

# Who's in Charge?

**Discovering  
God's Character**



*by Laurie Donahue  
and Raph Rittenhouse  
from God... Should I Be Baptized?*

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Session 1

# Who's In Charge?

## Discovering God's Character



# Who's In Charge?

Who's in charge? God is. He created everything.

Did you know that you are different from all of God's animal creatures? Animals live and breathe and eat and sleep just like you do.

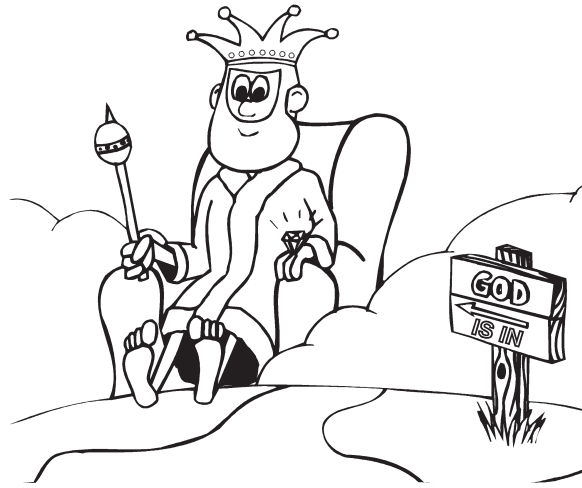
But you are different. Do you know why you are different?



**GOD MADE YOU TO HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM.**

**HE WANTS YOU TO LIVE FOREVER WITH HIM.**





## What Is God Like?

God... God?! Now that brings to mind a few questions. Did you know that adults have questions about God, too? Everyone has questions about God. God is so big and so different from us, we can't understand everything about Him. Even the artist who drew the above picture doesn't really know what God looks like. That is because God hasn't chosen to share EVERYTHING about Himself with us. But He has chosen to tell us some things about Himself. One of the primary ways He shares Himself is through the book He has written, the Bible. Let's look together; maybe we'll find answers to some of the questions we have.



# God Is Spirit

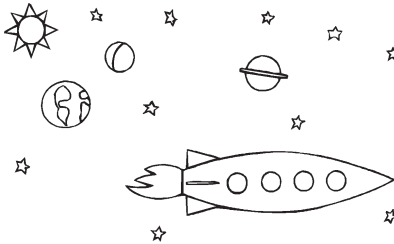
Let's look at John 4:24.

## **John 4:24**

**God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.**

God is \_\_\_\_\_ . A spirit is not a made up cartoon character or some unknown force. A spirit is a real being who thinks and makes choices, but has no body. God, the Spirit, is so big, it is hard for us to imagine.

# God is Eternal



Imagine you are in a spaceship traveling through space. You pass the moon, the planets, the stars, more stars... and still more stars. Yet you don't come to the end of space. God is like that. He has no beginning and no end. It is pretty hard to imagine! Read Psalm 90:2.

## **Psalm 90:2**

**Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

Finish writing the verse: Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, \_\_\_\_\_

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What do the words "God is eternal," mean to you now? \_\_\_\_\_

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## God Never Changes



Did you know that God was there when you were born? God is with you now. And God will be with you when you grow old. Did you notice that the artist's picture of the man looks the same in all three pictures, and in the picture, the child changes and grows? God is like the man. Every year you change in so many ways, but God is always the same. He was the same during Bible times, the same now and will be the same at the end of time. He is the same forever. Let's read Malachi 3:6.

**Malachi 3:6**  
**I the Lord do not change.**

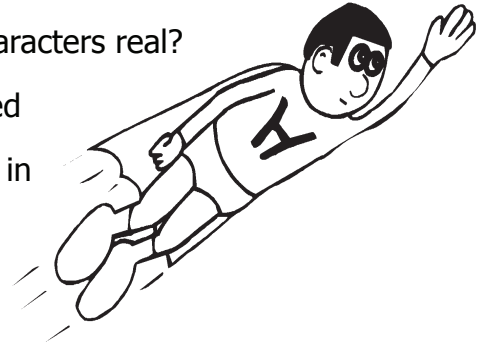
It says, "I the Lord do \_\_\_\_\_."

We change and grow but God never changes.

# God Is All Powerful

Some people draw super hero cartoon characters who are strong and brave and are able to do anything. Are these characters real?

Only God can do anything. Our God, Who created the world and everything that is in it, has told us in Genesis 17:1,



**Genesis 17:1 "I am God Almighty"**

Read Matthew 19:26.

**Matthew 19:26**

**Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."**

What does this verse tell us about God? \_\_\_\_\_

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# God Knows Everything

Do you have a secret that no one else knows? Is it so secret that you have not told anyone? Not even your best friend?

Did it ever occur to you that Someone has known all along?

**GOD KNOWS ALL OF OUR SECRETS!**

Read Psalm 139:1-4 on the next page.





**Psalm 139:1-4**

**O Lord, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O Lord.**

Do you think you could talk to God about EVERYTHING? What does this passage say to you? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## God Is Everywhere

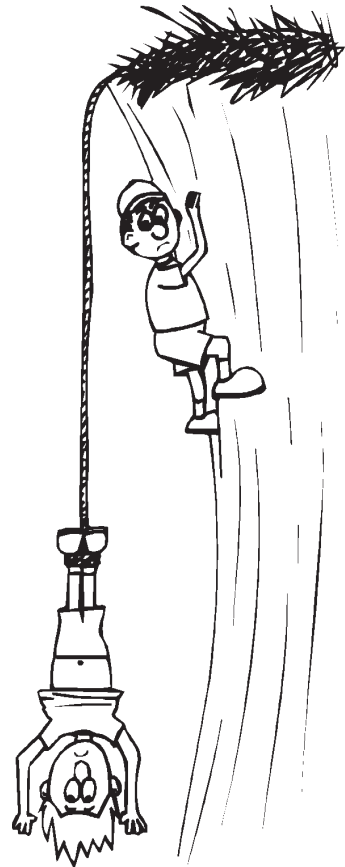
Has your mother or father ever said these words to you? "You'll just have to wait. I can't be in two places at the same time." That makes sense. It's hard to imagine that God is everywhere. He can be two places at once, or five... or a hundred and five.

Jeremiah 23:24 says:

**Jeremiah 23:24**

**Can anyone hide in secret places so that I cannot see him?" declares the Lord . "Do not I fill heaven and earth?" declares the Lord .**

Do you have a secret place where you like to hide? \_\_\_\_\_



Think about that place. What if you turn that into a special place to meet God? What would you say to Him? What would you talk about?

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ANY place can be that special place. ANY time can be that special time. God is with you all the time.

## God Is Faithful

Have you ever had a friend say "I'll be over this afternoon," or "I'll call you later," ...and he or she never did? Maybe you've had someone break a promise to you or maybe you have not always kept your word. Did you know that God has made over 1000 promises to us in the Bible? And He has kept every one of them.



I Corinthians 1:9 says:

**I Corinthians 1:9**  
**God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.**

What does this verse mean for you? \_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_

God has promised to take care of us. On the next page are just a few verses which tell of promises God has made to you.

Can you find a promise in each verse?

**1 John 1:9**

**If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

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**Philippians 4:19**

**And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.**

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**Romans 8:28**

**And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.**

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**John 14:2**

**In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you.**

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**Psalm 91:14**

**"Because he loves me," says the Lord, "I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name."**

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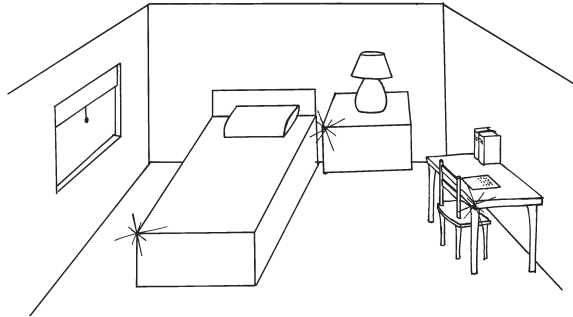
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# God Is Holy

Read Leviticus 19:2

**Leviticus 19:2**

**“Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them:  
‘Be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy.’”**



God is holy... holy? That means God is perfect. He never has and never will do anything wrong. Sinless! Not even a speck of sin on a God as big as our God!

Is your bedroom ever messy? How long does it take to clean it up? Can you even imagine a bedroom that NEVER gets messy? Not even a microscopic bit of dust on the dresser? God has no sin; like a bedroom that NEVER gets messy or dusty. It's hard to imagine, isn't it? He says, "I the Lord, your God, am \_\_\_\_\_." Holy means completely sinless. We can't even keep our bedroom perfectly clean, much less be perfect like God is.

# God Is Fair and Just

Do you feel sometimes that things aren't fair? You probably do, especially if you have brothers or sisters.

What do you feel is not fair? \_\_\_\_\_

We often think things are fair when they are equal.

Some things seem fair but aren't... Some things don't seem fair but are... And some things just plain aren't

fair. But everything that God does IS fair. Read Deuteronomy 32:4.



## **Deuteronomy 32:4**

**He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he.**

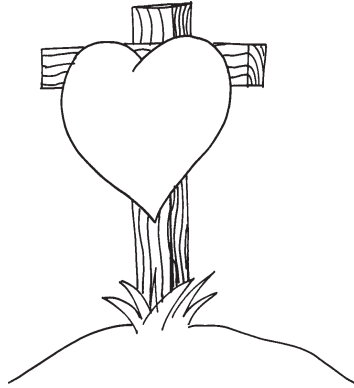
Sometimes we think that something is fair if it is what we want. But what is important is what God thinks. God is just, which means He is always fair by His standard. When God asks us to be holy, and we aren't, His justice demands a consequence. We know that He will always be fair and just... by His rules!!

Is there a sometimes a difference between fair and just? \_\_\_\_\_

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# God Is Love

It's hard to imagine that a God so great and powerful really cares about the details in our lives.



God loves everything He has made. In fact, I John 4:8 tells us that



**1 John 4:8**

**Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.**

He wants only what is good for each of us. Read John 3:16.

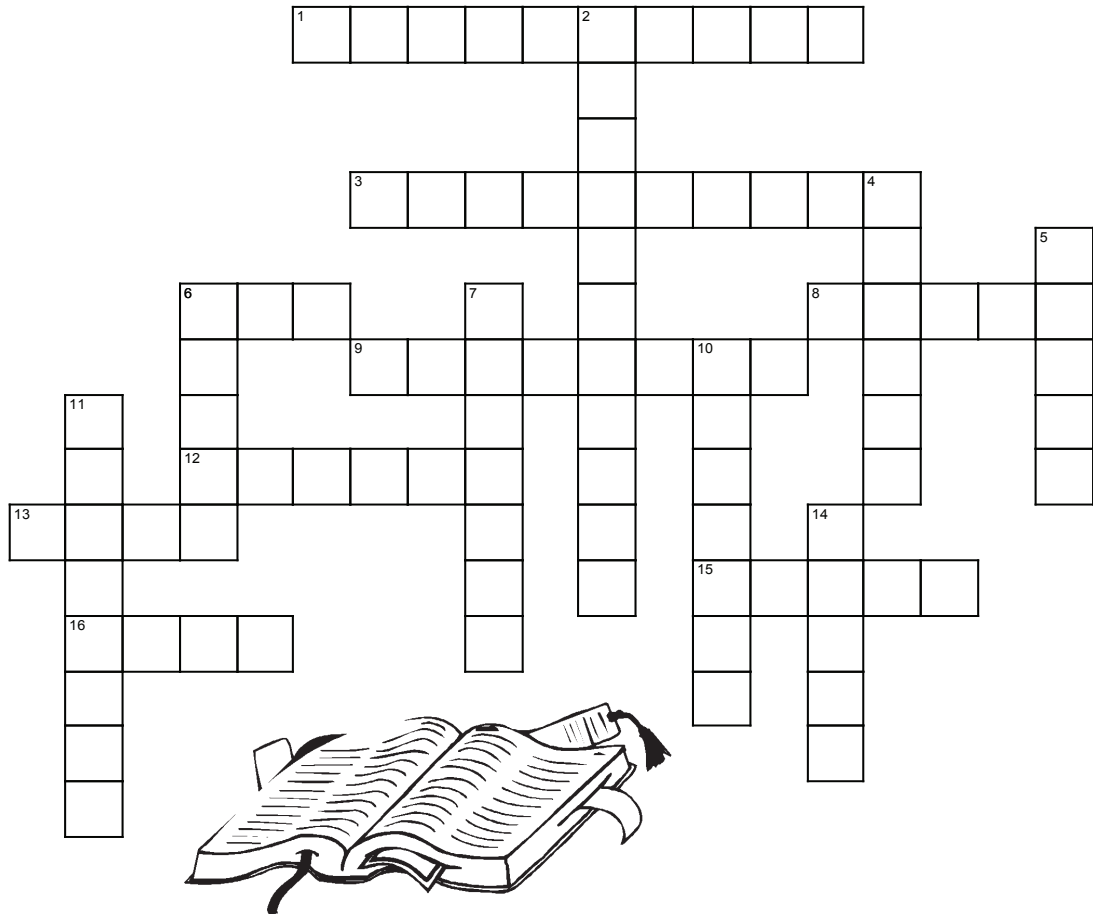
**John 3:16**

**"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."**

In this verse how does God show His love? \_\_\_\_\_

Today we've studied to find out what God is like. Another characteristic about God that is important for us to understand is His grace. Grace is undeserved favor. It's all the love God gives us that we haven't done anything to earn. And it's so important we'll spend our whole next session talking about how we were "lost and found."

# GETTING TO KNOW GOD BETTER



## ACROSS

1. All powerful
3. God's characteristics
6. Created everything
8. One way God talks to us
9. God keeps all the \_\_\_\_\_ He makes.
12. "I the Lord do not \_\_\_\_\_."
13. "You know when I sit and when I \_\_\_\_\_."
15. God promises to meet all of our \_\_\_\_\_.
16. Perfect, sinless

## DOWN

2. Knowing everything
4. Makes choices but has no body
5. God showed His love by sending \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Undeserved favor
7. How long we will live with Him as a child of God.
10. No beginning and no end
11. 1 Corinthians 1:9 says God is \_\_\_\_\_.
14. Not giving me the punishment I deserve

# What Is God Like?

God has many wonderful characteristics. Solve the puzzle below to identify a few of them.

Directions: There are three or four letters on each of the file drawers. The numbers beneath the answer blanks correspond with the numbers on the drawers of the filing cabinet. Choose the file drawer that corresponds with the number on each blank. Then determine which of the letters on the file drawer you need. Write that letter in the appropriate space.

1. God is                              . (John 4:24)  
           6 5 3 5 3 6

2. God is                                   . (Psalm 90:2)  
           2 6 2 5 4 1 4

3. God                                                            . (Malachi 3:6)  
           4 2 6 2 5 1 3 1 4 3 2 6

4. God is                                                            . (Matthew 19:26)  
           1 4 4 5 5 7 2 5 2 6 4

5. God                                                                                . (Psalm 139:1-4)  
           4 4 5 7 6 2 6 2 5 7 6 3 3 4 3

6. God is                                                       . (Jeremiah 23:24)  
           2 6 2 5 7 7 3 2 5 2

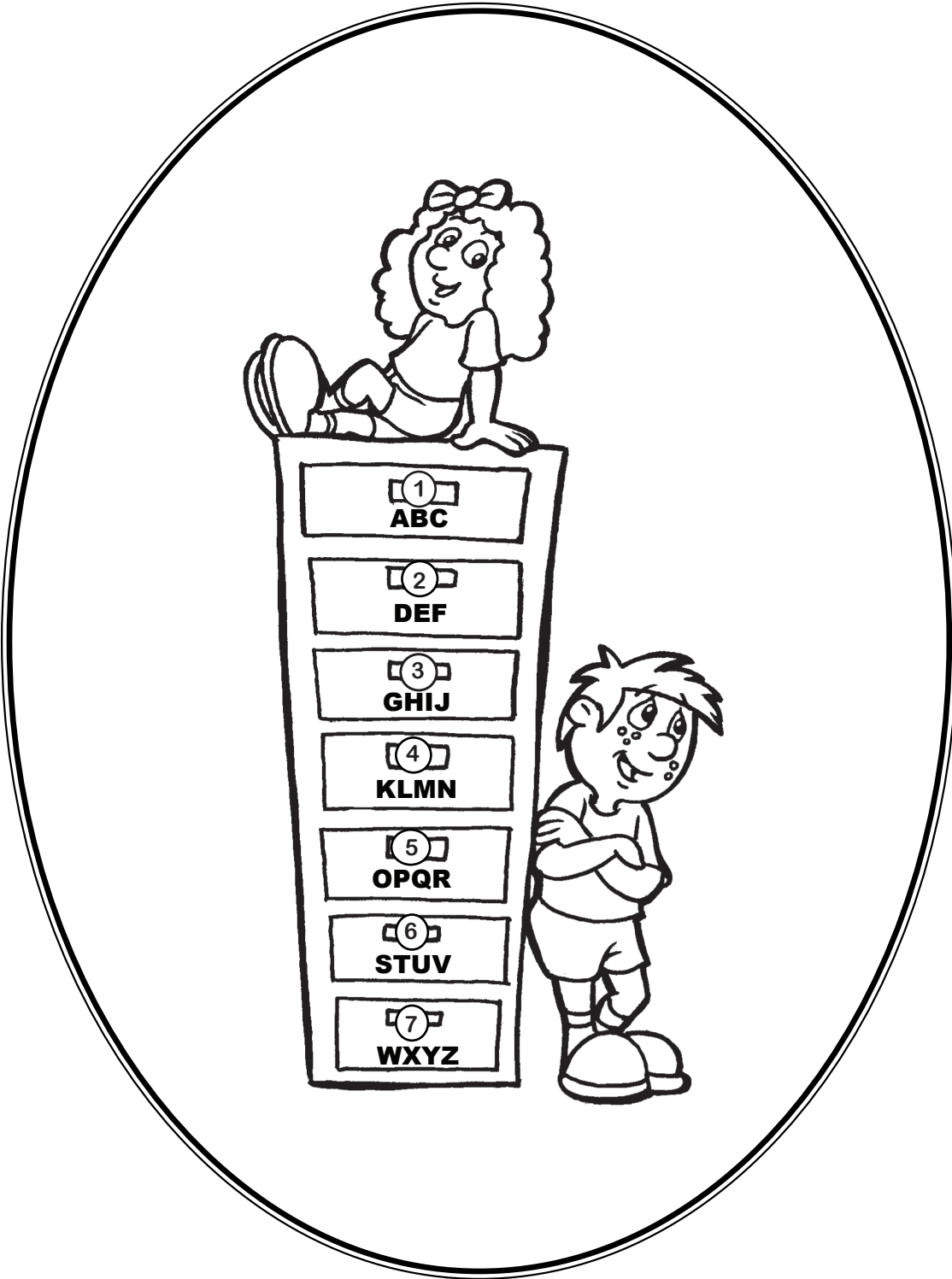
7. God is                    . (Leviticus 19:2)  
           3 5 4 7

8. God is                                                       . (Deuteronomy 32:4)  
           1 4 7 1 7 6 2 1 3 5

9. God is                                        . (1 Corinthians 1:9)  
           2 1 3 6 3 2 6 4

10. God is                    . (1 John 4:8)  
           4 5 6 2





# Review and Beyond

## Session 1

1. In what way are people different from the rest of the world that God created?
2. How does God show Himself to us?
3. The Bible tells us that God is Spirit. What does that mean?
4. We usually think of eternal as having no end. What is another aspect of eternal?
5. How can the God that the Old Testament Jews worshiped and our God be the same?
6. If God can help you do anything in your life, why doesn't He?

7. If God already knows your sinful thoughts, why do you try to hide them from Him?

8. What can you do to establish a regular time to meet with God?

9. How can you ever be as holy as God expects?

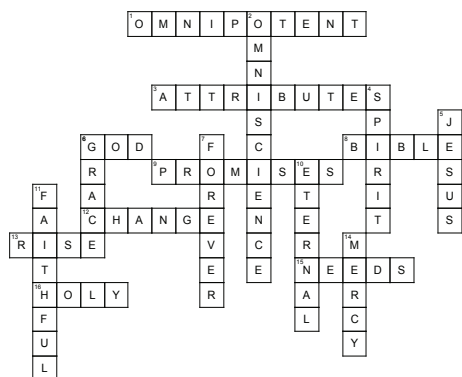
10. What is a difference between “fair” and “just”? Which best describes God?

11. When we say that God is faithful, what does it mean? How does it affect your faith?

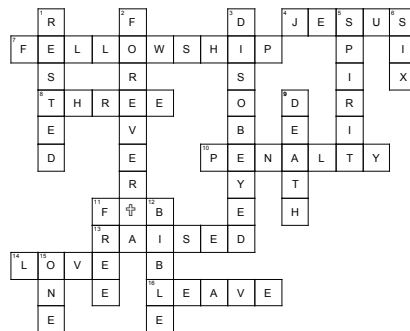
12. Is grace more than the prayer before a meal? What is it?

# Answer Key

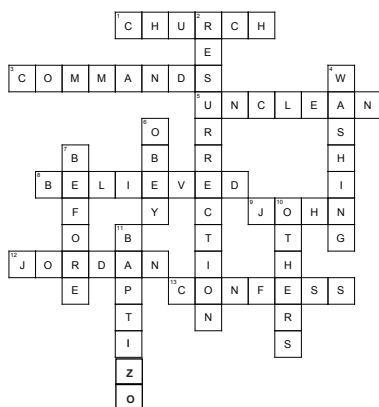
## Session 1



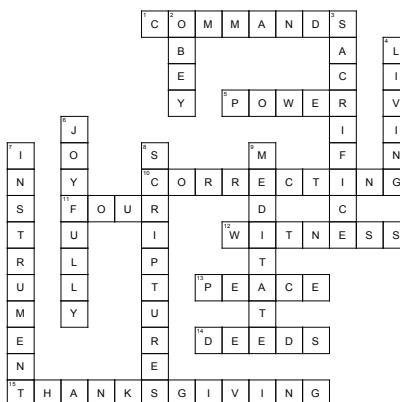
## Session 2



## Session 3



## Session 4



### Puzzle 1- What is God Like?

- |                  |                     |                |
|------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| 1. Spirit        | 4. All Powerful     | 7. Holy        |
| 2. Eternal       | 5. Knows Everything | 8. Always Fair |
| 3. Never Changes | 6. Everywhere       | 9. Faithful    |
|                  |                     | 10. Love       |

### Puzzle 2- Extra! Extra!

A Beautiful Beginning - world, dark, cold, color, creative, God, made, good  
 Perfect Creation Ruined- man, creation, rule, garden, fruit, tree, disobedience,  
 sin, die, separates  
 Good News! sin, love, plan, Son, Jesus, confess, forgiveness, good, news

### Puzzle 3- Who Should Be Baptized?

THOSE WHO BELIEVE AND RECEIVE

### Puzzle 4- Part of the Team!

1. Obey 2. Pray 3. Study His Word 4. Go To Church 5. Tell Others About Jesus  
 6. Serve Jesus As Lord Of Your Life

# What some have said...

“This is a wonderful resource! I have never seen anything like it. As an important act of Christian obedience, baptism should be entered into with understanding and training. This book will help parents, and those who minister to children, not only to examine baptism, but to take advantage of the event of baptism to teach many foundational biblical truths. It accomplishes all of this in ways that are fun and interesting to children.”

**Dan Pryor**

**Former U. S. Field Director- Here's Life Inner City  
(a ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ)**

“Thanks for making ‘God.. Should I Be Baptized?’ available for our church families. This valuable book helps parents and teachers to transform baptism into a growing spiritual experience. It is a unique, biblically strong resource that becomes a keepsake and a lasting reminder for children wanting to be like Jesus. I looked all over for a tool like this and it's the best.”

**Mike Akert**

**Pastor of Children's Ministries  
Liberty Bible Church, IN**

“I needed an easy to read text which would help me to teach sound doctrine based on God's Word. Your book was just right for us! The lessons in the book were challenging and the concepts were all presented with printed Bible verses, a real time saver... The children are well prepared for their coming baptisms now and they have a personal book to share with family and friends. Thank you for preparing this wonderful study.”

**Carolyn Trotter**

**Sunday School Superintendent  
Pleasant Valley Baptist Church, CA**

“I have used the curriculum for four years and have baptized all of our children using ‘God...Should I Be Baptized?’ I use the material in a session format, giving the handbooks to the children to take home and work with their parents. The final session is the session in which the baptism takes place. What I like about the material is that it is totally Scriptural. Through the material, the child is taken from a salvation experience and is then disciplined into the next step of obedience, water baptism. Moms and dads like it because their children are receiving real training, not just getting ‘dunked’. Parents are also included in the training process through checkups and direct help. The format is well done and easy to follow. If a child can read reasonably well, he should be able to complete this material. I feel so strongly about ‘God...Should I Be Baptized?’ that I have suggested it to my colleagues via e-mail.”

**Chuck Wasik**

**Children's Pastor  
Racine Assembly of God, WI**

# Contributors

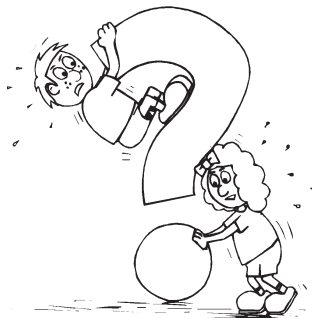
**Ralph Rittenhouse** was on the staff of Campus Crusade for Christ for 13 years, serving in the High School Ministry and then on the National Leadership Team. For the last 28 years Ralph has pastored at Camarillo Community Church in Camarillo, California, a church that is part of the Baptist General Conference. He and his wife, Jackie, have two children and six grandchildren.

**Laurie Donahue** is the author of *Mr. Blue—a Job for You, The Lord's Supper... Let's Get Ready!, God's Plan... My Response* (LifeSong Publishers), and *A Promise Is...* (Standard Publishing). Laurie directed and choreographed children for the *In My Garden Videos* (Mary Rice Hopkins) and directed, produced and wrote music for *4-Ever His!* She holds a lifetime California Community College Teaching Credential. Laurie lives in Southern California with her husband, Tim, and enjoys 4 grandchildren.

**Stanton Ens** (page illustrations) spends his time as an engineer and manufacturer of test equipment. Graphic arts and illustration are one of many hobbies, but so far Stanton says he plans to keep his day job. Stanton lives in Camarillo with his wife Kristen, and their two children.

**Ed Olson's** (cover illustration) illustration and animation career includes projects for the Walt Disney Company, Warner Brothers, Sony and Hanna-Barbera. Believing that the media can be used to reflect Christ in a relevant and respectful way to children, he has developed a design and concept development company which provides production services to Christian-based publishing and media companies. He recently directed and produced an episode of "Adventures in Odyssey" for Focus on the Family. Ed resides in Moorpark, California, with his wife and two children. Visit him at: [www.websdirect.com/designloft](http://www.websdirect.com/designloft).

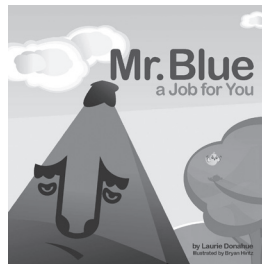
**Thank you** to many who contributed. Thanks to Pastors, Ralph Rittenhouse, Jim Harmeling, Paul Phillipps, and Paul Ortlinghaus...thanks to Pat Papenhausen, Jane Boyer and Carolyn Trotter for praying, proofing, encouraging and input, to Ed Olson for the cover art, the whole Donahue family for love and support, and especially to our God, for giving the Word.



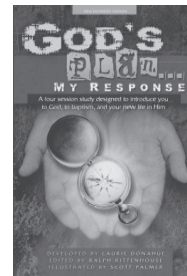
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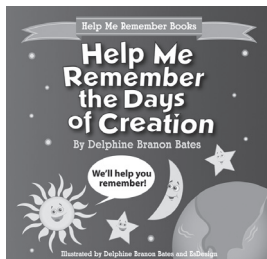


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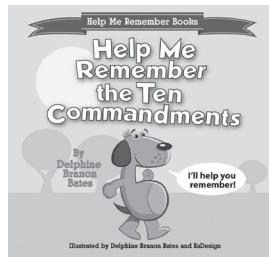
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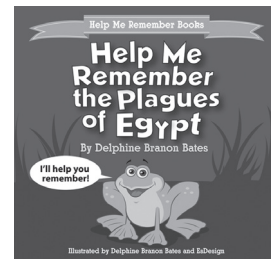
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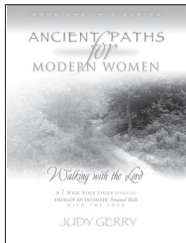
*"If someone were to ask me right now, 'What did God create on the 5th day?' or 'What's the 5th commandment?' or 'What's the 5th plague brought upon by the Egyptians?'...I would know the answer! And I would have Delphine Bates and her wonderfully imaginative books to thank for it. Honestly, she has given us, young and old alike, an ingenuous way to memorize the Ten Commandments, the Seven Days of Creation and, finally, the Ten Plagues of Egypt. What's more, she makes it so easy. You really must have these little treasures in your home and church library."*

—Joni Eareckson Tada, Joni and Friends International Disability Center

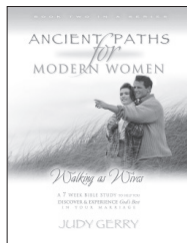
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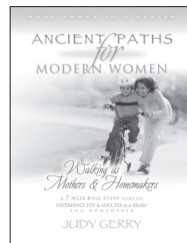
“This is what the Lord says: ‘Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls.’” Jeremiah 6:16



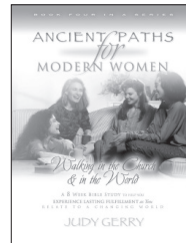
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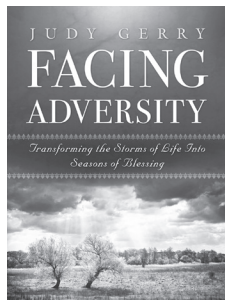
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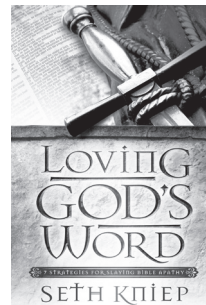
“Judy... leads women to discover and apply the tried, true, and enduring way laid out for us in the Scripture- the pathway that leads to blessing and joy. In a day when so many Christian women are floundering and confused, the wisdom found in this program is timely and desperately needed.”

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