



Faith

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Focus



*for
Teens*

*Sunday
School
Services*

Zion Assembly Church of God
Writer: Todd D. McDonald

Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

“The Nature of God” – October 6, 2013

Lesson – “God Is Spirit”

Scriptures – John 4:3-30

Introduction to lesson

If someone asked you, “What is God like,” how would you answer him? Throughout the Scriptures, many words and ideas describe and define “who” God is and “what” God is like. God has revealed himself through a variety of names, like *Jehovah-jireh* (“the Lord sees/provides,” Ge. 22:14) and *Jehovah-shalom* (“the Lord is peace,” Jud. 6:24). Of course, we know God most of all through his Son, Jesus Christ. In today’s lesson, we will see that Jesus explained God in terms of Spirit – Holy Spirit.

Key Verse: “God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in Spirit and in truth” (John 4:24).

Questions to Discuss:

- + Describe the meeting between Jesus and the woman of Samaria? (vv. 4-9)
- + What did Jesus offer her? (vv. 10-14)
- + Being a Samaritan, rather than a Jew, what was her main concern? (vv. 20, 22)
- + According to Jesus, how important is physical location when it comes to worshipping God? Does God have physical limitations and boundaries? (vv. 20-21)
- + What two aspects of worship are necessary to be a true worshiper of God? (v. 23)
- + How do we know that “spirit” and “truth” really matter to God? (v. 23)
- + How did Jesus describe God? (v. 24)
- + Why is the spiritual focus of our worship (spirit/truth) so much more important than any physical concerns in our worship? (v. 24)
- + Can we worship the Lord apart from spirit and truth? (v. 24; see also Jn. 14:17)

Think about it: Jesus went through Samaria and met a sinful woman at the well. He offered her eternal life, but she did not understand how to come to God. Her thinking was limited to the mountain where the Samaritans worshiped. But Jesus explained that God is not limited to a physical boundary, like a mountain, city, or temple, because God is actually Spirit. Therefore, we must approach God and worship him in spirit and in truth. After we accept Jesus Christ as Savior, only then can we worship God in spirit and in truth (Jn. 4:25-30).

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Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

“The Nature of God” – October 13, 2013

Lesson – “Omnipresence”

Scriptures – Psalm 139:1-10

Introduction to lesson

We serve an omnipresent God, which means his presence fills up the entire world. Although a man cannot be in two places at once, God’s Spirit is not limited. His presence goes far beyond us, yet at the same time his Spirit indwells all who call upon the name of Jesus Christ (Ps. 113:4-6; Ro. 10:13). We serve an amazing and awesome God. His presence fills the universe, yet he lives personally within the heart of every believer.

Key Verse: “Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?” (Psalm 139:7).

Questions to Discuss:

- + To what degree does God know us? (v. 1)
- + God knows each time you sit down and every time you get up. Is there any person in your life (a parent, teacher, or friend) that knows every move you make? (v. 2)
- + What are you thinking right now? God reads our minds. He understands us when nobody else does. (v. 2)
- + Think about an embarrassing moment, where you just wanted to run and hide. Did anyone see you and how did you feel? God see all of our ways, good or bad, so there is no point in trying to hide anything from him. (v. 3)
- + The Lord knows what you are going to say, even before you say it. Realizing this, should we be careful with our words, or should we be carefree? (v. 4)
- + As followers of Jesus Christ, we have the assurance that God’s hand is on our lives. What does this mean to you? (v. 5)
- + When you realize just how much God knows you and takes notice of you, how does this make you feel? (v. 6)
- + Like Jonah, people sometimes try to get away from the presence of the Lord. Can anyone outrun God? Can anyone escape his Spirit? (v. 7)
- + No matter where we go, when we arrive, who will be there waiting on us? (vv. 8-10)

Think about it: God is omnipresent – his presence fills the Earth. Like the psalmist, when we understand that God’s Spirit is always present to us, but even more, when we understand that his Spirit lives in every believer, we can know that a loving Father is close to us, no matter what we face. He knows our needs, and he is willing and ready to help us in our time of need. We can take great comfort in knowing the Lord is always near to us and to all who love and serve him.

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“The Nature of God” – October 20, 2013

Lesson – “Shekinah”

Scriptures – Luke 9:27-36

Introduction to lesson

Shekinah refers to the visible glory of God. We do not see God the Father, but we see and experience his glory. God has revealed himself by wonders and miraculous demonstrations throughout history, even showing his presence with visible glory. In today’s lesson, we will consider God’s glory revealed in his Son Jesus Christ, in order to understand the glory that God has placed within the church today.

Key Verse: “And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them” (John 17:22).

Questions to Discuss:

- + What experience did Jesus promise to give to his disciples? (v. 27; see also Mk. 9:1)
- + Why did Jesus take his disciples to a high mountain by themselves? (v. 28; see also Mk. 9:2)
- + “Transfigured” means changed – a transformation. Describe what happened to Jesus when he was transfigured. (v. 29; see also Mt. 17:2; Mk. 9:3)
- + When the two men (Moses and Elijah) talked with Jesus in his transfiguration, what one word describes their appearance? (vv. 30-31)
- + When the disciples awoke, what did they see? (v. 32)
- + Obviously, Peter was greatly impacted by this wonderful experience. What did Peter desire to do in order to honor God? (v. 33)
- + At that point, what covered the disciples? How did this affect them? (v. 34)
- + Whose voice spoke out of the cloud? (v. 35)
- + Although he was well-meaning, why was Peter wrong in wanting to build three tabernacles? (v. 35)

Think about it: God has demonstrated his glory in many marvelous ways: clouds (1 Ki. 8:11), fire (Ac. 2:3), and even audible voices (Mk. 1:11). But the greatest glory of God was demonstrated in his Son Jesus Christ (Jn. 1:14). God wants us to hear and exalt his Son. Today, God has placed his glory within the church through the Holy Spirit whom Jesus promised to every believer. The outpouring of Christ’s Spirit (the Holy Ghost) explains how God’s glory is manifested in the church (Jn. 17:22; 15:26). In the next lesson, we will see that God’s glorious presence dwells in the saints of God.

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Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

“The Nature of God” – October 27, 2013

Lesson – “Indwelling Spirit”

Scriptures – John 7:37-39

Introduction to lesson

The glory of God’s Spirit that was revealed in Jesus Christ abides in the saints of God today. Jesus explained that his Spirit would not only dwell *with* the believer but would actually dwell *in* him (John 14:17). In today’s lesson, we will see that Christ abides in every believer by his indwelling Spirit.

Key Verse: “Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you” (John 14:17).

Questions to Discuss:

- ✚ On the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles (Jn. 7:2), what did Jesus do? (v. 37)
- ✚ When Jesus preached to the people, who was he speaking to? (v. 37)
- ✚ What did Jesus offer to the thirsty? (v. 37)
- ✚ What kind of thirst and what kind of drink was Jesus speaking about? (v. 37)
- ✚ To whom did Jesus promise to give drink? (vv. 37-38)
- ✚ When Jesus promised to give drink to the spiritually thirsty, how did he describe it? (v. 38)
- ✚ From where would these waters flow? Or what thirst would Jesus satisfy? (v. 38)
- ✚ When Jesus promised to put his life down in us, what was he referring to? (v. 39)

Think about it: The Spirit of God is the life and glory of Christ in us. By coming to Jesus as Lord and believing in him as Savior, God satisfies our spiritual thirst by placing his Spirit down inside us. By faith, we have received the same Spirit from God who descended on Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit is living water (eternal life) in the soul of every believer, satisfying the spiritual thirst within us. Indeed, when we come to Jesus Christ, we will never thirst again. When Jesus promised to send his Spirit, he further promised to baptize and fill us with the Holy Ghost (Jn. 1:32-33; Ac. 1:5). Through being baptized with the Holy Ghost and remaining filled with the Spirit, we can be full of Christ’s presence at all times.

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