

# Who is God?

We know that as humans, we have limits and our power has boundaries. We all need God's limitless power. A church is only as good as its conception of God." – A.W. Tozer

We live in a world with various conceptions of who God is. Just as how we can easily misjudge other people the first time we meet them, for who they are not, we sometimes have our own conceptions of who God is. But, really, who is God? There is no other better reference of who He is, and what it means to us, but God's Word.

# God's Love

We know that as humans, we have limits and our power has boundaries. We all need God's limitless power.

## Welcome Heart Art

1. Each person is given a small piece of paper.
2. They are then asked to draw how their hearts look right now if they are to draw them.

## Worship

Think of all the people around you which God has placed in your life to make you feel loved. Thank God in prayer and consider how much love He has given each one of us.

Song: Here I Am To Worship by Tim Hughes

## Word

We all yearn to experience what it means to be loved. However, we do not experience the fullness of love because we always search the wrong places.

We try to find love in all the places in this world, such as in romantic relationships, money, careers, academics, travelling, etc. But in our seemingly futile quest, we only experience these things:

- Broken-heartedness
  - Emptiness
  - Discontentment
  - Unfruitful obsession with things (such as with celebrities, etc)
  - Abusive relationships
  - Broken relationships (with our families, friends, or other people)
1. Have you experienced any heartbreaking experience when you tried to look for "true love" in other places?

## How to Use this material

1. Learn it for yourself and take its message to heart.
2. Answer the questions and reflect on them, especially on God's Word, and what it means to your personal life.
3. Share this material with the people around you. God wants to use your life, so others would come to know Christ! Feel free to share to them this material. 😊

Our hearts are wired to find love, but there is no other way to satisfy that God-sized hole, but to come to God for it. There is no other way to know what true love is than to know God.

*“Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 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. God is love.” 1 John 4:8*

God’s love is unlike any other love we will ever experience in this world.

*It is unconditional. (Romans 5:8)*

*It is sacrificial. (John 3:16)*

*Nothing can separate us from it. (Deuteronomy 31:6; Romans 8:38-39)*

2. What do these verses say about God’s love for us?

Knowing that God loves you, even waaaaay more than you realize, can actually change your life!

## **Good news is, God desires a relationship with you!**

God loved us first, so that we can understand what love really means.

*“This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.” – 1 John 4:10*

3. What characteristic of God is reflected in the verse and how does it reflect what love really means?

## **Works**

God’s love is so amazing and He desires a relationship with us, and He did what needed to be done to reach out to us and to initiate a relationship with us. What may be keeping you from receiving His love? Is it one of the following?

- Some are too confident and think that they do not need God’s forgiveness.
- Some think that they should first purify themselves and make themselves worthy before accepting God’s love.
- Some look at the world and think that redemption may be found in other ways besides accepting Jesus.
- Some consider their age and think that they are still too young and think that being serious with God is boring, and so want to give their lives to God when they are near the end of their lives.

Good news is everyone is qualified for God's love but it is your choice if you are going to accept or reject God it. You don't have to fix yourself to accept His love, you need to accept His love and He will fix you. If you have not yet done so, you can accept it through telling God through prayer. Prayer is an expression of faith in God, and it does not have to have eloquent words. You can just pour out your heart to God. If you do want to accept God's gift, you may pray a simple prayer like this one:

**Lord Jesus, thank You for loving me. I acknowledge that I am a sinner and I want to say sorry for my sins. Thank You for what You did on the cross to cleanse my sins and to initiate a relationship with me, even when I was still a sinner. Today, I place my faith in You and accept You as my Lord and my Savior. I welcome You into my heart. From this day on, I will follow You and obey You. Thank You for the privilege to have a relationship with You, and for the promise that one day I will go home with You in heaven. Amen.**

Now that you received God's love go ahead and share it with others!

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# God's Truth

We know that as humans, we have limits and our power has boundaries. We all need God's limitless power.

## Welcome

### Small Group: Two Truths and a Lie

1. Each person will give three statements, two of which are true about them, and one is a lie. Do not reveal which of these is a lie. *E.g. (1) I am 22 years old. (2) I already had two boyfriends. (3) I have 3 siblings.*
2. The group will have to guess which of the three statements is a lie.

### Big Group: Fact or Bluff

1. Prepare factual pieces of trivia, and ideas which are only made up but sounds credible.
2. The members would have to guess if the trivia is a fact or just a bluff.

## Worship

Share something you are thanking God for, and lift them up to God as you open with a prayer.

## Word

This world tells us a lot of conflicting concepts. It tells us that one thing is good, but then some others say that it is bad. The contrasting opinions of the people easily become "truths" for them, but this leaves a lot of us confused. What is really good? What really is life's meaning? Who is God?

We should be firm to our convictions, if we do not want to be fools, swayed by every person's convincing ideas. But where should we base

our beliefs, and what does it mean to us? And why should we seek to learn the truth?

Here are some Facts and Bluffs you should know.

### Fact 1: God breathed you into life

“I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.” – Psalm 139:14

- What are the things about you which confirm how God devoted effort in creating “you”? Any special talents? Or anything about yourself that you are thankful for?

### Bluff 1: God is the destroyer.

God created you! When we devote our time in something, it hurts us when we see it destroyed; just as how we are affected when we work all night for a school project and it is destroyed by the rain or by a computer virus. In God’s eyes, we are more than a project! We are His handiwork (Ephesians 2:10), and He is far from the destroyer. In fact, it is “the thief” who “comes only to kill, to steal, and to destroy” (John 10:10).

- What are the times in your life when you thought that God was the culprit? Were there times when you questioned God because of the negative things that happen in your life?

It is common to remember God when we undergo trials. But how much do we acknowledge God when we experience good things?

### Fact 2: God hates sin

Who wants sin, really? When someone lies against us, hurts us, or do something bad against us, we do not rejoice. It triggers us, and for some, it makes them angry. It is not only God who hates sin – we hate sin as well! But, we only see others’ sin. How about your own sins?

As much as God is loving, He is also just. GOD HATES SIN – all forms of sin! There is no sin too small. Sin is sin. Sin always ruins everything – it destroys relationships, it destroys you, and it destroyed our relationship with God.

“For the wages of sin is death,” – Romans 6:23a

“Death” meaning, not the physical death, but spiritual death equivalent to being eternally separated with our Creator. Bad news is, there’s nothing WE can do to cleanse our own sin. Not going to church, not good works, and not even “punishing ourselves”. When you committed a heinous crime, you cannot come before the judge and enumerate all the good things you have done in your life. Justice does not go that way.

### Bluff 2: God hates you

But even so, God does not hate you. Many people think that they cannot enter the church or come before God because they are sinners.

- What are the times when you thought that God does not love you?

Have you heard of the phrase, “Hate the sin, not the sinner”? That’s how much God loves us. Even though His eyes have seen every single sin you have done in your life, He sees you with love. The **good news**? He Himself made a way for us to be reconciled with Him and to have a relationship with our Creator.

“For the wages of sin is death, **but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus.**” – Romans 6:23

Best part is, God showed us this love while we are still sinners. (Romans 5:8) All we got to do is open our hands to receive that **gift**. We do not have to do anything to *deserve* it. Jesus already did the hard part on the cross, and all we have to do is to welcome Him in our lives. Now, let me ask you again, does God really hate you?

### Fact 3: God wants to give you an abundant life

- What makes an abundant life?

The abundant life God offers is so much more than that which this world offers!

“The thief comes only to steal, kill and destroy; **I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.**” – Jesus said in John 10:10

### Bluff 3: WE can give ourselves an abundant life

We humans strive all our lives thinking that we can give ourselves the best life. But what really makes an abundant life? Is it fame, money or success? There are lots of wealthy, famous and successful people who were still miserable. If fame, money or success is the abundant life, why are there those who seem to have everything and still commit suicide?

The life our hearts have always desired to have is only found in Jesus. Jesus did what He did on the Cross not just for show, but for us to have this “life”.

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have an everlasting life.” – John 3:16

This Bible verse is the most famous memory verse, but what does it mean to us? (You can share your testimony about your life before Christ, your encounter with Him, and what changed after)

## Works

Ask them these questions:

1. How has life been as you go through it without an intimate relationship with God?
2. God does not force Himself on anybody, but, are you willing to try living life in God?

# God's Power

We know that as humans, we have limits and our power has boundaries. We all need God's limitless power.

## Welcome

### Super Ordinary Heroes

1. Let everyone imagine that they are superheroes. Each one will choose an object in his/her bag or he/she brought with her, which, if they were superheroes would be one of their superhero gadgets.
2. Everybody will answer: what can that object do and what will it be for? *E.G. a wristwatch, which can turn back or fast forward time as its time and date are changed.*

## Worship

Prepare a video showcasing the beauty of the Universe or His Creation. You may also listen to the song Indescribable by Chris Tomlin, and discuss how great God's hands are as manifested in His creation!

Recommended video to watch:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aVsqCLyoU3o>

## Word

God is more powerful than any other being we know of. His Creation reveals His majesty. And yes, YOU are one of His Creation!

### I. You were born out of His power and with power!

*"Then God said, 'Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over*

## How to Use this material

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*the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.'*

*So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them."* – Genesis 1:26-27

1. Considering God as our Creator, what does it tell about us as His creation?
  
2. What authority has He given us?

## **II. We rebelled with that power**

We stopped living for God and started living for ourselves.

*"As it is written: 'There is no one righteous, not even one;'"* – Romans 3:10

3. What are the ways we rebel against God?
  
4. What are the times in your life when you experience the limits of your own power?

## **III. God is Your Father and He welcomes you with open arms**

God is our Creator, and so He would be near to everyone who would call on Him in truth. (Psalm 145:18)

Let me tell you the story of the son of a wealthy man. (Luke 15:11-24)

*"There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.*

*"Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.*

*"When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' So he got up and went to his father.*

*“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.*

*“The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’*

*“But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.*

5. What might have been the son feeling as he was walking back to his father’s house?
  
6. How did his father welcome him?

This was a parable told by Jesus Himself. If this wealthy father in the parable welcomed his son, pulled off a grand celebration, and clothed his son with the **best robe, a ring and sandals**, how much more will your loving Creator welcome you back in His arms and in His power?

*“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.” – Romans 8:28-29*

## Works

God wants you to be back in His arms. However, it may mean turning your back from your old rubbish life. Just like how the son in the story turned his back from his pride, and from his old situation, and humbly returned to his father.

1. How do you think can God change your life when you return to Him?
  
2. How do you think can God use the “broken” areas of our lives “according to His purpose”?