10/18/26 Message

Part of FollowJourney of Discipleship
October 15, 2026

Message: Who is God

Series: Follow

Background

> *I'm approaching this series as if we are all in the same stage of our journey with Jesus, at the beginning. For some, this will be a review, but for most it will be a guide for what comes next. For all of us, if we'll let God work in and through us, we'll grow closer to Jesus and each other.*
>
> *—Pastor Chad*

Matthew 28:19-20 (NLT)
19 "Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

> *It's a circle of life with Jesus at the center. When you jump on the circle, it should be your goal to reach out and grab everyone you can and pull them on the circle with you. There's a lot more to it, but it's a great illustration. When you commit your life to Jesus and you commit to following Jesus, then you become His disciple. It's like being a student. You're only a student as long as you choose to be. That's the problem with this thing we call the spiritual journey. So many of us choose Jesus when we need Him, but when life is good, we forget all about Him. We stop being a student!*
>
> *—Pastor Chad*

- The spiritual journey is intended to be a LIFELONG commitment where you start and never stop.

God Is…

- God is our CREATOR

Genesis 1:1 (NLT)
In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1:26 (NLT)
Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us."

> *We were made to be whole without anything the world can offer and without anything we achieve or acquire. We were made for him to meet all our needs! But that wasn't enough for Adam and Eve and sadly it's not enough for many of us today.*
>
> *—Pastor Chad*

- God is THREE IN ONE

> *We believe that our one God exists in three persons. One God, in the Holy Trinity, God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Hard to understand, but it doesn't make it any less true. One triangle, but it has three points. Each point is separate and distinct, yet together, make one triangle. One trinity, yet each part is separate and distinct yet together make one. If we could understand it, it wouldn't require faith, but it does.*
>
> *—Pastor Chad*

Hebrew names for God:
-YHWH (Lord, God, Jehovah)
-Adonai (Lord, Master)
-El (Power or God)
-Shaddai (God Almighty)
-Tzevaot (Lord of Hosts or Lord of Armies)
-Ehyeh (I am)
-Elohim (Creator or Judge)

> *In the very first verse of our Bible, the word God called himself is Elohim, a plural noun and when it was used to*

describe God our Creator or God our Judge, the noun is plural, but it is joined with singular verbs. Plural, 3 persons, singular, 1 God. Used over 2,500 times, it's one of the most prevalent words in the Hebrew Scriptures. It appears in every major section of the Old Testament including the Torah, the Prophets, the Writings, yet it is especially concentrated in Genesis and Psalms. It shows the importance of understand our one God is made up of three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit! There are other religions that don't believe in the Holy Trinity, but you can't say you believe the Bible if you don't believe what it tells us.

—Pastor Chad

Examples in Scripture of the Holy Trinity:
-Genesis 1:1
-Genesis 1:26
-Genesis 3:22
-Genesis 11:7
-Matthew 3:16-17
–All three persons appear simultaneously (the son is baptized, the spirit descended like a dove, and the Father's voice speaks from heaven).
-Matthew 28:19
–Jesus gave the Great Commission and commands us to baptize in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
-2 Corinthians 13:14
–Paul invokes the grace of Jesus Christ, the Son, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit

God used a plural name to describe himself almost 3,000 times and God doesn't make mistakes! The Holy Trinity is real, and the Holy Trinity is God!

—Pastor Chad

- God is our <u>REDEEMER</u>

Genesis 1 and 2 describe God's creation and then Genesis 3 comes with a twist. Adam and Eve screwed up! Sin entered the world and sin brought shame, fear, death,

and separation from God. I love what happened! God was hurt. God was crushed! But even though Adam and Eve hid in their shame, God still pursued them! You can't play hide and seek with God because he's omnipresent (he's everywhere) and he's omniscient (he knows everything). Try hiding from that!

—Pastor Chad

Genesis 3:9 (NLT)

Then the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?"

Where are you Adam? (Asked the man who knows everything, who is literally everywhere!) He didn't ask because he didn't know; he didn't lose Adam. Adam was hiding, but God knew exactly where he was. God threw out an invitation to Adam. He wanted Adam to change his heart! He wanted Adam to come running to him! God's question exposed a broken relationship that needed healing; it exposed a sinful man who needed forgiveness. God was offering Adam forgiveness! God was offering Adam redemption! And through Jesus, God offers us redemption!

—Pastor Chad

John 3:16-17 (NLT)

For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.

Redemption is more than just forgiveness of sins; it's restoring the relationship sin broke with our creator. The shift from the OT to the NT shows us how far God's creation had gotten from him. Creation was so far away from God they couldn't find their way back to him, so he sent Jesus to show them the way! That's what being a Christian means. They didn't use that term explicitly, instead a Christian was a follower of the way. Which way? The way back to our God, our Creator! That's why Jesus had to come to earth and that's why Jesus had to

die on the cross to pay for our sins. He died in our place, so we'd have a way back to God!

—Pastor Chad

- God is our KING

Sometimes we think of God as the invisible, even absent one that we don't have to think about until we die. Sadly, we often live that way. Sometimes we get a bit selfish and we forget about him until things go bad and we need him, then we seek him. But then after the crisis is over, back to normal…
Invisible… absent… forgotten… God didn't create Adam and Eve just to be trinkets on a bookshelf or something cool to look at. He created them to have a relationship with him, to love him, to worship him, to enjoy the life and everything he gave them. Even though there's a personal intimacy God wants with each of us, it doesn't change his position as all powerful, omniscient, creator, and king! He is our king of kings and lord of lords… He is our king!

—Pastor Chad

From Genesis to Revelation, one great story unfolds.
-He creates.
-We rebel.
-God the Father pursues.
-God the son (Jesus) redeems.
-God the Holy Spirit transforms.
-And he will ultimately make everything new!

Who is God? He is the eternal creator who made us. He is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the Holy Trinity. He is the redeemer who came to save us. He is our king who invites us to know him and join him on his mission.

—Pastor Chad

You can't follow someone you don't know. And you cannot know Jesus without encountering the God who made you, loves you, and came to redeem you!

—Pastor Chad