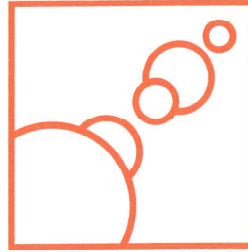


Question 2

What is God?



Answer

God is the creator of everyone
and everything.

Big Idea

God can be fully known only through the pages of Scripture.

Aim

To help the children understand who the God of the Bible is.

Bible Passage

Psalm 86

Memory Verse

“There is none like you among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like yours. All the nations

you have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name. For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God. . . . But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.” (Ps. 86:8–10, 15)

Virtue

Awc





Notes

Leader's Notes

Children, particularly those in the West, are growing up in societies that seek to remove God from life. The atheistic worldview is increasingly popular, with movements aggressively declaring that there is no God. Even where some belief in God remains, it is often not an accurate understanding of who God is as revealed in the pages of Scripture. This lesson will seek to introduce the children to the God of the Bible and to instill in them confidence that there is a God and that we can both know about him and know him personally.

Things to remember when planning and teaching:

- Children who have been raised in a Christian context will hopefully

already have a firm belief in God. They will, however, need some help in understanding how to engage with a world that is increasingly keen to erase God.

- Children must be challenged to commit to searching the Scriptures for themselves in order to grow in their knowledge and love of God.
- Remember to mix and match the activities in the lesson to fit your time frame (see p. 12 for some sample outlines). You won't have time to do them all. Feel free to adapt each activity based on your class's strengths and weaknesses.

Leader's Prayer

O great God, thank you that you alone are God. Thank you that you are knowable, and through the pages of the Bible I can understand more about you each day. Please, would you increase my love for you as I

prepare this lesson? Would you cause the children who will participate to gain a clear understanding of who you are and what you're like? In Jesus's name. Amen.

Leader's Tool Kit

- Some autobiographies (or pictures of autobiographies) of famous people
- White paper
- Markers
- Magazine articles or TV clips that show an atheistic worldview
- Envelopes
- Tape
- "Fun size" candy bars or small toys
- Q2 Attributes of God (RB)

**10 Catechism Recap**

Quiz the students to see what they remember from the previous lesson.

- What was Question 1?

What is our only hope in life and death?
- What is the answer to Question 1?

That we are not our own but belong to God.
- What was the memory verse?

“For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. For

if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s.” (Rom. 14:7–8)

- What was the name of the lady in the story about forgiveness?

Corrie ten Boom

Commend the children for their participation and tell them that they’re ready to move to Question 2!

5 Introduction to Question 2

Have some autobiographies of famous people ready to show the children. They should include people that most of the children will recognize.

Ask the children if they have ever read an autobiography. Explain that autobiographies are books people write about themselves.

Show the children some of the autobiographies you’ve brought. Explain that

it’s not usually easy to get to know famous people, but reading an autobiography is one way to find out a little bit more about them.

Introduce Question 2 to the children: “What is God?” Explain that this lesson will focus on getting to know God through his own story, the Bible.

10 Activity

Give each child a piece of paper and some markers. Have them fold the paper in half to make it look like a book.

Ask the children to consider what they might include in their own autobiography.

- What would they like people to know about who they are?

- What great deeds have they done that the world should know about?

Get them to design the front cover of their autobiography, and then challenge them to write a brief summary that might be printed on the back cover of their autobiography.



Teaching Outline

Begin the teaching time by asking for God's help. Ask that the lesson would be taught faithfully and that the children might listen well.

Introduce this teaching time by telling the children that some people say there is no God. Others say that we cannot know what God is truly like. Some people even make God what they want him to be. Tell the children that they should expect to encounter these views in the world. It might be helpful to show them some evidence from popular media, magazine articles, or TV clips. (For example, see the famous 1966 *Time* magazine cover story "Is God Dead?" or the *New York Times* article "God Is a Question, Not an Answer.")

Ask the children if they ever encounter these views at school or among their friends.

Draw the children's attention back to their autobiography covers. Comment that even through reading the little that they've written, you have grown to know them more.

Explain to the children that God wants to be known—although God can never be known in all his fullness. He longs that people might know about him and subsequently truly know him. God has kindly revealed himself, and he has done that in and through his Word, the Bible. God has spoken, and his words have been written down so that people throughout all of history might hear

God speak. As God speaks through the Bible, he reveals what he is like.

Read Psalm 86. Provide Bibles for the children to read along with you.

Explain to the children that King David wrote this psalm, and it reveals a personal relationship between God and David. In this psalm, David refers to God in a way that reveals he is kind, forgiving, and abounding in great love.

Direct the children's attention to verses 8–10 and ask them what they can learn about God from these verses. Invite them to share their thoughts with the group.

These verses reveal the power and greatness of God. There is no one, in heaven or on earth, who is like God. God is so powerful that one day all nations will bow down before him. He is sovereign, ruling over all things. The beautiful thing for the children to understand from this psalm is that this awesome, all-knowing, powerful, incomparable, sovereign, and great God is approachable. David in this psalm is crying out to God in prayer! Remind the children that this is the God who is eternal, who has no beginning and no end, who has created the whole universe and sustains it each day, and who has performed countless miracles. This big God hears the prayers of his people.

Remind the children that this is God's story, and even in these few short verses God makes himself known.



Show the children from verse 11 that David prayed that he might know God's way and live fully for God (Ps. 86:11). David has understood who God is and what God is like. David longs to follow him with an undivided heart. Tell the children that the purpose of spending time reading the Bible is to come to know God more and to understand more fully what it is to live his way.

Conclude by confirming for the children that there is a God and that they can know him.

Finish the teaching time by helping the children commit Question 2 and the answer to memory.

(These notes are just for guidance. Please expand or amend them to suit your own children and context. Write out your talk in your own words and include illustrations and applications that you know will connect with your children.)

Notes

Activity

Cut up Q2 Attributes of God (RB) so that each attribute is on one slip of paper. Wrap each piece of paper around a small candy bar or small toy, and hide them around the classroom or building.

This activity will introduce the children to even more attributes of God. Let the children go on a treasure hunt. Tell the children not to unwrap the items until they return to their seats. Once the children are seated, invite them to open the items and read the attributes and accompanying definitions aloud. (If you used candy bars, tell the children they must take them home and eat them only with their parents' permission.)

- Eternal—God has no beginning or end
- Righteous—God is right in everything he says, does, and thinks
- Sovereign—God rules over and is in control of all things
- Holy—God is perfect and separate from sin
- Gracious—God is kind
- Infinite—God knows no bounds
- Omniscient—God knows all things
- Wise—God never makes mistakes
- Faithful—God always keeps his promises
- Omnipotent—God is all powerful
- Omnipresent—God is everywhere, all the time
- Immutable—God never changes
- Self-sufficient—God does not need anything or anyone
- Merciful—God is compassionate
- Incomprehensible—God is too grand to understand
- Never-tiring—God never has to sleep
- Patient—God is slow to become angry
- Victorious—God always wins



**Discussion and Question Time**

Some of the questions that might arise include:

? Is the God of the Bible actually interested in me?

Reassure the children that God is intimately involved in his world and is concerned for each of his children.

? Why does God not speak directly to us today?

Explain to the children that God speaks directly today through his Word. The Bible is infallible (never wrong), and it is trustworthy. Help the children to understand that it would be very difficult to discern the authoritative voice of God outside the Bible.

? Can we actually believe that God is who he says he is?

The whole Bible testifies to God's character. Explain to the children that God's mighty acts recorded in Scripture confirm time and time again that he is who he says he is.

Also use this opportunity to help the children to think about their own lives and how this catechism question affects them personally.

- Ask the children to consider how they might describe the God of the Bible to someone who has never heard about him.
- Ask the children what difference having a bigger view of God might make in their lives.

**Virtue Vision****Awe**

Provide each child with a piece of paper, an envelope, and some markers.

Explain to the children that to be filled with awe is to be amazed and filled with wonder.

Ask the children to write a letter to themselves and to describe the ways that the lesson filled them with awe as they learned more about who God is and what he is like.

Encourage them to be creative in the design and layout of their letter. Ask the children to place their letters in the envelope and to seal the envelope. Tell the children to write their name and address on their envelope.

Sometime during the week mail the letters to the children; this will once again cause them to be filled with awe as they reflect on their great God.

**10** Memory Activity

This memory verse is longer than most, and so the memory activity for this lesson will not work for the catechism answer. If your class is not memorizing the verses, use one of the memory activities from another lesson to reinforce the memorization of Question 2.

Divide the children into four groups, and give each of them a sentence of the memory verse to learn. Give the children a little time to learn their sentence.

1. There is none like you among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like yours.
2. All the nations you have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name.

3. For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God. . . .

4. But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. (Ps. 86:8–10, 15)

Call the children together, and have each group say the line assigned to them; you can ask some groups to say their line loudly and some quietly, or some in high-pitched voices and some in low-pitched voices.

Conclude by getting the group to recite the verse together.

Notes**5** Closing Prayer Time

Have the children call out why they think God is awesome! Join the shouts of praise together by thanking God that he reveals himself and allows himself to be known through the Bible.

