

Getting to Grips with

God

How our understanding of God changes everything

Part 1: Honouring the Father

Session #2 God in God's own words

"... For this God is our God..." – Psalm 48v 14

Sladebrook Evangelical Church

www.sladebrook.org.uk

Introduction and Aim of this Teaching Series:

This series of Sunday morning talks introduces us to the magnificent doctrine of God. Often trivialised (and certainly simplified) Christian faith and maturity depends on an ever-increasing appreciation of who God is and what He has done. As well as “*getting to grips with God*” we will also attempt to loosen our grip on what God is not, dispelling some commonly held misunderstandings. It is hoped that with Scripture as our guide and with the Holy Spirit’s help, we will discover more about the God we worship and seek to apply this knowledge in our daily Christian walk and witness.

Subject in this series include:

- Honouring God the Father (September)
 - *Who God is (and isn't) – Reality, Trinity and revelation of God/unhelpful stereotypes*
 - *God in God's own words – biblical descriptions of God/Who He is/what He does*
 - *Finding the Father's Heart – understanding just how much God loves us, and how that should be experienced*
- Following God the Son (October)
 - *Why Jesus changes everything for everyone*
 - *Finding acceptance in Christ – what Jesus has brought us into: forgiveness/acceptance/purpose/unconditional love/grace*
 - *The current role/ future prospects of Jesus and His church*
- Welcoming God the Spirit (November)
 - *Who is the Holy Spirit? Confusions and clarifications regarding the Holy Spirit*
 - *What does He do? The ministries and manifestations of the Spirit*
 - *How should He work in me? The role of the Spirit in the life of the believer*

Getting to Grips with God: God in God's own words

We have already seen that in our attempts to discover the Divine, we tread perilously close to idolatry. Man has an inherent knack of imagining “god” in ways that perfectly suit his personal requirements, regardless of how in/accurate he might be! Worryingly, perhaps Christians more than most have lapsed into this way of determining what God is like: The plethora of denominations and traditions, styles and tastes that pervade Christian history would appear to prove the point. Depending upon the doctrinal stand we wish to make, or in order to salve certain situations, we can fall foul of having convenient convictions when it comes to imagining what God expects. However, dogma is not doctrine! The church needs to prayerfully avoid misrepresenting the God we are called to commend. Only by wrestling over clear biblical descriptions can we ever hope to truly get to grips with God.

In the Scriptures we discover God in God's own words. By studying the self-revelation that God has made, we begin to appreciate some of the insights and implications of who God is and what such revelation means for us.

Men like Job had dealings with God and soon realised their paltry preconceptions would disintegrate in the presence of the real thing. Such encounters cut through the most muddled misinformation, leaving them feeling humbled, awed and inspired to embrace the God who is and to acknowledge that He does as He pleases for His ultimate glory and eternal purpose.

In this study, we shall look at how the Bible describes God. Because Scripture is inspired by God Himself, (2 Timothy 3v 16) we are literally looking at God in God's own words. Focusing on 3 key ways God is revealed: His Glory, His Goodness and His Grace, our task is to honour the Father at the heart of our Christian worship, with the knowledge He has given us.

Read: Job Chapter 42 Verses 1-6 & Isaiah Chapter 6 Verses 1-5

(Also: Exodus 34v 5-7; Job 38-41; Psalm 19; Psalm 139v 7-10; John 1v 18; for some more descriptions about God)

God: Described, but not defined...

God cannot be defined. To define is to limit, but God cannot be limited. When we speak or think about God, *we cannot fully grasp Him.* Therefore, *we cannot define God.* Yet we can still speak and think of God in part. That means we can describe God. To be precise, *God describes Himself to us.* We discover this when we read God's Word.

Glimpses of God: How does He reveal Himself? (3 key ways)

1. God's Glory: Why God is God and alone is worthy

- God's Creation reveals Him – Psalm 19v 1-4
- God's Eternal Attributes reveal Him – Romans 1v 20
- God's Divine Titles reveal Him – Exodus 3v 15

2. God's Goodness: God creates, sustains and provides for all

- God's Characteristics reveal Him – Exodus 34v 5-7

3. God's Grace: The ultimate expression of God's heart revealed

- God's Son reveals Him – John 1v 18; 14v 9
- God's People reveal Him – 1 Peter 2v 9-10

Honouring the Father:

Respond:

- *How can we respond to these 3 key aspects of who God is this week?*

Suggestion:

Commit this week to discovering more about the God who has revealed Himself to mankind. Here are some basic, but helpful ways forward:

- **Take a prayer walk.** Simply enjoy creation and look for signs of *God's Glory* in the majesty and detail of what you see.
- **Look in your Bible** and let it speak to you concerning the character of God – who He is, what He's done and what He seeks from you.
- Spend some time in **praise and worship.** Seek to respond to *God's Goodness* for yourself. Meditate, sing, pray – however it looks, express your love and gratitude to God for all He has given you.
- **Witness to someone** about the reality of *God's Grace* at work in your life.