

DISCIPLESHIP HANDBOOK

XO
RESOURCES



01

Lesson 1 | Who is God?

Who is God?

God defines Himself, He is not defined by us, but reveals Himself to us.

Some of his characteristics are...

Creator

(He is the creator; He was not created)

Genesis 1:1 - In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Colossians 1:17 - And He is before all things, and in Him all things exist.

God is love

1 John 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.

Holy

(Definition: sacred, set apart, revered or divine)

Revelation 4:8 - The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!"

Just

(Definition: fair, impartial, God will judge between right and wrong, and administer justice in accordance with His standards)

Deuteronomy 32:4 - The Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice: A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, Just and right is He.

Merciful

(Definition: compassion or forgiveness shown towards someone when you have the power to punish or harm them)

Psalm 145:8 - The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, Slow to anger and great in mercy.

God Has Three Parts

You can describe God as one “what” and three “who’s” - the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Analogy: You might have 3 titles, Father, Son and Husband, but you are the same person. For example: 1x1x1=1

John 1:1&14 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

John 10:30 - I and the Father are one

2 Corinthians 1:21-22 - Now He who establishes us with you in **Christ** and has anointed us is **God**, who also has sealed us and given us the **Spirit** in our hearts as a guarantee.

The Different Names of God

- **Father** (Heavenly Father, Judge, I Am, Alpha & Omega)
- **Son** (Jesus, Christ, Saviour, Lamb of God, Lord, King)
- **Holy Spirit** (Teacher, Comforter, Helper, Convictor of Sin)

Who am I?

We were **created by God to worship Him** and walk through life with Him.

(Definition of Worship: worship is a relationship with God, it is placing Him on the throne instead of us. It is recognising Him as Lord and Master and acting accordingly)

Isaiah 43:21 – This people I have formed for Myself; they shall declare My praise.

You were created **uniquely** and **beautifully**.

Psalms 139:14 - I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made

We were created with a **free will** so that we can **choose** to pursue God vs. being made to follow Him.

Romans 10:9-10 - that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

So, What Happened?

Such a holy and perfect God cannot be close to unholy things. The penalty for our sin is eternal separation from God (this is also known as hell).

2 Thessalonians 1:9 - These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.

Isaiah 59:1-2 - Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.

So, our sin separated us from God.

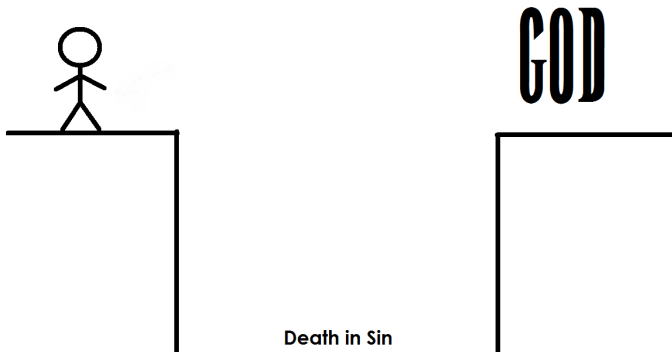
(Definition of Sin or Iniquity: anything that is in opposition to the eternal law of God)

So, what is the eternal law of God? In the Old Testament God gave His law to His people. This is known as the 10 commandments.



In the New Testament, Jesus expands on this, stating that it's not just our actions, it's also our thoughts.

Matthew 5:27-28 - "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.



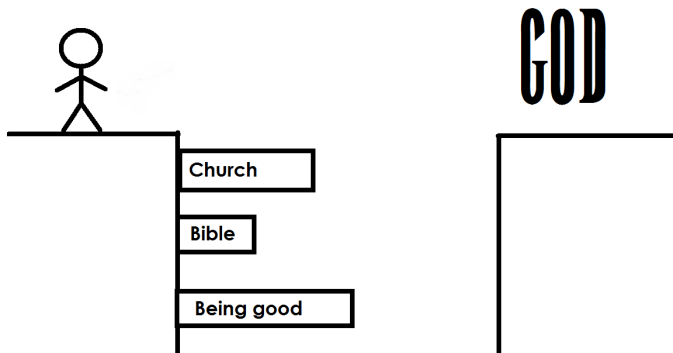
Can Man Get Back to God?

Man has tried for generations to find a way back to God, by doing good deeds, being a good person, going to church, doing charitable acts, etc.

Many other religions say you can get to God through your own good works or religious acts and keeping traditions.

Isaiah 64:6 - but we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; we all fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

This scripture reminds us, that even our very best is still not enough.



Jesus Made His Way to Us

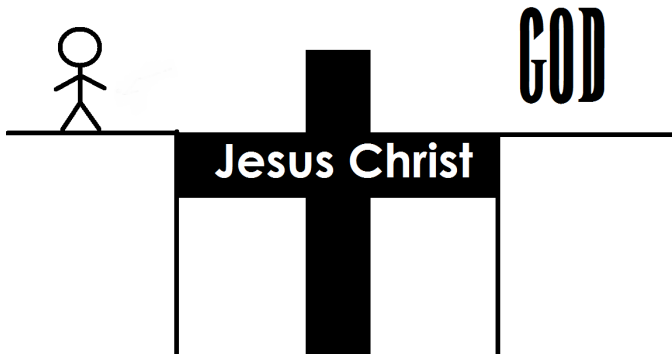
Even though we could not make our way back to God, Jesus made His way to us.

Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

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

Jesus is the **only** way back to God

John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. **No one** comes to the Father except through Me.



Making God Our Lord and Saviour

Salvation is a gift from God, it is by His grace we are saved, not by what we do.

(Definition of Grace: God's Favour, even though we don't deserve it)

Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Admit that you are a sinner (have broken God's law) and made mistakes.

Romans 3:23 - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

Repent of your sin

(Definition of repentance: a genuine acknowledging of my state without God, turning away from my sin (old life) and turning towards God (new life))

Acts 3:19 - Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out.

2 Corinthians 7:10 - For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.

Believe that Jesus is God's only Son and that he died and paid the price for our sins, when we were unable to do so

John 1:12 - But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.

Confess that Jesus is Lord

Romans 10:9-10 - that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Conclusion - these are the steps to restoring our relationship with God, and the beginning of our journey to live life with Him.

Dig a Little Deeper

Genesis Chapters 1-3

- *See Lesson 2 which explains starting your journey in the Bible*

Questions & Notes

Lesson 1

1. What are some things you have learned about who God is from this lesson?

2. Why can I not make my own way to God?

3. What did God do to make a way back to us?

4. Have you decided to accept God's gift of salvation and turn from your own life and follow Him?

