

in our world? Proverbs 15:3; Hebrews 4:13. What does He know about what will happen in the future? Isaiah 46:9, 10. The many prophecies in the Bible illustrate God's omniscience. Daniel 2 is one good example, and there are many more. We can never understand God's wisdom. (Romans 11:33.) If you want to be very amazed by some of the things God knows, read Job 38 and 39.

- Can we hide from God? Jeremiah 23:24. What happened when Jonah tried to hide from God? Jonah 1–4. God is everywhere at all times. The word for this is “omnipresent.” Wherever you go in the world, God will be there to help you. And He can be with everyone else at the same time. Psalm 139:7–10; Matthew 18:20; 28:20.

- Is there anything too hard for God to do? Jeremiah 32:17. He even made our world just by saying a few words! (Genesis 1.) The Bible calls Him “Almighty God” (Genesis 17:1) and “the Lord God Omnipotent” (Revelation 19:6). He can do whatever He wants. Psalm 115:3; 136:6.

- Does God ever change? Numbers 23:19; 1 Samuel 15:29; Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8; James 1:17. He is just as loving, powerful, and wise now as He always has been, and always will be. The word for this is “immutable.”

## What is God like?

- In this section we will consider qualities of God's character that He wants us to have as well.
- For each of the following verses, find what words describe God's character, and also tell one or more ways that He can help us to exhibit that same trait. Deuteronomy 7:9; 32:4; Psalm 86:15; 89:14; 103:8; Lamentations 3:22, 23; 2 Peter 3:15; Romans 5:8.

## Appeal

- How thankful we can be that God is both all-powerful and all-loving! He can do anything and He knows everything, and at the same time He loves each one of us with an amazing love. Will you decide today to love and serve Him for the rest of your life?

## Challenge Questions

- Consider the following attributes of God, which are unique to divinity. For each one, tell why it is a good thing that God is that way. Eternal. Immortal. Omniscient. Omnipresent. Omnipotent. Immutable.
- Some of God's attributes are ones He wants us to have as well. Look through the book of Psalms, and see how many different ones can you find. Write the reference and the attribute(s) it mentions. Example: Psalm 89:1—lovingkindness

# Thought & Discussion Questions for My Bible Says D-4 “God the Father”

## God the Father is the ruler of the universe.

- In a vision, Daniel saw God the Father. What did he call Him? Daniel 7:9. What other names does the Bible use to refer to God the Father? Matthew 26:64; Isaiah 63:16; 2 Peter 1:17; 2 Corinthians 1:3.

- Where did the prophet John see God the Father sitting? Revelation 4:2, 3. Many angels were singing praises to Him. Revelation 4, 5; 7:9–17.

- How long will God's throne last? Psalm 45:6. God always has been, and always will be, the king and ruler of the whole universe. Psalm 93:2; Lamentations 5:19.

- Where is God's throne, and over what does His kingdom rule? Psalm 103:19. See also Matthew 11:25; Psalm 47:2. All the angels in heaven cheerfully do whatever He asks. See Psalm 103:20–22. They trust Him because He is good, kind, wise, and fair.

- What is God's government is based on? Psalm 89:14.

## God is our Father.

- The King of the universe is our loving Father.
- What is God the Father's throne called? Hebrews 4:16. He wants to give us love, faith, grace, mercy, and peace. See also Ephesians 6:23; Titus 1:4.
- What name did Jesus say we should use when we pray to God? Matthew 6:9. We should always show God proper reverence and respect. Hebrews 12:28, 29. But He doesn't want us to be afraid of Him. He wants us to trust Him as our kind, loving Father.
- This sample prayer shows us how to talk to God the Father. Matthew 6:9–13. Read it slowly and think: What does each part tell you about God and what He wants to do for you?
- What will happen when we ask the Father for

something according to His will in Jesus' name? John 16:23, 24.

- Why did Jesus say that we can pray directly to God the Father? John 16:26, 27.

### **Jesus showed us what God is like.**

- How did Jesus say that we can know what God the Father is like? John 14:8, 9.
- How did Jesus feel about the children who came to see Him? Mark 10:16. Does the Father love and welcome children just as much?
- A man who was very sick because of some wrong things he had done came to Jesus. What did Jesus say to him? Mark 2:5. Is God the Father just as willing to forgive our sins?
- The disciples felt too proud to serve one another. But what did Jesus do? John 13:5. Is God the Father just as humble and willing to serve us?
- What else can we learn about God the Father from the life of Jesus?

### **The Father is love, and He does all He can to save us.**

- What is the best word to describe what God the Father is like? 1 John 4:8.
- How did God the Father show His great love for us? John 3:16, 17.
- What were we like when God sent His dear Son to die for us? Romans 5:8, 10. He did not wait for us to love Him, but He loved us first. 1 John 4:19; Matthew 5:44, 45; Romans 2:4; 2 Corinthians 5:18–21.
- Since God the Father was willing to let Jesus die for us, what can we be sure that He will freely give us? Romans 8:31, 32; Matthew 6:25–34; Ephesians 1:3.
- What is one particularly important and wonderful gift that God the Father wants to give us? Luke 11:13; John 14:16, 17, 26; 15:26.
- Where does every good gift come from? James 1:17.

### **We should live to please God the Father.**

- Since God is our Father, we should live to please Him. Our loving Father in heaven has given us a great honor by calling us His children. 1 John 3:1.
- Since He is our Father, He wants us to love and obey Him. Malachi 1:6; Hebrews 12:9; Exodus 20:6.
- He wants us to be His friends and spend time with Him. 1 John 1:2–4.

- He wants us to sing to Him, thank Him, and tell others how good He is. Psalm 47; 89:1; Ephesians 5:20.
- He wants us to be holy, like Him. Galatians 1:3–5; 1 Thessalonians 3:11, 13; 4:3.
- He wants us to forgive others the way He forgives us. Matthew 5:45–48, 6:14, 15; Luke 6:36.
- He wants us to be helpful and kind so others can see how good He is. Matthew 5:16.
- He wants us to live in harmony with other people, who are also His children. Malachi 2:10; John 17:11, 21.
- As our Father, He will discipline us when necessary. Deuteronomy 8:5; Proverbs 3:12; Hebrews 12:5–10.
- He will guide us and help us follow His plan for our lives. Jeremiah 3:4; Isaiah 64:8.
- And He will keep us safe from Satan. John 10:27–29.

### **God the Father wants to be with us.**

- Where does God the Father live? Matthew 6:9.
- Before Jesus went back to heaven, He told His disciples, “I go to prepare a place for you.” Where? John 14:2, 3. God the Father wants to share His home in heaven with us—and even His kingdom! See Luke 12:32; Revelation 1:6; 3:21; 7:15; 21:3, 4.
- The Father doesn't want to wait until we get to heaven to live with us. He wants to live with us now. If we love and obey Jesus, the Father and the Son will make Their home with us. John 14:23. See also Isaiah 57:15; 2 Corinthians 6:14–18.

### **Appeal**

- Jesus said that when He comes again, He will come “in the glory of His Father.” Everyone will see Him sitting next to the Father. Matthew 16:27; 26:64. The people who have chosen Satan to be their father will be afraid when they see “the face of Him who sits on the throne” (the Father) and the Lamb (Jesus). John 8:44; Revelation 6:16. But if we have chosen God to be our Father, we will be very happy to see His face. Isaiah 25:8, 9; Revelation 22:3, 4. Do you want to accept God as your Father and be one of His happy, obedient children?

### **Challenge Questions**

- In Athens, Paul introduced God the Father to some heathen people who had never heard of Him before. Read Acts 17:24–31, and imagine that you

are one of the heathen people listening to Paul. What are some of the things you would have learned about the Father?

- Jesus mentioned “the Father” 17 times in the Sermon on the Mount. In each of these verses, what is something important He wants us to know about the Father? Matthew 5:16, 45, 48; 6:1, 4, 6, 8, 9, 14, 15, 18, 26, 32; 7:11, 21.

- Notice how Paul began each of his letters. What does he say God the Father gives us? Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:3; 2 Corinthians 1:2; Galatians 1:3, 4; Ephesians 1:2; Philippians 1:2; Colossians 1:2; 1 Thessalonians 1:1; 2 Thessalonians 1:1, 2; 1 Timothy 1:2; 2 Timothy 1:2; Titus 1:4; Philemon 3; Hebrews 1:1, 2. Why do you think Paul emphasized these things so much?

## Thought & Discussion Questions for My Bible Says

### D-5 “God the Son”

#### God the Father sent His Son to save us from death.

- We have all sinned, so we all deserve to die. (Romans 3:23; 6:23.) But what did God the Father do because He loves us so much? John 3:16.
- When God the Son came to our world, He was born as a baby. What is His name? Matthew 1:21.

#### Just like the Father, Jesus is a divine being. He is God.

- Jesus is not just another man, or even an angel. He is “Immanuel.” What does that name mean? Matthew 1:23. See also Isaiah 9:6; Romans 9:5; Colossians 1:19; 2:9. Before He was born in Bethlehem, He had lived forever and ever. Micah 5:2; John 8:58; Colossians 1:17; Revelation 1:8, 17, 18.
- Isaiah prophesied about John the Baptist, the forerunner of Jesus. John 1:23. What names did Isaiah use to refer to Jesus? Isaiah 40:3.
- What name does God the Father use to refer to the Son? Hebrews 1:8
- He who believes in the Son has everlasting life. Since Jesus is God, and since He is “the Son,” we call Him “God the Son.” John 3:35, 36.
- Jesus is the Son of God. This means that He is equal with the Father. Matthew 4:3; John 5:18; 10:36; 19:7.

#### Jesus made our world, forgives sin, gives life to the dead, and does other things that only God can do.

- By Jesus all things were created, just by speaking. Colossians 1:16. See also Genesis 1; John 1:1-4, 10; Hebrews 1:1-3.
- Jesus has all the treasures of wisdom and knowl-

edge. He knows everything. Colossians 2:3.

- Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He does not change. Hebrews 13:8.
- Jesus can forgive sin. Mark 2:5-7; 1 John 1:7, 9.
- Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. He is the source of life. He can raise the dead and give eternal life. John 1:4; 5:21-29; 11:25, 43, 44; 14:6; 1 John 5:11, 12.
- Jesus said, “He who has seen Me has seen the Father.” Only a divine being could correctly reveal the Father’s character to us. John 14:9. See also Matthew 11:27; John 1:18.
- What did the men in the boat do after Jesus calmed the storm? Matthew 14:33. We should worship only God. Matthew 4:10; Acts 10:25, 26; 12:21-23; 14:11-15; Revelation 19:10; 22:8, 9. Since Jesus is God, it was right for people to worship Him. Matthew 8:2; 9:18; 28:9; John 5:18, 23; 9:38; 10:30-33; 20:28, 29. The angels worship Jesus. Hebrews 1:6. Someday, all created beings in the universe will worship Him. Philippians 2:9-11; Revelation 5:13.

#### To save us, Jesus humbled Himself and became a man.

- Jesus, “the Word,” is God. Yet what did He do? John 1:1-4, 14. God was His Father, but His mother was a human just like us. We can’t explain how this miracle happened. Matthew 1:18-23; Luke 1:35; 1 Timothy 3:16.
- What did Jesus call Himself in Matthew 18:11? He is our real human brother. Matthew 1:1; Hebrews 2:11. Since He had a body like ours, He got hungry, thirsty, and tired. Matthew 4:2; John 19:28; Mark 4:37, 38; Isaiah 53:4.
- Why did Jesus share in our “flesh and blood”? He-

## God Made Manifest in Christ

At the first advent of Christ, darkness, covered the earth, and gross darkness the people. Light and truth seemed to have departed from among men, and Satan appeared to reign in undisputed power. Rival sects existed, and among those who professed to be the servants of God were displayed love of preeminence and strife for power and position. Souls who were desirous of light were filled with perplexity and sorrow. Many were sighing, "What is truth?" Ignorance prevailed, but many were looking for something better, looking for light that would illuminate the moral darkness of the world. They were thirsting for a knowledge of the living God, for some assurance of a life beyond the tomb. There were men not of the Jewish nation who prophesied that an inspired instructor would come to teach them of the truth. There were among the Jews men who had not polluted their integrity, who read with eager anticipation the sure word of prophecy that pointed to the advent of the Redeemer. They rejoiced in the promise that God had made to his servant Moses: "I will raise them up a prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him."

Again they read how the Lord should anoint Him to preach good tidings unto the meek, to bind up the broken-hearted, proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord. They read how he would

set judgment in the earth, how the isles should wait for his law, how the Gentiles would come to his light, and kings to the brightness of his rising.

Christ came just as prophecy had foretold. He was the "way, the truth, and the life," and the beams of the Sun of Righteousness dispelled the moral darkness so that the honest in heart might see the truth. The absence of outward display and worldly grandeur, called forth comments of disapprobation from the people. Doubt and criticism met him on every side. Christ himself had chosen the human conditions of his life. He had selected the lowliest place in society. He was the Majesty of heaven, and he knew that the world would bear sway by magnificence, carrying everything before its display and grandeur; but Jesus honored those whom the world looked upon with contempt. Christ's birthplace was devoid of conveniences, not to speak of riches and luxury. And his entire life in this world was in keeping with the humble home of his early experience.

The Saviour of the world proposed that no attraction of an earthly character should call men to his side. The light and beauty of celestial truth alone should be the drawing power. The outward glory, the worldly honor, which attracts the attention of men, he would not assume. He made himself accessible to all, teaching the pure, exalted principle of truth as that which was only worthy of their notice. But although so humbly born, so unpretending in life, God did not leave him without a witness. The principalities of heaven did him homage. Wonders in the heavens above and signs in the earth beneath attested his power and majesty. At his baptism a voice from heaven fell upon the ears of men, declaring, "This is my beloved Son, in

whom I am well pleased." The bright glory of God in the form of a dove of burnished gold encircled him. John declared: "That was the true light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not."

Christ came to represent the Father. We behold in him the image of the invisible God. He clothed his divinity with humanity, and came to the world that the erroneous ideas Satan had been the means of creating in the minds of men, in regard to the character of God, might be removed. We could not behold the glory of God unveiled in Christ and live; but as he came in the garb of humanity, we may draw nigh to our Redeemer. We are called upon to behold the Lord our Father in the person of his Son. Christ came in the robe of the flesh, with his glory subdued in humanity, that lost man might communicate with him and live. Through Christ we may comprehend something of him who is glorious in holiness. Jesus is the mystic ladder by which we may mount to behold the glory of the infinite God. By faith we behold Christ standing between humanity and divinity, connecting God and man, and earth and heaven.

Christ came to save fallen man, and Satan with fiercest wrath met him on the field of conflict; for the enemy knew that when divine strength was added to human weakness, man was armed with power and intelligence, and could break away from the captivity in which he had bound him. Satan sought to intercept every ray of light from the throne of God. He sought to cast his shadow across the earth, that men might lose the true views of God's character, and that the knowledge

of God might become extinct in the earth. He had caused truth of vital importance to be so mingled with error that it had lost its significance. The law of Jehovah was burdened with needless exactions and traditions, and God was represented as severe, exacting, revengeful, and arbitrary. He was pictured as one who could take pleasure in the sufferings of his creatures. The very attributes that belonged to the character of Satan, the evil one represented as belonging to the character of God. Jesus came to teach men of the Father, to correctly represent him before the fallen children of earth. Angels could not fully portray the character of God, but Christ, who was a living impersonation of God, could not fail to accomplish the work. The only way in which he could set and keep men right was to make himself visible and familiar to their eyes. That men might have salvation he came directly to man, and became a partaker of his nature.

The Father was revealed in Christ as altogether a different being from that which Satan had represented him to be. Said Christ, "Neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him." The love of Jesus, expressed for the fallen race in his life of self-denial and sufferings, is the manifestation of the Father's love for a sinful, fallen world. Christ endured shame and grief and death for those who despised his love and trampled upon his mercy. He paid the debt of man's transgression upon the cross of Calvary with his own precious blood. The men of his own nation, the leaders of the people, were so ensnared by the deceptions of Satan that the plan of redemption for a fallen race seemed to their minds indistinct and unexplainable.

Man was God's workmanship, made after his image, endowed with talents, and fitted for a high destiny. But Satan has worked to obliterate the divine image, and to impress his own image instead of the image of

God in man's nature. Jesus condescended to humble himself, to take human nature, and by uniting divinity with humanity, he proposed to elevate man in the scale of moral value. All heaven was poured out in the gift of God's dear Son. Through faith in him the sinner could be justified, and God could yet be just in justifying the sinner; for Christ had become a propitiation for the sins of the repentant soul. The only plan that could be devised to save the human race was that which called for the incarnation, humiliation, and crucifixion of the Son of God, the Majesty of heaven. After the plan of salvation was devised, Satan could have no ground upon which to found his suggestion that God, because so great, could care nothing for so insignificant a creature as man. The redemption of man is a wonderful theme, and the love manifested to the fallen race through the plan of salvation, can be estimated only by the cross of Calvary. The depth of this love even angels cannot sound. That God could consent to become flesh, and dwell among fallen beings, to lift them up from their helplessness and despair, is an unfathomed mystery. He whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, whose dominion endureth throughout all generations, made himself to be sin for us that he might lift up all that are bowed down, and give life to those who are ready to perish.

Oh, that men might open their minds to know God as he is revealed in his Son! Truth came forth from the lips of Jesus, uncorrupted with human philosophy. His words were from heaven, such as mortal lips had never spoken nor mortal ears ever heard. His heart was an altar on which burned the flames of infinite love. Goodness, mercy, and love were enthroned in the breast of the Son of God. He set up his tabernacle in the midst of our human encampment, pitched his tent by the side of the tents of men, that he might dwell among them and make them famil-

iar with his divine character and love. No one could love Christ and pay homage to him without serving and honoring the infinite God. Those who had an appreciation of the character and mission of Christ, were filled with reverence and awe, as they looked upon him and felt that they were looking upon the temple of the living God. Officers were sent to take the Son of God, that the temple in which God was enshrined might be destroyed. But as they drew near and heard the words of divine wisdom that fell from his lips, they were charmed, and the power and excellence of his instruction so filled their hearts and minds that they forgot the purpose for which they had been sent. Christ revealed himself to their souls. Divinity flashed through humanity, and they returned so filled with this one thought, so charmed with the ideas he had presented, that when the leaders of Israel inquired, "Why have ye not brought him?" they replied, "Never man spake like this man." They had seen that which priests and rulers would not see,—humanity flooded with the light and glory of divinity. Those who would behold this glory would be drawn to love Jesus and to love the Father whom he represented. Christ exalted the character of God, attributing to him the praise, and giving to him the credit, of the whole purpose of his own mission on earth,—to set men right through the revelation of God. In Christ was arrayed before men the paternal grace and the matchless perfections of the Father. In his prayer just before his crucifixion, he declared, "I have manifested thy name." "I have glorified thee on the earth; I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do." When the object of his mission was attained,—the revelation of God to the world,—the Son of God announced that his work was accomplished, and that the character of the Father was made manifest to men.

—ST January 20, 1890





## An Ocean of Love

**“The Lord has appeared of old to me, saying: ‘Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.’”  
Jeremiah 31:3**

**H**ave you ever gone for a walk beside a rushing, mountain stream? Maybe you live in a place where there are many such streams not too far from where you live. Or if you don’t, maybe you’ve been able to visit a place that has them. It can be so peaceful and relaxing to watch the water flowing by and to hear the water rushing over the rocks.

Now let’s think of an even smaller stream. This kind of stream is so small that it’s not any trouble to cross it without a bridge. In fact, in order to cross it, all you would need to do is to take one big step from one side of the stream to the other. That would be a very small stream, wouldn’t it?

We are going to use this very small stream to help us understand something about God’s

love. First, think about all the love that all people who have ever lived have showed each other. Think about all the parents who have loved their children, and children who have loved their parents. Think about all the husbands and wives who have loved each other. Think about grandparents and grandchildren. Think about all the other people who have loved each other. Of course many people have not been loving, but still, don’t you think that’s a lot of love? It really is.

Now let’s imagine that all this human love that has ever been shown is like that very small stream that you can easily cross with one step. Then what would God’s love be like? How big would it be? A large stream? A very large river? No, those aren’t nearly big enough. It would be like a great ocean!<sup>1</sup>

Our earth’s biggest ocean is the Pacific Ocean, and it is so big that crossing it from Brisbane in Australia to Vancouver in British Columbia in a large passenger jet airplane takes over 13 hours!

God’s love really is far more than we can ever begin to comprehend. And how amazing it is that He loves each one of us!

<sup>1</sup>5T 740

## 4. God the Father

REFERENCE	SUMMARY	STARTING QUOTE
<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 89:14	His government is righteous, just, merciful, true.	NKJV: "Righteousness..." KJV: "Justice and..."
<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 103:19, 20	His throne is in heaven. He rules over all. Angels praise and obey Him.	NKJV: "The Lord has..." KJV: "The Lord hath..."
<input type="checkbox"/> Daniel 7:9	He is called the "Ancient of Days."	NKJV: "I watched till..." KJV: "I beheld till..."
<input type="checkbox"/> Malachi 1:6	We should obey Him.	"A son..."
<input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 6:9	In prayer, we call Him "Our Father."	NKJV: "In this..." KJV: "After this..."
<input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 11:25	He rules heaven and earth.	"At that time..."
<input type="checkbox"/> Luke 6:36	He is merciful.	NKJV: "Therefore be..." KJV: "Be ye therefore..."
<input type="checkbox"/> John 3:16, 17	He gave Jesus to our world.	"For God so loved..."
<input type="checkbox"/> John 14:8, 9	Jesus' life shows us what the Father is like.	NKJV: "Philip said to..." KJV: "Philip saith unto..."
<input type="checkbox"/> John 16:26, 27	The Father Himself loves us.	NKJV: "In that day..." KJV: "At that day..."
<input type="checkbox"/> Romans 5:8, 10	He loves His enemies.	"But God..."
<input type="checkbox"/> Philemon 1:3	He gives grace and peace.	"Grace to you..."
<input type="checkbox"/> Hebrews 4:16	He invites us to come to His "throne of grace."	"Let us therefore..."
<input type="checkbox"/> Hebrews 12:28, 29	We should serve Him with reverence and godly fear.	NKJV: "Therefore..." KJV: "Wherefore..."
<input type="checkbox"/> James 1:17	He gives every good gift.	"Every good gift..."
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 3:1	He calls us His children.	"Behold what..."
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 4:16	God is love.	"And we have known..."
<input type="checkbox"/> Revelation 22:3, 4	The righteous will see His face in heaven.	"And there shall be..."