

Setting Direction.

Understanding God

God is...

Key verse: 1 John 1: 3.

We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.



Big Idea: Christians are to be always growing in their understanding of God as he has revealed himself to us in creation, Christ and scripture.

Kick Off

What claims have you heard people make arguing that there is no God?

Can you think of any reasons for why people would want there to be no God?

STUDY

Read 1 John 1-5.

1. What does John mean by the word light in v5? And in what ways is God light?

The light darkness contrast is interesting; what does 'darkness' represent?

2. The clearest reason for the existence of God we can give is Jesus. Why is this so vv1-3?

What singular event in the life of Jesus does the entire Christian faith depend on? cf Acts 17:31-32.

Do you think John's emphasis on hearing, seeing and touching Jesus is pre or post resurrection? Why?

3. What word beginning with P occurs three times in the first three verses?

What different word is used in v5 with the same meaning?

How does this proclaiming and declaring come to us v4?

4. Some say you don't need stuffy old documents to know God, He is far clearer in nature in the wind and the waves and the wilderness.

In what ways are they right? Ps 19:1-4, Isaiah 6:3.

In what ways are they wrong? 2 Cor. 4:4, Romans 1:18-25

5. The Westminster Confession of Faith describes God using these words. Underline the words or phrases you would like to understand better, discuss them and commit to finding out what they mean.

I. There is but one only, living, and true God, who is infinite in being and perfection, a most pure spirit, invisible, without body, parts, or passions; immutable, immense, eternal, incomprehensible, almighty, most wise, most holy, most free, most absolute; working all things according to the counsel of His own immutable and most righteous will, for His own glory; most loving, gracious, merciful, long-suffering, abundant in goodness and truth, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin; the rewarder of them that diligently seek Him; and withal, most just, and terrible in His judgments, hating all sin, and who will by no means clear the guilty.

II. God has all life, glory, goodness, blessedness, in and of Himself; and is alone in and unto Himself all-sufficient, not standing in need of any creatures which He has made, nor deriving any glory from them, but only manifesting His own glory in, by, unto, and upon them. He is the alone fountain of all being, of whom, through whom, and to whom are all things; and has most sovereign dominion over them, to do by them, for them, or upon them whatsoever Himself pleases. In His sight all things are open and manifest, His knowledge is infinite, infallible, and independent upon the creature, so as nothing is to Him contingent, or uncertain. He is most holy in all His counsels, in all His works, and in all His commands. To Him is due from angels and men, and every other creature, whatsoever worship, service, or obedience He is pleased to require of them.

III. In the unity of the Godhead there be three Persons of one substance, power, and eternity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost. The Father is of none, neither begotten nor proceeding; the Son is eternally begotten of the Father; the Holy Ghost eternally proceeding from the Father and the Son.

THINK AND APPLY

Is it possible to know too much about God?

What are some ways we could help those who don't know God to start thinking about him?

PRAYER

What can you pray about arising from this study?



**For next week
Read
John 5:16-27**