

THRIVE

High School Small Group Guide

Session 7

Attributes of God: Eternal, Infinite, and Immutable

- This week, we are continuing our series called Attributes of God which we began in November. During that session, we talked about who God is, some common misconceptions about God, and why it is important to understand God.
- Now that we have a solid foundation of why we are doing this study, in this week's session, we are going to move into talking about these qualities that make up God. Read through the following attributes of God.

Incommunicable Attributes of God

- **Eternal:** God has no beginning and no end. He always was, always is, and always will be.
- **Immutable:** God does not change. He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.
- **Self-sufficient:** God has no needs and depends on nothing, but everything depends on God.
- **Omniscient:** God is all knowing; there is nothing unknown to Him.
- **Incomprehensible:** God is high above and beyond human understanding. He cannot be fully known.
- **Infinite:** God is limitless. He exhibits all of his attributes perfectly and boundlessly.
- **Self-existent:** God was not created but exists by his power alone.
- **Omnipresent:** God is everywhere, His presence is near at all times.

- Omnipotent: God is all powerful. His strength is unlimited.
- Sovereign: God governs over all things; He is in control.

We are going to dive a little deeper into a few of these words...

Eternal

Read Isaiah 46:9-10, Revelation 1:8, and Hebrews 13:8.

As you go through the attributes and the verses associated with them, highlight the verses and then circle or underline any words that stick out to you. Ask yourself what these verses mean to you or try to rephrase them to better understand their meaning.

- The eternity of God is foundational to who he is: God reigns forever and he exists outside of time. We on the other hand do not. This attribute helps us to understand where we are in comparison to God, it helps us to understand that we are not God.
- Although He exists outside of time, God entered into our reality with us. This is evidenced to us through the incarnation. Philippians 2:7-9 reads, “Rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross!”
- This is important to understand because although God did not have to, he came to earth and took human form out of love for us!
- To summarize, God...
 - Is outside of time, yet he meets us in time!
 - Holds each moment of our days in his hands. Psalm 31:15 says, "My life, my every moment, my destiny—it's all in your hands. So I know you can deliver me from those who persecute me relentlessly."

- Has put eternity in our hearts. Ecclesiastes 3:11 says, "He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end."

Reflect and Discuss:

1. What does it mean that God is eternal? Why is that a good thing?
2. What are some of the temporary things that you look to for satisfaction? How is God better than these things?
3. How can you number your days? What would you change about your life if you lived with eternity in view?
4. What do you think this quote means? "Temporal things will never satisfy a heart that has been made to feast on the eternal."
5. What can we learn from this quote? Can you relate to this quote? "You can only see one piece of the puzzle, but God can see the entire picture. Don't lose hope in times of suffering."
6. Read this quote from C.S. Lewis's book *Mere Christianity*: "Most people, if they had really learned to look into their own hearts, would know that they do want, and want acutely, something that cannot be had in this world. There are all sorts of things in this world that offer to give it to you, but they never quite keep their promise [...] If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world." Lewis continues, "Probably earthly pleasures were never meant to satisfy it, but only to arouse it, to suggest the real thing. If that is so, I must take care, on the one hand, never to despise, or be unthankful for, these earthly blessings, and on the other, never to mistake them for the something else of which they are only a kind of copy, or echo, or mirage. I must keep alive in

myself the desire for my true country, which I shall not find till after death; I must never let it get snowed under or turned aside; I must make it the main object of life to press on to that other country and to help others to do the same." What does this quote mean?

Infinite

- Now we'll focus on another attribute that correlates to God's eternity closely.

Read Romans 11:33-36, Isaiah 40:28, and Psalm 147:5.

Romans 11:33-36

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How inscrutable are his judgments and how unsearchable his ways! "For who has known the mind of the Lord or who has been his counselor?" "Or who has given him anything that he may be repaid?" For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

Isaiah 40:28

Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is God from of old, creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary, and his knowledge is beyond scrutiny.

Psalm 147:5

Great is our Lord, vast in power, with wisdom beyond measure.

Reflect and Discuss: Which of these verses stuck out to you and why? What can we learn from these verses?

- In many ways, our greatest grasp on infinity is that it is a lot, and we struggle for words when we try to understand what it means in relation to God. Let's dive closer into what infinite truly means so that we have a better understanding of how God possesses this attribute.
 - He has no beginning, and He has no end!

- God is not limited by the laws of gravity or to a single location.
- This attribute is similar to eternal as it can also be used to describe God's other attributes. E.g., God is infinitely wise, just, loving, gracious etc.
- God also is the standard against which all things are held, is infinite in space (this ties closely with his omnipresence), and transcends all things, yet he chooses to draw near to us.
- Humans on the other hand are not infinite beings, but finite beings who are limited in every area of our life. We seek infinity, but we cannot achieve it due to sin. We have a beginning, and our lives on this earth will have an end.
- The recognition that we are not infinite allows us to boast not in ourselves but in the limitless strength of God! Our circumstances and weakness do not limit him, nor do the laws of science! We have a God who has no limits... what a comfort for us as limited people! He works in our simple lives with his infinite power and love! Our response to our infinite God should be that we stand in awe of who He is!
- Take a moment to think about this quote: "We were not made to be limitless; we were made to worship a limitless God."

Immutable

- This will be the third and final attribute we'll dive into this session.

Read Psalm 19:14, Psalm 33:11, Psalm 90:2, Malachi 3:6, Hebrews 13:8, and James 1:17.

Psalm 19:14

May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

Psalm 33:11

But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations.

Psalm 90:2

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

Malachi 3:6

"I the Lord do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed."

Hebrews 13:8

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

James 1:17

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

Reflect and Discuss: Which of these verses stuck out to you and why? What can we learn from these verses?

- Scripture expresses God's immutability by declaring His steadfastness and His unchangeableness. Scripture describes the Lord as our Rock. Jesus is the "I AM." He is who he says he is, and his character will never change. God will always be the same, even as the seasons, culture, and world shift.
- The truth of Scripture is eternal truth. It does not need to be changed for a changing world! What God has purposed in Himself before the ages began is still his plan. Hebrews 13:8 shows us that God's immutable character is perfectly displayed for us in Jesus. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. We never have to worry about God changing his mind or losing his love for us!

Reflect and Discuss:

1. How do you feel knowing that God is immutable?
 2. What things have changed in your life in the past year? How does God's immutability help you face these changes?
- We are not immutable. In fact, we are made to change. We are designed to grow in grace and relationship with our Savior, little by little. He is always the same, and always constant. Only God, Our Creator, can fill the longing in our hearts. We are called to turn from our sin and change through the power of the Holy Spirit. He is a rock when everything around us is shaking. He is our God, and he is our immutable refuge.
 - The immutability of God should bring us immense comfort because his unchanging nature means that we can trust His Word, which is also unchanging.

Session Challenges

- James 1:17 is our theme verse for this week: Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.
- Now for our challenge: This week, take time to listen to the following songs that relate to what was talked about today:
 1. You Remain by Jervis Campbell
 2. Firm Foundation by Cody Carnes
 3. Steady by Natalie Layne
 4. Same God by Elevation Worship

Listen to the lyrics and then say a prayer praising God for being eternal, infinite, and immutable.