**Learn in Community**



Small Group Study

**Volume Overview**

**Who is God the Father?**

*“My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,” says the Lord. “And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine.” (*[*Isaiah 55:8*](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Is55.8)*)*

*Theologian A. W. Tozer is quoted as saying, “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” By learning about God being the one true God, being in control, caring about us, and being eternal, we get a broader view of God the Father—our Heavenly Father.*

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| **You Will Need**   * Pencil or pen, one per person * Paper or index card, one per person * Timer (e.g., watch, clock, etc.) * Optional: Small prize for the winner   **Getting Ready**  No prep needed for this activity.   * *First time leading* Learn *for Youth? Look here for the* [Facilitator Guide](https://0b769b0ed3569ef9d18b-f88d8272f61086866d50d048b43ef630.ssl.cf2.rackcdn.com/sites/biblengagementproject/Listen_Facilitator_Guide.pdf).   *To access session content and videos from a computer, visit:*  [*BibleEngagementProject.com/downloads*](https://bibleengagementproject.com/downloads) |

**Engage**

**Welcome**

*Take this time to welcome everyone, introduce new students, learn names, and thank everyone for coming.*

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| **QUESTION**  What are three words that others might use to describe you? |

**Opening Prayer**

*Prayer thoughts: Thank God for being a Father who loves His children, even when they misbehave. Thank Him for being the one true God we can trust. Ask God to help everyone come to know Him as the one true God and their Heavenly Father.*

**Introduction**

In this session, we’ll look at what Scripture tells us about God the Father. To start, here’s an interesting fact the Bible tells us: We’re made in God’s image. Now, think about how multidimensional we are. There are many sides to each one of us. So, just imagine how multidimensional God must be! And through exploring the Bible, we can learn so much about all those dimensions of who He is. He’s definitely not boring!

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| **QUESTION**  A great Christian thinker named A. W. Tozer wrote, “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.”1 Do you agree with that statement? Why or why not? |

**Group Activity**

**Name That Dad**

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| ***You Will Need***   * *Pencils or pens, one per person* * *Paper or index card, one per person* * *Timer (e.g., watch, clock, etc.)* * *Optional: Small prize for the winner*   ***Getting Ready***  *No prep needed for this activity.* |

Since we’re talking about God the Father, the one true God, let’s do a quick activity about dads. When I say “Go,” you’ll have one minute to write the names of as many TV or movie dads as you can think of. When I say “Stop,” drop your pens and hold up your paper.

• *Time the students for one minute.*

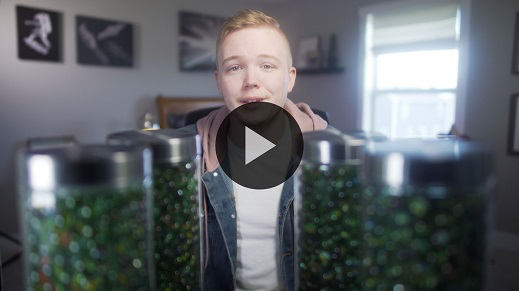
• *The student who wrote the most names wins.*

• *Optional: Give a small prize to the winner.*

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| **QUESTION**  What is one quality of a dad you most admire? Why do you admire that quality? |

Today, we’re going to look at some of the best qualities of our Father God. But before we do that, let’s check out the video.

**Watch**



**Consider What the Bible Says**

*Ensure each student has access to a Bible, preferably the same version.*

We’ll notice as we look at today’s Bible reading that some will attempt to get people to worship something other than the one true God. If we look closely, we see this happening even today. People attempt to get others to turn away from God and worship idols (objects of worship that often symbolize a god) or alternative gods.

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| **QUESTION**  What are examples of idols or alternative gods we see in our world today? |

**Watch Out for False Gods**

Read [Daniel 3:1–6](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Da3.1-6).

There is a great deal going on in this story. King Nebuchadnezzar had conquered and brought Jewish captives back to Babylon. You might have heard of some of them: Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. The king wanted to train these young men to be leaders in his kingdom.

When this event took place, the king had just returned from war. He’d brought back enough resources to build a huge, golden statue. Some people think the statue was of Nebuchadnezzar, but the Bible doesn’t tell us for sure. This king had no problem creating a statue and telling people to worship it because he didn’t believe in one God like the Jews did. At that time, many people were okay worshipping multiple gods. But God’s people were called to do something different—they were only supposed to worship the one true God.

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| **QUESTION**  What do you think was the point of the king making the big statue? |

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| **QUESTION**  Is it possible for Christians today to worship people or things, rather than or in addition to God? |

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| **QUESTION**  Why do you think some people like following the lives of celebrities and other leaders—even Christian celebs and leaders? |

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| **QUESTION**  What’s the danger of worshipping anyone or anything but our God? |

**Did You Know?**

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| In the ancient world, large statues were a common way for kings and civilizations to prove their might to others. Nebuchadnezzar’s statue was a remarkable feat, with its shell being constructed of mainly gold. But it was by no means the largest or the most famous of the ancient world. One thousand years earlier, Egypt had constructed obelisks about twice as tall as this ninety-foot statue. Nebuchadnezzar’s statue was also overshadowed by the second-century Wonder of the World, the Colossus of Rhodes, which was eighteen feet taller. Yet the Colossus was made of much cheaper materials, a bronze-iron mix, leaving Nebuchadnezzar’s image as one of the most beautiful of the known ancient world. |

**Only One True God**

Before we find out what happened next, let’s look at another passage. This chapter lists some of the most important Commandments that God gave to His people. We’ll look at the first few today. Listen to see if you hear anything related to King Nebuchadnezzar’s decree to bow down to his statue.

Read [Exodus 20:1–6](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ex20.1-6).

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| **QUESTION**  What does this tell us God did for His people that reflects something about who He is? |

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| **QUESTION**  How would worshipping Nebuchadnezzar’s statue break these instructions God gave? |

We see here that God showed himself as the One who rescued His people from slavery. King Nebuchadnezzar actually made people into slaves and wanted them to worship his statue. What a tremendous contrast! Our God—the one true God—leads us out of captivity while false gods lead us into bondage.

Let’s get back to King Nebuchadnezzar’s story and look at how three followers of the one true God responded.

Read [Daniel 3:7–15](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Da3.7-15).

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| **QUESTION**  How did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego respond when they were told they must worship the statue? |

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| **QUESTION**  Do you think it was easier for each of them to stand firm for God because they had two others standing with them? Why or why not? |

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| **QUESTION**  What difference could having Christ-following friends make in your life? |

**How Will You Handle Persecution?**

These three would have learned the Ten Commandments early in their life. But now, they were being persecuted for what they had learned and believed.

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| **QUESTION**  Do you think Christians are persecuted today? In what ways? |

We all may experience some kind of persecution for refusing to put other things, people, or idols above God. Friends may turn against us for following Jesus. People who disagree with our beliefs may even try to shut us down and get others to hate us.

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| **QUESTION**  Have you ever been persecuted for following Jesus? What happened? |

Let’s see how our three young heroes responded to the king’s rage.

Read [Daniel 3:16–23](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Da3.16-23).

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| **QUESTION**  What stands out to you about the way these guys responded to the king? |

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| **QUESTION**  What does this say about their relationship with the one true God? |

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| **QUESTION**  How does our relationship with God help us when we are being persecuted? |

**Choosing the One True God**

It’s possible that our obedience may lead us where we wouldn’t choose to go. For Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, worshipping anything other than the one true God was worse than death. In movies, we often see people rescued just in the nick of time, milliseconds before their possible death. In this story, however, God didn’t rescue them from being thrown into the fiery furnace.

Read [Daniel 3:24–30](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Da3.24-30).

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| **QUESTION**  A number of miraculous things took place in this part of the story. What were they? |

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| **QUESTION**  What message was God sending to the king and to us? |

God used Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego’s experience to show the king that He is the only true God. But the king had to choose how to respond. Not only did he choose to worship our God, but he commanded his entire kingdom to do the same.

**Reflect**

**God Is the One True God**

In your lifetime, you will face opposition in some form because you follow the one true God. You might even face persecution. Jesus said that it shouldn’t surprise you when that happens though. Actually, it makes you blessed ([Matthew 5:11–12](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mt5.11-12)). While God can miraculously rescue you from any challenging situation, like we read earlier, it may not happen right now. Even if you’re not rescued immediately, never doubt that God is with you. He is able to help you through any challenge that comes your way.

**Listen to God**

Let’s take time to consider how our life demonstrates a real trust in the one true God. These questions are meant to serve as a conversation between you and God. Sharing your responses with the group is completely voluntary.

• *Pause for a few moments of silent reflection before asking students if they want to share.*

We may never be thrown into a fire for loving and worshipping Jesus, but we may have others attempt to get us to turn away from God and worship other gods. Like those we read about today, we have a choice to make. Will we serve the one true God?

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| **QUESTION**  What are you doing in your life to honor and grow in your relationship with the one true God? |

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| **QUESTION**  We talked about how our relationship with God helps us when we are being persecuted. How might persecution help our relationship with God? |

**Activate**

As we pray today, I’m going to pause for a moment. As I do, tell God your desire to dedicate your life to Him regardless of what may happen in your life. Ask Him to help you have enough faith to stand for Him.

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| **Salvation Opportunity**  *Include this if you think there may be some in the group who do not have a personal relationship with Jesus.*  Living for God doesn’t usually mean immediate death because you won’t worship an alternative god. It means understanding that God sent His Son Jesus to save you and me because He loves us. Our sin—the wrong things we do that hurt ourselves and others—cannot be made up for by doing good things. Jesus already made a way for our sins to be forgiven when He died on the Cross.  **Is there anyone here that we can pray for who doesn’t have a relationship with Jesus or wants to renew their relationship with Him?**  Take a moment to acknowledge those who respond, and thank them for their desire to make things right between themselves and God. Pray with them as you close in prayer or after the group time is over. Following group time, talk more about where they are in their walk with God and how you might be able to help. |

**Conclusion**

The story we read is a great example of the authority, presence, and power of our one true God. [John 17:3](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jn17.3) tells us that eternal life comes through knowing the one true God. It’s important that we not only know that God is the one true God, but that we spend time getting to know Him as the Heavenly Father.

Next time we’ll talk about how we can trust God to be in control of our lives. Remember to get into the devotions this week.

**Prayer**

Almighty God, we acknowledge You as the one true God. Thank You for already rescuing us from sin and death by sending Jesus to die for us. Help us live for You. *(Pause and let students know this is their opportunity to speak with God silently about their desire to follow Him no matter what).* In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Remember the personal devotions on your app. Reading, thinking, and praying through these short daily devotions allows you to spend time with Jesus, learning more about what we discussed.

I look forward to seeing each of you next time as we continue our journey through God’s Word!