

Attributes of God

12 Days Getting to Know the Lord¹

Introduction: If someone asked you to describe God, what would you say?

Can you describe God as well as you can describe your best friend?

God sent Jesus to live on earth to be the perfect sacrifice for our sins so that we could be in a *relationship* with God. God invites us to get to know Him in a deep and personal way.

What do you know about the President of the United States? Do you know his name? Do you know where he lives? Do you know his wife's name? Do you know something about his personality?

You probably know something about the President, but you don't know Him personally.

He wouldn't invite you to his house or call you on the phone and ask for you by name. You know about him, but you don't have a relationship with him.

A relationship definitely involves getting to know stuff about a person, but it is more than that. It is not just having facts about someone, though that is a part of it. A relationship is deeper connection where you share your thoughts and struggles, and you depend on and trust the other person.

You get to know someone by asking them questions, spending time with them, watching what things they like to eat, drink, and do. You ask questions and listen to how the person talks. You want to know what is important to the other person and begin to understand how they think. Getting to know someone takes time and effort. It takes time to trust a new friend. It takes time to understand how they think and to get to know how they will respond in certain situations.

To get to know God, to have a relationship with Him, takes time. You need to spend time getting to know what God is like. You need to understand more about His character, what He likes and dislikes. As you spend time getting to know the attributes of God, you learn more of what He values and what is important to Him. You begin to see that He is very different from humans, but still invites us to be His friend. It takes time and energy to know God and to build a relationship with Him.

Have you ever had a friend that talked too much? You felt like you never got to speak and had to listen to them talk about themselves all the time? A good relationship is a conversation. You take turns talking and listening. You get to know each other; it is not just one sided. Both people get to know one another.

The same is true of our relationship with God. We can talk to God in prayer and tell Him about what we are dealing with (even though He already knows!) and ask for His help. But if our relationship with Him is one-sided, it's not a healthy relationship. We equally need to listen to God and hear what He has to say. God speaks to us through His word, the Bible. He reveals all about who He is and what He likes and dislikes. God reveals His purpose for giving us life and how to live a life that pleases Him. As we get to know God more and more, our lives should be changing and becoming more and more like Christ. That's the evidence of being in a relationship with God.

We can know a lot about God, like the President of the United States, but still not have a relationship with Him. We need to spend time hearing from God in His word, and talking to Him sharing our struggles and joys with Him. He calls us His friends if we have trusted in Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

The following attributes of God are designed to help you get to know God better and to begin to build a relationship with Him. As you read about God, talk to Him about Him. Praise Him for how great He is and ask Him to help you live in a way that shows you trust that everything God says about Himself is true. Each day, take a different attribute and study it with the following daily guide.

¹ By Wendy Wood

Contents

Day 1: God is infinite.	3
Day 2: God is immanent.	5
Day 3: God is immense.	6
Day 4: God is good.	8
Day 5: God is righteous and just.	10
Day 6: God's mercy.	12
Day 7: God is all-knowing.	14
Day 8: God is wise	15
Day 9: God is faithful.	17
Day 10: God is love.	19
Day 11: God is holy.	22
Day 12: God is sovereign.	24

Day 1: God is infinite.

We humans are finite. That means we have a beginning and an end to our lives here on earth. We are limited in our understanding of things. For example, we don't fully understand cancer and how it begins or how we can cure it. We are limited in power and limited in our ability to make what we want happen. For example, just because we want a million dollars, we can't just make that happen because we say we want it. We are limited by time and space. We are only in one place at one time. You can't play soccer with one friend at the same time that you have ice cream with another friend. You have to choose one place to be at a time. We have a limited amount of resources. We have to choose how to spend our money and our time because we have a limited amount of both.

But, God is infinite. He has no beginning and will never end. "God has no bounds. Whatever God is and all that God is, He is without limit."² God has no limit to His knowledge and wisdom. There is absolutely nothing that confuses or stumps God. God is not limited by time and space. God is everywhere - past, present, and future - in all places, at all times. Everything on earth, everything in heaven, everything everywhere is God's, and He could create more at any time. When God said, "Let there be light", it appeared because He is infinite in power. He has no limit to His resources. Look at this symbol below. This is what math people use for infinity. Where is the beginning of this shape? Where does it end? This symbol stands for infinity because there is no beginning or end, you can trace it over and over and never reach an ending. That is how God is. He has no beginning and no end. There is no beginning or end to any of God's attributes.

We simply cannot understand fully what God's infinitude means because we are not infinite.

But, we should spend time thinking deeply about this attribute of God and what it means to us. God has revealed this attribute of Himself for His glory (so we will think highly of Him) and our benefit. Everything about God is without limits. God's mercy is infinite. God's grace is infinite. God's love is infinite. How does God's infinitude impact our lives? How can we rest in God's character of His being absolutely limitless? How can God's infinitude lead to trusting Him more?

Consider these verses.

Romans 11:33-36

"Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and how inscrutable His ways!

"For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been His counselor? Or who has given a gift to Him that He might be repaid?" For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be glory forever. Amen".

² The Knowledge of the Holy, AW Tozer page 45

Psalm 50:10-12

“For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. I know all the birds of the hills and all that moves in the field is mine. If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world is mine and its fullness are mine.”

Psalm 90:2

“Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.”

Revelation 1:8

“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

While we cannot understand completely a Being who is so unlike us in this aspect, we can marvel at the wonderful God who is infinite.

How is God’s infinite nature a reason to be joyful?

Getting to know God in relationship:

How will you talk to God differently and read His word differently because of this attribute?

How does thinking about God being infinite, no beginning and no end, make you think about your circumstances differently?

What would life be like if God was not infinite?

Day 2: God is immanent.

Immanent means to permanently live and remain in something. God's immanence means that He is everywhere, all at the same time. God does not have to travel to be with us. He is right here, wherever you happen to be. Another way to think about God's immanence is to say He is present at all times, in all places.

Psalms 139:8-10 says, "If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me." You don't ever need to pray "God, be with me". He is always with you!

Do you ever "feel" like God is not with you?

Whether or not you "feel" God's presence does not change the fact that God is always with you. He is immanent! He is above all things, beneath all things, inside all things, outside all things. God is not confined in any way. He keeps all things together at all times through His constant presence. God even gave Himself the name "Emmanuel". "Emmanuel" means "God with us!"

How can God's immanence (His being with you all the time) bring you comfort?

How can God's immanence (His being with you all the time) increase your love for Him?

Getting to know God in relationship:

How will you talk to God differently and read His word differently because of this attribute?

How does thinking about God being immanent make you think about your circumstances differently?

What would life be like if God was not immanent?

Day 3: God is immense.

God is bigger than you can ever imagine.

Isaiah 40:12 says “Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand and marked off the heavens with a span, enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure and weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance?”

Have you ever been to the ocean? Can you picture a God so big that He can measure all of the oceans in His cupped hands?

Look at the mountains that surround our state. Look at just Mount Rainier. Think about God being so big that He can pick up Mount Rainier and put it on a scale. Think about that! That is a BIG God!

Think about the size of the universe. The Milky Way galaxy that we live in on Earth is 100,000 light years long. One light year is 6,000,000,000 miles long, and the galaxy is 100,000 times that!! The closest star to the Earth, the Sun, is 92.96 millions miles away from the Earth. The galaxy closest to us is the Andromeda Galaxy and it is 2,000,000 light years away. The Hubble Telescope estimates that there are 100,000,000,000 galaxies and our technology has not allowed us to see all of what really exists beyond those. Scientists believe that is just the beginning of what galaxies really exist!

Stop and watch this youtube video on the galaxy:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aVsqCLyoU3o&t=2s>

Psalms 104:1-3 says, “Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord, my God, You are very great! You are clothed with splendor and majesty, covering Yourself with light as with a garment, stretching out the heavens like a tent. He lays the beams of His chambers on the waters; He makes the clouds His chariot; He rides on the wings of the wind.”

Stop and think about how big God must be to create and control and hold all the stars, moons, planets, comets, all the galaxies, together. He keeps them in their places and always, at all times, is holding them together. Scientists estimate that there are at least 1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 stars.

Psalms 147:4 says “He determines the numbers of the stars; He gives to all of them their names”.

Remember, the sun is the closest star to Earth. Earth could fit into the sun 1,300,000, times. And God has placed 1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 stars (at least!) in the sky one by one and calls them by name.

Stop and think about that. God brings the stars out one by one. He knows every single star by name.

That is an immense God!

Think about how huge God is! What does that mean to you?

This same huge, immense God is also immanent. He is with you!

In Romans 8:31 Paul asks the question, “If God is for us, who can be against us?”

Answer that question for yourself. How does God's immensity and immanence matter to you?

Getting to know God in relationship:

How will you talk to God differently and read His word differently because of this attribute?

How does thinking about God being immense make you think about your circumstances differently?

What would life be like if God was not immense?

Day 4: God is good.

“You are good and You do good” - Psalm 119:68

“Taste and see that the Lord is good” - Psalm 34:8

God is infinitely good. There is no beginning to God’s goodness and there is no ending to His goodness. There is no limit to God’s goodness. God is always good. It is God’s goodness that makes Him kind-hearted, gracious, and good-natured in all that He does. God cannot stop being good. God cannot be only mostly good at times. God’s character is unchanging. God cannot be indifferent toward anyone or anything. God’s goodness means that He is always good in all His thoughts, in all His intentions, and in all His actions.

God created us and saves us because of His goodness. As sinners, we deserve nothing but death. We could not earn the right to be born because we didn’t even exist! Out of God’s goodness He gives us life. We are born sinners in need of a Savior. God gives us life because He is good and He delights to do good. God’s saves us because He is good and He is full of kindness and grace. We receive His blessing simply because He is good and He chooses to give it to us.

Deuteronomy 7:6-8 “For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for His treasured possession, out of all the people who are on the face of the earth. It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but it is because the Lord loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery” How has God been good to you?

A.W. Tozer says “Remember that you can answer every question with this expression:

‘God of His goodness willed it. God out of His kindness willed it.’³

Whatever happens to you, is out of God’s good character. That does not mean that we feel like everything is good. Some things will feel bad and hurt. But, God has not stopped being good. God is perfectly good at all times. Because God is infinite, because God is immanent, because God is immense, He is able to use His goodness in ways we do not understand. We must choose to trust God is who He says He is. God declares Himself to be good. Your feelings don’t change that fact.

Isaiah 63:7 says, “I will recount the steadfast love of the Lord, the praises of the Lord, according to all that the Lord has granted us, and the great goodness to the house of Israel that He has granted them according to His compassion, according to the abundance of His steadfast love.”

Psalm 100:5 says, “For the Lord is good; His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations.”

When in your life have you doubted God’s goodness?

³ The Attributes of God, page 46.

What has happened in your life that you don't feel is good?

What does God's word say about those situations?

Will you choose to trust God's goodness? Will you choose to say, "God allowed this situation because He is good and His intentions for me are good"?

Getting to know God in relationship:

How will you talk to God differently and read His word differently because of this attribute?

How does thinking about God being good make you think about your circumstances differently?

What would life be like if God was not good?

Day 5: God is righteous and just.

To say God is righteous is to say that God is always right. It is God's very nature to always be right. He cannot be wrong. He cannot do wrong. God is righteous because He is the very definition of what it means to be right. God's righteousness means that He is just.

Psalms 97:2 says "Righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne."

God's goodness and righteousness mean that God must be just. A God who is perfectly right cannot tolerate sin and allow it to go unpunished. Because God is good and right, sin must be punished. A righteous God and a just God means that God does not ignore sin. God's goodness and rightness never change when God is just and punishes sin. This is another area where humans are not able to understand God completely. God's anger and wrath toward sin do not change in any way His goodness and righteousness. God is unchanging. He is always good. He is always just. He is always loving. God cannot be good and ignore sin. Ignoring sin would not be justice. God cannot be good and not just. Goodness and justice exist together and God is always completely both.

Revelations 16:5 and 7 says, "Just are you, O Holy One, who is and who was, for you brought these judgments." And, "Yes, Lord God the Almighty, true and just are your judgments."

When God looks at a sinner who loves his sin and rejects God, justice sentences that sinner to die and go to hell. This is right and good because God tells us that the wages of sin is death.

When God looks at a sinner who has trusted in Christ's death on the cross and trusts in God's forgiveness, justice sentences that sinner to live eternally with God in heaven. The sin has been dealt with justly because God put the sin on Jesus for us. Jesus changes our condition from guilty to not guilty. God is just in both condemning the unrepentant sinner and in saving the repentant sinner.

We, as people, have a hard time understanding the "fairness" of this. We want murders to be punished for their sin. We don't want people who have hurt us to be forgiven because our sense of justice is very different from God's righteousness and justice. We have sinful minds and intentions. God is perfectly right and perfectly just. We need to trust that God is who He says He is and not allow our feelings of fairness to contradict God's word.

In what circumstances are you tempted to think God has been unfair or unkind to you?

Put into your own words why rightness and justice must exist in God equally.

Isaiah 30:18

"Therefore the Lord waits to be gracious to you, and therefore he exalts himself to show mercy to you.

For the Lord is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for him."

Deuteronomy 32:4

“The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice.

A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.”

Psalms 119:137

“Righteous are you, O Lord, and right are your rules.”

What do you learn about God’s righteousness and justice?

How does this change how you view the circumstances when it feels like God is not right or just?

Getting to know God in relationship:

How will you talk to God differently and read His word differently because of this attribute?

How does thinking about God being righteous and just make you think about your circumstances differently?

What would life be like if God was not righteous and just?

Day 6: God's mercy.

Mercy is a verb. Mercy is an action word. We don't use the word mercy this way - but in bible times that is the meaning of the word. God's mercy is God's goodness in action.

Mercy means to stoop down in kindness to someone who is inferior, someone small and in need of help. Look at this picture of a dad helping his son. The father comes down to the son's level, and gives help. God, our Father, comes down to our level to help us. That is mercy!

Mercy means to have pity on someone and to act in a way that helps them. Mercy includes the love needed to fix the problem. God's mercy means that He sees our problem and He cares about us so much that He takes action to help. Mercy is not just feeling sorry for someone. Mercy takes action!

Mark 6:34, 37 "When He went ashore He saw a great crowd, and He had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And He began to teach them many things.... Give them something to eat."

Jesus saw the crowd was confused and lost. He pities them, He feels badly about their situation, and then He acts to fix the problem. Jesus teaches them the truth that will give them hope and help. Then, He tells the disciples to feed them too. Jesus doesn't leave us needing help. He actually helps!

Psalms 34:17 "When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles."

God knows we need help. He acts to help us.

God's mercy didn't come into being when man sinned. Mercy is part of God's infinite (no beginning and no ending) being. God has always been merciful and will also be merciful. God doesn't change.

Lamentations 3:22-23 "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

Does God stop being merciful when a non-believer dies and goes to hell?

As humans we have a hard time understanding how God's mercy never changes. God is merciful, even as He judges sin.

Ezekiel 33:11 says, "As I live, declares the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live".

Every single person receives God's mercy. Since "the wages of sin is death", we should all be dead immediately (or never even born!). God's mercy gives all men life on earth. God is postponing His judgment of sin. He is showing mercy in delaying judgment because "The Lord is... not wishing that any should perish but that all should reach repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). God is waiting. That is mercy. God hears our cries. God sees our tears. God knows our troubles and He acts to help us. Mercy cannot cancel justice. God is both completely merciful and completely just. We may not understand how it

works, but that is our limited ability to understand. God is God. There is no conflict between God being just and God being merciful. Both are equally true and right in God.

How has God shown you mercy?

Getting to know God in relationship:

How will you talk to God differently and read His word differently because of this attribute?

How does thinking about God being merciful make you think about your circumstances differently?

What would life be like if God was not merciful?

Day 7: God is all-knowing.

God knows everything. God has perfect knowledge of all people and all things. God does not learn. He cannot be taught anything. God never changes and His knowledge is complete. God knows all minds, all creatures, all thoughts, all mysteries, all feelings, all secrets, all desires, all personalities, all good, all evil, all workings, all things visible and all things invisible. God knows EVERYTHING! We call this “omniscience”.

God is never surprised. God never wonders about anything. God doesn’t have to ask questions to get an answer. God contains all knowledge.

God knows you perfectly! He knows all about you - your thoughts, your words (even before you say them!), your actions, your intentions, your desires, your feelings, everything! A.W. Tozer says, “No talebearer can inform on us, no enemy can make an accusation stick; no forgotten skeleton can come tumbling out of some hidden closet and abash us and expose our past; no unsuspected weakness in our character can come to light to turn God away from us, since He knew us utterly before we knew Him and called us to Himself in the full knowledge of everything that was against us.”⁴ God knows you perfectly and still chose to call you to Himself and love you. Nothing about you, nothing in your actions, nothing in your thoughts or words, surprises God. He knows you completely!

Think about what these verses mean:

Psalm 147:5 “Great is our Lord and abundant in strength; His understanding is infinite.”

Psalm 139:4 “Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, O LORD, You know it all.”

Hebrews 4:13 “And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.”

Psalm 44:21 “Would not God find this out? For He knows the secrets of the heart.” How can God’s perfect knowledge of you be a little scary?

How does knowing God is merciful and good bring comfort in Him being all-knowing?

How might you live differently if you keep God’s all-knowing attribute in mind?

Getting to know God in relationship:

How will you talk to God differently and read His word differently because of this attribute?

How does thinking about God being all-knowing (or omniscient) make you think about your circumstances differently?

What would life be like if God was not all-knowing?

⁴ A.W. Tozer, The Knowledge of the Holy

Day 8: God is wise

Knowledge is having all the information on something. God's knowledge is perfect; He has all the information and understanding of all things. God is also wise. Wisdom is using knowledge to make right choices. Wisdom is choosing the best course of action or the best response to a given situation.

1 Corinthians 1:25 "For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men."

What does this verse say about human wisdom compared to God's wisdom?

Job 12:13 "With God are wisdom and might; He has counsel and understanding."

Isaiah 55:9 "For as the heaven are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

What does this mean about our ability to understand God's ways?

God sees everything from beginning to end. That is His infinite (never ending), immensity (huge beyond understanding), immanence (with us), and omniscient (all knowing) attributes all working perfectly together. Since God sees the end, and is good and wise, He always chooses the perfect way to get to the perfect end. All of God's actions are done in perfect wisdom, first for His own glory, and then for the highest good of His people.

"God is infinite in wisdom. He always knows what is best for us, and He knows the best way to bring it about."⁵

1 Thessalonians 4:3 says, "For this is the will of God, your sanctification".

Sanctification is the change that God does in our lives to make us more and more like Christ. Sanctification is the lifelong process of getting rid of sin and replacing it with Christ like love. That is God's desire for us. He uses His wisdom to accomplish this goal.

God knows perfectly, with infinite wisdom, what combination of good and bad circumstances will help us become more like Christ. Because God is good and wise and all-powerful, He uses all things and all people, whether good or evil, to make us more like His Son.

"God in His infinite wisdom knows exactly what adversity we need to grow more and more into the likeness of His Son. He not only knows *what* we need but *when* we need it and *how* best to bring it to pass in our lives."⁶

When have you made an unwise choice? Maybe you really love chocolate and on Easter morning you ate so much chocolate that you got a stomachache? We don't always make wise choices. We see the immediate pleasure of something that will make us happy and think more will be better.

Think about what happens if you break your arm. When the bone in your arm is broken, it is no longer lined up correctly with the rest of the bone and cannot heal properly unless

⁵ Jerry Bridges, *Trusting God*, 65

⁶ Ibid., 128

it is fixed by a doctor. A doctor will have to “set” the bones by moving the two pieces of bone to line up correctly. This is extremely painful! However, it would be much worse to leave the bones not connected and not lined up. If we don’t go through the painful process of having the doctor set the bones and then cast the arm for 6 weeks, we would not have the full use of our arm for the rest of our lives. To go through the painful experience of setting the bones, we need to think about the future and the benefit that comes from having our arm healed correctly. You have to see that a few minutes of intense pain are worth the benefit of having a healed arm. Thankfully, our parents and doctors are willing to allow us to suffer in the moment to produce a much better future. As kids we may be so focused on not wanting pain right now that we would foolishly miss out on having the use of our arms for the rest of our lives.

God sees all of eternity! He sees the good that hard things in our lives will produce. We do not have God’s knowledge and wisdom. We would always prefer that life be easy and comfortable. We would not choose to have suffering or trials in our lives. God’s ways are not our ways! God is His wisdom, gave us the beautiful gift of eternal life through the painful and awful death of Jesus on the Christ. We simply do not have God’s mind. We must choose to trust His wisdom.

What is your life has been a challenge or a hardship?

How might God’s wisdom and goodness be bringing about something good out of this hard circumstance?

Getting to know God in relationship:

How will you talk to God differently and read His word differently because of this attribute?

How does thinking about God being wise make you think about your circumstances differently?

What would life be like if God was not wise?

Day 9: God is faithful.

God is faithful. God is true to His promises. God is reliable. You can count on God to do what He says He will do. God can be trusted. God is believable.

Joshua 21:45 “Not one word of all the good promises that the Lord had made to the house of Israel had failed; all came to pass.”

Isaiah 46:11 “I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it.”

Deuteronomy 7:9 “Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and steadfast love with those who love Him and keep His commandments, to a thousand generations”

God cannot change. God cannot act outside His character. He must always keep His promises because He is good, He is just, He is unchanging, He is all-powerful, He is faithful.

One of God’s signs of keeping His promises was the rainbow He sent after the flood. When Noah and the ark came to rest on dry land, God put a rainbow in the sky to mark His promise that He would never flood the earth again.

Think about a time when you did not keep your promise. Maybe you changed your mind because you were scared. Maybe you changed your mind because you realized the promise you had made would be inconvenient or difficult to keep. Maybe you broke your promise because you lost interest in an activity. Maybe you broke your promises because you simply didn’t have the ability to make it happen.

These things are never true of God. None of those situations can happen to God.

Everything that God does begins and ends in Himself. Everything God does is because He is God and out of His goodness and power, He chooses to act. He is never forced to do something or make a promise. He is never without the ability to make what He wants to have happen happen.

In Genesis 3:15 God promises a Savior. After Adam and Eve sin, God says to the serpent Satan, “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel”.

God declares that there will be hatred or hostility between Satan’s followers and Jesus’ followers. The “offspring” of the serpent are people who reject God. The “offspring” of Eve is Jesus and those who follow Him. In Genesis 3:15 God tells us that Jesus will “bruise” the head of Satan. This is a death blow. A head wound is deadly and shows victory over the one crushed. Genesis 3:15 says that Satan will “bruise” Jesus’ heel. A bruise on the heel hurts for a little while. It is bothersome and annoying, but not deadly. Satan’s offspring treated Jesus badly. They hated Him, they whipped Him, they spit on Him, they made fun of Him, and they nailed Him to the cross to die. But, Jesus was victorious in coming back to life and proved Himself to be more powerful and awesome. Jesus defeated the power of Satan and sin and death. God was faithful to His promise in Genesis 3:15 even though God waited several thousands years to fulfill the promise.

2 Corinthians 1:20 says “For all the promises of God find their Yes in [Christ]”.

God promises that Jesus is coming back and will take all believers to heaven with Him.

"At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other." (Matthew 24:30-31)

God promises that He has prepared a place for us in heaven.

John 14:3 "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also."

God promises that He will be with us forever.

Revelation 21:3 "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be His people, and God Himself will be with them as their God." God promises that all our tears and sorrows will be gone forever.

Revelation 21:4 "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

We can enjoy these promises because God is faithful. We know with certainty that God will do all that He has promised. He has to fulfill His Word because He is infinitely faithful. There is no limit to His faithfulness.

What promise that God has made do you like to think about?

How is your happiness increased by thinking about God's faithfulness in keeping this promise?

How would your circumstances on earth differ if you kept in mind God's faithfulness to His promises. (Think about the things that make you sad or the things that make you angry or scared. How would thinking about God's promises of heaven help you be joyful even in these difficult circumstances?)

Getting to know God in relationship:

How will you talk to God differently and read His word differently because of this attribute?

How does thinking about God being faithful make you think about your circumstances differently?

What would life be like if God was not faithful?

Day 10: God is love.

“If we want proof of God’s love for us, then we must look first at the cross where God offered up His Son as a sacrifice for our sins. Calvary is the one objective, absolute, irrefutable proof of God’s love for us.”⁷

1 John 4:9-10 “This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.”

Love is self-sacrificing. Love gives. Love gives to others no matter the cost to oneself.

The bible is clear that we are not deserving of God’s love. We were enemies of God

(Ephesians 2:3). We were stuck in our sin (Romans 5:8). We were spiritually dead (Ephesians 2:1). God chose to love us because He is at His very nature love. He decided to love us because of who He is.

John 15:16 “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit...”

God doesn’t love us because we are loveable. God loves us because He, out of His goodness and mercy, chose to love us. It is for His Name and His glory that He chooses to love us.

God’s love for His children is special. When we are surrendered to Christ as our Lord and Savior we are “in Christ”. This adoption into God’s family, this being brought into a relationship with Christ, is what makes God’s love special. When we are “in Christ”, God’s glory and our good are linked together. What brings God glory is good for us, and what is good for us brings God glory. Being “in Christ” means God’s love for us cannot change because we are connected to the One He loves perfectly and completely.

Ezekiel 36:22-26 “It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name... I will vindicate the holiness of my great name... I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleanness... I will give you a new heart and a new spirit I will put within you.”

God acts for His Name’s sake. God is revealing Himself when He chooses to love us. God is so great and so loving that He chooses to make Himself known through loving people that are totally unworthy of His love.

God forgives us for His own sake!

Isaiah 43:25 “I, I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins.”

God is worthy of praise and honor and glory! He knows that we are most happy and content when we are worshipping Him. So, He reveals Himself to us and others through forgiving us and loving us. He deserves praise and worship because He is the Most High

⁷ Jerry Bridges, “Trusting God” page 146

God, and He chooses to give us love because it is Glory for Him and good for us! That is an amazing God!!

What did you do to receive God's love?

What could you do to lose God's love?

Romans 8:31- 35, 37-38

"What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?... No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

When we are in God's family, knowing Jesus as Savior and Lord, God sees us clothed in Christ's righteousness. His love for us is the same as the love for His Son.

Think about the last time your parents disciplined you. What rule had you broken or what had you done wrong that led to your discipline? Why do you think your parents gave you discipline for your behavior?

Do you think your parents love you too much to let you continue to make wrong choices?

Do you think your parents love you and want you to learn to obey while you are young so that you can make better choice in the future?

Hebrews 12 addresses how God's love and discipline are the same thing!

Hebrews 12:7-11

"It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it."

God says His discipline is because He loves us. God loves us too much to allow us to keep going down a path of sin that will be harmful to us. God may put us through a time of discipline so that we change, and grow in our Christlikeness. That is God's love for us! And, God may be using your parents (and teachers) to discipline you so that you grow and change!

Write out a prayer thanking God for His love.

Getting to know God in relationship:

How will you talk to God differently and read His word differently because of this attribute?

How does thinking about God being love make you think about your circumstances differently?

What would life be like if God was not love?

Day 11: God is holy.

If you look up the definition of “holy”, one word used is Godly. That’s because the word “holy” only describes God. Holy means perfect and absolutely pure. The angels singing around God’s throne sing “Holy, Holy, Holy”. The word “holy” is repeated three times to show emphasis and draw attention to how amazing this attribute of God is. There is no way for us humans to fully grasp holiness because we are not holy in any way on our own. God is so holy that He says no one can look at Him and live.

Exodus 33:20 “But,” he said, “you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live.”

In the bible, everyone who encounters God immediately falls down or hides. Moses hid his face in the rock. John fell down almost dead. Saul (also known as Paul) fell down and was blinded by God. God’s holiness is so unlike anything we know that we will never fully understand God’s holiness. But it is worth it to think about this attribute of God because it sets Him apart from everyone and everything else.

Every attribute of God is holy. God’s love is holy. God’s mercy is holy. God’s justice is holy. God’s anger is holy. Every attribute of God is holy because it is perfect and pure in goodness.

Exodus 15:11 “Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?”

Revelation 4:8 “And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say, “HOLY,

HOLY, HOLY is THE LORD GOD, THE ALMIGHTY, WHO WAS AND WHO IS AND WHO IS TO COME.”

Our sin separates us from a this Holy God. A holy God cannot dwell with sinful people.

We must repent of our sin, and trust in Jesus’ death on the cross for our sin, for the Holy Spirit to come and live in us. It is only Christ’s righteousness and holiness that allow us to enter into relationship with God.

Isaiah 59:2 “but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.”

God’s standard is holiness.

1 Peter 1:15,16 says “ but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy”

We are not holy. To be in the presence of God we must have faith in Christ, and then we are clothed in Christ’s perfection. It is Christ’s death on the cross the gives us access to God.

Why is God’s holiness so unique?

What does God’s holiness mean to you?

Getting to know God in relationship:

How will you talk to God differently and read His word differently because of this attribute?

How does thinking about God being holy make you think about your circumstances differently?

What would life be like if God was not holy?

Day 12: God is sovereign.

Sovereign means a person who has supreme power and authority. God has no limit to His power and His rule over the worlds and all that is in them.

“God holds *authority* over us because He is our author.”⁸ God is the Creator so He is, therefore, the owner of all things.

If you draw a picture, who does the picture belong to? If you make a clay pot or vase, who owns it?

Consider these verses:

Job 42:2 “I know you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted”

Psalms 115:3 “Our God is in heaven; He does whatever pleases Him.”

Isaiah 46:10 “I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.”

Daniel 4:35 “All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as He pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back His hand or say to Him, ‘What have you done?’”

Proverbs 21:30 “There is no wisdom, no insight, no plan that can succeed against the Lord”

Ecclesiastes 7:13 “Consider what God has done: Who can straighten what he has made crooked?”

Proverbs 16:9 “In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps”
Lamentations 3:37 “Who can speak and have it happen if the Lord has not decreed it?”
What do you learn from all these verses?

There is absolutely NOTHING that happens that God has not allowed to have happen. There is nothing that can be done to you that is outside of God’s plan for you. This includes the sin of other people.

Think about the story of Joseph. Joseph was thrown into a pit by his 11 older brothers. They argued about killing him but ended up selling him as a slave. Joseph was taken far from his home and made a slave. His owner’s wife falsely accused Joseph of hurting her. Joseph was put in jail and left there for years, forgotten about. When Joseph gets out of jail, he becomes a high ranking official in Egypt. Then his brothers come to him needing help. Joseph is face to face with the brothers who sold him into slavery which led to jail time and a very difficult life for him.

Joseph says in Genesis 50:20 “As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.”

Even the sin of Joseph’s brothers was part of God’s plan. God meant it for good. Think about the immensity, power, just, right, loving, holy, wise God that is so sovereign, He

⁸ Jen Wilken, “None Like Him” page 141

has power and purpose over wrongs done to us and can use those wrongs for His glory and our good.

Remember, not everything feels good. God's ultimate plan for His people is to be like Christ. In his wisdom and love, He uses hard circumstances to make us like Christ and when we are more like Christ, we have more joy!

Ecclesiastes 7:14 "When times are good, be happy: but when times are bad, consider, God has made the one as well as the other. Therefore, a man cannot discover anything about his future."

Isaiah 45:7 "I form the light and create darkness, I bring prosperity and create disaster; I, the Lord, do all these things."

Lamentations 3:38 "Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that both calamities and good things come?"

Can anyone mess up God's plan for you?

Can another person do or say something that is outside of God's control?

Can a teacher give an assignment that is not part of God's plan for you?

Can a parent's "no" to something you want to do be against God's plan for you?

God's sovereignty would be scary if God were not also good, wise, merciful and kind. But, because God is holy, holy, holy, we can be excited that He controls everything! His goodness and power will only allow what will bring Him honor and praise, and only what is good for us.

Romans 8:28-29 says "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers."

For believers in Christ, for those who called to be His children, God uses all things every situation whether easy or hard - for the good of making like more like His Son.

Are you thankful for God's sovereignty? Why?

In what situation in your life do you need to trust in God's complete sovereignty, knowing that a good, loving, wise God has allowed this situation to happen because He loves you and wants you to be more like Christ where true joy is found?

Getting to know God in relationship:

How will you talk to God differently and read His word differently because of this attribute?

How does thinking about God being sovereign make you think about your circumstances differently?

What would life be like if God was not sovereign?

Summary:

1. Write out three things that you learned about God's attributes that amaze you.

A.

B.

C.

2. In the introduction, you read about the difference between knowing about someone and being in a relationship with someone. Part of being in a relationship with someone is trusting them. That means we make decisions based on our belief that they will do what they say they will do. What are three things in your life that would change if you trusted God to be true to His Word? For example, if I really trust that God is sovereign and loving, when something hard, disappointing, or painful happens to me, I will respond with kindness and gentleness, rather than anger and unkindness, because I know that God is in control and that He loves me so much that He will help me and have compassion on me. So when my teacher assigns a really big assignment over the weekend and I won't get to go to my friend's house like I was planning, I will respond with a humble attitude of kindness and patience that shows I know this didn't surprise God and that He has a purpose for it in my life.

Your turn: where can you show change in trusting God really is who He says He is and you really know Him?