

THEOLOGY^{with} KIDS



**16 DEVOTIONALS
ABOUT WHO GOD IS**

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Theology With Kids:
16 Devotionals About Who God Is
By Dr. Chris Moore

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Introduction

Why I Wrote This Book:

I wrote this book because of a love for God's truth and a love for my kids. When I was young, several guys put some good theology books in my hands. I remember reading them and having tons of questions, but I enjoyed the experience. As I studied theology in seminary, I came to understand why I enjoyed the experience: the truth sets us free (John 8:32). As we develop a correct view of God, we become free. We are free from false views about God. We are free from false views about ourselves. We are free to think correctly. We are free to worship God in truth. We are free to obey God more faithfully. A.W. Tozer said, "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us." What we think about God will ultimately determine what we think about everything. I wrote this book because it is important for us to have a biblical view of God.

Second, I wrote this book out of a love for my kids. If the truth sets us free, then I want the truth to set my kids free. If our thinking about God is important, then I want my kids to think correctly about God. Children are good at learning and they love to learn. The reality is that they are going to learn. The question is: are they learning the truth? Are we teaching them correctly? It has been said that a child develops his or her worldview by age five. If this is accurate, then our role as parents is critical. It is our responsibility and our privilege to pass on to our children the Christian faith "once for all handed down to the saints" (Jude 3). My hope is that this book will encourage you to love the truth and love your children by teaching them the truth.

About the Book:

This book is not intended to replace reading the Bible with your kids, so I would do both. In our home, we usually go through a lesson and then read from the Bible. When there are parallels between the lesson and the Bible text we read, I will point this out to my kids.

The most obvious way to use this book would be to cover a lesson each day. Each lesson has a main point, and this will be your focus for your devotional time together. Optimally, when you finish going through all the lessons, you will start over at the beginning and go back through the book again. As we all know, the key to learning is repetition. We learn as we are continually exposed to the truth. These lessons are related and connected (as is all of God's truth), and my hope is that as you continue to repeat the lessons, you and your child's view of God will be strengthened.

Common Excuses:

I want to address some of the common excuses we often make for not diligently teaching and impressing the truth upon our children (Deuteronomy 6:7).

Excuse #1: "*I don't have time.*" We make time for things that are important to us. When our favorite team is playing, we usually have all the time we need to watch the game! You can go through a lesson

during breakfast or dinner or before bed time. I enjoy eating breakfast with my kids and going over the lesson while we eat together.

Excuse #2: *"I'm not a theologian."* In one sense, everybody is a theologian. We all have thoughts about God. The question is: are our thoughts about God correct? Are they informed by the Bible? We all need to continue to learn, and one of the best ways to learn is to teach. These devotionals provide an opportunity to learn as you go. God never calls people who are qualified; He always qualifies the people He calls! If you are a parent, He has called you to teach your children.

Excuse #3: *"I'm afraid my child will ask a question that I can't answer."* Children are great at asking questions, and they are great at asking tough questions. If you don't know the answer, the best thing to do is tell them you're not sure. Then, you can ask someone you trust, or you can research the question (see the appendix for common questions your child might ask). We are all limited in what we know. One of the great aspects of studying theology is that you discover how much you don't know! This is humbling and healthy!

Excuse #4: *"My child just needs the basics, not theology."* This book is intended to be about the basics of the Christian faith. This book is not an in-depth theology text. Also, this is not speculative theology. The lessons in this book are based upon the basic, classic Christian teachings that the church has recognized and affirmed throughout the ages.

I have relied on Wayne Grudem's *Systematic Theology*. Each of the lessons focuses on one of God's attributes. If you want to learn more about these attributes or address some of the theological issues and questions that often arise, I would encourage you to read chapters 11, 12, and 13 from Grudem's theology book.

My hope and prayer is that the Lord will bless you as you continue to learn to think correctly about God and as you equip and teach your child to think correctly about God. "And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:32).

How to Use This Book

Each lesson follows the same general format. The following is an explanation of the format and how to use the book.

Question: The lesson begins with a fun question that relates to the main idea. The goal is to ask your child a couple of personal questions that will grab his or her attention. You can add more questions if you want.

Main Point: The purpose of this section is for you to state the main point of the lesson. You can explain how the main point relates to the above question, but this will be developed later in the lesson.

Key Verse: In this section, we include a passage from the Bible that either states or explains the main point of the lesson. There are many passages that could be used, and you can add other passages.

Teaching: The point of this section is to talk about the key verse and explain how the verse supports the main point of the lesson. You can read this section to your child, but it would probably be best to state it in your own words. You could read it and then paraphrase it in a way you know your child will understand.

Application: In this section, the goal is to drive home the main point of the lesson. We usually come back to the original question in order to bring the main point to life. Also, we try to think about specific ways the child can respond to the big truth presented in the lesson.

Jesus: In this section we talk about how Jesus relates to the main point of the devotional. In the Appendix at the end of the book, I talk about why this section is included and how to understand the relationship between Jesus and the Trinity.

Question/Answer: At the end of the lesson, you can ask your child the summary question. Also, you can use the summary questions to review the previous lessons. Our hope is that once you have gone through the book, your child will remember the answers to each of these questions.

(Optional) More Verses: We include other verses that correspond to the topic of each devotional. Depending on the age of your child and how much time you want to spend, you can look up these passages with your kids and talk about how the verses relate to the main point.

Lesson 1: God is Independent

Question: What are some things you need? For example, we need food to eat, clothing to protect us, sleep to rejuvenate us, air to breathe, chairs to sit in. Who are some people we need? For example, we need parents, teachers, policemen, etc.

Main Point: God doesn't need anything or anyone.

Key Verse: Acts 17:24–25 *The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else.*

Teaching: God has always existed and He will always exist without needing anyone or anything. He doesn't ever have any needs, which is why verse 25 says, "as if he needed anything." God made everything. As the Creator, He does not depend on his creation (though He does enjoy His creation!). "He is not served by human hands" means that we can (and should) serve God but He does not need us.

Application: It is fun and fascinating to think about how different we are from God. While He has no needs, we have many needs! God does not need anything, and this should move us to worship God. We can't even imagine what it would be like to have no needs. No one else in the world is like God in this way. The amazing part is that while God does not need us, He still wants us to know Him and obey Him. At some point today, you will need something. When this happens, remember that God never has needs. Let this motivate you to worship Him and know Him.

Jesus: Even though God has no needs, He has chosen to become like us in the Person of Jesus (Hebrews 4:15). Jesus had needs like us. Can you think of some examples of Jesus' needs? For example, Jesus experienced hunger and thirst. He became tired and He needed to pray. Jesus experienced these needs for us! (See the Appendix at the end of the book for more information about why we include this section and how to understand the relationship between Jesus and Trinity.)

Question: What does God need?

Answer: God doesn't need anything or anyone.

More Verses: Exodus 3:14; Job 41:11; Revelation 4:11

Lesson 2: God is Holy

Question: Have you ever gotten really dirty with mud or sand or grass stains? Do you like getting dirty?

Main Point: God is holy.

Key Verse: Leviticus 20:26 *You are to be holy to me because I, the LORD, am holy, and I have set you apart from the nations to be my own.*

Teaching: In this verse we learn that God is holy. Holiness means to be set apart from sin and evil. Sometimes the Bible describes sin and evil as “dirty” to help us form a picture of what sin is like. It is not sinful to be dirty from mud, but it is sinful to be dirty from sin and disobedience. God is holy. He is perfectly clean when it comes to sin and evil. In fact, sometimes the Bible uses the word holy three times in a row to emphasize God’s holiness (Isaiah 6:3).

Application: The Bible teaches that we have all sinned, so we are all dirty when it comes to sin (Romans 3:23). While we are dirty, God is completely clean. And we learn in our passage that God calls us to be holy since He is holy. God has called us to be different from the rest of the world. We are supposed to be clean from sin like He is clean from sin. He wants people to see our holy lives so we will bring attention to Him. The next time you get dirty and you need a bath, remember that God is perfectly clean and holy. And He calls you to be holy like Him.

Jesus: Jesus came to earth and lived among dirt, and sin, and “unholiness.” Even though He lived among sin, He remained perfectly holy and sinless. He did this for us, so we can become holy.

Question: Why should we be holy?

Answer: God is holy.

More Verses: Isaiah 6:3; Zechariah 14:20-21; Hebrews 12:14

Lesson 3: God is Unchanging

Question: Can you think of some things that change? For example, the weather changes, trees change, and the days and months and years change. Can you think of some ways that you change? For example, you get taller, you get hungry, your hair grows, etc.

Main Point: God does not change.

Key Verse: 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.*

Teaching: In this verse we have a comparison between God and His creation. Everything in the world changes and the creation does not last forever. It is like clothing that fades and gets holes. But God always remains the same. He will last forever. While God is personal and relates with His creation, He does not change (Malachi 3:6).

Application: Think about how different we are from God. We are always changing, and He never changes. This wonderful truth should encourage us. God has always been great and powerful, and He always will be. We can trust Him and depend on Him. Also, God can and will keep all the promises He has made to us because He does not change. When you experience change today, remember that God never changes. Let that encourage you to trust Him.

Jesus: Even though God does not change, He became a man who does change. Jesus grew up, and learned, and changed (Luke 2:52). He started out as a baby like you, and grew into a boy, and then a man. He did this for us. Jesus grew up so He could go to the cross for us.

Question: Does God ever change?

Answer: God does not change. He remains the same forever.

More Verses: Psalm 33:11; Isaiah 46:9-11; James 1:17

Lesson 4: God is Love

Question: Who are some of the people that love you the most? How do you know they love you? Who are some of the people that you love? How do they know you love them?

Main Point: God is love.

Key Verse: Romans 5:8 *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

Teaching: God is love, and God loves us (1 John 4:8). God does not merely tell us that He loves us. He demonstrates that He loves us. We can know that He loves us because He proves it to us. God has proven that He loves us by sending His Son to die for us. Perhaps the most amazing aspect of God's love is that He sent Jesus to die for us while we were sinners, or when we didn't deserve love.

Application: We know when someone truly loves us because they give of themselves for us. For example, you know your parents or grandparents love you (not just because they tell you) because they work to love you. They give up their time and energy to love you. We know God loves us because He gave what was most valuable to Him, His Son. Think about that! God gave Jesus for you!

God's love for us should motivate us to love. God wants us to respond to His love by loving Him and by loving other people (Matthew 22:37-38). What are some ways that you can show (or demonstrate) love to the people who are in your life? The next time you hear the word "love," remember that God loves you and He wants you to love Him and others.

Jesus: We know that the Father loves us because He sent His Son to die for us. And we know that Jesus loves us because He willingly obeyed His Father and went to the cross for us. Jesus loves us, and this great truth should encourage us (John 15:9).

Question: How do we know what love is?

Answer: God is love.

More Verses: Jeremiah 31:3; John 3:16; 1 John 4:10

Lesson 5: God is Eternal

Question: How old are you? When is your birthday? What did you do for your last birthday? Do you have a favorite gift you have received on your birthday?

Main point: God is eternal. He doesn't have a beginning.

Key Verse: Psalm 90:2 *Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.*

Teaching: We learn from this verse that God existed before everything else, including mountains, the earth, and the world. In fact, God created all of this. When the verse says, "from everlasting to everlasting you are God," it means that God has always existed and He will always exist.

Application: We discover another important way that we are very different from God. While we have a beginning, God does not. He has always existed and He always will exist as God. This truth should encourage us because it reminds us He can always take care of us. We don't have to worry about what will happen later today or tomorrow because we know God will be there and He will be in control. The next time you wonder about what might happen in the future, remember that God will be there so you can depend on Him.

Jesus: At Christmas, we celebrate the birth of Jesus. While God doesn't have a beginning, He became one of us. Jesus was born just like us. This event is perhaps the greatest miracle. Jesus experienced birth and death for us.

Question: When did God begin to exist?

Answer: God has always existed and He will always exist.

More Verses: Genesis 1:1; Psalm 90:4; Revelation 1:8

Lesson 6: God is Faithful

Question: Have you ever played a trick on someone? Has anyone ever played a trick on you? Has anyone ever told you something and you wondered if they were being serious? Do you know anyone who likes to play tricks?

Main Point: God is faithful. He always does what He says.

Key Verse: Hebrews 10:23 *Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.*

Teaching: In our verse, we are encouraged to keep putting our hope in God. The reason why we should keep hoping and trusting in Him is because He is faithful. He always does what He says He will do. True faith is trusting God's Word.

Application: Sometimes people play tricks. We don't ever have to worry about this with God. He always tells the truth, and we can always trust that He will do what He says He will do. He is faithful. One of the great promises God has made to us is "if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). We can trust that God will forgive us if we confess our sins, because He is faithful.

Also, we discover that we should be faithful. Similar to God, we should always remain true to our word. If you tell someone you're going to do something, you should do it. If you tell your mom or dad that you won't do something any more, you should be faithful to your word. Today, when you say you're going to do something, remember that God is always faithful to His word.

Jesus: One of the promises God has made to us is that He will send Jesus again to rescue us (1 Thessalonians 4:17). This great promise is why we have reason to live and why we wait. One day Jesus will return for us, and He will restore us and the broken world. We can trust that God is faithful and He will do what He has promised.

Question: How often does God do what He says He will do?

Answer: God always does what He says. He is faithful.

More Verses: Deuteronomy 7:9; Psalm 31:5; 2 Timothy 2:13

Lesson 7: God is Everywhere

Question: Where are some of your favorite places to visit? For example, the park, the beach, your grandparent's house, etc. Have you ever talked on the phone with someone who was in a different location from you? For example, when we talk on the phone, we are usually talking with someone who is in a different location from us.

Main Point: God is everywhere.

Key Verse: Psalm 139:7–10 *Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.*

Teaching: The person writing this verse says there is no place where he can go and be away from God. If he goes to heaven, God is there. If he goes way out in the middle of the sea, God is there. God is everywhere, so there is no place where we can go and get away from God. He is always with us.

Application: We are limited to one place, and we talk with people on the phone because they are limited to one place. God is very different from us. He is never merely in one place. He is always in all places. Think about how big of a wonderful mystery that is! Since God is everywhere, this should encourage us that we are never alone. We don't ever have a reason to be scared, because God is always with us. Also, this great truth reminds us that we should always obey because God can see us. The next time you are tempted to disobey, remember that God always sees us.

Jesus: God's Son became a man, and He came to earth as a man. He was born in Bethlehem, and He grew up in Nazareth, and He died outside of Jerusalem. Even though God is everywhere, He became a man who walked the earth for us!

Question: Where is God?

Answer: God is everywhere.

More Verses: 1 Kings 8:27; Isaiah 66:1-2; Jeremiah 23:23-24

Lesson 8: God is Gracious

Question: Have you ever been rewarded for something you have done? For example, have you received a trophy in sports, or a sticker in school, or a prize for playing a game. What is your favorite reward?

Main Point: God is gracious.

Key Verse: Ephesians 2:8-9 *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.*

Teaching: In this important verse, we learn that God is gracious. God's grace is his love and goodness that He shows toward us even though we don't deserve it. God's grace is a gift that we do not deserve. We cannot work for it and we never deserve it. We experience grace "through faith" and "not by works." Since we don't earn God's grace, "no one can boast."

Application: We are used to being rewarded when we do good. For example, we get stickers when we do good in school. We get trophies when we do good in sports, and we get tickets and prizes when we do good at a game. God's grace works very differently from the rest of the world. God shows grace and love toward us even when we don't deserve it. In fact, there is nothing you can do to earn God's love and grace. He tells us simply to trust Him. God's grace is a gift we receive that we don't deserve. Think about the difference between receiving a gift and earning a reward. When you earn a reward, you say "I worked hard for this." When you receive a gift, you say "thank you." The next time you earn a reward, remember that God shows us grace even when we don't deserve it. Remember to be grateful.

Jesus: When God sent Jesus to die for us, this was the greatest demonstration of His grace. He gave Jesus as a gift. We don't deserve God's gift, but we can receive it by faith.

Question: Are we saved by our good works?

Answer: No, we are saved by grace.

More Verses: Psalm 119:132; Romans 11:6; 1 Peter 5:10

Lesson 9: God is Invisible

Question: Have you ever played hide-and-seek? Where is your favorite place to hide? Do you have more fun hiding or seeking?

Main Point: God is invisible. We can't see Him.

Key Verse: 1 Timothy 1:17 *Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

Teaching: In this verse we are reminded that God is eternal. He has always existed and He has no beginning or end. We also learn that God is invisible. This means that we can't see God: "no man has ever seen or can see [God]" (1 Timothy 6:16). The reason we can't see Him is because "God is spirit" (John 4:24).

Application: Hide-and-seek is fun because you can't see the other person and the other person can't see you. Eventually, you do see each other. You see his or her hair, eyes, arms, legs, etc. We can see each other because we are physical and visible. God is different from us in this way. We can't see God. He is spiritual and invisible. In our verse (1 Timothy 1:17), we discover that this truth should move us to honor and glorify God for ever and ever.

Even though we do have bodies and we are visible, there is also an invisible part of us that we can't see. We have an invisible spirit. Isn't that amazing to think about! Because we have this invisible, spiritual part of us, we are able to know God. The next time your body gets hurt, remember that God doesn't have a body. He is invisible. Also, remember you have an invisible, spiritual part of you.

Jesus: While God is invisible and we can't see Him, He has chosen to become visible for us so that we can see Him. He became visible by becoming one of us (John 1:14). When people looked at Jesus, they were looking at God (Colossians 1:15). One day, we will see Jesus with our eyes!

Question: Can we see God?

Answer: We can't see God because He is invisible.

More Verses: Exodus 33:20; John 6:46; 1 John 4:12

Lesson 10: God is Good

Question: What is something you enjoy doing? For example, do you enjoy eating, or playing, or watching movies? What is something you are good at doing? For example, are you good at math, or reading, or playing sports?

Main Point: God is always good.

Key Verse: Psalm 107:1 *Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.*

Teaching: In this verse, we learn that God is good. One of the ways God is good is that His love endures forever. He loves His people perfectly, and He will love them forever. He is always good to us. Since God is good, we learn that we should give thanks to Him.

Application: While there are some things we are good at doing, there are some things we are not good at doing. For example, there are times when we don't show love to one another. God is very different from us. He never messes up. He always loves us perfectly. We should thank God for being good to us and loving us even when we don't deserve it. Sometimes we might not understand why God allows certain things to happen. Even when we don't fully understand what God is doing, we can still trust that God is good.

God wants us to become more like him. He wants us to learn how to do good to others, even when other people do not do good to us. The next time you mess up, remember that God is always good. Also, remember that God loves you even when you mess up.

Jesus: Jesus was tempted like us, but He obeyed and He was perfectly good (Hebrews 4:15). Jesus never disobeyed or did wrong. He is the perfect example for us to follow. He obeyed for us.

Question: When is God good?

Answer: God is always good.

More Verses: Psalm 106:1; Luke 18:19; Galatians 6:10

Lesson 11: God is All-Knowing

Question: What is something that you have learned in the past week? What is an example of something that you don't know? If you could know everything about one subject, what would it be?

Main point: God knows everything.

Key Verse: **1 John 3:20** . . . *For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.*

Teaching: We discover in this verse that God knows everything. When he says "God is greater than our hearts," he is saying that we have weaknesses, but God is greater than us. He says this to encourage us. Jesus encourages us with this same truth when He says that God knows how many hairs are on our heads (Matt 10:30). Psalm 139 says that God knows our days even when we were not yet born. The point is that God knows everything that has happened, everything that is happening, and everything that will happen!

Application: Even while we are learning, there will always be things we don't know. Even the smartest people in the world are limited in what they can know. For example, no one knows exactly what will happen in the future. Now compare us with God! He knows everything. He knows everything there is to know about everything. Think about that! He doesn't have to try to think about the answer to a question. He knows it immediately! God knows everything about you, and He knows everything that will happen to you today and tomorrow and forever. This should encourage us!

Also, we discover that it is good to learn and grow in knowledge. When you learn something today, remember that God knows everything and He knows you!

Jesus: When God's Son became one of us in the Person of Jesus, he became a baby. Jesus grew up and learned (Luke 2:52). Even though God knows everything, He chose to become a man who had to learn. God did this for us!

Question: What does God know?

Answer: God knows everything.

More Verses: Psalm 139:4 & 16; Isaiah 55:9; Matthew 6:8

Lesson 12: God is Truthful

Question: What games do you enjoy playing? Are there any characters you pretend to be (for example, a cowboy or a princess)? What makes you laugh the hardest?

Main Point: God always speaks the truth.

Key Verse: *John 17:17 Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.*

Teaching: In this verse, Jesus says that God's word is truth. God always speaks the truth. He never lies. God's word is always true. When Jesus says "sanctify them by the truth," He is saying to clean us with the truth. We need to be cleaned with the truth. We need God's Word, because it is the truth.

Application: It is good we enjoy life and enjoy playing games and laughing with each other. However, it is important that we learn how to be serious at times. For example, we should take God's Word very seriously, because it is true and because we need it. Through hearing God's word, we come to know God and we learn what He expects of us. The next time someone reads the Bible or talks about the Bible, remember to take it seriously and show respect since it is God's Word.

Also, we discover that it is important for us to tell the truth. We are supposed to be growing up and becoming more like God. One of the ways we become more like God is by learning to tell the truth. Sometimes we are tempted to not tell all of the truth. Be obedient to God today by telling all the truth.

Jesus: God promised throughout the Old Testament that He would send Jesus, and when we read the New Testament we learn that God remained true to His Word. He sent Jesus. Because Jesus is God, He said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life" (John 14:6).

Question: When does God speak the truth?

Answer: God always speaks the truth.

More Verses: Psalm 19:7-11; Titus 1:6; Hebrews 6:18

Lesson 13: God is All-Powerful

Question: If you could be any superhero, who would you be? Why? What super powers do you wish you had? For example, do you wish you were the strongest, or fastest, or could fly?

Main Point: God is all-powerful.

Key Verse: Psalm 115:3 *Our God is in heaven; he does whatever pleases him.*

Teaching: This verse says that God does whatever pleases Him. This means that God is able to do anything that He wants, and He will do what He wants.

Application: There are times when we wish there were certain things we could do that we are not capable of doing. For example, sometimes we wish we had super powers. God is very different from us. He never wishes He had the ability to do something, because He has the ability to do whatever He wants. He is all-powerful. This great truth should encourage us. Sometimes it might seem to us like God is not in control. Sometimes life is difficult for us. But the Bible says, “with God, all things are possible” (Matt 19:26). The next time you wish you could do something that you can’t, remember that God is all-powerful and He can do whatever He wants. Let this truth motivate you to worship God and trust Him.

Jesus: When Jesus came to earth, He did many things that demonstrated His power. What are some of the things Jesus did that demonstrate His power? For example, he calms the sea, He heals people, He forgives sin, and He rises from the grave. Since Jesus is God, He has the power to do whatever He wants.

Question: How powerful is God?

Answer: God is all-powerful.

More Verses: Psalm 24:8; Jeremiah 32:17; Ephesians 3:20

Lesson 14: God is Righteous

Question: Have you ever gotten in trouble for doing something you shouldn't have done? When is the last time you got in trouble? Why is it not fun to get in trouble?

Main Point: God is righteous.

Key Verse: Deuteronomy 32:4 *He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he.*

Teaching: God is like a rock that we can stand on because his works are perfect and he is just. He always does what is right, and He never does what is wrong. When we say God is righteous, it means He always does what is right.

Application: Sometimes we get in trouble for not doing the right thing. God is very different from us because He always does the right thing. He has never done wrong. We can trust God and depend on God since He is always right. If you are ever not sure what is the right thing to do, look to God because He always does what is right. Also, we are supposed to become more like God. One of the ways we become more like Him is by becoming more righteous. We are supposed to learn to obey. Like God, we are supposed to love what is right and good.

Jesus: Since God is righteous, He does not ignore sin. He takes sin very seriously. If God takes sin seriously, how can He forgive us when we have done wrong? The answer is that Jesus gets punished for our sin. Jesus gets treated like a person who has done wrong, even though He has done nothing wrong. We get treated like people who are righteous, even though we have done wrong. God remains righteous because He takes care of our sin through Jesus (Romans 3:25-26).

Question: Why does God never do wrong?

Answer: God is righteous.

More Verses: Psalm 119:7; Isaiah 45:19; Romans 1:17

Lesson 15: God is Wrathful

Question: Has anyone ever done anything that hurt you? How did it make you feel?

Main Point: God is wrathful.

Key Verse: Romans 1:18 *The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness*

Teaching: We learn from this verse that God is wrathful. God's wrath is His hatred of sin. In this verse, we learn that God's wrath is set against godlessness and wickedness. This means that God is strongly opposed to sin.

Application: There are times when people hurt us. Sometimes they hurt our feelings and sometimes they might hurt us physically. When this happens, our reaction is that we usually get frustrated and upset about this. We don't like it. In a similar way, God doesn't like it when someone sins against Him. He is strongly opposed to sin. In fact, God hates sin. This is why it is very important for us to take sin seriously. We do not want God's wrath to be set against us.

Jesus: The reality is that we are sinners and God's wrath is set against us. The Good News is that Jesus has experienced God's wrath for us. He has willingly taken our sins and paid for them in His death on the cross. Because of Jesus, God's wrath is satisfied. Make sure you are trusting in Jesus.

Question: What does God think about sin?

Answer: God hates sin. His wrath is against sin.

More Verses: Deuteronomy 9:7-8; John 3:36; Ephesians 2:3

Lesson 16: God is Glorious

Question: Have you ever accomplished something and had people tell you how well you did? Has anyone ever clapped for you? Have you ever been honored? How did it make you feel?

Main Point: God is glorious.

Key Verse: Psalm 19:1 *The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.*

Teaching: In this verse we learn that God's creation is saying something. The skies and all that God has created are telling us that God is the Creator of everything, and they are telling us He is glorious. Glory means honor, and the creation honors God. The creation is telling us how great God is.

Application: Sometimes when we do something good, we receive praise for it. Our parents might tell us "good job" or "I'm proud of you." We might even experience people clapping for us. When we experience this, it makes us feel good because we are being honored. God always deserves to be honored. And we learn that God is always honored. Even if people didn't worship God, He would be praised by His creation (Luke 19:40). God is glorified and He wants to be glorified. The Good News is that God invites us to glorify Him. We have the opportunity to live so that God will be honored. In fact, this is why you exist. God created you so that you will worship Him. The next time you look at the creation (the skies and trees and grass), remember that God created all of this for His glory. And remember that He created you for His glory.

Jesus: The way we glorify God is through Jesus. Jesus' life, and death, and resurrection are what allow us to glorify God. Jesus is the One who has provided the way for us to worship and glorify God. When we learn to trust in Jesus and live for Jesus, we bring glory and honor to God.

Question: Why did God create you?

Answer: God created me for His glory.

More Verses: Isaiah 43:7; John 17:5; Romans 3:23

Appendix

Why Include A Section About Jesus:

At the end of each lesson, we have included a few comments about Jesus and how He relates to the main point of the devotional. One reason we include this section is because Jesus is God. As we learn about God, we are necessarily learning about Jesus. A second reason is because Jesus is central to the Bible and all Christian theology. Any time we read the Bible or talk about one of the many subjects in the Bible, we should ask how this passage or this subject points to Jesus. Since Jesus is the central focus of the Bible, we should be quick to think about how He relates to everything. If we equip our kids to think this way, we will be teaching them an important pattern to follow that will prove fruitful as they grow in the faith.

Teaching and learning the attributes of God (which is what the lessons are about) can be challenging, especially for young children. One reason is that we often begin by teaching our kids stories about Jesus. At an early age, our children learn the important biblical truths that Jesus was born, he grew up, and He died. We correctly teach them that Jesus became hungry and thirsty, and He cried. However, in this book we emphasize God's attributes, such as His independence, eternity, and invisibility. These lessons can be challenging to your child because he/she probably thinks of Jesus primarily as a human. For example, when you explain to your child that God is invisible, he might have questions since Jesus is a visible person. Or when you teach your child that God has no beginning, he might object since Jesus was born in a manger on Christmas day. Or when you teach your child God has no needs, he might mention the fact that Jesus ate food, drank water, slept, and prayed.

The solution to this dilemma is not to ignore God's attributes, which is unfortunately what we often do with our kids. Instead, the solution is to recognize that the amazing miracle of Jesus is best understood against the backdrop of God's attributes (and this is one of the main reasons why I developed this book!). For example, when we understand that God has no needs, we begin to realize how miraculous it is that God identified with us by becoming a man who experienced needs just like us! When we discover that God is invisible, we start to recognize how gracious it is that the Son became a man so that we can see Him, and touch Him, and know Him (1 John 1:1)! The great miracle of Jesus truly amazes us when we understand who God is. Therefore, our children will develop a deeper appreciation for Jesus as they learn the great truths about God.

Jesus and the Trinity:

No one can fully understand and comprehend the mystery of God. This fact should humble us and motivate us to worship Him. Nevertheless, we can know what the Bible teaches, and it is important for us to know what God has revealed to us about Himself. Here is what Christians believe the Bible teaches about God:

First, there is one God (Deuteronomy 6:4).

Second, God exists as three Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit (Matthew

28:19).

Third, each Person is fully God. Therefore, each Person has the attributes of God. For example, God the Son is invisible, independent, and all-knowing.

Fourth, God the Son added human nature to His divine nature when He took on the identity of Jesus. Therefore, Jesus is fully God and fully man. In His divine nature, Jesus is present everywhere; in His human nature, Jesus is located in one place. In His divine nature, Jesus knows all things perfectly; in His human nature, Jesus learned and grew in knowledge.

You don't have to explain everything to your child about the Trinity, but it is good to have a grasp of these truths in order to better explain basic Christian theology. If your child asks questions about the Trinity or the two natures of Jesus, you can explain that God is mysterious (by the way, kids love mystery!). While you can, and should, point to the mystery, it is also equally important to explain what the Bible teaches. This exploration might take a little work on your part, but it is worth it. Remember, the truth sets us free!