

ANSWERS: Who Is God?: Lesson 1 God Is Good

Learning to know and love God for who He is, His character, attributes and being

Lesson 1: God Is Good (Day One) *The Good Creation*

Definition: Image of God means humans have been created on purpose to be like God. We are not the same as God but have some of the same qualities and share in His spiritual nature.

Definition: Spiritual is an adjective describing the unseen as opposed to material or physical things. When the word spirit is used of humans it includes thinking, understanding and emotions.

Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence⁸ If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.⁹ If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea,¹⁰ even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.¹¹ If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,"¹² even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you. Psalm 139:7-13

1. Read Psalm 139:7-13 and ask God to speak to you through these verses. What do you feel God is saying to you?

Personal Answer. Bible Minister: Please pray and ask the Holy Spirit to lead you in making appropriate and helpful comments on this learner's personal answers. If the learner has questions about talking with God, print and send "Steps to Communicating with God" on the CLI website.

Definition: Relationship refers to the way you are related or connected to another person. It also means how you behave or care about another person. In this case, we are looking at your relationship with God.

Read Psalm 139:13-14 and answer questions 2-3:

For you (God) created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.¹⁴ I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. Psalm 139:13-14 (parenthesis added by author of study)

2. Who created you (v. 13)?

God

3. How have you been made (v. 14a)?

Fearfully and wonderfully.

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4. How are God's works described (v. 14b)?

Wonderful or wonderfully.

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day. Genesis 1:31

5. Read Genesis 1:31 and fill in the blanks. All that God had made was very good.

6. Circle one of the five senses that you value the most: Sight, smell, hearing, taste and touch.

Personal Answer

7. Name one good thing you enjoy about the sense you circled in question 6:

Personal Answer

Read Psalm 34:8 and answer questions 8-9:

Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.

Psalm 34:8 (Refuge is defined as a place of shelter and protection from danger or trouble)

8. Fill in the blanks. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

9. Since God is good, where should we go to seek help and protection?

God

Lesson 1: God Is Good (Day Two) *The Fall From Good*

Definition: Sin is going against God and His plans. Sin causes us to miss God's purpose and good plan for our lives.

Definition: The word grace can have a variety of meanings in the Bible. In saying mankind fell from God's grace means they lost His favor or goodwill.

Read Genesis 2:16-17 and answer questions 10-11:

And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; ¹⁷but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die." Genesis 2:16-17

10. What was the name of the tree the man and woman were not supposed to eat from (v. 17a)?

Tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

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11. What did God say would happen if Adam and Eve ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (v. 17b)?

They would certainly die. They would die.

Read Genesis 3:4-7 and answer questions 12-16:

"You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. ⁵ "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it." ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. Genesis 3:4-7

12. What did Satan (devil, Lucifer) in the serpent say to the woman, Eve, about dying (v. 4):

You will not certainly die. Or you will not die.

13. According to Satan, why did God not want Adam and Eve to eat from this particular tree?

Satan's version: your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.

14. Why did the woman disobey God by eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (v. 6)?

The woman was deceived. She believed Satan's lie. She saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it

15. Why did the man disobey God by eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (v. 6)?

The woman gave him some and he took it and ate it. The man was disobedient. He could have refused.

16. What happened after they ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (v. 7)?

The eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked

Read James. 1:13-15 and answer questions 17-19:

When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; ¹⁴ but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. James. 1:13-15

17. Could God ever be tempted or attracted to sin? (v. 13)? Yes **No** (Circle One)

18. Does God ever tempt or invite anyone to do or be evil (v.13)? Yes **No** (Circle One)

19. Each person, including you and me, are tempted by our own evil desire (v.14).

Read Ezekiel 28:14-17 and answer questions 20-21:

You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. ¹⁵ You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you. ¹⁶ Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones. ¹⁷ Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. Ezekiel 28:14-17

Definition: A cherub is a class or group of winged angels. The cherubim act as guards or attendants.

Definition: Fiery Stones are gemstones, such as emeralds, that describe God and heaven. The precious stones reflect the brilliance of God's presence and heaven (Revelation 4:3, 21:18-21).

20. Satan was a guardian cherub in heaven who was blameless in his ways from the day God created him until what was found in him (v. 15)?

Wickedness.

21. What had happened to Satan's heart (v. 17)?

It became proud.

It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees. Psalm 119:71

22. Read Psalm 119:71. Have you ever experienced a time of suffering or trouble and saw good come from it? Yes No (Circle One) If yes, please write about it:

Personal Answer. Bible Minister: please comment thoughtfully and appropriately.

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. ⁹ "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." Isaiah. 55:8-9

23. Read Isaiah. 55:8-9. Are our thoughts and ways as great and wonderful as God's? Yes **No** (Circle One)

But who are you, a human being, to talk back to God? "Shall what is formed say to the one who formed it, "Why did you make me like this?" Romans. 9:20

24. Read Romans. 9:20. Do human beings have any right to question God or His goodness in creation? Yes **No** (Circle One)

Read Isaiah 14:12-15 and answer questions 25-26:

How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations!¹³ You said in your heart, "I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon.¹⁴ I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High."¹⁵ But you are brought down to the realm of the dead, to the depths of the pit. Isaiah 14:12-15

25. Satan had fallen from heaven and cast down where (v. 12)?

Earth.

26. Who did Satan want to rule over (v.13-14)?

God.

27. Satan was brought down to the realm of the dead (v. 15).

Lesson 1: God Is Good (Day Three) The Rescue

Far be it from you to do such a thing-- to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right? Genesis 18:25

28. Read Genesis 18:25. Does God treat the righteous and the wicked alike? Yes **No** (Circle One)

Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. Psalm 51:5

29. Read Psalm 51:5. When do we become sinful?

Conception and birth.

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned-- Romans. 5:12

30. Read Romans 5:12. Who is the one man through which sin entered the world?

Adam.

Read Romans 3:22-26 and answer questions 31-34:

This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile,²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,²⁴ and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.²⁵ God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement,¹ through the shedding of his blood-- to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins

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committed beforehand unpunished--²⁶ he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus. Romans 3:22-26

Definition: Righteousness means being in a right relationship with God. It means doing what God expects. That is, doing God's will in all areas of life. This definition is from the Bible.

31. How do humans become righteous (v. 22a)?

Faith in Jesus Christ.

Definition: Faith means complete trust and dependence on God. Believing *in* Jesus Christ means the same as faith in Him. Faith is total commitment and loyalty to Jesus and God's will.

32. How many people have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (v. 23a)?

All.

33. How many people who place their faith in Jesus Christ will be justified (v. 24)?

All.

Justify is to make righteous. *God is so good*, that He planned a way for mankind to be made righteous. This means inherited sin and all the sins humans commit on earth can be forgiven (Genesis 3:15). He sent His perfect Son to pay the penalty for sin by dying on a cross. *Jesus is so good*, that He *willingly* died on the cross so that we would have our sins forgiven.

Definition: Redemption is a word that was used in ancient times. It meant to pay the required price for the release of a convicted criminal, prisoner of war etc. Biblical writers borrowed the word to describe Christ's death on the cross in payment of our sins. Thus, Jesus is known as our Redeemer.

Definition: Atonement can be remembered by taking the word apart (at-one-ment). It means to bring together as one those who were enemies. Biblically, it is what Christ accomplished by His death and resurrection. We were enemies of God and Christ's death has made us one with Him.

34. What did Christ's sacrifice of atonement on the cross do for those who believe (v. 25-26)?

Sins are forgiven and punished in Christ. Justified or made righteous.

He (God) tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young. Isaiah. 40:11 (Parentheses by author)

35. Read Isaiah 40:11. Who looks after His people like a shepherd?

God.

Read John 10:11 and answer questions 36-37:

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. John 10:11

36. Jesus says, "I am the good shepherd

37. What does the good shepherd do?

Lays down his life for the sheep.

Read Romans 10:9-10 and answer questions 38-40:

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. Romans 10:9-10

38. Have you ever said that Jesus is your Lord (Leader) and believed it in your heart?
Yes No Maybe (Circle One)

Personal Answer.

If you are not sure or have never prayed to receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you may pray:

Lord Jesus, I believe You are the Son of God and died for my sins. I have not obeyed God and I am truly sorry. Right now, I turn from my sins and invite You to come into my life. I receive You as my Lord and Savior. I want God's plan for my life. I will follow You and obey You in all that I do. Thank You for saving me, Father, and making me Your child. Thank You for loving me, I love You. Amen.

39. I prayed in the *past* for Christ to come into my life on this date:

Bible Minister: Encourage him or her to stand firm in the faith.

40. I prayed the above prayer *today* from my heart. I sincerely trust Jesus as my Lord and Savior.
Yes No (Circle One)

Bible Minister: If your learner has answered yes and prayed to receive Jesus as Lord and Savior, please email CLIMinisters@gmail.com with the inmate's name, institution, title of this study and date of salvation.

Also please write him or her an encouraging, loving and motivational note on a separate card or piece of stationary.

Lesson 1: God Is Good (Day Four) *The Good Relationship*

Definition: Salvation means to save from danger, loss or ruin. In Christian terms, salvation means being saved from the penalty and power of sin through Christ Jesus.

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The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made. Psalm 145:9

41. Read Psalm 145:9. The Lord is good to all: he has compassion on all he has made.

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.²⁹ 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 (Predestine means to decide in advance; predetermine by divine will.)

42. Read Romans 8:28-29. For believers who have been called according to God's purpose, who did He decide we should be like?

Jesus Christ, God's Son.

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9

43. Read 2 Peter 3:9. How many people does God want to repent (turn from sin)?

Everyone or all.

You are good, and what you do is good; teach me your decrees. Psalm 119:68

Definition: Decrees are statutes, laws or commands. Decree is the way God wants things to work.

44. I read Psalm 119:68 and prayed for God to teach me His decrees: Yes No (Circle One)

Personal Answer. However, if the Learner did not pray, ask why.

Read James 1:17 and answer questions 45-46:

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. James 1:17

45. Where does every *good and perfect gift* come from?

Our Father in heaven. Or the Father of the heavenly lights. God.

46. Does God ever change from being good? Yes No (Circle One)

If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him! Luke. 11:13

47. Read Luke. 11:13. Who will your Father in heaven give to you?

The Holy Spirit.

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Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your good Spirit lead me on level ground.
Psalm 143:10

48. Read and pray Psalm 143:10: "My God, Teach me to do Your will and may Your good and Holy Spirit lead me in the way of righteousness. Amen." I prayed: Yes No (Circle One)

Personal Answer. However, if our Learner did not pray, ask why.

Lesson 1: God Is Good (Day Five) Why God Allows Evil and Suffering

These are the verses the Learner was suppose to look up in a Bible and read:

Yes, and from ancient days I am he. No one can deliver out of my hand. When I act, who can reverse it? Isaiah 43:13

At the end of that time, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored. Then I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified him who lives forever. His dominion is an eternal dominion; his kingdom endures from generation to generation.
Daniel 4:34

For no word from God will ever fail. Luke 1:37

49. Read about God being all-powerful from a Bible (Isaiah 43:13; Daniel 4:34; Luke 1:37). What do these verses tell you about God?

Personal Answer. Learner just needs to summarize a few words about God's power. However, here are suggestions based on each verse:

Isaiah 43:13: **God is all powerful. No one can change or reverse what God acts upon.**

Daniel 4:34: **God lives forever and His power and authority is forever.**

Luke 1:37: **When God speaks or decrees something, it will be done.**

These are the verses the Learner was suppose to look up in a Bible and read:

Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit. Psalm 147:5

Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom.
Isaiah 40:28

Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account. Hebrews 4:13

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50. Read about God being all-knowing from a Bible (Psalm 147:5; Isaiah 40:28; Hebrew 4:13). What do these verses tell you about God?

Personal Answer. Learner just needs to summarize a few words about God being all-knowing. However, here are suggestions based on each verse:

Psalm 147:5: **There is no limit to God's understanding and knowledge.**

Isaiah 40:28: **God knows so much that no one can even comprehend, understand or grasp His vast knowledge.**

Hebrews 4:13: **God knows everything about His creation including all mankind has ever thought or done.**

51. Have you ever felt God did not answer your prayers or protect you from evil? If yes, please share so your CLI Bible Minister can pray for you:

Personal Answer. Bible Minister: Please pray as the Holy Spirit leads. Also pray your Learner will know God is good and the outcome and circumstances of this situation will be used for God's purposes and for the person's good.

52. Are you going through a hard time and feel that God does not care? If yes, please share so your CLI Bible Minister can pray for you:

Personal Answer. Bible Minister: Please pray as the Holy Spirit leads. Also let your Learner know you are praying for this situation.

53. Can you share a difficult time in your life that God has used to help others?

Personal Answer.

54. What good work do you think our good God is calling you to do?

Personal Answer. Bible Minister: Please write an encouraging comment.

Next Lesson 2: Who Is God? God Is Mercy

Note: *Certificate mailed after the completion of Lesson 5*

Rev 9/27/2017

