



NORTHVIEW  
**STUDENTS**  
5th/6th grade

DATE(S)

October 9-10, 2021

SERIES AND LESSON TITLE

God Is – Week 3 (Accessible)

TAKE-HOME POINT (THP)

God is accessible.

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

1 Timothy 6:15-16

Hebrews 4:14-16

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Give any Campus-Specific Announcements



THE OVERVIEW

# OPENING GAME / GROUP TIME

## LARGE-GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

### "Did They Pumpkin Spice It?"

People apparently love pumpkin spice. So much so that marketing geniuses have pretty much pumpkin spiced the world. See if you and your students can figure out if the following products have been pumpkin spiced or not. This is a game for the whole group to do! You can raise hands, move from one side of the room or the other, stand up/sit down, etc. to indicate answers. Doesn't matter! Make sure to crown a champion and pay \$10 for a pumpkin spice drink.

\*\*\*Make sure to test the technology before playing the game!!

## OPENING SMALL GROUP

### QUESTIONS

### ACTIVITIES

Take attendance and make sure to welcome anyone who is a first-time guest!

What was the highlight of your week?

Who is the most important or famous person you have ever met? How did you react or feel when you met that person?

When you're finished (if there's time left), pray for our time of worship.

STUFF TO ASK TO UNIQUELY CONNECT THE LESSON TO KIDS' LIVES

STUFF TO DO SO THINGS AREN'T BORING



# LARGE-GROUP SCRIPT

## THE MESSAGE

**"God Is" – Week 3 (Accessible)**

**October 9-10, 2021**

How many of you have really gotten into trouble before? Like BIG trouble? Maybe it was with a parent or a teacher or a coach. Remember how you felt when you had to eventually face that person to receive your punishment? Yikes!

**(Teacher's Note: Share a personal example about getting in big trouble and having to face your parent/teacher/coach. Try to emphasize the emotions you were having during that experience.)**

The reason that situation is so hard is because that person seems so intimidating. It would be easy to think, "My life is over!" That person has authority, power, influence, and there's probably nothing you're going to be able to do to change their mind or get out of the punishment. Then, even after this experience is over, trying to approach that person again to even ask a simple question...forget about it!

Over the past few weeks, we've been talking about the God of the Bible and what He's like. He is awesome and miraculous; those are the two qualities we have talked about so far. Each of those qualities are so different, so unique, so holy, so much better than anything we could offer as people. In some ways, I think that ought to drive us to want to know and see God more clearly. He sounds super cool and really likes being around people. However, those qualities of awesome/miraculous might also make God seem a little intimidating. This God who has enough power to create the universe and perform miracles. No human could do both of those things. So, which of these approaches to God are right? Is God someone we can interact with and know PERSONALLY or is He so holy and so powerful that we can only know ABOUT Him and not interact with Him personally? That's what our THP (or Take Home Point) is all about today.

**God is accessible.**

Now, accessible might seem like an interesting word choice to describe God. It simply means "easy to approach or speak with." As I've been studying the Bible, it seems like God is sometimes accessible and sometimes He's not, which can be confusing and hard to understand. Doesn't that sound like a contradiction? Let me show you three examples...

# THE MESSAGE

One of the New Testament authors, Paul, writes to a young man named Timothy and tells him this in 1 Timothy 6:15-16: *"...God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and the Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen."* This verse tells us that God can't be seen or even approached because the light (or His glory) is so bright. Plus, the use of the word "king" indicates that just like a human king or queen, he has great authority and leadership, and it might be hard for a common person to approach Him. That doesn't seem very accessible to me!

There's another instance in the Old Testament where a man named Moses hears the voice of God and speaks to Him through a burning bush in the desert. Several years later, God gives Moses the 10 Commandments. When Moses and God are interacting and having conversations, God says that Moses is only able to see part of Him. The tiny little part that Moses sees is so glorious and crazy that he immediately falls on his face and worships Him. When Moses comes down from the mountain a little bit later after this whole thing happens, his entire face is glowing. Crazy! These two examples sound like a contradiction, right? He's not approachable and yet He shows Himself to Moses?

Both of these examples from Scripture remind me of a scene from a movie where a group of people have heard about a great leader and want to meet him and ask for his help.

**(Editor's Note: Show "Wizard of Oz" message clip)**

:::said in an exaggerated voice::: The Great and Powerful Wizard of Oz! I know it's old, but if you haven't seen The Wizard of Oz, you need to watch it soon. It's a classic! I know it might seem silly to compare God to the Wizard of Oz, but I do think some people think of God like this. Some powerful figure who is screaming behind fire, smoke, and bright lights and seems annoyed at the requests of His people. Is this really what God is like?!

Let me share this last example of how God is accessible which comes from the New Testament. It's found in Hebrews 4:14-16, which says this: *"Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."*

# THE MESSAGE

Now, this verse clearly says we can approach God's throne with confidence! How is that possible given what we've seen with the last two examples? If God dwells in unapproachable light or is like the Wizard of Oz, I'm not sure if we want a relationship with someone like that. But, let me take it a step deeper...

This verse is talking about a "great high priest" and it says that this great high priest is Jesus, right? Jesus was the Son of God and God in human form. They are one in the same! That means Jesus is also like the same God described in the other two passages. He's compared to a "great high priest" and that part is super important. In the Old Testament, the only person who was allowed to be in God's presence in the temple where they worshiped was the high priest. They could only go in once a year! However, this verse tells us that our high priest, Jesus, can understand what it's like to be us...to be weak, to be tempted. That's because he was also fully human while also being fully God.

Is it possible that God can be so holy and powerful that it makes us a little fearful (but maybe not in a bad way) while also being accessible enough to have a conversation with Him through prayer? I think so! Here's how I know...because Jesus lived a sinless life, died on the cross for our sins, and then rose from the dead. When He did all of that, it opened our access to God again. In fact, it gave us greater access to God than we have ever had before! In other words, this last verse from Hebrews accurately tells us that God is not so holy and powerful to not spend time with us. God came to earth as a human – to be our friend, to be our helper, to show us the way back to God. Super cool!

I want to show you one last scene from a movie that I think balances both approaches. A mom and two daughters' lives drastically change when their husband/dad becomes the king of England. Watch what happens when they see him as king for the first time...

**(Editor's Note: Show "King's Speech" message clip)**

I think this scene is an awesome picture of our relationship with God. He is holy, powerful, we are in awe of Him...but we still have access to him. **Just like our THP says: God is accessible!**

We don't have to be important or perfect or shuddering in fear to approach God or have access to him. We have access to God because of what Jesus did on earth. Jesus allows for God to be accessible. That's why when we accept that Jesus died for us and gave his life for us, and forgave us of our sins, we can know this God who created us!

So, here's my question to close...what needs do you have to present to God? Are you willing to approach Him with those needs? I hope so...because you have access to Him 24/7! Let's pray!

# CLOSING SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

## CLOSING SMALL GROUP

### QUESTIONS

What was the THP today and why was it important during the message?

Before today, how accessible did you think God was? Has that understanding changed at all? Why or why not?

What was the difference between the two video clips we watched? Which one of those clips most closely resembles what you think about God?

Let's read one of the verses that was mentioned during the message from Hebrews 4:14-16 in the New Testament. Can I have a volunteer to do that?

*"Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."*

What does this verse say is the reason that God is accessible? Why are we able to "approach God's throne of grace with confidence"?

How will the THP help you to live differently this week? Try to think of a specific example.

How can this group pray for you this week?

### FINAL THOUGHTS

Once your group discussion is finished, close your group in prayer!

Encourage those students in your group who made first-time decisions or who made re-commitments to follow Jesus today! Tell them that this group is a support system for them and they don't have to do this life alone. If there is a student who makes a first-time commitment to Christ, have them text NVSNEXT to 85379 or fill out a response card so you can capture their information and our staff can follow up with them. Once your group discussion is over, close your group in prayer!



# PREP NEEDS

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## SMALL-GROUP SUPPLIES

- Some Bibles for students to share during group discussion
- Pen/paper for SOAP study (optional)
- Playlister material

## LARGE-GROUP SUPPLIES

Stupid Video of the Week  
Message script  
Message slides

## AUDIO/VISUAL NEEDS

Pro Presenter or Playlister

