

Who is God?

Study Guide
Tampa Bay Church

1. Introduction

- a. Do you want to learn more about God from the Bible?
- b. This study guide will direct you to some key scriptures that will help you learn more about God, and begin to deepen your own personal relationship with him.
- c. Here's how to get the most out of this study guide:
 - i. Find and read each passage of scripture.
 - ii. Let the comments or questions provided after each scripture help you think deeply about what the passage is revealing to you about God or how it relates to your life.
 1. If you're going through this study with someone else, discuss your thoughts with each other.
 2. If you're confused about the meaning of a passage, consult a good Study Bible, Commentary, or ask a spiritual friend or family member for help.
 - iii. We suggest you pray before and after each bible study; talk to God about what you are learning.
 - iv. Okay, here we go... let the adventure begin!

2. Knowing God

- a. John 17:3
 - i. Q: How important is it to know God?
- b. Psalm 9:10
 - i. Q: Can we trust someone we don't know?
- c. Jeremiah 9:23-24
 - i. Q: Which of these would you rather have?
 1. Wisdom
 2. Strength
 3. Riches
 4. A relationship with God
- d. 2 Timothy 3:16-17
 - i. Q: How trustworthy is the Bible to teach us about God?
- e. Matthew 11:25-26
 - i. Q: Does God reveal himself to everyone, or just to those who have a certain type of attitude and humility?
- f. Matthew 7:7-8
 - i. Q: What's God's part and what's our part in developing a relationship with God?

3. Our Creator

- a. Genesis 1:1
 - i. God created everything that exists – the heavens (everything in the sky) and the earth.
 - ii. Man can “create” by recombining existing elements, but only God can bring something out of nothing.
- b. Deuteronomy 32:6b
 - i. God is our creator and father.
 - ii. Our human fathers were necessary for our existence, but God is our ultimate creator and father.
- c. Nehemiah 9:6
 - i. Look at all that God created according to this passage.
 - ii. This is why:
 - 1. He is Lord (Master) of the Universe.
 - 2. And he is worshipped by the angels.
 - iii. Q: How does this help you to worship God?
- d. Isaiah 40:25-31
 - i. Q: Why does God remind us of his creation in this passage?
 - ii. Q: How is this passage inspiring to you personally?
- e. For further study: Psalm 104 (all)

4. All Powerful

- a. Genesis 18:10-15
 - i. Retell this situation in your own words.
 - ii. Think about the thing you're most worried about in your life right now, and then hear God say to you: "Is anything too hard for the Lord?"
- b. Exodus 14:10-31
 - i. The Exodus from Egypt and parting of the Red Sea was told and retold several times in scripture to remind later generations (like us) that God has the power to save us when we need him the most.
 - ii. Q: Imagine if you were there, fleeing with the Israelites and watching God miraculously destroy your enemies. What do you think would have amazed you most about that day?
 - iii. Q: How have you seen God display his power in your life?
 - iv. Q: Do you believe God is powerful and will fight for you?
- c. Psalm 115:1-8
 - i. Q: What does verse 3 teach you about God?
 - ii. Q: What do verses 4-7 teach you about idols?
 - iii. Q: What's the warning in verse 8?
- d. Ephesians 3:20-21
 - i. Q: How much is God able to do according to vs. 20a?
 - ii. Q: Where is God's power demonstrated according to vs. 20b?
 - iii. Q: Why is God worthy of so much glory (honor, credit, praise)?
- e. For further study: Psalm 135:6; Psalm 145:3-6; Ephesians 1:18-21

5. Our Only God

a. Deuteronomy 4:32-35

- i. God's great power was revealed to the Israelites when he spoke to them out of a dark cloud, gave them the Ten Commandments, brought them out of Egypt through the plagues, and parted the Red Sea so they could escape.
- ii. Read verse 35 again and ask yourself why it's so important to God that we understand this point.
- iii. Q: What powerful signs has God shown you to convince you of his existence and power?

b. Isaiah 43:10-11

- i. Here God gives evidence to the Israelites that he is the only God:
 1. Vs. 12
 - a. God exiled them to Babylon because of their sin, but also predicted that he would rescue them from there 70 years later – and he did.
 - b. God proclaimed this prophecy beforehand and then proclaimed its fulfillment afterwards.
 2. Vs. 13
 - a. This proved that no one (no nation or King) could do anything to them that God did not approve of and allow.
- ii. Q: What other evidence can you think of that God is real and active in our lives?

c. Isaiah 44:6-8

- i. Q: What's God's saying in this passage?
- ii. Q: How cool is it that God calls himself a "Rock"? What do you think he means by that, and how does that help us feel secure in him?

d. Isaiah 45:18-19

- i. Q: How do the prophecies of the Old Testament help us "find God"?
 1. (Ask someone to help you with this question if you need it.)

e. 1 Corinthians 8:6

- i. God is one, but he is three persons in one God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This is the mystery of the Trinity.
- ii. Q: What are some ways Jesus helps us better understand God?

6. Ever Present

- a. Deuteronomy 4:39
 - i. Q: Is there anywhere God is not?
 - ii. Q: Is anyone else omnipresent (in all places at one time)?
- b. Psalm 139:7-12
 - i. Q: Why is it comforting (and convicting) to know that God is everywhere we are, and sees all that we do?
- c. Proverbs 15:3
 - i. Q: How does this make you feel?
- d. Jeremiah 23:23-24
 - i. Nothing gets by God...
 - ii. Fortunately he loves us infinitely more than anyone on earth!
- e. Acts 17:24-28
 - i. God created us to have a personal relationship with him, where we talk to him and he talks to us.
 - ii. Remember that we are his offspring; he cares for you more than your own physical parents.
 - iii. But God doesn't want to force himself on us, so he hides himself (makes himself invisible and inaudible) so that it's our decision to seek him whenever we are ready to.
 - iv. Q: God is seeking you. Are you seeking him?

7. All Knowing

- a. Romans 8:27
 - i. God is “he who searches our hearts”.
 - ii. Q: How does that make you feel?
- b. 1 Chronicles 28:9
 - i. Only God knows the motives of our hearts.
 - ii. Q: According to this verse, God knows your efforts toward him. Is this encouraging or frightening for you, or both?
- c. Jeremiah 17:10
 - i. This verse says God rewards us according to our hearts.
 - ii. Isn't it great to know that not a single good word or deed done in secret will go unnoticed and unrewarded by God?
- d. Exodus 3:7-10
 - i. Q: Is it comforting to you to know that God knows when you're going through trials and difficulties, and will send you help?
- e. Jeremiah 29:11
 - i. God even knows our future; he wants to bless us!
- f. Psalm 147:5
 - i. Q: Is there anything that God does not know?
- g. For further study: Luke 16:15; 1 Corinthians 4:4-5; Hebrews 4:13; Acts 1:23-25; 1 John 3:20b

8. Our Father

- a. Psalm 68:4-6
 - i. Q: How does this passage make you feel and why?
- b. Deuteronomy 32:6
 - i. Q: If a father is due respect, how much more should we respect our spiritual father and creator?
- c. Isaiah 64:8
 - i. Q: In what ways is God like a potter, and we like his clay?
 - ii. And yet God is more than our creator; he is our father. So the potter loves the clay.
- d. Matthew 6:9
 - i. Jesus taught us to pray to God as our father.
 - ii. Each of us had human fathers who made mistakes, but God is the only perfect father: he loves us perfectly.
- e. John 20:17
 - i. Q: If God is both our father and Jesus' father, what does that make Jesus to us? (see Hebrews 2:11)

9. Our Provider

- a. Deuteronomy 2:7
 - i. Q: What are some ways God provides for us?
- b. Matthew 6:25-34
 - i. Q: What are some reasons Jesus gives in this passage not to worry?
- c. 1 Corinthians 10:13
 - i. Q: How is God providing for us according to this passage?
- d. Philippians 4:19
 - i. God promises to meet all of our needs. Trust him in this. Rely on him through prayer and he will take care of you.
 - ii. Q: Do you believe God will meet all of your needs? Why or why not?
- e. 1 Timothy 6:17
 - i. God richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.
 - ii. Q: How does it change your view of God to know that he wants you to enjoy yourself?
- f. 1 Peter 4:11
 - i. When God provides for us, he gets the praise and the glory.
 - ii. Q: How does it encourage you to rely more on God when you consider that it's a "win-win" situation for both you and God? (You get your needs met, and God gets the glory – credit and praise.)

10. Our Shepherd

- a. Psalm 23
 - i. As you read this psalm, notice how God's care for us is described:
 - 1. We are described as sheep
 - 2. God is described as our loving shepherd.
 - ii. Q: Try to list all the things God does for us as our Shepherd from this passage. Which is your favorite?
- b. Psalm 78:52
 - i. Here is another example of how God leads His people to safety in tough times.
 - ii. Q: Can you think of a hard time in your life when God led you through it?
 - iii. Q: Why is God uniquely suited to "shepherd us" through the difficult times in our lives?
- c. Isaiah 40:11
 - i. Q: How is God's tenderness described here?
 - ii. Q: How does this verse make you feel, and why?
- d. Psalm 100:3
 - i. Q: How does this verse make you feel, and why?
- e. John 10:1-14
 - i. This is a deep and rich passage about Jesus being our Shepherd.
 - ii. Q: What are some things that Jesus is teaching us about him being "the good shepherd"?
- f. 1 Peter 2:25
 - i. If sheep do not have a shepherd, they will keep wandering the land until they die from lack of care.
 - ii. Q: What does it mean to return to the Shepherd and Overseer of our souls?
 - iii. Q: Do you feel like you are doing that in your life right now? Why or why not?

11. Our Helper

- a. Deuteronomy 33:29
 - i. Q: Why is this passage so inspiring?
- b. Psalm 28:7
 - i. Q: What are some things that stand out to you from this passage?
- c. Psalm 29:11
 - i. God gives us strength and peace.
 - ii. Q: Where does the world look for strength and peace?
 - iii. Q: Why is the world's help temporary and untrustworthy?
 - iv. Q: Why is God's help lasting and trustworthy?
- d. Psalm 40:17
 - i. Q: What's humble about this prayer for help from God?
 - ii. Q: How does God feel about humble prayers?
- e. Psalm 46:1-3
 - i. Remember this passage the next time you feel like you're going through an emotional earthquake in your life.
- f. Psalm 48:14
 - i. Q: What are some things you would like God to guide you in?
- g. Psalm 118:5-7
 - i. Meditate (think deeply about) verse 6.
 - ii. Q: Is there ever any reason to fear any human being when God is with you?
 - iii. Q: How would it change your life if you had that kind of confidence in God every day?

12. Our Counselor

- a. Psalm 16:7
 - i. To “counsel” is to “advise, guide, direct, warn, encourage, instruct”.
 - ii. Q: Where does “the world” go for counseling about life?
 - iii. Q: Isn’t it great to know that God wants to counsel us about life?
- b. Psalm 32:8
 - i. Q: How do “counsel you” and “watch over you” go together?
 - ii. Q: Do you see how God’s counsel is part of his love for us?
- c. Isaiah 9:6
 - i. This is a prophecy about Jesus.
 - ii. Q: How was Jesus a “wonderful counselor”?
- d. Isaiah 11:2
 - i. This is a prophecy about Jesus.
 - ii. Notice the words surrounding counsel here: “wisdom”, “understanding”, “power”, “knowledge”, “fear of the Lord”.
 - iii. Q: How do these words help you understand the kind of counsel Jesus came to give us?
- e. Isaiah 28:29
 - i. God’s counsel is wonderful and his wisdom is magnificent.
- f. John 14:15-18
 - i. This is just days before Jesus is crucified, and one of his last promises to the Apostles is to send the Holy Spirit to be their “Counselor”.
 - ii. Q: Why do you think the Holy Spirit is called “the Spirit of truth”?
 - iii. Q: How does it encourage you that our counselor is truthful?
 - iv. Jesus says that his spirit is currently “with them” and will soon be “in them”. This occurred in Acts 2 when the Holy Spirit entered into them. And it occurs in our lives when we are baptized into Christ (Acts 2).
 - v. Q: How do you think verse 18 encouraged the Apostles when they heard Jesus say it?
 - vi. Q: How does verse 18 encourage us today?

13. Our Comforter

- a. Isaiah 66:13
 - i. Q: Why does God's Word use a mother's tender comfort to illustrate how God comforts us?
 - ii. Q: How does this passage make you feel?
- b. Psalm 23:4
 - i. A shepherd of sheep carried two things:
 1. A staff and a rod
 - a. The staff had a hook on the end and was useful for pulling the sheep out of ditches and ravines they would fall into.
 - b. The rod was straight and was useful as a weapon to ward off the attacks of predators like wolves and lions.
 - ii. Read the passage again.
 1. We are the sheep and God is the shepherd.
 2. Q: How does God's staff (help) and rod (protection) comfort you?
- c. Psalm 86:14-17
 - i. God loves everyone. But he forgives and protects those who fear and love him, while he fights against those who fight against him.
 - ii. Q: How does this help you to want to stay on God's team?
- d. Luke 7:11-17
 - i. Re-read verse 13.
 - ii. Q: Why do you think Jesus' heart went out to this woman?
 - iii. Q: Do you think Jesus' heart goes out to you when you're hurting?
- e. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4
 - i. Look for someone to comfort this week with the comfort you have received from God through this study.
- f. For further study: Psalm 119:50-76

14. Our Refuge/Protector

- a. Psalm 46:1
 - i. A “refuge” is a “shelter, protection, safe haven”.
 - ii. Q: What does it mean that God is our refuge?
 - iii. Q: What does it mean that God is our strength?
 - iv. Q: According to this scripture, when is God ready to help us?
- b. Psalm 57:1
 - i. Q: Is there any other refuge for our souls?
 - ii. Q: When do you most feel like you need protection?
 - iii. When certain species of baby birds sense danger, they run to hide underneath their mother's wings until the danger passes.
 - 1. Q: How badly do you think the mother bird wants to protect the babies under her wings?
 - 2. Q: How determined do you think God is to protect you when you run to Him?
 - 3. Q: How does it make you feel that God wants you to take refuge in the shadow of his wings?
- c. Psalm 62:8
 - i. Q: What does it mean to "pour out your heart"? Is this easy for you? Why or why not?
 - ii. A refuge is "a condition of being safe or sheltered from pursuit, danger, or trouble".
 - 1. Q: How does God being a refuge make it easier for us to "pour out our hearts" to him?
- d. Nahum 1:7
 - i. Q: What are some of the "troubles" you have experienced, or are experiencing, in life?
 - ii. Q: What is the promise in this scripture?
 - iii. Q: What are some ways you can show God that you will trust Him with your troubles?
- e. 2 Thessalonians 3:3
 - i. Q: What are some ways God has already strengthened you in your life?
 - ii. Q: What are some ways you feel he has guarded or protected you?
 - iii. Q: What are some areas of your life that you would like to ask God for more strength and/or protection?
- f. For further study: Deuteronomy 33:26-27, Psalm 9:9, Psalm 32:7, Proverbs 2:7-8, John 17:11

15. Our Deliverer/Rescuer

a. Psalm 18:1-2

i. These verses say God is our:

1. strength
2. rock
3. fortress
4. deliverer
5. refuge
6. shield
7. stronghold

- a. Q: Which of these do you appreciate most about God, and why?

b. Psalm 18:3-6

i. Imagine a father or mother who hear the screams of their young child in danger. This is how God reacts to us when we are in danger or need. He springs into action!

1. Watch him come running to our rescue in the next few verses. (Imagine it's a movie you're watching.)

a. Psalm 18:8-15

i. In the Disney Movie, "The Lion King", Mufasa says to his young son, Simba, "Nobody messes with your dad."

1. God is saying the same thing to us in these verses.

c. Psalm 18:16-19

- i. Q: How do these verses make you feel?
- ii. Q: Do you think God delights in you? Why or why not?
- iii. Q: Is it possible for God to not like our sin, but still like us?
- iv. Remember this: "God hates the sin, but loves the sinner."
- v. God loves you more than anyone. A lot more. Even on your worst day, God still loves you (Romans 5:6-8).

d. For further study: Psalm 34:4-19; Jeremiah 1:8; Daniel 6:27; 2 Timothy 4:18

16. Our Burden Bearer

- a. Deuteronomy 1:29-31
 - i. It's natural for all of us to have fears of many kinds.
 - ii. Q: But God says his people don't need to be afraid. What reasons does this verse give for us not to be afraid?
 - iii. Q: How does it make you feel that God will fight for you and carry you?
- b. Psalm 55:22
 - i. Q: What does it mean to "cast your cares on the Lord"?
 - ii. Q: What does it mean that God will "sustain you"?
- c. Psalm 68:19
 - i. Q: What are some of the daily burdens that we all must bear?
 - ii. Q: What do you think it means that God "daily bears those burdens"?
 - 1. Note: in the New Living Translation Bible this verse is translated, "Praise the Lord; praise God our Savior! For each day he carries us in his arms."
 - a. Q: How does the fact that God carries you each day in his arms make you feel?
- d. Isaiah 41:10
 - i. Q: Why is there no need for fear according to this passage?
- e. 1 Peter 5:7
 - i. Q: What does it mean to "cast all our anxiety on him"?
 - ii. Q: Why does God want us to cast our anxiety on him according to this passage?

17. Promise Keeper

- a. 2 Peter 1:3-4
 - i. This is a deep and rich scripture.
 - ii. Q: What is this teaching us about the promises of God?
- b. Genesis 9:12-17
 - i. Q: What is God's promise in this passage?
- c. John 3:16
 - i. Q: What is God's promise for believers in this passage?
- d. Deuteronomy 30:11-20
 - i. This promise is conditional.
 1. Q: What is this promise and what is its condition?
- e. Hebrews 13:5-6
 - i. This promise is unconditional.
 1. Q: What's God's unconditional promise to us here?
- f. Hebrews 11:39-40
 - i. Sometimes God delays his promises.
 - ii. Q: What promise is being delayed here?
- g. 1 John 2:25
 - i. This is one of God's greatest promises!
 - ii. Q: Is there anyone else who can make this promise to us?
 - iii. Q: From what you've read today, what is our part in making sure we receive this important promise from God?
- h. For further study: Romans 4:18-21; Hebrews 10:23; 2 Peter 1:4.

18. Miracle Worker

- a. Exodus 4:1-9
 - i. Q: What was the purpose of the miracles God did through Moses in Pharaoh's presence?
- b. 1 Chronicles 16:8-13
 - i. Q: Why is it important for us to remember God's wonders and miracles?
 - ii. Q: What are some wonders and miracles that God has done throughout history?
- c. John 2:1-11
 - i. Q: What do you think the servants were thinking when the water they drew had been turned into wine?!
 - ii. Q: What was the purpose and result of this miracle? (See vs. 11)
- d. Matthew 8:23-27
 - i. Q: Why was this miracle of Jesus' so amazing?
- e. For further study (more miracles of Jesus): Matthew 14:25; Matthew 17:24; Matthew 20:30; Mark 1:26; Mark 5:42; Mark 8:23; Luke 5:13; Luke 7:2; Luke 9:12; and many more.

19. Prayer Answerer

- a. Isaiah 65:24
 - i. Look how eager God is to answer our prayers.
 - ii. Q: What does this tell you about God?
- b. Jeremiah 33:3
 - i. Q: What does God promise according to this passage?
- c. Matthew 7:7-11
 - i. Q: What does God promise according to this passage?
 - ii. Q: What does it mean to “ask, seek, and knock”?
 - iii. Q: According to verse 8 does God answer everyone’s prayers or just “good people”? Why is this encouraging to all of us?
 - iv. Q: What’s Jesus’ point in verses 9-11?
- d. Romans 8:26-27
 - i. Q: Why is this passage so encouraging to us?
- e. Revelation 5:8
 - i. Q: What does this passage tell you about how God feels about our prayers?

20. Our Rewarder

- a. Jeremiah 17:10
 - i. Q: Why does God search our hearts and minds when considering how or whether to reward us for our deeds?
- b. Psalm 18:24
 - i. Q: How does God determine our reward?
 - ii. Q: How can we show righteousness?
 - iii. Q: Is “doing what’s right” the same as “not doing what’s wrong”? (See James 4:17)
 - iv. Q: How can we exhibit “cleanness of our hands”?
- c. Matthew 5:11-12
 - i. Q: When we love God, Our Rewarder, what do we open ourselves up to from others?
 - ii. Q: What should our attitude be when those things happen? Why?
- d. Matthew 6:3-4
 - i. Q: Why does God reward the good deeds we do “in secret”?
- e. Proverbs 19:17
 - i. Q: Why do you think we receive a reward from God when we give to the poor?
- f. Proverbs 25:21-22
 - i. Q: Why would God reward you for “heaping burning coals” on the head of your enemy?
- g. 2 Corinthians 5:9-10
 - i. Q: Where is the final reward of all men determined?
 - ii. Q: What determines each person’s reward?
- h. Colossians 3:23-24
 - i. Q: How should we perform on any job we have or are given?
 - ii. Q: How do you usually think about work?
 - iii. Q: How can knowing who you are actually serving and what your real reward is change your thinking about serving at work?
- i. For further study: Jeremiah 32:19; James 2:14-26; Revelation 22:12

21. Our Healer

- a. Psalm 147:3
 - i. Q: Have you ever been hurt by someone? Has your heart been broken? Have you ever lost a friend or a relative? God says, "I can heal you."
- b. Exodus 15:26
 - i. God wants to heal us.
 - ii. Q: What does this verse say God wants from us?
- c. Psalm 41:4
 - i. Sometimes sin can make us feel really bad, and it's good to know that God not only forgives us, but heals us emotionally too.
- d. Psalm 107:20
 - i. This passage says that God's Word can heal us.
 - ii. Q: What are some ways God's Word can heal us?
 1. (You may want to ask an older Christian how God's Word can heal us to get more insight into this passage.)
- e. Psalm 103:1-5
 - i. Q: What are some of the benefits of having a relationship with God? (There are several listed in these five verses.)
 - ii. Q: How do we praise God with all of our inmost being?
 - iii. Q: Do you think your friends at school or church will think you're weird if you praise God that sincerely? Why or why not?
 - iv. Suggest: take a few moments right now to sincerely praise God for all of the benefits this passage lists:
 1. The promise of:
 - a. forgiveness of sins
 - b. that he'll heal all our diseases
 - c. that he'll redeem (rescue) our lives from the pit
 - d. that he crowns us with love and compassion
 - e. that he'll satisfy our desires with good things
 - f. and that he'll renew our strength so we can fly like an eagle
 - i. Praise God!

22. Loving

- a. Psalm 25:10
 - i. Here the words “loving” and “faithful” are used together to describe God.
 - ii. Q: How is “being faithful (loyal)” to someone part of being “loving”?
 - iii. Q: Do you believe that God will be faithful (loyal) to you throughout your life? Why or why not?
- b. Psalm 62:11-12
 - i. Here the words “strong” and “loving” are used to describe God.
 - ii. Q: Why is it important that God is both “strong” and “loving”?
 - iii. Q: If God were just loving, but not strong enough to take care of us, would you be able to trust his faithfulness to you?
- c. Psalm 103:8-13
 - i. Q: How is God’s love described in this passage?
 - ii. Vs. 13 says that the Lord has compassion on “those who fear him”.
 1. That is the Bible’s way of saying “those who fear, respect, love and are faithful to him”.
 2. This is the kind of love we ought to have for our earthly fathers, and the kind of love our heavenly father desires.
- d. 1 Corinthians 13:4-8
 - i. This is a classic passage about love in the Bible.
 - ii. Read through it again and replace the word “love” (or “it” when referring to “love”) with the word “God”.
 - iii. Q: What insights does this give you into the nature of God’s love?
 - iv. This is also how God wants us to love each other.
- e. 1 John 3:16
 - i. This is another well-loved passage of scripture.
 - ii. Q: What does it mean to you?
- f. For further study: 1 John 4:7-21 (a rich passage filled with many insights about God’s love and our love)

23. Patient

- a. Psalm 103:8
 - i. Q: How does the fact that God is “slow to anger” display his patience?
 - ii. Q: What does patience have to do with compassion?
 - iii. Q: What does patience have to do with God’s grace?
 - iv. Q: Aren’t you glad God is patient with us in this way, since we’re all sinners?
- b. Romans 2:4
 - i. This passage says God is “patient” “kind” and “forbearing” (which means he holds back from punishing us).
 - ii. Q: How do the words surrounding God’s patience in this passage help you understand God better?
 - iii. Q: Is the Lord’s patience a “license to sin”? (Does the fact that he’s patient with us mean that he doesn’t mind if we sin against him?)
 - iv. Q: What should our response to God’s patience be?
- c. 1 Corinthians 13:4
 - i. Q: Why do you think patience is listed as the first attribute of love in this passage?
 - ii. Q: How does God’s patience show love to us?
 - iii. Q: How does our patience show love to others?
- d. 1 Timothy 1:15-17
 - i. Q: How does the Bible say God shows his patience to us according to this passage?
- e. 2 Peter 3:9
 - i. Q: How is God showing the world patience according to this passage?
 - ii. Q: How can we be more patient with people in our lives?

24. Kind

- a. Isaiah 63:7
 - i. Q: Why does God's kindness produce praise?
- b. Jeremiah 31:3
 - i. Q: How has God always intended to "draw" or entice people into a relationship with Him?
- c. Ephesians 2:4-7
 - i. Q: How has God expressed His kindness to us?
 - ii. Q: When does God express his kindness to us?
- d. Titus 3:4
 - i. Q: Why does God's kindness save people?
 - ii. Q: How does God's kindness save people?
- e. Romans 2:4
 - i. Q: What should God's kindness produce in us?
 - ii. Q: What are we expressing toward God if we don't respond to His kindness?
- f. For further study: Hosea 11:4; Romans 11:22

25. Compassionate

- a. Nehemiah 9:17-18
 - i. The Israelites refused to listen to God and rebelled against him; but God refused to give up on them.
 - ii. Q: What are some words the Bible uses to describe their rebellion?
 - iii. Another term for “stiff necked” can be “stubborn”.
 1. Q: Has this trait ever been used to describe you?
 2. When we are stubborn, God is still compassionate toward us.
- b. Psalm 145:8-9
 - i. God’s heart toward us:
 1. gracious
 2. compassionate
 3. slow to anger
 4. rich in love
 5. good to all
 - ii. Q: Do you ever feel like there is a limit to God’s compassion for you?
 - iii. Even though the Israelites continually disobeyed God, his compassion freely flowed toward them.
 - iv. Ultimately, God’s compassion for the world gave us the miracle of forgiveness through his Son’s death on the cross.
- c. Isaiah 30:18
 - i. God Longs to be gracious to you (whether or not you think you deserve it).
 - ii. Q: Have you ever “longed” for anything?
 - iii. Q: What does that look like, to “long” for something?
 - iv. Q: Do you remember the last thing you longed for?
 - v. Q: How does it change your view of God to know that he “longs to be gracious to you”?
- d. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4
 - i. God’s compassion causes him to comfort us.
 - ii. God’s compassion on us makes us want to show compassion to others.
 - iii. Q: During times in your life where you have felt compassion for others, have you acted on it? Or, during those times of compassion, did you allow your excuses to talk you out of action?
- e. For further study: Mark 1:40-42; Luke 7:11-16

26. Wise

- a. Psalm 104:24
 - i. Q: In what ways does nature display the wisdom of God?
- b. Proverbs 8:22-31
 - i. Q: Why do you think God chose to start with wisdom as the first of his works?
- c. Isaiah 11:2
 - i. Q: This scripture ties together wisdom and understanding – what is the difference between the two?
- d. Jeremiah 10:12
 - i. The scriptures again discuss God using his wisdom in creation.
 - ii. Q: What might have been the result if God didn't use wisdom in creation?
- e. Romans 11:33-36
 - i. Q: Is anyone as wise as God?
 - ii. Verse 36 says that's one really good reason to give him the glory (credit) forever!
- f. James 1:5
 - i. Q: Why do you think the Bible points out that God will give wisdom generously to all, without finding fault?
 - ii. Q: How can we get wisdom from God?

27. Good

- a. Nahum 1:7
 - i. Q: Why is it important to spend time remembering that "God is good"?
 - ii. Q: How difficult is it to trust someone who is not good?
 - iii. This verse says that God is a refuge *when* trouble comes. Even though God is good, trouble still comes.
 1. Q: In this verse, what does our good God promise He will do for us when trouble comes?
- b. Psalm 119:68
 - i. Q: When thinking about God's commands, why is it helpful to remember that he is good?
 - ii. Q: What are some ways that you can see God's commands are "good" for us?
- c. Psalm 34:8
 - i. Q: What do you think the Psalmist means when he says, "taste and see..."?
 - ii. Experiencing God allows us to taste and see how good he is.
 1. Q: What are ways we can make sure we are 'experiencing' God daily?
 - iii. Q: What do we find as we draw nearer to God and take refuge in him?
- d. Psalm 145:7-9
 - i. Q: How has God shown his goodness in your life? What story about his goodness can you share?
- e. Psalm 106:1
 - i. Make a list of the ways you see God's goodness in your life.
 - ii. Spend some extra time today, or this week, praying through this list and telling God of all the ways you see his goodness and thanking him with all your heart.
- f. For further study: Psalm 25:8, Psalm 107:1, Lamentations 3:25, Matthew 19:17

28. Forgiving

- a. Nehemiah 9:17
 - i. Q: Do you feel like God is slow to be angry with you? In other words, does he let you learn from your mistakes?
 - ii. Q: Does God understand you enough to know you and forgive you?
- b. Psalm 103:1-3
 - i. Q: Do you have anything in your life that you would like God to forget?
 - ii. Q: What does this passage promise about that?
- c. Micah 7:18
 - i. Q: What are the benefits of forgiveness?
- d. Hebrews 10:17
 - i. Q: God remembers nothing that you have done wrong if you have told him about it. Do you believe this statement?
 - ii. Q: Define forgiveness.
- e. 1 John 1:9
 - i. Q: Would you like to feel free without a lot of worries?
 - ii. Q: How does this passage say we can have that?

29. Merciful

a. Matthew 18:21-25

- i. Q: Is it easy to forgive someone who sins against you, even if it's just once?
- ii. Q: What if they sin against you more than once? Is it a little harder?
- iii. Now picture how awesome God is. Even after you have sinned over and over, God forgives you and accepts you as one of his sons/daughters and offers you eternal life.
- iv. God is a merciful God.
 1. Q: What in your life do you need to ask God forgiveness for?
 2. Q: Do you really believe he is merciful enough to forgive you every time?

b. Titus 3:5

- i. This passage says we are *not* saved by the things we do, but by God's mercy.
- ii. Yet most people think we are saved by being "good people".
- iii. Q: Why is it important to understand that we are not saved by our "good deeds", but only by God's grace and mercy?
- iv. Q: Without God's mercy, do you think you could be saved?

c. Luke 6:36

- i. Compassion is feeling with another person and wanting to help them.
- ii. Mercy is withholding from someone what they deserve because we compassionately feel their pain.
- iii. Close your eyes and think about this...
 1. Q: How amazing is it to think that God is not only able to understand how you feel but to share in those feelings as well?

d. Ephesians 2:4-5

- i. Q: Knowing that God is so merciful, and loves you so much that he allowed his only son Jesus to be crucified and raised from the dead for your sins, how does that make you want to live your life?
- ii. Q: What do you see in your life right now that you want to change to thank God for being so merciful to you?

30. Pure and Holy

- a. Exodus 15:11
 - i. This verse compares the true God to “gods” of the pagan religions (specifically Egypt in this context), who are not gods at all.
 - ii. After parting the Red Sea to save the Israelites, they praise and worship God as:
 - 1. Majestic in holiness (“holiness” basically means that God is wholly different than his creation; far above and superior to anything he has made)
 - 2. Awesome in glory and Working Wonders
- b. Leviticus 11:45
 - i. If holiness is to be “different, set apart from the creation”, then God is calling us to be different and set apart from our world as well.
 - ii. Q: What are some ways you think God wants us to be holy (different, set apart) from the world?
- c. Leviticus 19:1-4, 9-18
 - i. Here are some specifics of the holy lives that God called the Israelites to.
 - ii. Q: As Christians we are no longer under “the old covenant”, but God does not change (Hebrews 13:8) so what can we learn about God from this passage?
- d. Isaiah 6:1-4
 - i. The word “seraph” means “burning ones”.
 - ii. Seraphs are powerful angelic beings whom we’ll be able to see worshipping God in heaven one day! (Cool!)
 - iii. Even though Seraphs (like all angels in heaven) are sinless, they still worship God as greater than themselves.
 - iv. This shows us that when we say “God is holy”, we mean much more than “God is sinless”. We mean that God is wholly above and superior to all that he has made.
- e. Habakkuk 1:13a
 - i. Here the prophet Habakkuk is complaining to God that he should punish the Babylonians for their wickedness.
 - ii. In his argument, Habakkuk points out that God is “too pure to look on evil” and “cannot tolerate wrong”.
 - iii. This is why God had to forsake his own son, Jesus, when he hung on the cross – because Jesus took all of the sins of the world on himself at that point in order to pay the penalty for us (Matthew 27:46; 2 Corinthians 5:21).
- f. 1 Peter 1:15-16
 - i. Q: Why does God want us to be holy?

31. Light

- a. Psalm 27:1
 - i. Q: How is God like a bright light that drives out the fear of darkness?
- b. Psalm 36:9
 - i. As God is the fountain (source) of life, he is also the creator (source) of all light.
 - ii. Q: Why is hell a place of darkness?
- c. Psalm 104:1-2
 - i. God's clothes literally shine with light.
 - ii. (See Mark 9:2-4 when Jesus' clothes became dazzling white at the transfiguration giving the Apostles a glimpse of his divinity.)
- d. Isaiah 60:1-3
 - i. Q: In what ways does God's light make his people shine?
- e. 1 John 1:5
 - i. Q: God is pure, perfect, sinless and truthful, and while we can't be all those things, how important is it that we strive to be honest and open?
- f. Revelation 21:22-23; 22:5
 - i. Q: Why will God be all the light we'll need in heaven?

32. Just and Fair

- a. Deuteronomy 32:3-4
 - i. To be “just” is to be “fair, impartial, objective, unbiased, unprejudiced, evenhanded, reasonable, balanced, and right”.
 - ii. Q: Why is it good to know that God is just and fair?
 - iii. Q: Is there anyone else in the world as just and fair as God?
- b. Psalm 103:6
 - i. Q: What does it mean to be “oppressed”?
 - ii. Q: Why is it good to know that God has a special heart for the oppressed?
 - iii. Q: Do you think God wants us to have a heart for the oppressed as well?
- c. Proverbs 29:26
 - i. Sometimes we get justice in this life, and sometimes we do not. Life can be unfair. But justice ultimately comes from God – either in this life or the next.
 - ii. Q: Why do you think people put their trust in those who have power on earth?
 - iii. Q: Should our trust be in them or in God? Why?
- d. Colossians 4:1
 - i. Since God is fair, he wants us to be fair to others as well.
- e. 1 Peter 2:18-23
 - i. Q: How does it help us endure injustice in this life to know that God one day will judge everyone justly?
 - ii. Q: How did Jesus do this on the cross?
 - iii. Q: How important is it that Jesus waited for God the Father’s ultimate justice? (See verses 24-25)
- f. Romans 12:17-21
 - i. Q: What does this passage teach us about how to respond to those who do evil to us?
 - ii. Q: How can our trust in God’s justice help us do this?

33. Faithful

a. Deuteronomy 7:9

- i. Q: God is faithful, but in this scripture what is God asking of you?
- ii. Q: How are you showing God that you love him?
- iii. Q: Are you obeying his commands?
- iv. One of the ways to show God how much you love him is by spending time with him by praying and reading your bible.
 1. Q: How much time a week do you think you spend praying and reading your bible?
 2. Q: Do you think it's a good amount of time or do you want to make a goal to spend more time with him next week?

b. Lamentations 3:22-23

- i. Wow, God is faithful to us every day.
 1. Q: How has God been faithful to you?
 - a. If you're having trouble coming up with a list, ask your parents or a friend from church to help you out. Sometimes if you're not looking for it, it can be hard to see how amazingly faithful God is in everything.

c. 1 Corinthians 10:13

- i. Q: Have you ever felt tempted to do something you knew was wrong?
- ii. Q: Can you think of a recent example?
- iii. Q: God, who is faithful, gave you a way out, a way to do what was right; did you take it, or give in to temptation?
- iv. Next time you are tempted to do something wrong, look for the way out.

d. For further study: Psalm 25:10, Psalm 33:4, Psalm 145:13, 2 Timothy 2:11-13