

=BIBLE DOCTRINES=

Lesson 1

The Doctrine of God the Father

AIM: to teach my pupils the existence of God the Father and the proper attitudes they should have toward Him.

INTRODUCTION: In order to understand God the Father, we must first understand the doctrine of the Trinity. God is a trinity. The word “trinity” comes from the word “tri” which means “three” and the word “unity” which means “oneness.” This means that our God is three in one. He is not three gods, but one God. However, there are three revelations of the same God—God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit. In creation, God said, “Let us make man in our image.” Notice the first person plural. Then in Genesis 1:1, the word for God is “Elohim,” which means “plurality in one.” He is one God revealed in three persons—the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. The Trinity was present at the baptism of Jesus. (Matthew 3:16, 17) The Son was in the water, the Father spoke from Heaven, and the Spirit descended in the form of a dove. The Trinity was present in the creation of man. (Genesis 1:26) (Note the plurality.) The Trinity is mentioned in the Great Commission. (Matthew 28:19, 20) The Trinity is shown in other Bible passages such as II Corinthians 13:14 and John 14:16, 17. (At the end of the lesson, there are some things given under “SOMETHING TO DO” that will help in the explanation of this blessed truth.)

POINT OF CONTACT: Though we deal with the infinite things of the Bible such as the doctrine of God the Father, the Trinity, etc., we must realize that there are always things that none of us can completely understand or explain. Once a little boy was talking to his mother, and he asked her, “Mommy, what does the world sit on?”

The mother replied, “Oh, son, the world is held up by...er...ah...a...a big...a big man.”

A few moments lapsed and the boy said, “Mommy, what does the man stand on?”

The frustrated mother said, “Er...a...son...a...er...a...the big man sits on a big rock.” Hoping the boy was satisfied, she went about her activities.

A few moments later the boy said, “Mommy, what does the rock stand on?”

The confused mother said, “Son, the rock stands on...er...a...a...er...the rock stands on a big pole.

Hoping the boy was finished, the mother started to walk away, but the inquisitive lad said, “Mommy, what does the pole stand on?”

The frustrated and somewhat confused mother said, “Son, the pole goes all the way to the bottom. Now hush!”

Each of us will come to similar frustrations unless we have one fact established, and that is, we have a God Who is our Father in Heaven, and all things come from Him. In the lesson today, we will notice some of His attributes.

- I. HE IS ETERNAL. (Psalm 90:2; Isaiah 40:28) This means He always was and that He always will be. He is a Spirit Who is the Creator of all things.
- II. GOD IS OMNIPOTENT. The word “omni” means “all.” The word “potent” means “powerful.” In other words, God is all powerful. (Genesis 17:1; Jeremiah 32:17) Ah, what a blessed truth! The One Whom we trust, the One Who is our Creator, the One Who is our Father is all powerful.
- III. HE IS OMNIPRESENT. This means He is everywhere. (Psalm 139:7-10) Pupils should be reminded here that this is both blessed and awesome. It is blessed in the fact that God is always with us. He never leaves us nor forsakes us, and there is no place we can go beyond His presence. It is awesome, however, when we stop to realize that He is everywhere we are, sees all we do, hears all we say, and even knows all we think.
- IV. HE IS UNCHANGEABLE. (Malachi 3:6) What an encouragement! Friends change; loved ones change; but our Father never changes.
- V. HE IS INTIMATE. (Romans 8:15) Notice the word “Abba” here. It is the word that they used for our word “daddy” or “papa.” Yes, He is the great omnipotent and omnipresent God, but He is also our Papa, our Daddy and our personal God.

The eighth Psalm describes this so beautifully. In verse 1, the words, “...who hast set thy glory above the heavens,” compare God to an actor or performer on a platform. His performance was on a platform on earth. The earth was not big enough for His performance, so His platform was raised to the heavens, but the heavens were not big enough for His performance. Finally, the platform was raised above the heavens, for only there is there enough room for the performance of our God. Psalm 8:2 changes abruptly and mentions that He ordains strength out of the mouths of babes and sucklings. In other words, He hears the baby in the crib. This powerful God Whose performance is so mighty that the worlds cannot contain His platform is so intimate that He is concerned about the crying babe at night. What a God! What strength!

- VI. HE IS OMNISCIENT. He knows everything. (Psalm 147:5; Acts 15:18) Ah, here is an incentive to purity of thought! This is why the Psalmist said, “Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.” (Psalm 19:14) No wonder he said in the same Psalm, “...cleanse thou me from secret faults.” (Psalm 19:12) Here the Psalmist is saying, “Lord, let my words be acceptable.” Then, “Lord, let my thoughts be acceptable.” Then, “Lord, there are some things about me I don’t even know myself. Let even that be acceptable in Thy sight.”

- VII. HE IS HOLY. (Psalm 99:9; Isaiah 6:3) It is interesting that the word “holy” is used three times in Isaiah 6:3. Here we have the Trinity—Holy Father, Holy Son and Holy Spirit.
- VIII. HE IS JUST. (Deuteronomy 32:4) He is impartial in all His dealings and all His works. (Revelation 15:3)
- IX. HE IS LOVE. (I John 4:8, 16) His holiness and justice caused Him to require penalty for our sins, but His love caused Him to send His son to pay the price on Calvary. On the cross, God’s holiness and love were shown together. Psalm 85:10 says, “Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.” The love of God prompted Him to send His Son to die on the cross in order that He might be just in saving us from condemnation and taking us to Heaven.
- X. HE SHOULD BE THE OBJECT OF OUR WORSHIP. (Matthew 4:10; John 4:24)

CONCLUSION: The lesson should not be concluded without some discussion concerning the conditions under which God will become our Father. Notice John 14:6, especially the words, “...no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” In other words, God is saying you cannot get to Him except through His Son. (I Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 7:25) In other words, God is saying that if we want Him as our Father, we must have His Son as our Saviour. No one can reject the Son and have the Father. Those who say they believe in the fatherhood of God but not in the deity of Christ do not believe in the fatherhood of God either, at least not in the fatherhood of the true God. In order for one to have God as his Father, he must realize he is a sinner and that sinners are condemned to an eternity without God. He must realize that God became flesh in the form of Jesus Christ, lived a perfect life, went to the cross and paid the penalty for our sins by suffering our condemnation, was buried and rose again after three days and three nights. He must trust that Saviour personally. At that very moment of salvation, God becomes his Father, and he becomes God’s child. (The wise teacher would pause here and ask the pupils if they have made such a decision and then lead them to do so, if they have not done this previously.)

QUESTIONS:

1. When was God created?
2. What does the word “omni” mean?
3. What does the word “potent” mean?
4. Under what conditions will God become our Father?
5. What does the word “omnipresent” mean?
6. What does the word “omnipotent” mean?
7. What does the word “omniscient” mean?
8. What does the word “Trinity” mean?
9. What is a more familiar word than “Father” that we can call our God?
10. How great is His performance?
11. How much about us does He know?
12. Where is God?

SOMETHING TO DO:

1. Though it is not a perfect illustration of the Trinity, the teacher could bring an egg to class. He could ask the pupils to give the different parts of the egg; that is, the shell, the white and the yellow. He could break the egg, hold up part of the broken shell and say, “What is this?” Of course, the answer would be “egg.” He could hold up with a spoon part of the yellow and ask, “What is this?” The answer, of course, is “egg.” He could then hold up part of the white and ask, “What is this?” The answer again is “egg.” Yes, each is egg. There are three different parts to the one egg. There are three different persons to the Trinity; yet there is one God.
2. Bring some ice to class. Ask the pupils what chemical contents are found in ice. The answer is “H₂O.” Then show some water. Ask them what chemical contents are in the water. The answer is “H₂O.” Then discuss for a moment what happens when the water boils. Of course, it becomes vapor. What are the chemical contents of vapor? The answer once again is “H₂O.” Each is H₂O. Each—ice, water, vapor—is a different manifestation of the same chemical contents. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are three revelations of the same God, three in one.
3. The same could be done with an orange: the peeling, the pulp and the seed; or an apple: the peeling, the meat, and the seed. All of these are very poor illustrations and yet to the natural eye and mind, they can perhaps explain in some small way the great doctrine of the Trinity.

MEMORY VERSE: John 4:24, “God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”