

IS GOD A PERSONAL GOD?

Goal of this Lesson: To show that God is more than a distant God and is intimately involved in our lives.

First read these verses below and then fill in the blanks with your idea of what these verses are saying about the personal nature of God. The first three are answered to give you an idea of how to answer the others. Then compare your answers with the answers on the next page.

1. **Psalm 19: 1-6** – **Answer:** The design and care we see in creation.

2. **John 1: 14** – **Answer:** God cared enough to send Jesus in the flesh so we could understand him better.

3. **2 Peter 3: 8, 9** – **Answer:** God is patient with us.

4. **Psalm 100: 5; Isaiah 40: 11, 28-31; 1 John 4: 8-12** _____

5. **Psalm 68: 35** _____

6. **1 Corinthians 2: 9, 10** _____

7. **John 1: 18** _____

8. **1 Peter 2: 2** _____

Thought to consider: Consider the deep desire humans have to be personal and loving and the need for love and care we have from others. This reflects the nature of God in us.

9. **Ephesians 2: 1-10** _____

10. What does the conversion of Paul in Acts chapters 9 and 22 tell us about how personal God is? _____

Another thought to consider - Consider the fact of the incarnation, life, cross and resurrection of Jesus. God could have just used angels or shouted from heaven but instead he sent his only Son to die for our sins. He cared enough to let his son die on a cruel cross for us. God was totally involved in a personal way and totally loving and committed. God then cared enough to not leave his Son in the grave. He cared enough about us to give us hope of a resurrection – of a life beyond this one. Jesus was the first fruits of the resurrection. So his resurrection is an example and testimony to us that we too will be raised from the dead.

HOW DO WE KNOW GOD IS A PERSONAL GOD?

ANSWERS:

1. The design and care we see in creation (Psalm 19: 1-6).
2. God cared enough to send Jesus in the flesh so we could understand him better (John 1: 14).
3. God does not destroy us all because of our sins. He is gracious to us and patient with us (2 Peter 3: 8, 9).
4. The Bible consistently reveals him as personal and loving (Psalm 100:5; Isaiah 40: 11, 28-31; 1 John 4: 8).
5. The closeness one can feel with God, the peace he gives and the strength he gives as he turns weakness into strength (Psalm 68: 35; Isaiah 40: 29).
6. The very fact of the Bible and how God reveals himself in it. He must love us very much to reveal himself as he has done (1 Corinthians 2: 9).
7. Jesus was so loving and personal. The Bible says he reveals what God is like (John 1: 18).
8. How can we explain all the good in the world without there being an ultimate good (1 Peter 2: 2)?
9. Because of the radically changed lives as a result of people turning to God. God gives them the Holy Spirit and power to change. This shows his care and love (Ephesians 2: 1-10; the example of Paul's conversion - Acts chapters 9, 22 and 26).
10. How God providentially guides people and puts people in other's lives to influence them for good (Ananias in the Bible who helped Paul – Acts 9 and 22.)

