

ENCOUNTER
PRAYER

Who is God?

SESSION 3

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01 Who do we pray to?

We are made in God's image, but God is different to us.



*"So God created mankind **in his own image**, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them."*

GENESIS 1:27

In the book of Job in the Bible, we learn that:



*"God's voice thunders in marvellous ways; he does great things **beyond our understanding.**"*

JOB 37:5

There are some interesting phrases used to describe God:

An old hymn describes God as "**A mighty fortress**", and although we know that God is not a physical building, he can protect us like **a building**.

And in the Bible, one of the Psalms tells us:



*"God is our **refuge and strength**, a very present help in trouble."*

PSALM 46:1

There are many descriptions of God in the Bible:



Shepherd

"For this is what the Sovereign Lord says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness."

EZEKIEL 34:11-12



King

"For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods."

PSALM 95:3



Potter

"Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand."

JEREMIAH 18:6



Bread

"I am the bread of life."

JOHN 6:35

Having these, and other pictures of God in our minds when we come to pray is incredibly helpful, because we start to understand who we are praying to.

As well as this descriptive language that's used to describe God in the Bible, God also has attributes!

An attribute is something that we know is true about God. God is always the perfect form of an attribute:



Wise

“Who should not fear you, King of the nations? This is your due. Among all the wise leaders of the nations and in all their kingdoms, there is no one like you.”

JEREMIAH 10:7



Good

“Surely God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart.”

PSALM 73:1



Faithful

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

DEUTERONOMY 32:4



Merciful

“For the Lord your God is a merciful God; He will not abandon or destroy you or forget the covenant with your ancestors, which He confirmed to them by oath.”

DEUTERONOMY 4:31



Loving

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

1 JOHN 4:8

Because God is perfect, He will always demonstrate these attributes perfectly. For instance, as God is faithful and a perfect model of faithfulness, He will never be unfaithful.

02

A Bible helps prayer

There are so many names for God and He has so many wonderful attributes that if we know them it helps build up our faith when we are praying.

If you have a Bible, read these verses:

PSALM 23:1-3

EXODUS 3:13-14

GENESIS 16:13

JOHN 3:16-17

EXODUS 34:5-7

03

Faith

We need faith to pray. Faith is believing that God is who He says He is and will do what He says He will do. Knowing that God has many attributes and names is one thing; believing that they are true is another.



"Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being certain of what we do not see."

HEBREWS 11: 1

Jesus himself makes the connection between faith and prayer:



*“And Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Truly I say to you, if you have faith, and do not doubt, you shall not only do what was done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, “Be taken up and cast into the sea,” it shall happen. **And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.**”*

MATTHEW 21:21-22

We need faith when we pray. When we understand who we are talking to during prayer, it should build our faith. Knowing about God and believing it to be true should give us confidence that when we talk to God, He hears us.

This is always a growing understanding of who he is because we will never fully comprehend God. But we need to begin to believe that He can and will answer us when we pray.

You might find this helpful:

Here are some other names used to describe God in the Bible.

Remember that God has many other names too – these are just a selection.

God is strong

El, Eloah: God “mighty, strong, prominent”

GENESIS 17:1 ISAIAH 9:6

God is mighty

El Shaddai: “God Almighty,”

GENESIS 49:24 PSALM 132:2

God provides

Yahweh Jireh: “The Lord Will Provide”

GENESIS 22:14

God heals

Yahweh-Rapha: "The Lord Who Heals"

EXODUS 15:26

God brings peace

Yahweh-Shalom: "The Lord Our Peace"

JUDGES 6:24

God is our shepherd

Yahweh-Rohi: "The Lord Our Shepherd"

PSALM 23:1

God is present

Yahweh-Shammah: "The Lord Is There"

EZEKIEL 48:35

God sees us

El Roi: "God of Seeing"

GENESIS 16:13

God is Everlasting

El-Olam: "Everlasting God"

PSALM 90:1-3

We pray to an everlasting God who is strong and mighty; who provides; brings peace; creates new things; heals us; He is our Shepherd; He sees us; and is present with us! He is this and so much more!