

6 WEEKS

GOD IS...

**IN THIS SERIES STUDY GUIDE,
WE ARE DIVING INTO JUST
A FEW OF THE INCREDIBLE
ATTRIBUTES OF GOD. THESE
ATTRIBUTES HELP US TO
KNOW AND UNDERSTAND
WHO GOD IS, THAT WE MIGHT
MORE WHOLLY TRUST AND
SURRENDER OURSELVES TO
HIM.**

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MERCY

WEEK 1 SMALL GROUP STUDY

Kicking it off:

Share about the worst physical pain you've ever endured.

Big Idea:

God's mercy brings us hope when we are hurting.

Key Scriptures:

LAMENTATIONS

3:19–23

"I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall. I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me. Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope.

The faithful love of the LORD never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning."

EPHESIANS 2:1–5

(NLT)

"Once you were dead because

of your disobedience and your many sins. You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else. But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!)"

2 SAMUEL 24:14

"David said to Gad, "I am in deep distress. Let us fall into the hands of the Lord, for his mercy is great; but do not let me fall into human hands."

ROMANS 12:1

"In view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies

as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship.”

Discussion:

1. Read Lamentations 3:19-23. These words are written by the prophet Jeremiah, who was known as the weeping prophet. He endured much hardship and pain in his life as he sought to be faithful to the Lord’s call. What do you learn about Jeremiah from this passage?
2. What do you learn about God’s mercy?
3. How might this understand be an encouragement to you in the midst of your own suffering?
4. Read Ephesians 2:1-5. Discuss God’s characteristics of:
 - Justice: when you get what you deserve
 - Grace: when you get what you don’t deserve
 - Mercy: when you don’t get what you do deserve
5. How have you seen God’s mercy played out in your own life?
6. Read 2 Samuel 24:14. David was in great distress because of his sinful choices, and because He knew the depths of God’s mercy, he chose to fall into God’s hand to face

his judgment. And God was both just and merciful to David. What keeps you from falling into God’s hands in the midst of your own distress?

7. How could God’s mercy bring you hope when you’re hurting?

Wrapping It Up:

As an application to today’s study, read Romans 12:1. How might you present your body as a living sacrifice as an act of worship of your merciful God?

Prayer Focus:

Pray with expressions of gratitude for God’s mercy and for the gift of freedom and independence we enjoy in these United States of America. Pray for our country to be united, for division and disunity to be dispelled, and for a return to being “one nation under God.”

Memory Verse:

“The faithful love of the LORD never ends! His mercies never cease.”

Lamentations 3:22

ALL-KNOWING

WEEK 2 SMALL GROUP STUDY

Kicking it off:

Who is the most knowledgeable person you know?

Big Idea:

Seek to know the God who sees you.

Key Scriptures:

ISAIAH 43:5

“Do not be afraid, for I am with you...”

GENESIS 16:7–11, 13 (ESV)

“The angel of the LORD found her by a spring of water in the wilderness ... And he said, “Hagar, servant of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going?” She said, “I am fleeing from my mistress Sarai.” The angel of the LORD said to her, “Return to your mistress and submit to her. ... I will surely multiply your offspring so that

they cannot be numbered for multitude. ... Behold, you are pregnant and shall bear a son. You shall call his name Ishmael, because the LORD has listened to your affliction”... She gave this name to the LORD who spoke to her: “You are the God who sees me,” for she said, “I have now seen the One who sees me.”

HEBREWS 4:13

“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.”

ISAIAH 55:9 (ESV)

“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

PSALM 121:1–2

“I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.”

Discussion:

1. Read Isaiah 43:5. Do you ever feel alone? What truths about God can help you remember that He is always near?
2. Have you ever been so focused on a problem that you were blinded from truth? How did you start seeing God again?
3. Read Genesis 16:7-11,13. Hagar saw her situation as hopeless, but God knew something she didn't know, and saw something she couldn't see. Discuss how God's all-knowing ways encouraged Hagar and changed her perspective.
4. Read Hebrews 4:13 and Isaiah 55:9. What do these passages tell you about God's perspective versus your own?
5. How might this give you confidence to trust in Him?
6. Read Psalm 121:1-2. Is there a situation in your life that feels hopeless right now? Talk about this with your group. What would it look like to lift your eyes to Him?

Wrapping It Up:

One of the names of God that is derived from Hagar's story is El Roi- the God who sees. How

will you be more diligent to seek the God who sees you?

Prayer Focus:

Pray for our Men of Valor group, who gather each week to reject passivity, accept responsibility, lead courageously and serve wholeheartedly.

Memory Verse:

*“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*

LOVE

WEEK 3 SMALL GROUP STUDY

Kicking it off:

What labels have identified you over the years?

Big Idea:

The lavish love of the Father labels you as His child.

Key Scriptures:

1 JOHN 3:1

“See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!”

LUKE 8:40-48

“On the other side of the lake the crowds welcomed Jesus, because they had been waiting for him. Then a man named Jairus, a leader of the local synagogue, came and fell at Jesus’ feet, pleading with him to come home with him. His only daughter, who was about twelve years old, was dying. As Jesus went with him, he

was surrounded by the crowds. A woman in the crowd had suffered for twelve years with constant bleeding, and she could find no cure. Coming up behind Jesus, she touched the fringe of his robe. Immediately, the bleeding stopped. “Who touched me?” Jesus asked. Everyone denied it, and Peter said, “Master, this whole crowd is pressing up against you.” But Jesus said, “Someone deliberately touched me, for I felt healing power go out from me.” When the woman realized that she could not stay hidden, she began to tremble and fell to her knees in front of him. The whole crowd heard her explain why she had touched him and that she had been immediately healed. “Daughter,” he said to her, “your faith has made you well. Go in peace.”

PSALM 103:13 (NLT)

“The LORD is like a father to his children, tender and compassionate to those who fear him.”

EXODUS 34:6

"...the LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness."

ROMANS 5:8 (NLT)

"But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners."

DEUTERONOMY 31:8

"The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."

Discussion:

1. Read 1 John 3:1 Have you ever struggled to believe that God is a loving Father and you are His beloved child? Why do you think that is?
2. How has that view shifted? In what ways are you still working to see God as loving?
3. Read Luke 8:40-48. Discuss the significance of the shame that the woman who was healed must have walked in for twelve years (she was continually unclean), and of Jesus calling her "daughter".

For additional insight, watch this clip from The Chosen, reenacting her story.

<https://youtube/2ik9KWmBgAM>
(grab your tissues)

4. How do you think her life changed after that?
5. What does it look like for you to live as a child of God? What's different in your life because of this truth?
6. Read Psalm 103:13, Exodus 34:6, Romans 5:8, and Deuteronomy 31:8. Discuss what you learn about God's character from these verses.
7. When we receive God's love, we're able to extend His love to others. Talk about ways you've accepted God's love and the ways you've seen His love impact those around you.

Wrapping It Up:

Discuss ways you might extend God's love to others more regularly.

Prayer Focus:

Pray for our support group leaders and participants who are walking through difficult circumstances – that they would be reminded of God's love for them.

Memory Verse:

“See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!” 1 John 3:1



HOLY

WEEK 4

SMALL GROUP STUDY

Kicking it off:

What is the most magnificent thing you've ever seen with your own eyes?

Big Idea:

"Only when we understand the holiness of God will we understand the depth of our sin." —Billy Graham

Key Scriptures:

EXODUS 15:11

"Who among the gods is like you, LORD? Who is like you—majestic in holiness ..."

ISAIAH 6:1-8

"In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with

two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty." Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for. Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

ROMANS 5:8

"While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Discussion:

1. Discuss this statement by Jackie Hill Perry: "If God is holy, then He can't sin. If God can't sin, then He can't sin against you. If He can't sin against you, shouldn't that make Him the most trustworthy being there is?"
2. Read Exodus 15:11. How often do you think of God as holy? How does God's holiness impact your view of Him?
3. Read Isaiah 6:1-8. Discuss together Isaiah's observations and his responses as he encountered the holiness of God.
4. Share a time when God's presence and holiness moved you to repentance, like Isaiah. What was that experience like, and what did you learn about God during that time?
5. Read Romans 5:8. You owe a debt you cannot pay. Jesus paid the debt He did not owe, making you holy. How will you respond to His holiness?

Wrapping It Up:

Is there something in your life that's keeping you from fully embracing God and experiencing His holiness? Talk

about this with your group, then let God's love and compassion stir you to action.

Prayer Focus:

Pray for our High School students and their leaders who are at Rocky Mountain High in Colorado this week.

Memory Verse:

"Who among the gods is like you, LORD? Who is like you—majestic in holiness ..."

Exodus 15:11

UNCHANGING

WEEK 5

SMALL GROUP STUDY

Kicking it off:

Share with one another – are you one who likes change? Or do you prefer things to essentially stay the same?

Big Idea:

Prayer reminds us that we're not in control, and it keeps us close to the One who is.

Key Scriptures:

PSALM 102:1-4

"Hear my prayer, LORD; let my cry for help come to you. Do not hide your face from me when I am in distress. Turn your ear to me; when I call, answer me quickly. For my days vanish like smoke; my bones burn like glowing embers. My heart is blighted and withered like grass; I forget to eat my food."

PSALM 102:25-27

"In the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth, and

the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. Like clothing you will change them and they will be discarded. But you remain the same, and your years will never end."

MATTHEW 24:35

"The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever."

ISAIAH 40:8

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away."

MALACHI 3:6

"I the LORD do not change..."

HEBREWS 13:8

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."

NUMBERS 23:19 (NLT)

"God is not a man, so he does not lie. He is not human, so he does not change his mind..."

2 CORINTHIANS 1:20

"For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ... "

1 JOHN 5:14

"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us."

Discussion:

1. What life change have you experienced that brought the most disruption and anxiety? How did you navigate that change?
2. Read Psalm 102:1-4, 25-27. What seems to be the nature of this psalmist's prayer?
3. What conclusions does the psalmist come to in verses 25-27 that seems to bring him comfort?
4. We learned in this week's message that there are three ways God never changes: His Word, His character, and His promises. Read Matthew 24:35, Isaiah 40:8, Malachi 3:6, Hebrews 13:8, Numbers 23:19 and 2 Corinthians 1:20. Discuss how these passages speak to the unchanging nature of God.
5. How does God's unchanging nature make Him worthy of turning to Him in the midst

of the frustrations we face in our lives?

6. Talk about where have you seen God keep His promises in your life.
7. Read 1 John 5:14. How might this truth give you more initiative to turn to God in prayer when you struggle?

Wrapping It Up:

Share with one another one area where you tend to feel out of control, and pray for each other to be able to turn to God in that specific area.

Prayer Focus:

Pray for our Unlimited Ministry as they love on our friends with special needs and their families.

Memory Verse:

*"I the LORD
do not change."
Malachi 3:6*

REFUGE

WEEK 6 SMALL GROUP STUDY

Kicking it off:

Share about a time when you had to take shelter because of some danger or trouble.

Big Idea:

What we worry about the most often reveals where we trust God the least.

Key Scriptures:

DEUTERONOMY 33:27

"The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms."

MATTHEW 6:25, 27

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life ... Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?"

PSALM 62:7-8

"My salvation and my honor depend on God; he is my mighty rock, my refuge. Trust in him at all times, you people;

pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge."

ISAIAH 46:4

"I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you."

EXODUS 13:3 (NASB)

"And Moses said to the people, "Remember this day in which you departed from Egypt, from the house of slavery; for by a powerful hand the brought you out from this place..."

JOHN 14:1 (NLT)

"Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me."

Discussion:

1. Read Deuteronomy 33:27. What is a refuge? And what does it mean for God to be your refuge?
2. Read Matthew 6:25, 27. Oftentimes we find ourselves worrying about things that will never happen. Worry

stems from the inability to trust in what you see, what you can touch, what you can control. A remedy to worry is to place your trust in Jesus, who is trustworthy, and who can absolutely see, touch, and control all things. How have you seen that to be true in your own life?

3. Read Psalm 62:7-8 and Psalm 46:4. What do these passages tell you about God's faithfulness?
4. Despite having experienced God's faithfulness in the past, we can easily forget and worry about our present and future. How have you seen this in your own life?
5. Read Exodus 13:3. Moses encouraged the people of Israel, in the midst of their fear and insecurity, to remember the ways God had been faithful to them in the past. Share a time when you have experienced God's faithfulness.
6. Read John 14:1. How might this passage encourage you in the midst of your worry?

Wrapping It Up:

What we worry about the most often reveals where we trust God the least. Is this true of the

things you worry about? Talk about why it might be difficult for you to trust God with these things. Then, talk about one way you can seek to trust God with those things this week.

Prayer Focus:

Pray for our Walk with Me coaches who walk alongside those in the midst of life's struggles and encourage them toward a healthier and more sustainable life.

Memory Verse:

"Don't let your hearts be troubled.

Trust in God, and trust also in me."

John 14:1 (NLT)

NOTES



Top 10 Tips for Leading a Small Group

1. Establish a welcoming, accepting, and safe environment.
 - Take time to prepare.
 - Make sure to give a warm enthusiastic greeting to each person.
 - Verbally communicate the environment that you hope to create.
2. On the opening night of your group you need to have some intentional discussions centered around these questions:
 - What is the purpose of our group?
 - What is the vision for our group?
 - What are your expectations?
 - What do you hope to gain from this group experience?
 - What are some things we value as a group?
 - What are some healthy guidelines we need to have in place?Review and sign a group agreement.
3. Be authentic. Spend time sharing your life stories in order to get to know each other on a deeper level.
4. Find a good balance between:
 - Truth and grace/Bible study and life
 - Encouraging and challenging one another
 - Giving and receiving feedback from each other
5. Ask good questions to stimulate good discussion. Use open ended questions and follow up questions.
6. Hang out together, do things socially, eat together and have fun together!
7. Develop a missional lifestyle, find a service project to do together in the community.
8. Raise up new leadership by rotating facilitation of the group.
9. Share the responsibilities in order to increase individual commitment and ownership of the group.
10. Pray for your group and for each other!

Find ways to celebrate what God is doing in your group! Who else could you invite to join you in order that their life may be impacted by what God is doing in your group?

Group Agreement

OUR PURPOSE

To transform our spiritual lives by cultivating our spiritual health in a healthy small group community. In addition, we: _____

OUR VALUES

Group Attendance: To give priority to the group meeting. We will call or email if we will be late or absent.

Safe Environment: To help create a safe place where people can be heard and feel loved. (Please, no quick answers, snap judgments, or simple fixes.)

Respect Differences: To be gentle and gracious to people with different spiritual maturity, personal opinions, temperaments, or imperfections. We are all works in progress.

Confidentiality: To keep anything that is shared strictly confidential and within the group, and to avoid sharing improper information about those outside the group.

Encouragement for Growth: To be not just takers but givers of life. We want to spiritually multiply our life by serving others with our God-given gifts.

Welcome for Newcomers: To keep an open chair and share Jesus' dream of finding a shepherd for every sheep.

Shared Ownership: To remember that every member is a minister and to ensure that each attender will share a small team role or responsibility over time.

Rotating Hosts/Leaders and Homes: To encourage different people to host the group in their homes, and to rotate the responsibility of facilitating each meeting.

OUR EXPECTATIONS

- Refreshments/mealtimes _____
- Childcare _____
- When we will meet (day of week) _____
- Where we will meet (place) _____
- We will begin at (time) _____ and end at _____
- We will do our best to have some or all of us attend a worship service together.
- Our primary worship service time will be _____
- Date of this agreement _____
- Date we will review this agreement again _____
- Who (other than the leader) will review this agreement at the end of this study _____



SUNNYBROOK
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