

ANCHORED

Lesson 1: The Existence of God

DAY 1

Anchor Statement: I believe that God exists and that He is alive.

The truth is many of us may approach this statement with from different places. Some have lived their whole life believing that God does exist. Others haven't had the pleasure of knowing Him until now. What's going through your mind when you read it?

Read John 17:3.

And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

Believing that God exists is important to us, because it is the key to eternal life with Him. That means that we trust He is both in existence and also that He will exist forever and ever (eternity).

Take some time today to pray to God. Ask that He would open your eyes so that you can see His work in the world around you. If you are bold, ask that He would make His love for you known in spectacular ways, and that you would have the opportunity to share this with others.

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Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation. By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible. And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. (Hebrews 11:1-3, 6)

Words matter because they have meaning. Maybe you've had a conversation with someone, and the words they spoke lifted your spirits, or perhaps someone offered to buy you ice cream on a hot day. However, words can also bring us down. Perhaps someone has been mean to you before, and the words they used towards you are still discouraging you today.

God's Word matters because it holds the words of life. The author of Hebrews (one of the books within the Bible) addresses a Jewish Christian audience that was accustomed to following the Law, which had been given to them by God. But Jesus, living a life that fulfilled the Law entirely, offered all of us a new way to relate with God. In this new agreement between God and His people, the only thing required of us is to have faith in Jesus and seek Him with everything we have.

The author of Hebrews gives us some beautiful words to describe what this faith in Christ should look like. Re-read the verses above, and take note of some words that stick out to you about this faith. You probably noticed these two words right away: Confidence and assurance.

Faith in God through His Son Jesus Christ is not wishful thinking or a halfhearted hope. Our faith can be confident, and our hope can be assured, that God created the universe and has made Himself known to us in many ways, including sending His Son Jesus Christ to save us. These words should lift us up!

Something To Think About...

- When you think about having faith in God through Jesus Christ, do you usually think of the word confidence? What about assurance? Why or why not?
- In this devotional, we have talked about both God's creation and the Gospel of Jesus Christ as being means for our faith to be strengthened. What other specific things from your life would you add that has strengthened your faith?

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Let's go back to that anchor statement from this week: **I believe that God exists and that He is alive.**

The most important thing about this statement is that it becomes personal for you and your life! Take a moment to read this verse:

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. —Psalm 19:1

In a moment, take a short walk somewhere outside if the weather permits. If not, just look out your window for a few minutes, with no distractions. Take special note of the sky, and how it points us to something greater than we can fathom. Then, read this verse from Romans:

For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. —Romans 1:20

These Scriptures teach us that the beautiful creation that surrounds us, reminds us of God's existence and presence. While you walk, or sit by a window, spend some time in prayer. Give thanks to God for who He is and ask Him to give you practical wisdom for how to apply the truths you learned this week to your life.

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Lesson 2: The Existence of God

DAY 1

Anchor Statement: As a Christ-follower, I have a unique view of Who God is, and I do not believe that there are any other gods before Him.

In a world where so many beliefs surround each of us, it can be confusing to know where to turn. Which belief is true? Is there one God or more than one god? The lesson this week addresses these questions. If you are a Christ follower, you have decided in your heart to trust and believe that there is One True God.

Take a few minutes and think about your anchor statement for this week. Christians believe that Jesus is who He says He is.

He alone is God, and He alone can save.

Take a minute and write down a prayer to the Lord. Ask Him for wisdom on how to bring truth to everyone who does not yet believe.

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Lesson 2: The Existence of God

DAY 2

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:14-16)

We all really appreciate it when someone seeks to understand what we are going through. It helps us so much when someone takes the time to listen, be present, and encourage us. Jesus does this for us but on a much deeper level. Although Jesus may not be living through your exact situation, He sees it. Take a moment and think about the basic things that Jesus went through when He was on this Earth. Jesus experienced happiness, friendship, celebration, encouragement, and even great food. On the flip side, though, Jesus experienced sadness, betrayal, loss, discouragement, hunger, thirst, and much more. Jesus went through all of the human experiences.

There are a lot of people who worship gods that ignore their suffering. They may even believe these gods are the cause of their suffering. But our God is a high priest Who knows our struggles and offers us strength and comfort when life is difficult.

Something To Think About:

- When you think about Jesus being the only true God, do you connect that truth with a sympathetic and caring nature towards us? Why or why not?
- This devotional has focused a lot on how Jesus understands what we go through. He is with us, yet He also uses the circumstances of our lives for a greater purpose. How have you seen God take something difficult in your life and bring something good out of it later?

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Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever." And this word is the good news that was preached to you. (1 Peter 1:22-25)

At the end of your life, the most important question you can answer is, "What did you do with the life God gave you, and how did you use it for His glory?" The earlier in your life that you can put that question in front of you the more God-honoring life you will live! Resolve in your heart today to place this deep within your heart.

Take a few minutes and confess to God all of the ways that you have doubted His intention for you. Be honest with Him, and ask for His grace to cover every thought you have had towards unbelief. Then thank Him for being the way, truth and the life. Thank Him for working in your life and never leaving you!

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Lesson 3: The Existence of God

DAY 1

Anchor Statement: God is just and fair, even when I don't see it in the moment.

The question of God being unfair is everywhere around us. You are going to be faced with this question throughout your entire life, and sometimes you might be asking it yourself. What you do with those doubts and questions is what really matters. Don't let them push you away from God, but let them drive you closer to God!

Read Job 38:4-5.

These verses are part of a bigger passage where the Lord is reminding Job that he isn't like God. This doesn't make things easy for Job but reminds him that God can be trusted because of who He is. So many of our doubts about God's fairness come from what we judge to be best, not what God proclaims to be best.

Finish your time today reading Romans 8:26-28.

Remember that only God can use the results of sin in the world to bring about good things. And when you look at it that way, the real question is not whether God is unfair or judgmental, but how long it's going to take Him to turn all of the bad we've created into something good!

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Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

(Hebrews 12:1-2)

Endure. This word speaks to the idea of sustaining through hardship. We tend to endure something difficult if we know it's temporary, and they know it has a purpose.

It's normal for us to question God in the midst of suffering or even doubt His fairness. But God has not asked us to do something that He did not do ten-fold. Jesus was mistreated, betrayed, mocked, and crucified on the Cross. You could argue that the way He was treated seems very unfair. Through all of it, though, He endured because He knew that on the other side of what might feel unfair was a huge reward He could give His people: eternal life with Him.

Something To Think About:

- Think of the last time you went through something very difficult. Who did you blame for your experience? Did you seek strength from God to help you endure the difficult time?
- How can remembering Jesus' time on the Cross help us feel less alone when life seems unfair?

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Lesson 3: The Existence of God

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For the word of the Lord is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness. He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord. (Psalm 33:4-5)

Our lesson this week sought to answer the question, “Is God unfair?” We learned that humans rarely understand exactly what ‘fair’ is! The question really comes more from a place of looking for anyone or anything to blame other than our own sin.

But instead of destroying the whole lot of us, God has been on a continual mission to bring justice, mercy, love, and faithfulness into the world. The Psalmist tells us that the Earth is FULL of these things from the Lord. If there were anything about God that is unfair, it would be that He continues to pursue each of us even in the midst of our sin against Him and others.

Read Psalm 33:4-5.

Take a moment and write down some of the ways that you have seen God’s steadfast love in your life. The word “steadfast” can be described as dedicated, persistent, and unyielding. If you are struggling to think of some ways, then spend time in prayer and ask God to open your eyes to all of the ways He fills the Earth around you with His love.

For the remainder of your devotional time, find a Bible and read all of Psalm 33. As you read, take notes on the examples that this Psalm gives of the Lord’s steadfast love.