew came to visit them one fall day from the city and he took out his camera to take a picture of his weather-worn aunts, with the barn and the chicken coop and the rusted machinery in the background. The aunts just stood there, straight and stiff for the picture. The nephew took a picture and later sent them a copy. The old aunts just loved that photograph, and they decided to use it for a Christmas card that year. At the top of their picture, they put the words, Merry Christmas, in bold, black letters. And at the bottom of the picture, in big bold letters were the words: **God Is With Us In Our Mess.**

This story is true even in our lives. Though our lives are messed up, God doesn't turn away in disgust. He chooses to stay with us, and help us sort out our messes.

We see a beautiful example of this in the Corinthian church of New Testament times.

### **Emmanuel WITH the Corinthian Church**

The Corinthian Christians were very special people. God came to Paul in a vision and specifically ordered him to continue ministering to the Corinthian people. And He specifically called them “my people” (Acts 18:9-10).

This shows how special they were to the Lord! He died on the Cross for them, taking the punishment for all their sins upon Himself. And He made them children of His own family.

### **How did the Corinthians show love and gratitude to the Lord?**

However, the Corinthians were messed up people. In spite of what the Lord had done for them, they got into sinful messes.

- There were many divisions in their church, and they fought with each other, hurting one another (1 Cor.1:11).
- They were greedy and selfish, and ignored those who needed help (1 Cor.11:21).
- They did the kind of immoral things that even non-Christians hesitate to do (1 Cor.5:1).

But in spite of their sinful mess, God didn't leave them. He never said, “These people are too ugly and disgusting! Their mess stinks, and I don't want to be with them anymore.”

### **The Lord continued to live with them!**

The Lord started using people like Paul and Titus to correct them, and help them clean up their ugly, smelly mess.

He worked inside their hearts to change them. 2 Cor.7:11 says that He helped them become 'indignant' about the sinful things they had done! 'Indignant' is a very strong word that means "being very angry."

God changed the Corinthians so much that they who used to enjoy sinning, now became very angry about their sinfulness. And they became 'eager' (2 Cor.7:11) to clear up their mess.

### **Emmanuel is WITH US in our Mess**

- Jesus explained very clearly that He would always be with us, and would never leave us like helpless orphans (Jn.14:18).
- He promised to be both "with us" and "in us" through the Holy Spirit, 'forever.' (Jn.14:16-17)
- The Father, Son and Holy Spirit promised to come to each one of us, and "make their home" with us (Jn.14:23).

So, even when we mess up our lives, the Lord will stay with us and continue to help us. He will never leave us nor forsake us (Heb.13:5).

## How Emmanuel helps us with our Mess

### Helper/Consoler

My mess may be my own fault, or someone else's fault. My mess may be a painful breakup with a close friend, a failed exam, parents who don't love me, financial problems at home, etc. No matter what the mess, Emanuel is right there in the mess with me. He doesn't leave me all alone, to struggle on my own.

Sometimes, our sinful actions lead to painful consequences. For instance, by deliberately choosing to neglect my studies, I may end up failing in my exams. God helps me through this mess in different ways:

- He comforts me in my pain and shame... even though the fault was mine
- He helps me study better the next time. In fact, if I cooperate with Him fully, He will increase my interest in my studies, and even expand my ability to grasp difficult subjects.
- He will even go to the extent of arranging for people (teachers and friends) who will help me deal with the difficult subjects.

Jesus used the word 'parakleton' to describe the Holy Spirit who lives in us. This word can be best translated as 'helper' or 'consoler.' Through His Spirit, the Lord comforts/consols us in our messes, and helps us to solve/overcome them.

## **Teacher/Counselor/Guide**

Sometimes, we face situations that we don't know how to tackle. For instance, I may feel helpless at home because my parent is always scolding me, and I feel deeply unloved.

- In times like this, Emmanuel will speak to me in my heart, through His Holy Spirit. He will remind me of verses that show me how special I am to him.
- He may bring verses to my mind that show me what to say and do, the next time I'm hurt by my parent.
- He may even whisper in my heart and remind me of wrong attitudes that I have. He will encourage me to correct the wrong things in my life... so that I can have a better relationship with my parent.

As my teacher and counselor, Emmanuel will guide me through every mess that I face, and show me exactly how to resolve it and overcome it victoriously.

## **Intercessor**

Emmanuel doesn't just silently stay by my side watching all that I'm going through. Instead, He gets actively involved in my situations... if I allow Him.

For instance, my family may be facing a huge financial mess. It may be a result of our own carelessness in managing our money, or it may be due to other external factors.

- In a crisis situation, Jesus doesn't just watch our struggle as a disinterested spectator. He continually prays for us before the Father. He 'intercedes' for me

and my family specifically, asking the Father to help us (Rom.8:34).

- Moreover, the Holy Spirit who is residing within me, also prays for me. He knows what would be best for me and my family. And He guides me to pray in a specific way, so that I may receive the exact help which is needed in this particular situation (Rom.8:26-27).
- The Father answers these prayers by giving us “good gifts” (Mt.7:11). He provides us with whatever is needed to help us through our mess.

So, Emmanuel is with us to the extent of even praying along with us, and helping us to pray right!



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**Note:** *All discussion questions must be answered by the children, and NOT by the teacher. The guidelines given here are only meant to assist the teacher during the discussion.*

### **Why does Emmanuel God choose to live with me?**

[When we love someone deeply, we want to be near them. Jesus loves me in the same way... He wants to be with me always]

### **Emmanuel God is so big! Does He really care about my little ant-sized problems?**

[Jesus chose to become a human being like us, and live through the same situations and circumstances that we face.

- He knows how it feels when friends turn against us and hurt us.

- He knows what tiredness, pain, hunger and thirst feel like
- He knows what it's like to not have enough money (He chose to be born into a poor family)
- He knows what it's like to be tempted by Satan

So He doesn't dismiss my problems as ant-sized and unimportant. He knows how painful these ant-sized problems really are!

Therefore He cares deeply, and wants to help me with every little problem. This is why 1 Pet.5:7 says, "God cares for you, so turn all your worries over to him).

**When Jesus lived in a human body, He stayed in Israel. Today, where does He stay?**

[Now God stays 'in' me. I'm His home. My body is the church building in which He lives]



## APPLICATION

Nobody likes to live in a dirty home! Sometimes our lives are like dirty homes, filled with sin. In spite of this, the Lord loves us so much that He promised to come and make His home in our lives (Jn.14:23).

He loves us so much that He wants to live with us... even though He knows that there are dirty messes in our lives. If His love is that great, shouldn't we at least provide Him with a cleaner home?

This is why Paul says in 1 Cor.6:19-20, "You surely know that your body is a temple where the Holy Spirit lives. The

Spirit is in you and is a gift from God. You are no longer your own. God paid a great price for you. So use your body to honor God.”

If you invite someone to your home for dinner, and they see cockroaches running around on the dining table, how welcome do you think they will feel? In fact, they’ll probably assume that you don’t care about them at all... because you have made no efforts to clean up and show them how much you enjoy having them at your home.

**Are you making Jesus feel this way in the home of your life? Does He feel unwelcome and rejected in a ‘house’ that is filled with selfish thoughts, hurtful speech and unclean actions?**

Make Emmanuel feel welcome in your life. Start clearing up and throw away all your sinful habits. If you adopt this attitude, the Lord will help you to overcome every single mess in your life.

Next week, make sure that you come with a testimony of how you cleared up the ‘dirt’ in your ‘home’ to make Emmanuel feel welcome. Also, be sure to share how Emmanuel helped you with the different situations in your life.



**CLOSE WITH PRAYER**

