

ATTRIBUTES OF GOD - PART 2

Purpose: To encourage and challenge you to know God in a deeper, more intimate way.

Objectives: This session will:

1. Help the students to understand the importance of an intimate, love relationship with God.
2. Give them practical ways to deepen their understanding of Christ.
3. Motivate them to want to know God in a deeper way.

Key Verse: John 17:3

I. Introduction

If I were to ask you to describe your closest friend on earth, how well could you? Could you tell us about his or her appearance, their personality, any idiosyncrasies they may have, what they like and dislike? You probably could. How about the core values and convictions they hold? Take a minute to write down your dearest friend's core values and convictions. *(After they have done this, ask them if they struggled with this question)*

How did you get to know your friend? *Let them answer. Some possible answers could be that we spend time with them, we do things with them, and we see them interact with others in numerous ways.*

If you know your closest friend this well, how much better should you know the Creator of the universe? Read Philippians 3:7&8 *(have someone read it aloud)*.

The Apostle Paul speaks vividly of his love relationship with Christ. He wanted to know Christ more than anything. Nothing was more important than that.

Transition: If we are going to be intimate with Christ, if we are going to hold the same values He holds, then we must know who He is. To do this, we must walk with Him, see how He interacts with others, and see how He responds to their needs. We come to know who He is by seeing Him in action. We can also learn about Him by studying His attributes. You may recall that an attribute of God is anything that He has revealed about Himself as true.

II. Knowing God

Theologians have looked at God's attributes in many ways. One of the more common methods is to divide them into those attributes we have in common with Him and those we don't have in common with Him. *Ask the class if they know what the official designations are for these.* Theologians call them communicable and incommunicable attributes. Incommunicable attributes

are ones that God cannot share with anyone else, and communicable ones are those that He shares with us in a limited sense.

Another way of knowing God is through His names. In biblical times names were descriptive of the person's actions, character and calling. Eve's Hebrew name, Isshah, meant that she was taken out of man, Ish. Abraham's original name, Abram, meant exalted Father; God changed it to Abraham, father of multitudes. Esau means, red and hairy; Jacob means one who takes by the heel, or supplants. (*Perhaps share what your name means if it will not detract from the message.*) A person's name described him. So it was with God. It tells us how God has acted in history.

Write the words communicable, incommunicable, and names of God on the board and have the class list attributes and names they know of under each category. After they have finished, have them share with the group which attribute or name means the most to them, and why. If you have time, then have them share one or two attributes or names they are least familiar with.

After the discussion, hand out the list of attributes and names (p. 3). If the group has had difficulty coming up with attributes and names of God, you could give them the list after they have listed all that they know and before they share with the group the attribute or name that means the most to them.

III. Challenge

How well do you know the Creator? Is your relationship with Him centered on devotion, or duty? Our love for God should compel us to discover God's nature, leading to intimacy with Him. All things were created for Christ's pleasure, as we are told in Colossians 1:16. Furthermore, the Father wants Him to have first place in everything (Colossians 1:18). In order for us to become increasingly more like Christ, we must understand more and more what sets Him apart from us - His intrinsic properties, His attributes.

God, Who are You?

The Attributes of God

Sovereign
 Omnipresent
 Omniscient
 Omnipotent
 Wise
 Love
 Light
 Immutable
 Just
 Good
 Jealous
 Merciful
 Gracious
 Holy
 Wrathful
 Patient
 Self-Existent
 Self-Sufficient
 Infinite
 Eternal
 Faithful
 Transcendent

The Names of God

El.....unlimited strength, energy
 Elohim..... infinite strength, absolute faithfulness
 Jehovah eternal self-existence, promise keeper
 Adonai..... Lord
 El ShaddaiGod Almighty, sustainer, satisfier
 El ElyonMost High God
 El Olam..... The Everlasting God
 El Roi The God Who sees
 Jehovah-Jireh The Lord will Provide
 Jehovah-Nissi..... The Lord my Banner
 Jehovah-Tsidkenu The Lord our Righteousness
 Jehovah-Ra-AhThe Lord my Shepherd
 Jehovah-Rapha.....The Lord that Heals
 Jehovah-Shalom..... The Lord my Peace
 Jehovah-Sabaoth The Lord of Hosts
 Jehovah-Shammah..... The Lord is Present
 Qadosh Holy One
 Tsur Rock
 Shapaht Judge
 Gaal.....Redeemer
 Magan Shield
 PalatDeliverer
 Yasha, Soter..... Savior
 Ab/Pater..... Father
 Abba..... Daddy
 Baal Husband

Further Study of God's Attributes

Attribute

Where Found in Scripture

Sovereign	2 Chronicles 20:6; Psalm 83:18; Daniel 2:20,21, 47; Job 12:9,10; Nehemiah 9:6; Romans 8:28
Omnipotent	Deuteronomy 3:24; Matthew 19:26; Jeremiah 10:6,12,13; Jeremiah 32:17; Isaiah 40:28
Forgiving/Gracious	Psalm 78:38; Psalm 103:8-14; Acts 20:24,32; 1 Corinthians 15:10; 2 Corinthians 8:9; 1 John 1:9
Love	Psalm 13:5; Psalm 31:19,21; Psalm 36:7; Psalm 86:5,13,15; Psalm 103:8,11,17; Isaiah 30:18; Jeremiah 31:3,14; Zephaniah 3:17; John 15:9; John 17:23; Romans 5:8; Romans 8:35-39; Ephesians 2:4,5; Ephesians 3:16-19; 1 John 4:8
Just	Deuteronomy 32:3,4; Psalm 9:4,7,8; Psalm 89:13,14; Jeremiah 9:24; Zephaniah 3:5; John 5:30; Revelation 15:3,4
Omnipresent	Deuteronomy 20:1,4; Psalm 139:3,5,7-10; Isaiah 45:2,3; Acts 17:27,28
Provider	Deuteronomy 2:7; Psalm 34:9,10; Isaiah 25:4,5; Joel 2:21,23, 26; Matthew 6:30-33; 2 Corinthians 9:8-10
Immutable	Numbers 23:19,20; Psalm 16:8; Psalm 102:26,27; Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 6:17,18; Hebrews 13:6,8