



**Educate  
+ Engage**



THE LOVE  
OF GOD



who is God

## OVERVIEW

God's love is not something we earn—it's who He is and His love is freely given to restore relationship with us. When we truly experience that love, it transforms us from the inside out, compelling us to live with purpose, walk in relationship, and reflect His love to the world.

Before we can understand how much God loves us, we need to know who God is. The better we understand His character, the more clearly we can see the depth of His love.

### Scripture Passages:

- Genesis 1:1
- John 1:1
- Revelation 4:8–11
- John 1:14–18 1
- John 4:7–10 1
- John 4:19

## EDUCATE

*Teacher Note: Give students a journal at the beginning of this series and encourage them to write down thoughts, prayers, or doodles during and at the end of each lesson.*

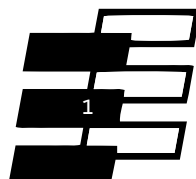
### Point 1: Who is God?

How would you describe God?

Before we talk about God's love, we have to understand who God is. If we don't really know Him, it's hard to trust or receive His love. And the Bible doesn't leave us guessing—it introduces God right from the very first verse.

Before anything else—before time, light, space, or people—God already existed: "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1, ESV). He wasn't created. He's always been. John 1:1 echoes this: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (ESV).

That means God is eternal. No beginning. No end. He is the Alpha and the Omega—the start and the finish of everything. He is bigger than your fears, doubts, and questions. He's not bound by time or tired by human problems. Revelation 4:8–11 gives us this breathtaking picture of



# Lesson 1

heaven where angels cry out day and night: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come" (ESV).

He is holy—completely pure, powerful, and perfect. He's not just a little better than us—He's in a league of His own. That can sound intimidating at first, but it actually makes His love even more incredible. Why? Because this same powerful, infinite God chose to come close to you.

John 1:14 says, "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth" (ESV). God didn't just watch from a distance—He stepped into our world. That's Jesus—God in human form. He didn't come to scare us or condemn us. He came full of grace and truth. That phrase—"grace and truth"—is huge.

**Grace** means God is patient with us. He gives us room to grow, space to learn, and time to come back when we've wandered. Grace doesn't expect perfection; it welcomes process. When you mess up, grace says, *"You're still loved. Keep going."*

But **truth** is just as important. Truth corrects, guides, and leads us to life. Truth doesn't leave us stuck in the same patterns. It says, *"I love you too much to let you stay where you are."* Truth shines a light on lies we've believed about God, ourselves, and others. It calls us to more.

Together, grace and truth show us the full heart of God. If He were only grace, we might think sin doesn't matter. If He were only truth, we'd feel crushed under pressure. But Jesus came with both. He lifts us up *and* shows us how to grow. He forgives us *and* shows us a better way.

God isn't some angry principal waiting to punish you. He's a Good Shepherd (John 10) and a loving Father. He wants to guide you, know you, speak to you, and walk with you. He is majestic and personal, powerful and present.

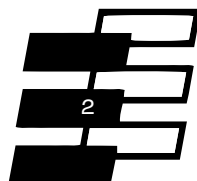
Before anything else—God was. And before you ever loved Him—He already loved you: "We love because he first loved us" (1 John 4:19, ESV).

That's who He is: holy, eternal, all-powerful... and incredibly near.

## Point 2: God is love.

Let this sink in for a second: God is love.

Not just "loving." Not just "kind." Love is His nature. It's not something He switches on when



## Lesson 1

you're doing well and turns off when you're messing up. It's who He is—all the time: "Let us love one another, for love comes from God... Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love" (1 John 4:7–8, ESV).

Everything God does flows from that identity. Even His discipline, His correction, His boundaries—they're all rooted in love. He doesn't correct you to crush you. He corrects to *shape* you. Because He sees your future. He knows your worth. And He loves you too much to let you stay stuck in things that hurt you.

The truth is, most of us have experienced imperfect love. Some of us have been let down, forgotten, ignored, or used. So when we hear "God loves you," it's easy to think, "*Yeah, but for how long?*" or "*Only if I get it right.*"

But that's not God. His love doesn't fade when you fail. It doesn't get stronger when you pray more. It doesn't get weaker when you're struggling.

His love is unconditional. Constant. Dependable. Forever.

You don't earn it by being a good Christian. You don't keep it by avoiding sin. You can't undo it with your worst moment.

God doesn't love you because you're good. He loves you because *He is good*.

Think about that—God doesn't know how to not love. It pours out of Him because it's who He is.

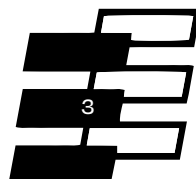
So, how might God speak love to you? Maybe it's through a quiet moment where you feel peace you can't explain. Maybe it's through a person who speaks life into your situation. Maybe it's through Scripture, or worship, or even in a moment when you're not doing great and He still whispers, "*I'm with you.*"

Love isn't just what God does—it's who He is.

### **Point 3 - Jesus is God with us.**

Of the stories you have heard about Jesus, what do you think about His life?

John 1:14 says, "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us" (NIV). That one sentence is one of the most powerful truths in all of Scripture. It means God didn't love us from



## Lesson 1

a distance. He stepped into our world. He walked the dirt roads of earth, not as a king above us—but as one of us. That's Jesus. God in human form.

He didn't come just to preach sermons or perform miracles. He came to show us who He is in a way we could see, hear, touch, and know. John 1:18 adds, "No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known" (ESV). That's what Jesus did—He made God known.

When Jesus hugged kids, He showed us that God is tender.

When He wept over a friend's death, He showed us that God feels our grief.

When He ate with sinners and welcomed the outcasts, He showed us that no one is too far gone for God.

When He forgave people who betrayed Him, He showed us a love that doesn't give up.

Jesus didn't just talk about love—He lived it out loud. Every healing, every conversation, every sacrifice was a visible expression of God's heart. Even His death on the cross wasn't about punishment—it was about restoration.

So when you think about who Jesus is, don't just think of a distant figure from history. Think of the God who moved into your neighborhood. Who sits with you when you're hurting. Who leads you when you're lost. Who gave everything so you could be free.

That's love. And that's your God.

### Closing

God's love isn't just a feeling—it's who He is. His love is His identity. When Jesus came to earth, it was love in flesh. He came to show us what love really looks like: sacrificial, personal, forgiving, and forever.

### ENGAGE

Spend time reflecting on how they view God. Have them write down or draw some characteristics of God and maybe how they want to see God. Have them journal what the biggest ah-ha of the lesson was.

