

5



THE GOD WHO REVEALS HIMSELF

Nature & Character of God/The Father

YEAR 2 – KINGDOM LIFE

UNIT 2: KNOWING GOD

1 | Teacher's Notes

Scripture Genesis 1, Jeremiah 32:18, Isaiah 10:10, 1 Peter 1:16, 1 John 4:8, 1 John 3:1

Objectives To explain that

- Today's lesson is about knowing God.
- God has revealed himself to us in three main ways: through Creation, the Bible (where we learn about God's mighty acts in history and about who God is), and through Jesus (the first two ways are dealt with in this lesson)
- Through observing Creation, we can know that God is very great and powerful. He is the glorious King over everything.
- The Bible tells us that God is a Trinity, Almighty, Eternal, Holy, Love
- God the Father is the 1st person of the Trinity. He has become our Father through the saving work of Jesus.
- Some things about God we can never fully understand.

Memory Verse "Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen." (1 Timothy 1:17 - NIV)

ACNA Catechism Connections Today's lesson of The God Who Reveals Himself is connected to the following Catechism questions:

Q36 Who is God? God is one divine Being eternally existing in three divine Persons: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This is the Holy Trinity.

Q37 What does Holy Scripture tell us about the character of God? God is both loving and holy. God mercifully redeems fallen creation, while righteously opposing all sin and evil. The Lord Jesus Christ is the fullest revelation of God's holy love.

Q38 Who is God the Father? God the Father is the first Person of the Holy Trinity, from whom the Son is eternally begotten, and the Holy Spirit eternally proceeds.

Q39 Why do you call the first of the three divine Persons "Father"? Our Lord Jesus Christ is the only divine Son of the Father. He called God "Father" and taught his disciples to do the same. God gives believers his Holy Spirit and adopts us as his children, enabling us to call him "Father."

Q40 What do you mean when you call God "Father"? When I call God "Father," I declare that I was created for relationship with him, that I trust in God as my Protector and Provider, and that I put my hope in God as his child and heir in Christ.

Q41 Why do you call God the Father "Almighty"? I call the Father "Almighty" because he has power over everything and accomplishes everything he wills. Together with his Son and Holy Spirit, the Father is all-knowing and ever present in every place.

Q42 Why do you call God the Father "Creator"? I call God the Father "Creator" because he made all things. He creates and sustains all things through his Word, and gives life to all creatures through his Spirit.

Q44 What does it mean that God created both heaven and earth? It means that all things, whether visible or invisible, physical or spiritual, were brought into being out of nothing by the Word of the eternal God.

Q168 How is God like earthly fathers? Like all loving and sincere earthly fathers, God loves us in our weakness, provides for our needs, teaches us in our ignorance, and corrects us when we go astray.

Q169 How is God unlike earthly fathers? Unlike our natural fathers, our heavenly Father loves us perfectly, is almighty in his care, makes no errors in judgment, and disciplines us only for our good.

**Suggested
Materials,
Props, and
Costumes****Big story props:**

- Large Bible
- Kingdom Life story board (see photo)

Lesson Props: (see Props Document for instructions on how to make these)

- Storyboard unit title: KNOWING GOD
- Teaching aid posters: CREATOR, ALMIGHTY, ETERNAL, HOLY, LOVE, FATHER (these are larger versions of the smaller storyboard symbols below)
- Trinity poster (found in props document)
- Storyboard symbols: Golden circle, Trinity symbol, CREATOR, ALMIGHTY, ETERNAL, HOLY, LOVE
- Bible verse cards numbered 1 to 5, hidden between pages of large Bible with ends sticking out for the children to pull out.

Posters: Year 1 - Lesson #1 Creation poster

Memory Verse: "Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen." (1 Timothy 1:17 - NIV)

(Found on the last page of this lesson plan) Print out and place in large Bible.

2 | Lesson Outline:

Welcome	As the children arrive ensure each one is personally welcomed and everyone knows each other's name.
Greeting & Collect for Purity	Light the candles Say the Greeting and Collect for Purity (<i>see Resource Section</i>)
Prayer of Confession	Say the Prayer of Confession (<i>see Resource Section</i>) Extinguish the candles
Music	My God is so Big Our God is a Great Big God Now unto the King Eternal (1 Timothy 1:17) <i>Please check internet for lyrics and music.</i>
Review of foundations	Choose from the following as appropriate: The Lord's Prayer, The Apostles Creed, The Ten Commandments or The Greatest Commandment. <i>For more information on how to teach these, see Resource Section</i>
Reading	Memory verse (Printed out and placed in large Bible – invite older child to read)
Story Board Review	Ask review questions relating to props from previous lessons on story board. <i>Story board review is found in Section 4</i>
Props/Costumes	Take a few moments to arrange the narrator and actors. (Props should already be set up prior to the start of the class.) Big story props: Large Bible, Kingdom Life storyboard
Bible Story	<i>Proceed with story and questions found in Section 4.</i>
Related activities	<i>After the story, proceed with related activities found in Section 5.</i>
Preparation for Communion & leaving class	Gather the children together for the Preparation for Communion prayer before exiting the classroom. <i>See Resource Section.</i>

3 | Storyboard Progression



This is how the storyboard should look at the start of the lesson.



This is how the Knowing God section should look at the **end** of the lesson. After the lesson, leave all the symbols on for next week.

4 | Story and Questions

SETUP: *Have the Kingdom Life storyboard set up as indicated in top photo above. Have the children sit in a semi-circle around it. This whole lesson is focused on the storyboard, so keep the children's attention by using props and pointing to symbols. The second photo above shows how to place the symbols as described in the lesson. Have a wall, blank poster, or flannelgraph next to the teacher where the bible verse cards can be attached for the class to read together.*

BIBLE: *Hold up the Bible and say: 'Today's lesson is from the Bible, and it is about Knowing God.' (Place "Knowing God" unit title on storyboard as shown.)*

STORY:

TEACHER: Do you sometimes wonder what God is really like?

God is not physical like you and me. He doesn't have a body. God is Spirit. He is invisible to human eyes. But if we can't see him, how do we know what he is like?

We can know what God is like because he has revealed himself to us! He has told us and shown us who he is. God has revealed himself to us in three main ways: through **Creation**, through **the Bible**, and through **Jesus**. We will talk about the first two today.

The **first** way that God has revealed himself is through his wonderful **Creation**. *(Hold up Year 1, Lesson #1 Creation poster)* Can you think of something in God's creation that you love, and think is beautiful? *(Allow the children to respond.)*

Yes, God created the earth and everything in it and the whole universe. The universe is very, very big! We cannot see the end of it even with the strongest telescopes. Because God created the universe, he must be even greater than it! God is the ruler of everything. He is glorious!

Let's put down this golden circle in the centre of our story board to represent God as the glorious King over everything he created. *(Place the GOLDEN CIRCLE down on storyboard as shown.)*

TEACHER: The **second** way that God has revealed himself is through **the Bible**. *(Hold up the Bible)* In the Bible we read about God's mighty acts through history (things that actually happened), how he revealed himself to people like Abraham,

Moses, and David. The Bible is God's Word to us. It is where God tells us who he is and what he is like.

The Bible tells us that God is a Trinity. The word "Trinity" means that God is three in one. Let's take a look at this Trinity symbol that will help us understand how God can be three and one at the same time.

ACTION: *Pull out the Trinity poster and point to it as you explain:*

TEACHER: Here we see the Trinity: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We see that the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God. They are three persons that are different from each other, but one God. *(Put the TRINITY symbol down as shown.)*

I wonder what else the Bible has to say about what God is like. Let's take a look.

I need your help to pull some cards with verses out of this Bible. You can hold them until I call out the number on your card. Then you can put it up on this board and we will read it out loud.

ACTION: *Invite children to follow the above instructions.*

TEACHER: Let's read the first verse:

Verse #1: *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." (Genesis 1:1)*

TEACHER: *(Hold up the "Creator" poster.)* We already mentioned that God is our **Creator**. God created everything that exists. He is the source of all life. *(Put small "CREATOR" symbol down as shown.)*

TEACHER: Now let's read the second verse:

Verse #2: *"Great and mighty God, whose name is the Lord **Almighty**." (Jeremiah 32: 18b)*

TEACHER: *(Hold up "ALMIGHTY" poster)* This verse says that God is **Almighty**. What does that mean?

It means that God is **all powerful** – there is nothing he cannot do.

Almighty means that God is **all knowing**. He knows everything about the past, present, and future. He even knows our thoughts.

Almighty means that God is **everywhere present**. He is in all places at the same time. God is everywhere in the universe, and he is with us wherever we go. *(Place small "ALMIGHTY" symbol down.)*

Now let's read the third verse:

Verse #3: *"But the Lord is the true God... the eternal King." (Isaiah 10:10)*

TEACHER: *(Hold up "ETERNAL" poster)* This verse tells us that God is **eternal**. What does "eternal" mean? Let's take a look at this ring. The ring has no beginning or end, and neither does God. Nobody created God, he always existed. God is eternal. *(Place small "ETERNAL" symbol down.)*

Now let's read the fourth verse:

Verse #4: *"I am the holy God." (1 Peter 1:16b)*

TEACHER: *(Hold up "HOLY" poster)* This verse tells us that God is **holy**. What does the word holy mean? It means that there is nobody else like God. He is above all, and he is glorious! God is more pure, beautiful, and good than anything in the universe. Sin cannot come near him. Just like the sun is so hot that it would burn you up before you could get close to it, so sinful people cannot come into God's holy presence *(point to Trinity on story board)*. That is why Jesus had to die for our sin - to make us pure and able to come into God's holy presence. *(Place small "HOLY" symbol down.)*

Now let's read the fifth verse:

Verse #5: *"God is love." (1 John 4:8b)*

TEACHER: *(Hold up "LOVE" poster)* This verse tells us that God is **love**. All love flows out from God. The love between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit *(point to the persons of the Trinity on the story board)* is so strong and powerful that it flows out from them to us. It enables us to love God and one another. God loves us so much that he sent his son Jesus to die for our sins so that we can receive and enjoy his love. *(Place small "LOVE" symbol down.)*

Now let's read the last verse - #6:

Verse #6: *"Think how much the **Father** loves us. He loves us so much that he lets us be called his children." (1 John 3:1)*

TEACHER: This verse tells us about God the **Father**. *(Hold up the "FATHER" poster)*

The Father is the 1st person of the Trinity. He is Jesus' father. He becomes our Heavenly Father because of what Jesus has done for us. The symbol is a picture of a father holding the hand of a child. Our earthly fathers are supposed to love us and do what is best for us, but sometimes they fail us and make selfish, sinful

choices. But God never makes a mistake. Our Heavenly Father loves us perfectly and will always be there for us.

Today we learned that God revealed himself to us through Creation (*point to Creation poster*) and through the Bible (*point to Bible*).

We have learned many wonderful things about God today. Let's read them together: (*point to each storyboard symbol*) Creator, Almighty, Eternal, Holy, Love and Father. Can you name one that is special to you? (*Allow children to respond.*)

Some of these things we can never fully understand – God's greatness, holiness, and power. But we **can** understand that he is our loving Father, and we can know him.

Life Application Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank you that you love us perfectly and that we are your beloved children. Thank you that you revealed yourself to us through Creation, through the Bible and all the mighty acts you did through history. Thank you most of all that you revealed yourself through Jesus. Thank you that you are Creator, Almighty, Eternal, Holy and Love, and you are glorious! Amen.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS:

- **What does this lesson tell us about God?** (He is the Creator, the glorious King over everything, Eternal, Spirit, a Trinity, Almighty, Holy, and Love.)
- **What are the three main ways that God has revealed himself?** (Through Creation, the Bible and Jesus)
- **What does it mean that God is a Trinity?** (He is three persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – but one being.)
- **Who is the 1st person of the Trinity?** (God the Father)
- **Is God the Father like our earthly fathers?** (He loves us more perfectly. He never makes a mistake and will always be there for us.)
- **What does it mean that God is Almighty?** (He is all powerful, all knowing and everywhere present)
- **What does it mean that God is Holy?** (It means that there is nobody else like God. He is above all, and he is glorious! God is more pure, beautiful, and good than anything in the universe. He is so pure and good that sin cannot come near him.)
- **How can sinful people enter into God's holy presence?** (Through Jesus death on the cross, which purifies us from all sin.)

5 | Response Activities

Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement

- Have the children complete the activities in the Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement.

Optional activities

- Different learning stations, such as: a book table, modelling clay, colouring papers

"Now to the
King eternal,
immortal, invisible,
the only God, be
honor and glory for
ever and ever. Amen."

(1 Timothy 1:17)