



Message Series: You Asked
Message Title: Who is God?
Teaching Pastor: Elijah Schiarelli

Warm-up/Icebreaker: (10 min).

What are some “famous” questions? Brainstorm as many as you can think of.

Pray: Dear Lord, we praise you for Who You are - loving, kind, powerful and good. We ask that You settle our spirits so we can focus on You, and that You open our minds to learn more about You. Guide our conversation and reveal the truth to us. Thank You for this time and may You accomplish all that You desire in and through us. We pray all of this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Get Started: (20 min.)

“God wants us to know Him. He wants us to learn more about His character, His desires, and His heart. He bends over backwards to reveal Himself to us in all sorts of ways. The Bible tells us repeatedly that everything in creation - the oceans, the mountains, the sky, the Earth, the animals that inhabit it, the stars, the sun and the moon...all of it is God’s and all of it exists to point back to God’s power and glory.” - Pastor Elijah Schiarelli

- Do you feel like God is distant and far away or someone you know personally and intimately? Or somewhere in between? Explain.

“God has made it as plain as possible for us to know him through creation...but more than that - more than anything else - this is most clearly seen in the person of Jesus Christ. In fact, it’s one of the primary reasons God came down from heaven and became Jesus, Emanuel, God with us. If God is unknowable but still wants us to know Him, then He has to make it possible. So He did. He took on a human form precisely so that we could understand more about God on a human level; a level that makes sense to us.” - Pastor Elijah Schiarelli

- Do you believe that Jesus is God? What do you base this belief on?
- How might getting to know Jesus help you get to know God?

Read John 10:30, Matthew 11:27 and Colossians 1:15-17.

- What stands out to you from these verses?

“So when we really dig into Jesus’ story and read about how much He cared for those no one else cared about, like a woman caught in adultery or a man taking advantage of his own people. Stories about how passionate Jesus was about the truth, like when He set the religious leaders straight on numerous occasions. Or when we hear the stories about Jesus loving His enemies so much that He forgave the very people who nailed Him to the cross as He was literally dying on the cross....we learn through the stories a little more about who God is: God loves the unloved, He cares deeply about the truth, and absolutely no one is outside of His forgiveness.” - Pastor Elijah Schiarelli

- What story in the Bible has had an impact on you and your understanding of God? How did it change your thoughts or actions?

Read 2 Timothy 3:16–17 and Hebrews 4:12.

- Based on these verses, what is the purpose of scripture and the Bible?

- What do you think it means that the Word of God is “living”?

Watch and Discuss Video (running time 12 minutes, 20 minute discussion)

In the follow up video, Pastor Elijah talks about *Lectio Divina* (which literally translates to “divine reading”) as a way of reading the Bible and getting to know God better. He noted the following steps:

1. Read - read a passage slowly and carefully
2. Meditate - think deeply and dwell upon the text
3. Pray - invite God to speak to you and help you understand
4. Contemplate - think about what actions you are going to take
5. Act - go and do it

- What do you think about this method of reading scripture?
- Do you have a particular way you typically approach reading the Bible? If so, share your experience doing so with the group.

Reflect and Commit: (20 min.)

*“In the end, the answer to the question you asked today is this: **We can only know God by knowing Jesus.** If we want to know who God is, we must start with learning who Jesus is. There is no other way. The unknowable God of the universe wants us to know Him intimately, so He came as Jesus, God with us, in order that we could understand His heart on a human level. Jesus came and lived a life that perfectly reflects the heart of God. We must dig into the stories He left us in the Bible and engage with His truth and the experiences of others here at church. Then, we can begin to know who God is.”* - Pastor Elijah Shiarelli

Read John 1:14 and John 14:6-9.

- Are there currently any obstacles standing in the way of a deeper relationship with God through Jesus?
- What is one tangible step you can take to get to know Him better?

Gather prayer requests and pray. (5-10 min.)

Pray: Dear Heavenly Father, thank You that it is Your desire that we know You more deeply, and that we can do so by knowing Jesus, reading Your Word, and by coming to church. Thank You that even though You are infinite, You have made a way for us to catch glimpses of You and Your character. Help us to have hearts that seek hard after You and reveal Yourself to us in a way we can understand and respond to. It’s in Christ’s name we pray. Amen.