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DISCOVER GOD'S EXCHANGE

THE GOSPEL FOR YOUTH



JEFF MUSGRAVE WITH TINA PARRY

Discover God's Exchange: The Gospel for Youth

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Evelyn Mitchell loved children and children loved her. For many years she taught children's Sunday School classes and helped with a Bible memory program for youth. If you were to walk into her kitchen on a Saturday afternoon, you would have found her cutting out flannelgraph characters and diligently preparing her Sunday School lesson. The day she finally retired from teaching was a sad day for the young people and parents of her church. A children's song was on her lips the day she left this earth for heaven: "Let it shine! Let it shine! Let it shine!"

This book was made possible through generous gifts from her family and friends.

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INTRODUCTION

You've probably heard a lot of people mention God in daily life—phrases like “God bless you,” “God, help us,” or “God loves you!” We even speak of God every time we say the Pledge of Allegiance! Can you think of that phrase in the pledge?

One nation u_____ G_____, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.



We hear people talk about God, but many people do not actually know who God is! That's what this study is all about—teaching you who God is, what He's done for YOU, and what He wants for YOUR life. Just think—after finishing this study, you'll know more about God than many adults do! More importantly, you'll be able to have a close relationship with God.

As you work through this Bible study, it is best if you meet with a Bible coach after completing each lesson to discuss what you are learning. Even though we have included the Scripture verses in this book, you may want to have your Bible handy to underline verses that you want to especially remember. If you feel that you need help as you go through each lesson, you can choose to work with your coach to study the lessons.

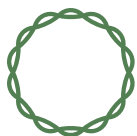
If you stick with it, this study will teach you truths about God that could change your life! When you finish, there is a certificate at the end of the study to reward your hard work.

OK, are you ready? Let's get started with Lesson 1!

LESSON 1

GOD IS HOLY





LESSON 1

God Is Holy

Have you ever read a biography or autobiography of someone's life? If so, who did you read about? _____ When you read biographies, you learn where people were born, where they lived, what kind of people they were, etc. In many ways, the Bible is like a biography. It is a book written by God that tells us who He is. He wants you to know about Him so you can be close to Him. This study will show you four important things the Bible says about God:

God is holy.
God is just.
God is loving.
God is full of grace.

Let's start by learning how the Bible was written so you know that what it says is true.



1. Read the Bible verse below that tells us how the Bible was written, and then check the box for each correct answer.

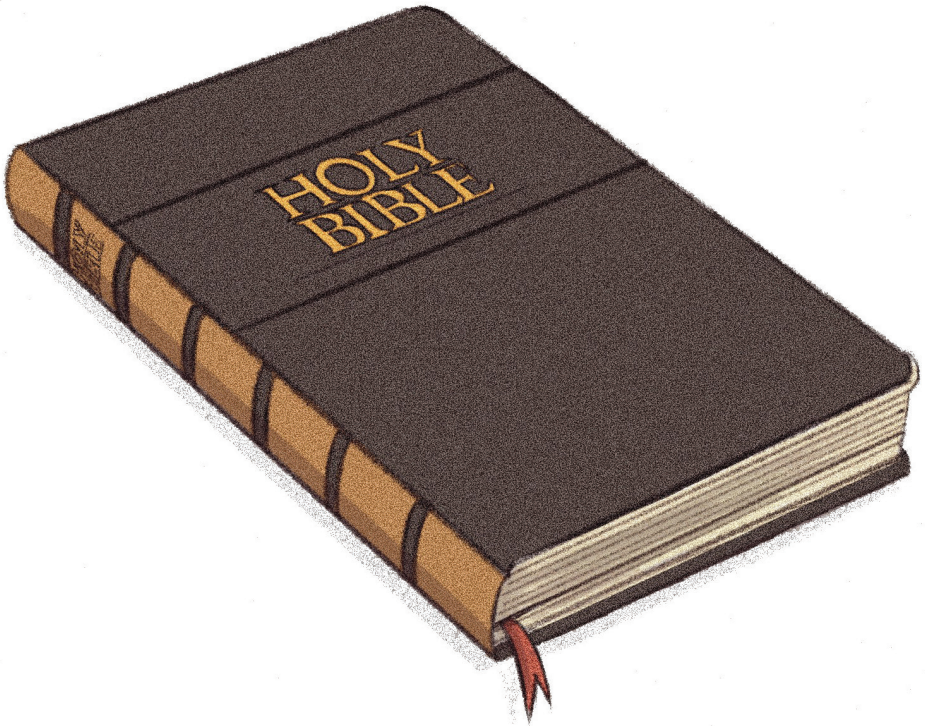
All Scripture [the Bible] is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness. ~2 Timothy 3:16

Who breathed out the Bible?

☐ People ☐ Animals ☐ God

How much of the Bible was spoken or “breathed out” by God?

☐ All of the Bible ☐ Some of the Bible ☐ Most of the Bible



The Bible came to us from the mouth of God, so we can trust that everything it says is true. So, let's get started in the place you normally start in a book—at the very beginning! If you have a Bible, you can try finding this verse for yourself—Genesis 1:1.

Were you able to find it in your Bible?

☐ Yes! ☐ No!

If you weren't able to find it, in your next meeting with your Bible coach, ask how to find verses in the Bible. It's kind of like understanding a secret code!

2. Read the Bible verse below.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.
~Genesis 1:1

Who made the world and created life?

☐ Monkeys ☐ Adam ☐ God ☐ An explosion in space



You will hear a lot of different ideas about how the world began, but the Bible is very clear that in the beginning of time God created the world and everything in it. That means He created YOU! Let's find out more about the God who made you! This lesson will cover one of the most important facts or qualities about God—He is holy.

3. Read the verse below that tells us what this quality is.

Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come! ~Revelation 4:8

This verse tells us that God is h_____.

4. Which of these words do you think means the same as holy?

☐ Kind ☐ Rich ☐ Perfect ☐ Big

Probably the place most people have seen the word *holy* is on the cover of a Bible—Holy Bible. The word *holy* means “perfect or sinless.” God is holy—He has never sinned or done anything wrong!

5. Read this awesome verse about God!

**There is none holy like the LORD: for there is none besides you.
~1 Samuel 2:2**

Who does the Bible say is holy like God is holy?

☐ None ☐ A few ☐ Some ☐ Most

Yes, the Bible says that only God is holy or perfect. He always does what is right, and He has never done anything wrong. Have you ever done anything wrong? You may think . . . “Well, how do you know what’s right and wrong? Who decides if something is right or wrong? My parents? My teachers? Me?”

That’s a good question! Since God made the world and everything in it, He made the rules we all should follow. Have you ever heard of the Ten

Commandments? They are ten basic laws in the Bible that help us know what God says is right and wrong (see Exodus 20).

Most of God's laws start with the words "You shall not . . ." Let's look at a few of them to help you figure out if you've ever broken any of God's laws.

God's LAW

6. One of the Ten Commandments is "Honor your father and mother."



Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. ~Exodus 20:12

God wants you to obey and respect your f_____ and m_____ all the time—immediately, completely, and with a good attitude.

How often would you say you obey (honor) and respect your parents when they tell you to do something?

- ☐ **Every single time** ☐ **Most of the time** ☐ **Not very often**
☐ **Never**

Let's be honest, we can never say that we've obeyed and honored our parents every single time!

7. So, have you ever broken God's law of obeying and honoring your parents?

- ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

Are you holy and perfect like God?

- ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

8. Another law God gave us is "Don't lie."

| You shall not bear false witness [lie] against your neighbor.
~Exodus 20:16

God tells us that we should never tell a l_____.

Have you ever lied to someone before?

- ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

Are you holy and perfect like God?

- ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

9. Another law God gave us is "Don't steal."

| You shall not steal. ~Exodus 20:15

God tells us we should never s_____ something that belongs to someone else.

Have you ever taken something that was not yours?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Are you holy and perfect like God?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If you want to, you can look up more of the commandments. You can find them in Exodus 20:1-17 in your own Bible. Write down some of the other commandments God gave us!

But God's laws are more than just rules to live by. They help us understand what God is like.

10. For example, what does God's command not to lie tell us about God?

God is t_____.

The reason God tells us not to lie is because He is truth. Every time we lie, we offend God. That hurts our relationship with Him. God made us to have a close relationship with Him. When we're not close to God, we often feel sad.

Have you ever felt guilty or lonely or empty inside?

☐ Yes ☐ No

God wants you to be close to Him! Then you can feel peaceful in your heart.

OUR PROBLEM

11. This leaves us with a problem because the Bible says we have all sinned.

| All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. ~Romans 3:23

How many people have sinned and broken God's law?

☐ All ☐ Most ☐ Some ☐ A few

This verse also tells us that we have fallen s_____ of God's glory.

So, the Bible says all of us have sinned and fall short of God's glory. What does that mean? Think of it this way. Imagine looking at the top of a flagpole and someone saying, "Hey, jump and touch the top of that flagpole!" Let's say that you try your best and jump as high as you can.

Did you reach the top?

☐ Yes ☐ No

No! There's no way you could reach the top!



Now let's say that you told an Olympic high jump gold medalist to jump to the top of the flagpole.

Would he get closer to the top than you did?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Of course, he would jump higher than you, but would even he be able to touch the top of the flagpole?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Even though the Olympian would jump higher and get closer to the top of the flagpole, he would still "fall short" of the goal. That's how it is with trying to be perfect like God. You may do more good things than others, but all of us sin. All of us "fall short of the glory of God."

Most people realize they are sinners and are not perfect like God. What many may not understand is that our sin keeps us from having a close relationship with our holy God.

12. What do you think it takes to have a relationship with God and live together with Him in heaven?_____

13. Are you 100 percent sure that your sins are forgiven and that you're going to heaven?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe

ENDING THOUGHTS

14. What did you learn about God and about yourself today?

God is ☐ sinful ☐ holy

I am ☐ sinful ☐ holy

Right, you've learned that we are all sinful and God is holy. If you stopped studying about God and yourself right now, it would be pretty discouraging! Meet with your Bible coach and start the next lesson to learn more about God. I promise, this study ends with Good News! If you don't want to wait to find out, feel free to ask your Bible coach to show you from the Bible how your sins can be forgiven.

If you have any questions about this lesson that you want to ask your Bible coach, write them here:

Congratulations on finishing the first lesson! You're doing great!

Will you promise to finish the next lesson, too?

☐ Yes ☐ No