

# Attributes of God

## Gospel of John

### Main Idea — God Is Light

Key Verse – “The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.” (John 1:9, ESV)

The goal of this week's lesson is to help the children understand that God is light. From this verse in John, there are two aspects of this reality that they need to understand. First, as the *true light*, Jesus is the true revelation of God for humanity to see, the One who is able to reveal to mankind what God truly is like. Second, only the true light can *give light to everyone*. Because of sin, the world lives in darkness and cannot look to God in faith. But Jesus came to enlighten the minds of those who would receive Him (John 1:12-13), and remove their spiritual blindness so that they can understand spiritual truth and be saved.

### Preparation

Materials:

- Light word search
- Jesus is the Light coloring page

Set-up:

- Print out the various handouts.

### Bible Verse (5-10 minutes)

Romans 1:16 (ESV) – “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”

Memorization — Have the students repeat the Bible verse with hand motions 2-3 times.

Song — Have the students sing “Not Ashamed” (Seeds Family Worship, ESV) at least once.

NOTE — Start the Bible Verse section at the beginning without waiting for students who may arrive late. This will preserve the allotted times for other sections.

### Lesson (20-25 minutes)

Main Idea – God is light.

Pray

### Introduction (5 minutes)

Today, we are going to begin with a game — “What’s my favorite?” In this game, I will give you a category and you will try to guess what my favorite type in that category is. An example category is: Ice Cream! You might ask, “Is your favorite flavor vanilla?”

For the teacher — In this game, make sure that your helper knows all your answers. You can use the categories below, or pick your own! The point will be that the helper perfectly knows all of your favorites, while the students don’t. You can let more than one child answer the question each time.

- Categories:
  - Your favorite thing at a park
  - The place in the world you most want to visit
  - What you wanted to grow up to be when you were a child
  - Favorite book other than the Bible
  - Favorite board game
  - Favorite food

Imagine that in order to be saved, you had to get every answer to my questions right. You might think that you already know who I am, and what I like, but if you ended up being wrong you wouldn’t be saved. The only way for you to know who I am is if I tell you! The reason that the helper knew all the answers was because I told them.

Today, we are going to talk about how Jesus reveals the Father. Jesus is the true light who makes the Father known.

### Body (15 minutes)

Main point — God is light. In John’s gospel, we learn something very important about the Word — Jesus — He is light. Listen to it again — Read John 1:9

Today, we need to understand two things about Jesus and His attribute of light.

#### 1. Jesus is the **true** light

The first thing we learn is that Jesus is the true light. We all know that light is revealing. When we go into a dark room, it may be filled with things, but we can’t see what those things are unless there is a light to show us. **What could happen if we tried to walk through a room in the dark?** We could trip over something and get hurt, we could break something — not being able to see is very dangerous.

The same thing is true about God. The Jews thought that they understood who God was and what He wanted. They had His word, they practiced religion, but there was a problem. Because of their sin, they were unable to truly see what God was like. Their sin made them blind. That is really dangerous for humans — if you don’t know what God is like, you can’t know what pleases Him, you can’t know what He requires, and you can’t obey Him! And we know that the result of being in that condition leads to spiritual death in hell forever!

What they needed was to be able to see God for who He truly was. Illustration — It's like if I held up a picture with a person on it. And then I said, "After Sunday school, go find this person and they will tell you where the secret Children's ministry candy stash is." **What's the problem?** The picture is so dim, that you cannot see who it is! And if you can't see who it is, you can't obey my command to go find them, and you'll miss out on the secret Children's ministry candy stash! What you need is to see the full picture of this person!

So we learn from John 1 that what humans really need is light so that they can see the true picture of who God is and what He is like. John tells us that Jesus — the true light — came to show us the true picture of God. **Read John 1:18.** He reveals to us who God is and what He is like so that we can obey Him and know what is pleasing in His sight.

That brings us so the second important truth about Jesus' attribute of light.

## 2. Jesus gives light to everyone

It is great news that Jesus is the true light — the exact picture of the Father that we need to see to know who He is and what He is like. But the problem of sin remains. Because of sin, we are blind and we can't see the light. And even if we could see the light, sinners don't want to go to the light because it will reveal their sin. Sinners don't want to give up their sin, so they hide in the darkness.

John the gospel writer tells us this is why John the Baptist was sent. He was sent to testify of the light. His entire ministry was to say, "There is the light — He's right there!" This makes me ask an important question. Who needs help to see a light? If I had a flashlight up here, and I told you to raise your hand every time I turned it on, the only way you could get it wrong is if you were blind or if you weren't looking at me. That is what sin does — it makes us blind, and it makes us turn our eyes away from Christ.

Thankfully, this is another reason that Jesus came — He came to give light to those who were in darkness. Jesus graciously gives men and women the ability to see so that they can follow Him! If Jesus does not remove your blindness, you won't be able to see God. That is a problem that we need an answer for.

### **Conclusion (5 minutes)**

We'll close with this question — What must I do? John makes this clear in verse 12 — "But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."

If you want to become a child of God, you must believe in Jesus, you must turn away from the darkness and receive Him as the true light. If you don't come to the true light, you cannot have life! You will continue to be a slave of the darkness. The darkness only leads to destruction.

But if you come to Jesus — the One who is able to give life — you don't have to fear the darkness of sin, because the darkness cannot overcome the light (1:5). Believe in Jesus, don't remain in the darkness, and you will be saved through faith.

Pray

## **Lesson Activities (20-25 minutes)**