

Attributes of God

Gospel of John

God Is Spirit

Key Verse – “For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.” (John 4:24, NLT)

The goal of this week's lesson is to help the children understand an essential quality of God's nature, namely, that He is spirit. Here is a quick definition of what it means that God is spirit: “God's spirituality and invisibility describe his perfect lack of material in the divine essence, so that his essence cannot be perceived by the physical senses.”¹ This lesson will focus on the reality that God is spirit, how that effects our understanding of God, and how God is fully revealed in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Preparation

Materials:

- Two levels of word searches to emphasize the main point.
- Main point maze.
- God is spirit coloring page.

Set-up:

- Print out materials

Bible Verse (5-10 minutes)

1 John 5:11-12, John 14:6 (ESV) – “And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life...Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

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

Song — Have the students sing “The Life” (Seeds Family Worship, ESV) at least once.

¹ John MacArthur, *Biblical Doctrine*, 179.

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 spirit.

Pray

Introduction (5 minutes)

We are going to begin with a question — “Can you see me?” What is something that we can’t see, but that we know exists and can experience it with our other senses?

- The wind — No one can see the wind - it’s invisible. But we can feel its effects when it’s windy outside. (This is an example that Jesus gives to teach about the Holy Spirit, John 3).
- Gravity — No one can see gravity - it’s invisible. But we can feel its effects when we lose our balance and fall to the ground. It keeps us grounded on the earth.
- Heat — No one can see heat - it’s invisible. Sometimes we can see things like steam (which is water in the air reacting to heat), but heat itself cannot be seen. But we can feel its effects when we stand in the sun and feel its warmth.
- Cold — No one can see cold - it’s invisible. Sometimes we can see things like steam (which is water in the air reacting to the cold), but cold itself cannot be seen. But we can feel its effects when we go outside in the snow or walk down the frozen aisle at the grocery store.
- Air/breath — No one can see the air, or breath. Sometimes, when it’s foggy or cold outside, we can see air reacting to the cold. But when we go under water to hold our breath, we can feel what it’s like when our body needs new oxygen.
- Virus — No one can see a virus with our normal vision, but with a microscope we can see them. But even though we can’t see it with our normal vision, we can feel the effects of being sick.
- Feelings — We can’t see our feelings - they are invisible! We can see a person’s emotion from the expression on their face, but the actual emotion we can’t see. But we can feel its effects when we’re sad, happy, or scared.

We don’t have to be able to see something in order for it to exist and have an impact on us. Today, we are going to learn something about God that is important for us to understand about who He is.

Body (15 minutes)

Main Point — God is spirit. Jesus tells the woman at the well that God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.

First, we have to ask — **What is spirit?** Spirit is something that is not physical, but spiritual. Not material (made of matter), but immaterial (not made of matter). It’s not visible, but invisible.

But just because something is spiritual and invisible does not mean it doesn’t exist.

Now that we've defined spirit, we can ask the question, **what does it teach us about God that He is spirit?**

- It means that God doesn't have a body — you can't touch Him
- It means that God is invisible — you can't see Him
- It means that God can be anywhere — you can't limit Him, He can be present everywhere (omnipresence)

Because God is Spirit, you can't touch, see, or limit Him.

This brings up another question. If you can't touch, see, or limit God, **how can you get to know Him?** First, we must say, that if God didn't want to be known, that He could hide Himself from mankind. You could never hide from God, but God could hide Himself from you so that you could never find Him. Second, in order for God to be known by humans, He has to reveal Himself. God has to make Himself knowable.

Throughout the Bible, there are a few ways that God has made Himself knowable. What are some of the ways that God has made Himself knowable?

- He has revealed Himself in His creation — When humans look at the world, the Bible says they know that God exists, even if they deny that they see it.
- He has revealed Himself in His Word — God has told us what He is like in His word. He is holy. He is loving. He is gracious. If God didn't tell us those things, we couldn't know them. Thankfully, God has told us so that we can know them.
- He revealed Himself to Israel in ways that could be seen — God spoke to Moses from a bush that was on fire (Exodus 3:2). God went before Israel as a pillar of cloud in the day and a pillar of fire by night (Exodus 13:21). God wrestled with Jacob in the form of a man (Genesis 32:22-30).

But the greatest way of all that we can know God is by looking to His Son! In order to reconcile sinners to God, the Lord Jesus had to become a man. For the first time in history, God — who had eternally existed as a spirit — took on a human nature. People could see and touch Jesus. And when they did, it was like seeing God the Father, because Jesus was the perfect reflection of God the Father on earth.

Conclusion (5 minutes)

God is spirit. In order for us to have a relationship with God, God must make Himself known to humans! The greatest way that God has made Himself known to humans is through His Son. Jesus came to earth to take on a human nature so that He could die as a perfect substitute for sin. In fact, Jesus will have a physical body for the rest of history, with the scars that prove He came to save us because we couldn't save ourselves.

Therefore, you must look to the God-man, Jesus Christ, to know God. Apart from a relationship with Jesus, you cannot know God. So believe in God's Son so that you might have a relationship with the Father, so that you might get to know more about what He is like, and so that you may enjoy Him forever.

Pray

Lesson Activities (20-25 minutes)

Secret Word — Nature