

# Who Is God?

## Lesson 1: Our Creator, Father, Protector, Healer

### Vocabulary:

humble (adj)	to affect	dignity	danger
to design	character	to force	shield (n)
womb	success	will (n)	challenge (n)
marvelous	glorified	right (n)	to test
doubt (n)	righteous	protector/to protect	genuineness
hidden	forgiven	healer/to heal	reaction
woven	acceptable	to watch over	perseverance
poetic	secure/insecure	situation	shame (n)
trait	honor	reserved/to reserve	to pour out
talent	to restore	fortress	growth
biological	heaven	to surround	

### Discussion:

Who is God to you? Describe him.

What do you want to know about God and why? What questions do you have about him?

Compared to all other people, activities, and responsibilities in your life, how important is knowing God to you? (on a scale of 1-10) Explain.

This study explores some titles and roles that the Bible uses to describe God. When we truly understand who God, we will come near to him with a **humble** heart.

### God is our Creator

How were you created?

Psalm 139 says that God **designed** us and planned our lives even before we entered our mother's **womb**. Read the prophet David's description of how God created us:

<sup>13</sup>You are the one who put me together inside my mother's body, <sup>14</sup>and I praise you because of the wonderful way you created me. Everything you do is **marvelous**! Of this I have no **doubt**. <sup>15</sup>Nothing about me is **hidden** from you! I was secretly **woven** together deep in the earth below\*, <sup>16</sup>but with your own eyes you saw my body being formed. Even before I was born, you had written in your book everything I would do. (CEV)

\* "Deep in the earth below" can be a **poetic** term for womb or spiritual place<sup>1</sup>

How does God see you as his creation? (v.14) What are some special **traits** that God created in you? Consider your **talents**, skills, and personality.

In verse 16, what did God do even before you were born? What do you learn here about God?

## God is our loving Father

Our relationship with our **biological** father and mother can affect how we connect to God. So, exploring our relationship with our parents can help us to understand how we may see God.

Growing up, what was your relationship like with your father and mother? Describe your relationship now.

How has your relationship with your parents **affected** how you see God?

God is a perfect and loving Father who is always working for the good of his children. He has a plan for our lives, our **character**, our relationships, and even our **success**. In Romans 8, you can see some of the plans God has for you as his son or daughter:

<sup>28</sup>We know that in everything God works for the good of those who love him. They are the people God called\* because that was his plan. <sup>29</sup>God knew them before he made the world. And God chose them to be like his Son...<sup>30</sup>And those he planned to be like his Son, he also called. And those he called, he also made right with him. And those he made right, he also **glorified**. (ICB)

\* Here, "called" means invited.<sup>2</sup>

What do you think it means to love God? According to Romans 8, what promises does God have for you if you love him?

We learn in this verse that God calls, or invites, people into a relationship with him. How do we know if we have been called? (v.28) What promises does God have for the people he has called?

The Greek word for "made right" is *dikaioó*, meaning to be made **righteous**, **forgiven**, and **acceptable** by God.<sup>3</sup> This promise means that we can be **secure** in our relationship with God because God makes us righteous; we do not make ourselves righteous. This is something only God can do.

In the Bible, God alone can make us righteous, forgiven, and acceptable. How is this different from what many people believe about how we become righteous? Give examples.

In what ways are you insecure about yourself? How does God's promise give you hope?

The Greek word for "glorified" is *doxazó*, which means to **honor** and **restore dignity** here on earth but especially in **heaven**.<sup>4</sup>

What does this promise of God mean to you personally? How does this promise give you hope?

God gives us a choice whether we want to be his children; he does not **force** us. While only God can make us holy, we still must choose to accept his gift of righteousness and acceptance:

<sup>12</sup> But to all who did receive him [God's Son], who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood nor of the **will** of flesh [husband and wife] nor the will of man, but of God. (John 1:12-13, ESV)

According to verse 12, God gives us *the right* to be his child by believing and receiving his Son. In the next lesson of *Who is God?*, we will talk more about God's Son. Yet we learn here that God gives us both the choice and the right to be his child. No one can make this decision for us, and no one can take this right away from us. Our right to be God's child is not given to us by our parents, our family, our husbands, our wives, our friends, our government, or our church. Being born does not even give us this right. God alone gives us this right:

What is a human right? What does it mean to have the *right* to be a child of God? How do we receive this special right?

Who does *not* give us this right? (v. 13) Talk about each of these areas and what this means. Why do you think God tells us this?

## God is our **Protector** and **Healer**

Throughout the Bible, we see how God **watches over** us and protects us from many **situations**. While we know that a life without any disease, suffering, or pain is **reserved** for heaven (Revelation 21:4), our Father's eyes are on every situation in our lives if we turn to him and put our trust in him. He will guide us, protect us, and give us strength through difficult times.

You can go to God Most High to hide. You can go to God All-Powerful for protection. <sup>2</sup> I say to the Lord, "You are my place of safety, my **fortress**. My God, I trust in you." <sup>3</sup> God will save you from hidden dangers and from deadly diseases. <sup>4</sup> You can go to him for protection. He will cover you like a bird spreading its wings over its babies. You can trust him to **surround** and protect you like a **shield**. (Psalm 91:1-4, ESV)

According to these verses, how is God our Protector?

What do you want God to protect you from right now? Would you like to pray to your Father in heaven over these situations in your life? If yes, take a minute to pray to God for your needs.

Until we see his face, we will never know all that God has protected us from in this life. While we can experience his physical, emotional, and spiritual healing here on earth, we know that God will not protect us from all suffering. There will be times in our lives when we experience situations that **challenge** us. The Bible teaches us that God uses suffering to **test** the **genuineness** of our faith. Do we love him when life is hard or only when life is easy and good? Do we love him when we are sick or only when we are healthy? Do we love him when we are poor or only when all of our needs are met?

Has your love for God ever been tested? Describe the test. What was your **reaction**?

God uses suffering also to help us grow physically, spiritually, and emotionally. In this way, God brings glory and meaning to our suffering, when we choose to suffer righteously:

<sup>3</sup> Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces **perseverance**; <sup>4</sup> perseverance, character; and character, hope. <sup>5</sup> And hope does not put us to **shame**, because God's love has been **poured out** into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. (Romans 5:3-5)

What is righteous suffering? What physical, spiritual, and emotional **growth** can righteous suffering produce in us?

How does righteous suffering give us hope?

Are there areas in your life where you are suffering now? How can you grow in righteous suffering that produces physical, spiritual, and emotional perseverance and character?

## This Week:

- Take a minute to complete these sentences:  
Because God is my Creator, I want to \_\_\_\_\_  
Because God is my loving Father, I want to \_\_\_\_\_  
Because God is my Protector and Healer, I want to \_\_\_\_\_
- Take a walk outside at night and look into the sky. Write in your journal what you see, think, and feel. Consider the greatness and power of our God and write what comes to your mind.
- Take some time to write about your suffering in your journal. Talk to God about your suffering. Ask him to give you strength to help you grow in your love for him and to grow physically, spiritually, and emotionally through your suffering. Ask your Christian friends to pray for you and give you verses in the Bible to strengthen your faith.

<sup>1</sup> Francis Brown, Samuel R. Driver, and Charles A. Briggs, "8482, tachtī," Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon, unabridged, electronic database (Biblesoft, 2000), <https://biblehub.com/hebrew/8482.htm> and "776, erets," <https://biblehub.com/hebrew/776.htm>.

<sup>2</sup> "2564. kaleó," *Thayer's Greek Lexicon*, electronic database (Biblesoft, 2011), <https://biblehub.com/greek/2564.htm>.

<sup>3</sup> Brown, Driver, and Briggs, "1344, dikaióō," <https://biblehub.com/greek/1344.htm>.

<sup>4</sup> Brown, Driver, and Briggs, "1392. doxazó," <https://biblehub.com/greek/1392.htm>.