

WHO IS GOD?

A Simple Workbook to Ensure Properly Focused Faith

INTRODUCTION

The title of this book, *Who is God?*, was inspired by a question I was once challenged to answer by a mentor of mine years ago. It's a question that is difficult to grasp, yet essential for understanding the nature of our Creator. When asked, "Who is God?", it is not a question to be taken lightly. In fact, if there is a God, it arguably would be the most important question to have the correct answer too. It requires deep reflection, a willingness to seek, knock, and ask with an openness to allow your mind to be changed from what you may have thought in the past or to have your thoughts confirmed through what you discover as you seek to answer, "Who is God?"

Instead of seeking the question, "Who is God?", we often turn to other questions: *How could God?* or *What would God do?* We ask, *Why did God?* or *Where is God?* But before these questions can be answered with clarity, we must first develop a belief of *Who God is*.

This is the journey I want to take with you in this book—a journey to uncover the character, ability, and love of God. It is a journey I myself have walked, and though I became a Christian, if you are not, I encourage you to continue reading. This book will provide you with a clear understanding of who God is according to what the Bible reveals to us.

I want this to be a voluntary investigation led by fascination. The truth is, until we understand who God is, the answers to all our other questions will remain unclear at best—and in reality most likely the answers will be distorted. God, the Creator of all things, is good, and because of His goodness, His actions and His creation are also good. However, in our world, it can be hard to see that. There may be times when we struggle with why a good God allows suffering or hardship. This book won't provide all the answers to every difficult question, but it will help you understand the core nature of God. From there, I believe you are intelligent enough to take the writings suggested being read in this book, along with the entirety of the bible, and get closer to the specific answers you are seeking. This book is not the end of your search, but rather the beginning, offering a strong foundation as you continue your journey and you may even find that it will provide the knowledge and frame of reference to actually ask *better* questions].

The goal of this book is not to convince you to believe. I want you to read it so that you can understand who God is. As you read the words, if they begin to make sense, that is where your belief may start to form, and you may experience faith in a way you haven't before. Continue reading, and when you are

done, keep investigating *Who Is God?* If He is who He says He is, you may feel a desire to change your life according to your understanding of *Who Is God?*

For the next 50 to 60 days, I encourage you to read just two chapters a day, following the layout in the next section. I cannot promise that you will believe everything you read, but know this: once you grasp the character and sovereignty of God—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—you will find peace and insight in answering the other questions about Him.

Investigating Who Is God BEFORE You Ever Jump Into Investigating Spirituality (And they are not the same)

Before embarking on any spiritual journey or seeking answers, I would suggest you first tackle the most fundamental question: *Who is God?* The reason I emphasize this is that the spiritual world is real, and if it is real enough for you to investigate, it is real enough to impact (positive and negative). I don't want to scare you away from this journey and encourage you to continue, but I do want to prepare you for the fact that it will impact the trajectory of your life. I pray that impact is positive, but that depends entirely on whether you keep your focus on finding truth or make the mistake of letting your feelings and desires get in your way. If you just want to solidify what you already want to believe, I would suggest pausing and going into it with a willingness to change if lies or truths are exposed.

Be skeptical but don't be a hyper skeptic where you are not willing to trust or accept anything. To benefit from this journey, I have found that it is essential to have a willingness to have your beliefs challenged and changed if needed. If you're simply trying to confirm your preexisting views, you will undoubtedly find the affirmation you seek. However, addressing the spiritual walk without being anchored in truth is similar to being out at sea in a violent storm with no anchor. You will be tossed to and fro by the waves, and it likely won't end well.

The reason I want to offer you this first step in understanding *Who is God?* is that the last thing you want to do is enter such a powerful and potentially dangerous space unprepared. The spiritual realm can take you to places that you are not equipped to handle. I am excited for you to this journey, and I pray you fully understand who you serve before you dive into this profoundly influential space.

Many wrestle with some of life's most challenging philosophical questions: *Who is God? What is God? Where is God?* In our attempts to understand these difficult concepts, we often find ourselves confused, searching for answers, and, at times, simply giving up because there appears to be no clear answer. Frustration sets

in, and we may start believing that anything could be true, or nothing could be true (which in itself would mean there is a truth and refute that as a possibility), as long as it offers us some comfort. Comfort is indeed possible, but this will likely take some discomfort to get you to the peace that comes with knowing the full truth.

I would challenge you to consider this: There is a right answer. There is a way this whole thing started, a direction it is supposed to go, and an end it will ultimately reach. It is crucial to understand that there is an ultimate truth, and it is worth your time and energy to seek it out. It is imperative that each of us seeks to understand what we believe about these profound questions.

I encourage you to investigate well beyond this book and these three suggested books. Far too often, we feel pressured to blindly follow a singular path of thinking, but the truth is, you should never just blindly accept the truth. Test it! Question it! Poke holes! What I offer you is this: Investigate, but do so with open eyes and a softened heart. Look for answers based on research, education, and evidence - evidence that is a healthy combination of both education and experience. This is the type of evidence, you would be willing to risk and bet your entire life on, when you come to accept eternity as real.

What I am offering you, as a Christian myself, is the chance to understand what Christians truly believe. I recognize that, as someone shaped by my own education and experience, I bring biases and preconceptions. I also understand that no human has perfect theology. None of us know for sure, and anyone who says they do, is clearly wrong. The only one who has perfect theology and understanding of everything is the one who created it all...God! So, I encourage you to challenge where I suggest you read. As you do, see if what is presented in the three books suggested holds up when you investigate with an open mind and a softened heart.

Judging the God of Christianity based on those who claim to follow, would be like judging Mozart's work based on my ability to play his songs... and I have no clue how to play the piano. Not just what some Christians say, but what God has called Christian's to believe and how they are called to live. You may be surprised, but the hypocrisy and selfish actions you may have experienced from someone who claims to be a Christian is not part of the love we as believers are called to show.

I ask you to look beyond what you've been told in the past and go to the source. This book is not the source and can be wrong—it is simply designed to point you to the source. It's almost like an on-ramp to truth. Go straight to the source. Read what Christians believe is the Word of God, not just what people say and do who claim to be Christian's. The authority of a true Christian is God above all else, and His

Word is where I go to understand His will. I submit myself, as we are called to do, to the authority of God and His Word. Although we will submit to others throughout our life (government, leaders, etc) my ultimate authority is God and not man or any man made institution.

Once you have gained an understanding of who Christians believe God to be and who God is, feel free to explore other beliefs and worldviews if you want to put them under the same scrutiny of truth, consistency, and love. What I have found is that when you experience truth—when you understand truth—you need not fear other possibilities. Truth will stand on its own. But proceed with caution. Other belief systems may appear shiny and appealing at first, but the goal is not to seek the easiest path, but to seek the truth. Examine all the information available to you. Look for contradictions, and ask yourself: Which belief system does not contradict itself? Which belief system withstands the toughest questions? When you continue asking *why*, which belief system provides answers that hold up? Ultimately, which system offers a clear and coherent explanation of why things exist, why they operate as they do, and why we should live the way we should?

If you're examining the religious side of things, consider what other religions say about Jesus Christ. Every major religion speaks very highly of Him. But what does Jesus say about Himself? Is He credible? Is He a reliable person throughout history? Is the Bible a credible source of information, or is it not? Do your own research. If the answer is yes, then why? If the answer is no, then why? And do not make the false assumption that because it is hard to believe or for you to "get it" that is not a logical reason to state something as untrue. The one thing you'll find is that most major religions desire for Jesus to be part of what they do. But what Jesus desires is for you to be a part of what He is doing.

I encourage you to start with Christianity. Christianity is unique because it is the only religion where God comes down to us, rather than us trying to reach Him. It is a religion based on God's love for us and the sacrifice He made for us. Think of all religions or worldviews as if they were at a point on a mountain. Based on how they are taught, where are the "gods" in each religion—Christianity is the only belief system where God came down to our level, instead of us striving to make it to the top. No matter how hard we try, we as humans cannot make it to the top, which shows our need for a savior. And out of Love, God sent us a savior, Jesus Christ. Because of that, Christianity is the only religion I can see grounded entirely in love (reach out if you find one that is completely grounded in love) Every piece of it is based on love, not just power or wisdom. God is described as love itself—not just as a being who is loving, but as the very embodiment of love - God is love.

Once you begin to understand who God is in Christianity, I encourage you to consider Jesus' own words and reflect on how He described Himself. Go back to the questions I asked earlier and one of the most powerful questions to face: *Is Jesus credible?* Examine the credibility of Jesus himself. What was said by the eyewitnesses? How do we know if it's true? What is the style in which books were written? What is the historical documentation surrounding them? These questions are helpful to understand if Jesus was who he said he was (Lord), he thinks he is but is wrong (Lunatic), or he knew he wasn't and was lying (liar). These are the only three options we can choose from and this has been discussed in many past writings of deciding Jesus Lord, Liar, or Lunatic.

Do the teachings in the Bible align with these discoveries, or do they contradict them? Again, do not confuse theory (Scientific or other) with historical or archaeological discoveries.

Before you decide which belief system to follow, it's not just about understanding what people do, how they live, or even what they practice. The real question is: *Who is the God they serve?* Once you understand how they answer, in their scripture, "Who is God?", the next question you must ask yourself is: *Is this a God I would be willing to submit to and serve?* An even deeper version of that question is: *Am I willing to risk all eternity on this God being the one true God?* Remember, is this a God of love or a god of something else?

If eternity does exist the way I believe it does, then the stakes are incredibly high. According to the Christian scripture, The decision of where you place your faith is all that matter, and from that choice, the way you live your life will tell, and it all begins with understanding "*Who Is God?*"

Why These Books?

There are three books I suggest you start with, but know you can always begin wherever you feel convicted to read.

Personally and prayerfully, these three books—Genesis, John, and Acts—are where I would start for multiple reasons. The main reason is this: To best understand who God is, you need to understand the three persons in which He exists. This may sound confusing right now, but the God of the Bible is one being in three persons. While the word *Trinity* doesn't appear in the Bible, the concept clearly does multiple times—that God exists as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Completely understanding this at this point is not a prerequisite for continuing, so if this confuses you, keep reading and come back to it. Like everything in Christianity, do not just blindly accept it but investigate it as we have suggested with all things.

In fact, if at any point you are confused or find something hard to believe—especially while reading the Bible—circle it, acknowledge it, and ask someone (Ideally whoever gave you or introduced you to this book) who you feel could help you understand it. If you're walking through this on your own, feel free to reach out to us, and we will connect you with someone who can walk through it with you.

Throughout the Bible, you will see God as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—that is the Trinity you may have heard about before.

The Book of Genesis is a great way to understand who God is as the Father, how everything was formed, and the reason and purpose behind it all. The Book of John offers a great explanation of who Jesus is as the Son of God—fully God and fully man—and the standard by which we should all live as He experienced life in every way we do. The Book of Acts reveals the work and presence of the Holy Spirit and what believers should do moving forward.

As you read Genesis and if you continue into other Old Testament writings, remember the cultural context, depending on where you live and what you have been taught will impact how you agree or disagree with how things happened. Remember - you can disagree with the action while still accepting it as truth. As you read, if you have trouble accepting the judgment of God (all powerful and all good) it is a blessing because it's likely your moral values are exactly in line with the Judeo-Christian principles! There are parts I do not understand, ways that I would have done it differently, but thankfully, I am not God. For all of our sakes, we have an all powerful and all knowing God and that God, based on experience and evidence when looking at His character as a whole... is a good God!

When I first started reading the Bible, I was guided by an individual who told me to start with the first verse of John, but he also pointed me to the last verse of the book. When I read these two verses, they opened my eyes to the importance and purpose behind the words in the Bible. Now, it may not impact you the way it impacted me, but for me, it made every word worth reading and examining. It showed me that even though man is flawed, God's sovereignty is greater than man's ability to distort it. So even with man's imperfections, God's Word can still be perfect in the exact way He wanted it to be revealed.

Remember, God's ability must be understood first. Based on that understanding, it makes sense that He can do things we may not fully grasp. The last verse of John in the ESV version says:

John 21:25

But there are also many other things that Jesus did. Where every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

What that meant to me as I read it was this: There were so many things that could have been written, but for some reason, only these things were chosen to be included. Written by man, but divinely inspired and selected on purpose, with purpose, by God. God was the one who chose how this would be revealed through man's actions. This means nothing in the Bible was added by accident. Everything was divinely inspired, chosen on purpose, and backed by evidence and experience. Ranging from my own life experiences to archaeological discoveries, no principle or event described in the Bible has been proven inaccurate. It may be hard to believe or impossible to duplicate, as most historic event are, but it has never been proven inaccurate. *(Bold statement, but feel free to investigate for yourself.)*

After reading the last verse of John, as instructed, I then went to the first verse of the book:

John 1:1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

This verse was significant to me because I had heard that God created everything by speaking it into existence. The power of the Word is immense. The Word, God's Word, is not only a means of creation but also a revelation of God's very nature.

So, with these thoughts in mind, I want you to read through Genesis and John together—one chapter each, every day. That's it! Then, because Genesis is longer than John, as you continue through Genesis, read Acts. By doing this, you will begin to gather your own thoughts on who is God, based on the biblical writings. And when you understand "who is God?" you will start to grasp what we are to do, based on who He is, to live the life we are called to live. Also, the other questions you may have had before—*How, Why, What, Where?*—will begin to make sense. This is just the beginning of your path. It takes more than just reading words; it takes developing a personal relationship that you will see described in these readings.

I want to encourage you with this: If you get to know God, you will understand who you are meant to be. You will experience the most fulfilled life possible, and you will be able to experience all eternity in heaven, seeing God as He truly is. *(Again, a bold statement, but feel free to investigate for yourself.)*

How I Started Understanding Faith

Faith is something I've wanted to teach for a long time. I used to think it could be taught, but what I've come to realize is that faith is not something that's taught—it's a gift. It's something given to us by our creator, not by our own efforts or abilities, but a gift we get to receive. We inherently have faith, as to where we put our faith, in my opinion, is the most important action we as humans will take. Where do you put your faith?

Although faith is a gift, it can be strengthened. What I've found is that there's very little, if any, proof when it comes to what will happen next in life. There is evidence to give me confidence, but proof—given all the variables of life—seems nearly impossible. So much so that nearly everything we do is at all based on proof but yet, based on faith. So the question isn't whether we have faith—most people I meet have some form of faith—it's really about where we place our faith.

Faith is defined as the assurance of things hoped for and the conviction of things not seen. We put our faith in many things in our daily lives. For example:

We put our faith in the fact that the person we love will not hurt us.

We put our faith in the expectation that people will obey traffic signals and not run red lights.

We put our faith in the building we're in or the seat we're sitting in, trusting they will not collapse.

We put our faith in the airplane that will fly us to our destination, the car that will drive us, and the brakes that will stop us.

So is this something that can be taught? No, faith is not something that can be taught, but it can be recognized, and it can be strengthened through something called evidence. Evidence comes from a combination of experience and education.

Experience can be summarized by the term *general revelation*—things that genuinely happen in your life that show there is something to believe in.

Education can be summarized by the term *special revelation*, which refers to the direct learning or teaching that shapes our understanding and belief about something we may or may not physically see, but still trust.

For example, when you understand the infrastructure and physics behind how buildings are constructed, you gain experience and education that reassure you the building you're in will stand firm.

In Closing:

If you're looking for proof, that's not what you'll get here. In fact, in some of the most important areas of life, you may never find it until the very end. But what you will get is education that can be combined with your **experience** to give you **evidence** on the most logical decision of where to point the **faith** you've been given. With proof, there is no need for faith. But as you analyze the things that you consider to have “proof”—what you consider facts, the things you expect and accept—you will realize they are likely based on faith and very little is based on proof.

Science itself is based on faith outside what you can see at the moment or repeat through the scientific method. Experts who place their faith in various theories—from creation to evolution to whatever you choose—are all acting on faith, not proof. The age of the earth is based on faith, not proof. The fact that creation happened has proof as a historical event, but how it was created is based on faith, and we cannot provide proof as of the time of this writing.

The only things we can prove are things we can actually see happen or that have already happened (e.g., Creation). Remember, even then, our very eyes can deceive us! Science, where many feel most comfortable placing their faith, can show us what happened, and maybe even the cause of certain events—if they can repeat them. But if it can't repeat an event, it can't say with proof why it happened. It can tell you *how*, *what*, *when*, and *where*, but it can't explain *why* things happen at their core.

Take gravity, for example. There's evidence, experience, and education that explains gravity, but science cannot explain why gravity exists. It can tell you what it does, how it does it, when and where it will do it, and the theoretical importance of it, but it can't tell you why aerodynamics, gravity, or the laws that govern the earth exist in the first place.

Science cannot answer the *why*, but that's where faith comes in. Faith is necessary when we seek to understand the why behind the things we experience.

What I'm asking you to do now is this:

PAUSING HERE TO PONDER!

You can look for proof, but don't be let down when you can't find it. And if you do find it, please let me know! What I'm asking you to do is lean on the faith you've been given. Recognize that we don't know what we don't know. Open your eyes to the possibility that what you've been told in the past might not be as proven as it's often made out to be. Walk through this with the understanding of who God is—based on the faith you've been given as a gift.

As you read these words, if they start to make sense to you, that's a good thing. Because God's people understand His voice, and He draws us in through His Word. If you're reading and it resonates with you, or even if you're thinking, "Yeah, this kind of makes sense," keep reading. Keep investigating. Come in with faith, but question everything.

You cannot offend it. We don't need to defend it. We cannot amend it. It's based in truth. And when you put your faith in truth, there's nothing that can pull it apart. So feel free to ask any question you want. Feel free to talk about why it doesn't make sense. But I encourage you to get into the Word. Read it with the goal of understanding *who this God is* they tell you about.

REMINDER

Understanding that reading this book alone will not save you, nor will it guarantee that you'll find Jesus. The goal of this book is simply to help you understand Who is God? If you feel prompted to explore further after reading these selected passages, I encourage you to get a full Bible and continue your journey. Don't overthink which Bible to get, as there are a ton of options. But my suggestion would range between the ESV, KJV, NLT, or the Amplified Version. The easiest to understand is the NLT, then ESV, followed by the KJV. I feel the KJV is the most accurate to the original text, and the Amplified version is a great tool to help understand the context within the text. Again, you choose the translation that works best for you, but make sure it's an accurate and near direct translation to the original texts as possible. If you are waiting for your bible to come. Please download this free bible app, select the version you think you want (or just get started with what they give you) and get started reading! <https://www.youversion.com/the-bible-app/>

This is really not a "book" written by me, but more a compilation of my journey. The introduction, outro, and exercises reflect my experiences. The rest is directly from the Bible—words that have withstood the scrutiny of time and historical inquiry. As you read the Bible, use this book to take notes of what stands out to you, what challenges you, and what questions arise. It's okay if some of the words seem hard to believe or understand. If you can, it's great to find someone who knows the Bible better than you, so you

can circle anything that you question and ask them to help you navigate those questions. This is your opportunity to seek, reflect, and learn.

So, over the next few weeks, take the time to dive into these chapters. Two chapters a day is all we ask for—take your time. This is not about completion; it's about comprehension. Ask yourself, *Who is God?* What does He reveal to you through these words? What do you want to know more about? The answers you discover along the way may surprise you.

Next Steps:

At this point, if you feel ready to dive into the reading, that would be great! Remember, this introduction is simply meant to help you get started with the suggested books. You can refer to the table of contents to see exactly where to begin, but here's how it will work:

Read two chapters each morning. This should take about 20 minutes or so.

Start with the books of *John* and *Genesis*.

Begin with **John chapter 1** and read that chapter.

Then go to **Genesis chapter 1** and read that chapter.

Afterward, turn to the **Day 1** page in this book, review the questions, and write down your thoughts on what you got from the reading.

Once you've completed that, move on to **John chapter 2**, then **Genesis chapter 2**.

Continue reading in this pattern until you've finished John. Once you finish John, you'll move on to **Acts**, as it follows right after John.

Although Genesis is the first book, I suggest you read in the order of **John**, then **Genesis**, and finally **Acts**, followed by the rest of Genesis.

If you're still unsure about whether you should begin, feel free to work through the following two exercises. If you're ready to jump in, head to **page 13**, open up your bible and get started. You'll find the two exercises on the following pages.

EXERCISE 1: WHERE ARE YOU IN YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF WHO GOD IS?

This exercise is designed to help you take a moment to assess where you are in your understanding, knowledge, or thoughts about who God is. It's a simple exercise, but it can provide insight into your current perspective and how it may evolve as you continue exploring. Again, be willing to change your mind if truth is introduced or if a lie you have been told is exposed. It is not your fault if someone has shared a false message to you, it is your fault if you deny truth when you are exposed to it!

Question 1: Was the universe created, or did it happen through random cause?

(Please understand this is not about evolution, this is about creation. Did all of this get created in an intelligent and intentional way, or did it all start from nothing and formed into something?)

Question 2: Is there a God?

Circle the answer that best represents where you stand right now:

Yes ☐ No ☐ I don't know ☐ I don't care ☐

Question 3: Based on your answer above, how would you describe God?

(For example: Creator, a higher power, distant, loving, indifferent, etc.)

Question 4: Based on your answer above, what would you describe God's character to be?

(For example: Just, merciful, angry, benevolent, etc.)

Question 5: Based on your answer above, is God almighty, all-powerful, all-knowing, or not?

(Consider what you believe about God's abilities or limitations based on your previous answers.)

There are three exercises at the back of the book that you can do once you read the three books we suggest below. Get ready to get started and I am excited to hear what you get and what happens once you come to understand, “Who is God?”

TABLE OF CONTENTS FOR *WHO IS GOD?* READING PLAN

Important Notes on Your Reading:

Do Not Feel Forced to believe what is written: This book isn't just another read; it's the story of the God who created the universe and is divinely inspired. If you're willing to accept for now that there is a God who created all of this you see out of nothing, turning water to wine or feeding 5,000 is certainly within His ability. If you believe that God exists, then my next question was who is that God? I feel you will understand that as you read these three books. Some of what you read may be hard to believe at first—and that's okay! Circle what you don't understand or believe and find someone who can help you navigate it. Don't let doubt stop you from continuing. Thousands of years of questioning have never proven these truths wrong.

One Chapter from Each Every Day: As you progress through the plan, remember the goal is not to rush through the chapters. Spend time reflecting on what you read each day. One chapter per day is enough—read slowly, meditates, and ponders the question of *Who is God?*

Reflect on God's Character: Think on the passages you've read. What do they reveal about God's character? Whether it's His power, love, sovereignty, or wisdom, let each reading help you understand *who* God is.

Take Time to Understand: If you come across something that doesn't immediately make sense, sit with it for a while. Pray about it, and let the words themselves reveal who God is, rather than trying to fit them into your preconceived opinions. Allow God's truth to shape your understanding.

DAY 1 John 1 Genesis 1	DAY 2 John 2 Genesis 2	DAY 3 John 3 Genesis 3	DAY 4 John4 Genesis 4
DAY 5 John 5 Genesis 5	DAY 6 John 6 Genesis 6	DAY 7 John 7 Genesis 7	DAY 8 John 8 Genesis 8
DAY 9 John 9 Genesis 9	DAY 10 John 10 Genesis 10	DAY 11 John 11 Genesis 11	DAY 12 John 12 Genesis 12
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DAY 1 NOTES – JOHN 1, GENESIS 1

Reminder: Read slowly, meditate, and ponder the question of *Who is God?*

Reflect on God's Character: Think on the passages you've read. What do they reveal about God's character? Whether it's His power, love, sovereignty, or wisdom, let each reading help you understand *who* God is.

Was anything not make sense or hard to believe? Write it out below and make note of it to discuss with someone else.

Take Time to Understand: If you come across something that doesn't immediately make sense, sit with it for a while. Pray about it, and let the words themselves reveal who God is, rather than trying to fit them into your preconceived opinions. Allow God's truth to shape your understanding.

[illegible]

DAY 2 NOTES - JOHN 2, GENESIS 2

Reminder: Read slowly, meditate, and ponder the question of *Who is God?*

Reflect on God's Character: Think on the passages you've read. What do they reveal about God's character? Whether it's His power, love, sovereignty, or wisdom, let each reading help you understand *who* God is.

Was anything not make sense or hard to believe? Write it out below and make note of it to discuss with someone else.

Take Time to Understand: If you come across something that doesn't immediately make sense, sit with it for a while. Pray about it, and let the words themselves reveal who God is, rather than trying to fit them into your preconceived opinions. Allow God's truth to shape your understanding.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

DAY 3 NOTES - JOHN 3, GENESIS 3

Reminder: Read slowly, meditate, and ponder the question of *Who is God?*

Reflect on God's Character: Think on the passages you've read. What do they reveal about God's character? Whether it's His power, love, sovereignty, or wisdom, let each reading help you understand *who* God is.

Was anything not make sense or hard to believe? Write it out below and make note of it to discuss with someone else.

Take Time to Understand: If you come across something that doesn't immediately make sense, sit with it for a while. Pray about it, and let the words themselves reveal who God is, rather than trying to fit them into your preconceived opinions. Allow God's truth to shape your understanding.

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DAY 4 NOTES - JOHN 4, GENESIS 4

Reminder: Read slowly, meditate, and ponder the question of *Who is God?*

Reflect on God's Character: Think on the passages you've read. What do they reveal about God's character? Whether it's His power, love, sovereignty, or wisdom, let each reading help you understand *who* God is.

Was anything not make sense or hard to believe? Write it out below and make note of it to discuss with someone else.

Take Time to Understand: If you come across something that doesn't immediately make sense, sit with it for a while. Pray about it, and let the words themselves reveal who God is, rather than trying to fit them into your preconceived opinions. Allow God's truth to shape your understanding.

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DAY 5 NOTES - JOHN 5, GENESIS 5

Reminder: Read slowly, meditate, and ponder the question of Who *is God*?

Reflect on God's Character: Think on the passages you've read. What do they reveal about God's character? Whether it's His power, love, sovereignty, or wisdom, let each reading help you understand *who* God is.

Was anything not make sense or hard to believe? Write it out below and make note of it to discuss with someone else.

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DAY 6 NOTES - JOHN 6, GENESIS 6

Reminder: Read slowly, meditate, and ponder the question of *Who is God?*

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[illegible]

DAY 7 NOTES - JOHN 7, GENESIS 7

Reminder: Read slowly, meditate, and ponder the question of *Who is God?*

Reflect on God's Character: Think on the passages you've read. What do they reveal about God's character? Whether it's His power, love, sovereignty, or wisdom, let each reading help you understand *who* God is.

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DAY 8 NOTES - JOHN 8, GENESIS 8

Reminder: Read slowly, meditate, and ponder the question of *Who is God?*

Reflect on God's Character: Think on the passages you've read. What do they reveal about God's character? Whether it's His power, love, sovereignty, or wisdom, let each reading help you understand *who* God is.

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DAY 9 NOTES - JOHN 9, GENESIS 9

Reminder: Read slowly, meditate, and ponder the question of *Who is God?*

Reflect on God's Character: Think on the passages you've read. What do they reveal about God's character? Whether it's His power, love, sovereignty, or wisdom, let each reading help you understand *who* God is.

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DAY 10 NOTES - JOHN 10, GENESIS 10

Reminder: Read slowly, meditate, and ponder the question of *Who is God?*

Reflect on God's Character: Think on the passages you've read. What do they reveal about God's character? Whether it's His power, love, sovereignty, or wisdom, let each reading help you understand *who* God is.

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[illegible]

DAY 11 NOTES - JOHN 11, GENESIS 11

Reminder: Read slowly, meditate, and ponder the question of *Who is God?*

Reflect on God's Character: Think on the passages you've read. What do they reveal about God's character? Whether it's His power, love, sovereignty, or wisdom, let each reading help you understand *who* God is.

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DAY 12 NOTES - JOHN 12, GENESIS 12

Reminder: Read slowly, meditate, and ponder the question of *Who is God?*

Reflect on God's Character: Think on the passages you've read. What do they reveal about God's character? Whether it's His power, love, sovereignty, or wisdom, let each reading help you understand *who* God is.

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DAY 13 NOTES - JOHN 13, GENESIS 13

Reminder: Read slowly, meditate, and ponder the question of *Who is God?*

Reflect on God's Character: Think on the passages you've read. What do they reveal about God's character? Whether it's His power, love, sovereignty, or wisdom, let each reading help you understand *who* God is.

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DAY 14 NOTES - JOHN 14, GENESIS 14

Reminder: Read slowly, meditate, and ponder the question of *Who is God?*

Reflect on God's Character: Think on the passages you've read. What do they reveal about God's character? Whether it's His power, love, sovereignty, or wisdom, let each reading help you understand *who* God is.

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DAY 15 NOTES - JOHN 15, GENESIS 15

Reminder: Read slowly, meditate, and ponder the question of *Who is God?*

Reflect on God's Character: Think on the passages you've read. What do they reveal about God's character? Whether it's His power, love, sovereignty, or wisdom, let each reading help you understand *who* God is.

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DAY 16 NOTES - JOHN 16, GENESIS 16

Reminder: Read slowly, meditate, and ponder the question of *Who is God?*

Reflect on God's Character: Think on the passages you've read. What do they reveal about God's character? Whether it's His power, love, sovereignty, or wisdom, let each reading help you understand *who* God is.

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DAY 17 NOTES - JOHN 17, GENESIS 17

Reminder: Read slowly, meditate, and ponder the question of *Who is God?*

Reflect on God's Character: Think on the passages you've read. What do they reveal about God's character? Whether it's His power, love, sovereignty, or wisdom, let each reading help you understand *who* God is.

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DAY 18 NOTES - JOHN 18, GENESIS 18

Reminder: Read slowly, meditate, and ponder the question of *Who is God?*

Reflect on God's Character: Think on the passages you've read. What do they reveal about God's character? Whether it's His power, love, sovereignty, or wisdom, let each reading help you understand *who* God is.

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DAY 19 NOTES - JOHN 19, GENESIS 19

Reminder: Read slowly, meditate, and ponder the question of *Who is God?*

Reflect on God's Character: Think on the passages you've read. What do they reveal about God's character? Whether it's His power, love, sovereignty, or wisdom, let each reading help you understand *who* God is.

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DAY 20 NOTES - JOHN 20, GENESIS 20

Reminder: Read slowly, meditate, and ponder the question of *Who is God?*

Reflect on God's Character: Think on the passages you've read. What do they reveal about God's character? Whether it's His power, love, sovereignty, or wisdom, let each reading help you understand *who* God is.

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DAY 21 NOTES - JOHN 21, GENESIS 21

Reminder: Read slowly, meditate, and ponder the question of *Who is God?*

Reflect on God's Character: Think on the passages you've read. What do they reveal about God's character? Whether it's His power, love, sovereignty, or wisdom, let each reading help you understand *who* God is.

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DAY 22 NOTES - GENESIS 22 (JUST 1 CHAPTER)

Reminder: Read slowly, meditate, and ponder the question of *Who is God?*

Reflect on God's Character: Think on the passages you've read. What do they reveal about God's character? Whether it's His power, love, sovereignty, or wisdom, let each reading help you understand *who* God is.

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DAY 23 NOTES - ACTS 1, GENESIS 23

Reminder: Read slowly, meditate, and ponder the question of *Who is God?*

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DAY 24 NOTES - ACTS 2, GENESIS 24

Reminder: Read slowly, meditate, and ponder the question of *Who is God?*

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[illegible]

DAY 25 NOTES - ACTS 3, GENESIS 25

Reminder: Read slowly, meditate, and ponder the question of *Who is God?*

Reflect on God's Character: Think on the passages you've read. What do they reveal about God's character? Whether it's His power, love, sovereignty, or wisdom, let each reading help you understand *who* God is.

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[illegible]

DAY 26 NOTES - ACTS 4, GENESIS 26

Reminder: Read slowly, meditate, and ponder the question of *Who is God?*

Reflect on God's Character: Think on the passages you've read. What do they reveal about God's character? Whether it's His power, love, sovereignty, or wisdom, let each reading help you understand *who* God is.

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DAY 27 NOTES - ACTS 5, GENESIS 27

Reminder: Read slowly, meditate, and ponder the question of *Who is God?*

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DAY 28 NOTES - ACTS 6, GENESIS 28

Reminder: Read slowly, meditate, and ponder the question of *Who is God?*

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DAY 29 NOTES - ACTS 7, GENESIS 29

Reminder: Read slowly, meditate, and ponder the question of *Who is God?*

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[illegible]

DAY 30 NOTES - ACTS 8, GENESIS 30

Reminder: Read slowly, meditate, and ponder the question of *Who is God?*

Reflect on God's Character: Think on the passages you've read. What do they reveal about God's character? Whether it's His power, love, sovereignty, or wisdom, let each reading help you understand *who* God is.

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DAY 31 NOTES - ACTS 9, GENESIS 31

Reminder: Read slowly, meditate, and ponder the question of *Who is God?*

Reflect on God's Character: Think on the passages you've read. What do they reveal about God's character? Whether it's His power, love, sovereignty, or wisdom, let each reading help you understand *who* God is.

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DAY 32 NOTES - ACTS 10, GENESIS 32

Reminder: Read slowly, meditate, and ponder the question of *Who is God?*

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DAY 33 NOTES - ACTS 11, GENESIS 33

Reminder: Read slowly, meditate, and ponder the question of *Who is God?*

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[illegible]

DAY 34 NOTES - ACTS 12, GENESIS 34

Reminder: Read slowly, meditate, and ponder the question of *Who is God?*

Reflect on God's Character: Think on the passages you've read. What do they reveal about God's character? Whether it's His power, love, sovereignty, or wisdom, let each reading help you understand *who* God is.

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DAY 35 NOTES - ACTS 13, GENESIS 35

Reminder: Read slowly, meditate, and ponder the question of *Who is God?*

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DAY 36 NOTES - ACTS 14, GENESIS 36

Reminder: Read slowly, meditate, and ponder the question of *Who is God?*

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DAY 37 NOTES - ACTS 15, GENESIS 37

Reminder: Read slowly, meditate, and ponder the question of *Who is God?*

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DAY 38 NOTES - ACTS 16, GENESIS 38

Reminder: Read slowly, meditate, and ponder the question of *Who is God?*

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DAY 39 NOTES - ACTS 17, GENESIS 39

Reminder: Read slowly, meditate, and ponder the question of *Who is God?*

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DAY 40 NOTES - ACTS 18, GENESIS 40

Reminder: Read slowly, meditate, and ponder the question of *Who is God?*

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DAY 41 NOTES - ACTS 19, GENESIS 41

Reminder: Read slowly, meditate, and ponder the question of *Who is God?*

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This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

DAY 42 NOTES - ACTS 20, GENESIS 42

Reminder: Read slowly, meditate, and ponder the question of *Who is God?*

Reflect on God's Character: Think on the passages you've read. What do they reveal about God's character? Whether it's His power, love, sovereignty, or wisdom, let each reading help you understand *who* God is.

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DAY 43 NOTES - ACTS 21, GENESIS 43

Reminder: Read slowly, meditate, and ponder the question of *Who is God?*

Reflect on God's Character: Think on the passages you've read. What do they reveal about God's character? Whether it's His power, love, sovereignty, or wisdom, let each reading help you understand *who* God is.

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DAY 44 NOTES - ACTS 22, GENESIS 44

Reminder: Read slowly, meditate, and ponder the question of *Who is God?*

Reflect on God's Character: Think on the passages you've read. What do they reveal about God's character? Whether it's His power, love, sovereignty, or wisdom, let each reading help you understand *who* God is.

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[illegible]

DAY 45 NOTES - ACTS 23, GENESIS 45

Reminder: Read slowly, meditate, and ponder the question of *Who is God?*

Reflect on God's Character: Think on the passages you've read. What do they reveal about God's character? Whether it's His power, love, sovereignty, or wisdom, let each reading help you understand *who* God is.

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This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on the right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface.

DAY 46 NOTES - ACTS 24, GENESIS 46

Reminder: Read slowly, meditate, and ponder the question of *Who is God?*

Reflect on God's Character: Think on the passages you've read. What do they reveal about God's character? Whether it's His power, love, sovereignty, or wisdom, let each reading help you understand *who* God is.

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[illegible]

DAY 47 NOTES - ACTS 25, GENESIS 47

Reminder: Read slowly, meditate, and ponder the question of *Who is God?*

Reflect on God's Character: Think on the passages you've read. What do they reveal about God's character? Whether it's His power, love, sovereignty, or wisdom, let each reading help you understand *who* God is.

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[illegible]

DAY 48 NOTES - ACTS 26, GENESIS 48

Reminder: Read slowly, meditate, and ponder the question of *Who is God?*

Reflect on God's Character: Think on the passages you've read. What do they reveal about God's character? Whether it's His power, love, sovereignty, or wisdom, let each reading help you understand *who* God is.

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[illegible]

DAY 49 NOTES - ACTS 27, GENESIS 49

Reminder: Read slowly, meditate, and ponder the question of *Who is God?*

Reflect on God's Character: Think on the passages you've read. What do they reveal about God's character? Whether it's His power, love, sovereignty, or wisdom, let each reading help you understand *who* God is.

Was anything not make sense or hard to believe? Write it out below and make note of it to discuss with someone else.

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DAY 50 NOTES - ACTS 28, GENESIS 50

Reminder: Read slowly, meditate, and ponder the question of *Who is God?*

Reflect on God's Character: Think on the passages you've read. What do they reveal about God's character? Whether it's His power, love, sovereignty, or wisdom, let each reading help you understand *who* God is.

Was anything not make sense or hard to believe? Write it out below and make note of it to discuss with someone else.

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Congratulations!

You've read through three powerful books. There is so much more to explore, and I encourage you to continue your reading journey. I suggest you find a good local church, join a group of others who are reading the Bible, and complete the following exercises to finish this journey.

If you have any questions or need help finding a local church or small group, please reach out directly. We'd be happy to connect you with a community that will help you continue growing in your faith and reading!

Read Once You Have Read the Three Suggested Books of the Bible in the Format Suggested

You are welcome to read this now, but here's what I want you to do: read the three books, take the suggested notes, and think through Who Is God? Then, once you're ready, have read, and reflected, come back and do the following suggested exercises. You can always do them when you're ready, as readers of this will be at many different levels in their understanding of Who Is God?

To Wrap Up This Exercise...

If you've done the work asked of you—if you've read through the selected chapters of Genesis, John, and Acts—you've begun a journey. But this is only the beginning. The next step is to continue that journey. Purchase a copy of the full Bible and keep reading—read the rest of the Gospels: Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Then, read beyond Genesis into the rest of the Old Testament, the Torah, and the full narrative of God's story. Want to know how it ends? It's a great ending—jump to Revelation and read what was written.

The foundation of the Christian faith is based on one event: the resurrection of Jesus Christ. If Jesus wasn't resurrected, then our faith is in vain. Some shy away from discussing this, but this is the crux of everything we believe. (Look up the original term crux when you get a chance—it literally points back to the cross.)

Was Jesus resurrected from the dead? Did He resurrect Himself? Our faith hinges on this event actually happening. There's no direct proof of it, but there's plenty of evidence. More evidence that He did resurrect than that He did not. Evidence, paired with personal experience and the gift of faith, is what allows us to strongly believe in a way that we would bet our temporal and eternal lives on it.

If anything in this book spoke to you—if reading the words sparked something positive in your heart, opened your eyes to new truths, or cleared up some confusion—then I encourage you to keep going. Jesus made it clear that His people will recognize His voice. If the words you’ve read have made you feel that things make a little more sense even if just a little—keep reading. Continue your journey of understanding the good news we celebrate: The Savior has come.

Let me remind you of this: God created everything. In His infinite wisdom, He gave humanity the gift of free will—the ability to choose to obey or disobey. And we, as humanity, chose to disobey. This disobedience led to a separation between God’s perfection and our imperfection due to sin (our choice to disobey). For all time, this gap remained, until God did the unthinkable—something no other god has ever done, would ever do, and could ever do!

Most gods ask their people to strive for a higher level, to reach perfection. But our God, the one true God, in his ultimate sovereignty, limited himself to a man and came down to our level. Born of a virgin, fully man and fully God, He lived a perfect life without sin. He was brutally killed, and through His death, He overcame death itself. Three days later, He rose from the grave, walked among His followers, and appeared to hundreds of witnesses. The evidence of His crucifixion and resurrection is not just in the Bible, but also in other, Non-Christian historical accounts. Many of those who witnessed His resurrection gave their lives for what they saw—they chose to die in some of the most gruesome ways. All one of them needed to do was say it wasn’t true, and the pain would have stopped. Not all of them, but if just ONE of the eyewitnesses claimed it was all made up, this whole thing would be flawed.

One thing you cannot deny in these writings is that these men truly believed what they saw and were willing to endure unimaginable torture over it—pain and suffering that no human, let alone multiple men, could have faked or withstood unless they truly believed what they said they saw: The Risen Christ.

Jesus ascended to heaven, where He now sits at the right hand of God, interceding on behalf of humanity. When God looked at Jesus on the cross, He saw the sin of the world. Because of what Jesus did for us on the cross, when God looks at us, He sees the righteousness of Christ imputed to those who put their faith in Jesus. Through Him, we are made worthy to enter heaven, free from sin, and reconciled to God.

If you are separated from God in this life, you will be separated from Him for all eternity. The choice is yours, as God grants you free will. A loving God will never force you to love Him. You can choose to love Him now, or you can choose not to. One day, Jesus will return to set everything right, and in heaven, there will be no sin, no pain—only those who have chosen Him.

Perfection is the standard for entering heaven. Because of Jesus' sacrifice, when you put your faith in Him, His perfection is credited to you. Without Him, you are judged by your actions, and none of us can meet that standard. It is not about trying to be a good person, it is about being perfect and no man is perfect beside Jesus as fully man and fully God. But with Him (Jesus), through His sacrifice on the cross, by putting your faith in Him, you are judged base on His righteousness and not your own!

Continue your search. Keep asking questions. Keep reading the Scriptures. Don't take anyone's word for it, including mine. Test everything you read against the Bible. And may you never forget the question that has challenged humanity for centuries: *Who is God?*

EXERCISE 2: PREPARING YOURSELF TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

1 Peter 3:15

“but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,”

My challenge for anyone reading this document is to understand the 5 key components of the Gospel, study what Scripture says about each of these, and take time to write out the most succinct using the least amount of words needed, to explain the amazingly good news of what God has done for us. Once you understand your own understanding of the Gospel revealed through scripture, it is VERY easy to share it with anyone you come in contact with!

It takes time to get your thoughts together, and what could be more important than understanding what you believe about something, where your belief is all you need!

The Gospel is more than just that Jesus came. Although that is a HUGE part of it, that is not the whole Gospel. The Gospel goes from begging to end and everything in between. There are key parts that we need to recognize as we share the whole Gospel.

All things good come from God. All negative things in the bible come from rebellion against God. When you go against the way everything is supposed to work, it is like going against gravity and wondering why the outcome is negative. It is not that the ground hit you, it is that you jumped....

Predestination alongside Free Will is what causes the different steps in this process. We all have the choice to take actions that are out of alignment with God, but the scripture shares stories of what happens when we do. Notice the Good comes from the 5 steps of what God has done. The majority of the scripture is what we have done to go against God but all scripture points back to what God has done, does, and continues to do for us.

Creation Genesis 1-2

Rebellion of Man while God is Sovereign - Genesis 3:1-7

Separation Genesis 3:8-24

Rebellion of Man while God is Sovereign - the rest of the Old Testament

Solution - Luke 2:7

Rebellion of Man while God is Sovereign - the rest of Mathew Mark Luke & John.

Reparation - John 19:30-Acts 1:1-11

Rebellion of Man while God is Sovereign - the rest of the New Testament

Glorification - Revelation 21 & 22

Jesus comes back, finally judgment occurs, and sets everything

It is amazing as we navigate through the Gospel from beginning to end. Everything God predestined does as it has been set to do. Our free will is what allows us to rebel. When we truly understand what God has set in place for us and who God is, the concept of rebelling is the most illogical action we can take. Yes, we are saved by grace through Faith in Chris. But when it comes to making the logical or illogical choice, it makes more logical sense to obey the laws set by the almighty God.

On the back of this page, or a separate piece of paper, write out your description of the Gospel, to give you a goal, try to do one sentence for each of the 5 parts.

Here is an example.

God CREATED everything exactly as it should be.

Man chose to disobey God, so for Man's sake, God provided SEPARATION.

As a SOLUTION for us, God purposely sent his son, born of a woman, fully God and fully Man, and lived a sinless life, die a terrible death, and experience the undeserved full wrath of God, deserved by every other man for every sin ever committed.

3 days later, after paying this debt (REPARATION), God overcame death, rose from the dead, and assented to the right hand of God.

All of this He did so that we can be in right standing with God and experience GLORIFICATION where sin no longer exists, we no longer need the separation, and we can be back in the presence of God for all eternity.

Write How You Would Describe The Gospel

EXERCISE 3: WHERE ARE YOU IN YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF WHO GOD IS?

(Yes - redo this now that you have read The Word)

So you have already done this but now that you have read the three books, let's see how you answer the following questions. Remember, it's a simple exercise, but it can provide insight into your current perspective and how it may evolve as you continue exploring. Again, be willing to change your mind if truth is introduced or if a lie you have been told is exposed. It is not your fault if someone has shared a false message to you, it is your fault if you deny truth when you are exposed to it!

Question 1: Was the universe created, or did it happen through random cause?

(Please understand this is not about evolution, this is about creation. Did all of this get created in an intelligent and intentional way, or did it all start from nothing and formed into something?)

Question 2: Is there a God?

Circle the answer that best represents where you stand right now:

Yes ☐ No ☐ I don't know ☒ I don't care ☐

Question 3: Based on your answer above, how would you describe God?

(For example: Creator, a higher power, distant, loving, indifferent, etc.)

Question 4: Based on your answer above, what would you describe God's character to be?

(For example: Just, merciful, angry, benevolent, etc.)

Question 5: Based on your answer above, is God almighty, all-powerful, all-knowing, or not?
(Consider what you believe about God's abilities or limitations based on your previous answers.)
