

Preteens

God

God is Holy and Perfect

Object Lessons and Demonstrations

Invisible Vase/Oil

Show how God is real but invisible by covering a vase with oil until it seems to disappear, just like God is Spirit but present

Oreo Cookie Lesson

Explain God's holiness by showing how the creme filling is perfectly centered and the cookie is whole, representing God's perfect, uncorrupted nature.

Sand and Sin

Write a "sin" in sand, pray for forgiveness, and wipe it away to represent God's cleansing holiness and forgiveness.

Creative and Reflective Activities

Bible Journaling

Give them journals and highlighters to mark verses that show God's holiness or perfection, or that challenge them personally.

Worthy Art

Have them write "WORTHY" on paper and draw/write what that means about God (e.g., His power, love, set-apartness).

"Set Apart" Collage

Create a collage using pictures that represent things that are unique, set apart, or perfectly made, discussing how God is totally unique and separate from sin.

Discussion and Application

Storytelling

Retell Bible stories like Elisha healing Naaman (2 Kings 4-5) to show God's miraculous power and love

"Mirror of Jesus" Game

In pairs, one mirror the other's movements, then switch, discussing how we should try to mirror Jesus' life in our actions

Discussion Questions

Use preteen-focused questions about God's sovereignty, how His promises are perfect, and how we can live to please Him.

Worship and Prayer

Praise Parade

Recreate scenes from the Bible (like Jehoshaphat) with music and instruments

Prayer Prompts

Have kids write down things they are afraid of or need God's help with, and pray for God to show His perfect care and power.

God, the Creator, is to be Worshiped, not His Creations

Activities for Discovery and Worship

Creation Collage and Gratitude

Have kids find images in nature (flowers, leaves) or print pictures, then glue them onto a poster. Around each image, they write or draw that that part of creation reveals about God's character (e.g., a bird shows His design, a sunset His beauty).

Worship Link: Display the collage and discuss how creation points to the Creator, reinforcing Romans 1:20 (His eternal power is seen in what He made).

Nature Scavenger Hunt: Creator's Fingerprints

Go on a walk, finding things like unique rocks, animal tracks, or patterns. Have kids sketch or collect them. Discuss how these aren't just random; they show God's amazing details.

Worship Link: Ask, "Who made the pattern on this leaf?" (God). "Who made the skill of the spider?" (God). This emphasizes that He's the source, not the item.

"God's Imprints" Nature Art

Use leaves, flowers, or ferns, place them between fabric, and gently hammer them to make imprints on paper or cloth, creating beautiful, unique art.

Worship Link: Talk about how God leaves His "fingerprints" everywhere, but He's far greater than the art itself, just as He's greater than the leaves or flowers.

"Nothing" to "Everything" Object Lesson

Start with an empty box or container (representing before creation). Gradually add items (sky/water, plants, animals, people) as you describe Genesis 1, emphasizing God *created* from *nothing*.

Worship Link: This highlights God's unique power to bring existence, a power humans don't have, showing why He alone is worthy of worship.

Reinforcing Worship

Song and Scripture

Sing praise songs (e.g., "Our God is So Big") and read scriptures like Psalm 100 or Romans 1:20, focusing on God's character, power, and love as the reason for worship.

"Who is God?" Discussion

Ask questions like, "What does a sunset tell us about God's character?" (beauty, gifting). "What does a storm show about His power?" (might).

The Gospel Connection

Use an activity like The Gospel Robot (from Ministry Spark) to show that God's greatest act of love (Jesus) is separate from creation and points to a deeper relationship, not just nature worship.

God is Omnipresent - He is Everywhere at All Times

Interactive Lessons and Object Lessons

The Invisible Air (Psalm 139:7-10)

Fill a clear cup with water, put a paper towel in it upside down and submerge it without it getting wet. Explain the trapped air keeps it dry, just as God's Spirit fills and surrounds everything, even if unseen.

"Everywhere" Map/Drawing

Give each child a large paper. Have them draw themselves in the center and then branch out with drawings or words of places where God is (at home, school, in nature, even in hard times), using Psalm 139:7-10 as a guide.

"God is With Us" Jars

Decorate jars and fill them with slips of paper with promises or reminders like "God is with me when I'm scared," "God is with me when I pray," etc. (from Psalm 139 or Joshua 1:9)

Storytelling and Role-Playing

Bible Story Acting

Act out stories like David in the lion's den (God was *there*), Jonah in the fish (God was *there*), or Jesus calming the storm (God's presence brings peace *everywhere*).

"God is Present" Scavenger Hunt

Hide notes with Scripture or questions around the room/area asking "Where is God *now*?" and guide them to see He's in the smallest things and the biggest things.

Discussion and Application

"What If" Scenarios

Present situations (e.g., "You're alone and scared," "You see someone being bullied") and ask how knowing God is *right there* changes their response.

Superpower Comparison

Start with “If you had a superpower, what would it be?” then introduce God’s *actual* superpower: omnipresence!

Key Scriptures

- Psalm 139:7-10
- Joshua 1:9

God Hears People’s Prayers and Communicates with Them

Creative and Visual Activities

Prayer Web

Start with “God is...” in the center, then branch out with colored lines for prayers of thanks, requests for others (family, world), and personal needs, turning it into a visual map of their faith.

Prayer Pail/Bucket

Decorate a bucket, write names/situations (family, missionaries, world issues, blank for anything) on craft sticks, and have them draw one to pray for.

Prayer Chain/Flags

Make a paper chain or fabric flags with prayers on each link/square to create a tangible, visible prayer focus.

Head-to-Toe Prayer

Point to body parts (toes for walking in His path, knees for bowing in prayer, hands for serving) to structure prayers around life actions.

Interactive and Experiential Activities

Prayer Request Swap

Write a request, swap with a friend, and pray for the new one to build empathy and community.

Prayer Walk

Go on a nature walk, silently praying for things as you see them (e.g., a bird, a home, a park) to connect prayer to the real world.

Bible Story Narration

Have them retell Bible stories (like Hannah, Daniel) focusing on how God communicated and answered, asking them how they feel.

Teaching God's Communication

Bible Reading

Make reading and discussing Scripture (God's "voice") a normal daily habit

Modeling

Share your own experiences of hearing God and praying, showing faith in action

Discussion

Ask open-ended questions about what they think and feel about God's love and answers.

God Has Concern and Care for All People No Matter Their Status, Race, or Ethnicity.

Hands-On Activities

Fruit of Many Colors

Bring different colored apples (Granny Smith, Red Delicious, Golden) or other fruits. Discuss their varied looks (color, size) but identical, good-tasting insides, symbolizing people's inner goodness and shared humanity despite outer differences.

World Map and Dolls

Use a world map and dolls/pictures of diverse people. Have kids place them on the map, discussing how God loves everyone everywhere, different colors, shapes, and sizes.

"Shades of You" Self-Portrait

Use diverse skin tone art supplies to draw self-portraits or portraits of others, focusing on unique features and celebrating the range of colors God made.

Human Bingo/Diversity Scavenger Hunt

Create bingo cards with traits like “Has traveled to another country,” “Speaks another language,” “Has a unique hobby.” Kids mingle to find people matching the squares, learning about shared experiences and differences.

Discussion and Reflection

Mirror Game

Play mirror games, then transition to discussing how everyone reflects God’s image, even with different features. Emphasize being made in His image.

“From Dirt to Dignity” Talk about how we’re made from earth (dirt) but given God’s breath of life, making every person sacred and equal in dignity.

Story Time

Read books like *Colorfull* or *Thoughtfull* or share Bible stories where Jesus included those overlooked.

Key Messages

God Made Us Different on Purpose

Thank God for the variety in hair, eyes, and skin, showing His creativity

Love One Another

Use Bible verses like John 3:16 or Matthew 22 (love God and neighbor) to stress love and respect for all, as Jesus did.

Inner vs. Outer

Focus on personality and character (inside) over physical looks (outside).

God Loves and Values People Around the World No Matter Their Status, Race, or Ethnicity

Interactive and Experiential Activities

Global Culture Fair/Research Project

Assign each person to different countries. Have them research food, clothing, challenges, and unique cultural expressions, then present how God's love shines through their people, using maps and pictures to illustrate diversity.

People PUzzle/Dolls on a Map

Use diverse baby dolls or pictures to represent people globally. Have kids place them on a world map, describing features, and discussing how God made each unique person special, reinforcing "Jesus loves the children of the world."

Story Mapping Missions

Choose a people group needing Scripture in their language (e.g., via Wycliffe resources). Kids research their culture, learn a greeting, and create a "prayer map" or story about how they can support them, connecting prayer to global action.

Cultural Potluck and Storytelling

Invite a family from another background for dinner (or research one). Have them share a cultural dish and personal stories to break down barriers, demonstrating love through shared experience.

Hands-On and Creative Activities

"God Made You Special" Name Tags

Provide blank tags. Kids write affirmations like "God loves you!" and give them to people who look different from them (strangers, neighbors) to spread God's love.

Mirror Game

Play a mirroring game to show how we're different yet connected as God's image-bearers, then discuss how delights in our unique reflections of Him.

“Hope” Card Hunt

Hide index cards with “HOPE” written on them. When found, discuss how to share hope with those suffering, linking generosity and service to global citizenship.

Core Bible Concepts and Discussion Starters

Key Verses

Focus on John 3:16, Acts 10:34-35 (God shows no partiality), Genesis 1:27 (Made in His Image), and Galatians 5:22-23 (Fruit of the Spirit).

Correcting Misconceptions

Address common misrepresentations (e.g., Caucasian Jesus) by showing accurate Biblical art from the Middle East to emphasize God’s design for diverse ethnicities.

Theology of Diversity

Discuss that God created variety (people, plants, animals) and called it good, valuing each part of His diverse creation.

God Proved His Unconditional Love for People Through the Sacrifice of Jesus the Christ

Interactive Games and Object Lessons

The Inseparable Game

Mix soluble powder (like salt or sugar) with water in a container, then challenge kids to separate them. Explain that just as they can’t separate the mix, nothing can separate us from God’s love in Christ (Romans 8:38-39).

Tennis Ball Toss

Set up a box and have kids toss balls in. Give prizes regardless of success, illustrating God’s *unconditional* favor and grace, then link to John 3:16: God gave Jesus freely, not based on our performance.

Love Jar/Coupon Book

Have kids write ways to show love (chores, compliments, acts of kindness) on slips of paper for a jar or create “coupons” for family/friends. Connect this to Jesus’ ultimate act of service and love.

Crafts and Creative Activities

Stained Glass Window Craft

Use transparency sheets, colored tissue paper (especially red), and glue to create a “stained glass” effect, representing Jesus’ sacrifice (Matthew 27) and God’s love shining through.

Pop-Up Seed/Flower

(John 12:24) Use cups, pipe cleaners, and cupcake liners to show how a seed (Jesus’ death) goes down to produce fruit (our salvation/new life).

Love Letters/Cards

Write letters or notes expressing gratitude and love to God or others, focusing on the selflessness of Jesus’ love (1 John 3:16-18)

Discussion and Scripture Focus

Key Scriptures

Focus on John 3:16, 1 John 3:16-18, and Romans 8:38-39

Discussion Prompts

- What does “unconditional” really mean?
- How is Jesus’ sacrifice different from other sacrifices?
- How can we be “love in action” this week?

God Expects People to Worship Him With All Their Hearts, Souls, Minds, and Strength

Heart: Emotion and Love

“Worship Playlist” Creation

Have kids pick songs (secular or Christian) that make them feel God’s love or joy, explaining *why*, then create a group worship playlist.

Gratitude Jar/Art

Decorate jars and have kids write down specific things they’re thankful for (God’s love, answered prayers) and read them aloud.

Soul: Spirit and Wonder

Nature Walk and Reflection

Go outside, observe creation (like Psalm 8), and discuss how it reflects God’s majesty, then draw or write about it.

“Who is God?” Skits

Divide into groups to act out aspects of God (loving, just, creator) using simple props, showing His character.

Mind: Understanding and Scripture

Bible Story “Escape Room”

Create simple puzzles based on key Bible stories (Creation, Exodus, Jesus’s life) where solving them reveals a truth about God or worship

Scripture Scavenger Hunt

Hide verses about worship (e.g., Psalm 100, John 4:24) and have them find, read, and discuss how to *think* about God through them.

Strength: Action and Service

“Serve God” Challenge

Brainstorm practical ways to serve God and others (helping family, community cleanup) and commit to one act of service, reporting back on how it felt.

“Worship in Action” Project

Design a simple service project (making cards for nursing homes, helping someone) to show love for God through deeds

Putting it Together (The “Whole” Worship)

Worship Showcase

End with kids sharing their playlist, art, skit, or describing their service project, demonstrating how they used different parts of themselves to honor God.

God Deserves Respect, Obedience, and Honor. God Wants Us to Live for His Glory

Activities for Respect and Honor (Who God Is)

“God’s Attributes” Charades/Guessing Game

Kids act out qualities of God (faithful, provider, creator, loving) or guess them from descriptions, connection actions to His character.

Bible Story Skits

Divide into groups to act out stories (Daniel in the lions’ den, Noah, Jonah) focusing on God’s faithfulness and the characters’ obedience/disobedience.

Worship Playlist and Discussion

Listen to worship songs, then discuss *how* the lyrics show God’s greatness and *what* specific actions (like being kind) honor Him.

“Acts of Service” Challenge

Organize a small service project (helping elderly, cleaning up) and discuss how these actions reflect God’s love and honor Him.

Activities for Obedience (Living for His Glory)

“Glory is Everything” Journal

Kids track daily actions (eating, playing, doing chores) and write how they can do them for God’s glory (1 Corinthians 10:31)

The Obedience Obstacle Course

Create simple physical challenges (e.g., walk backward, hop on one foot) and discuss how obedience to God, even in small things, builds spiritual muscles

“If You Really Knew God...” Discussion

Prompt conversations about how knowing God changes decisions, leading to choices that bring Him glory and show respect.

Manners as Ministry

Discuss how good manners (respecting people) open doors to share faith, showing God’s love through actions.

Key Principles for Teaching

Model Faith

Let them see you living out these principles daily

Bible Connection

Always link activities back to relevant Scripture

Encourage Questions

Create a safe space for them to ask “why” and “how.”

Prayer

Make praying together about these concepts a regular habit

God is Omnipotent - He is All Powerful, Sovereign, and Good

Activities for God is Omnipotent (All-Powerful)

“Power Verse” Art Project

Give each child paper and markers. Have them write “Omnipotent” or a key verse (like Isaiah 14:27) and illustrate ways God shows His power (creation, Samson, Jesus’ resurrection).

“Nothing’s Impossible” Demonstration

Use a large balloon or heavy object. Show how difficult it is to move, then demonstrate God’s power by having everyone push it easily, saying, “With God, nothing is impossible!”

“God’s Power Over Nature” Sketch

Discuss how God controls the sunrise, storms, etc. (Job 38). Have kids draw a scene of nature demonstrating God’s ultimate control and power over it.

Activities for God is Sovereign (In Control)

“In God’s Hand” Object Lesson

Take a small, weak object like a toothpick or piece of paper. Show how easily it can be crushed or moved, then show how God, though unseen, holds everything and everyone in His sovereign control (like a river/water).

“Sovereignty Scenarios” Game

Have kids write down a “problem” (e.g., “I can’t do this math”). One child acts as God, the “King,” who uses His power (a stamp, a special word) to solve the problem, showing His rule and ability to help.

Activities for God is Good (Loving and Righteous)

“The Goodness Chain” Craft

Make paper chains. Each link represents something God does (saves, guides, provides). Link them together to show how His power is always used for good, culminating in Jesus’ sacrifice and resurrection.

“Psalm 139” Scavenger Hunt

Hide clues around the room, each referencing Psalm 139 (God knows you, sees you, made you). Kids find them, discussing how God’s omnipresence and power are connected to His intimate, good knowledge of them.

“God’s Good Plan” Storytelling

Use pictures of creation, Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, Jesus, the cross. As you tell the story, have kids identify where God’s power and goodness are shown, emphasizing that His plan is always good, even through trials (like Lot being saved).

God is Righteous

Hands-On and Creative Activities

Breastplates of Righteousness

Have kids decorate cardboard breastplates and crowns, assigning “jewels” (stickers/gems) for acts of righteousness (Colossians 3:12-14) to symbolize spiritual armor.

The Weight of Sin

Give them a heavy backpack (representing sin), have them walk then have them confess and remove “heavy things” (like rocks) to feel the relief of God’s forgiveness.

“Dirty Laundry” Sniff Test

Use smelly socks or dirty clothes to represent sin, showing how it’s unpleasant to God, even if hidden.

Righteous Art

Use Bible Pictionary or drawing activities to illustrate verses about justice, fairness, and God’s character.

Games and Discussion Starters

Doing the Impossible

A challenge like unwrapping candy without hands, then discussing how many things are impossible for us but possible for God (Matthew 19:26)

Bible Character Match

Assign characters and have kids describe them (without names) to guess who is righteous or not.

Red Light, Green Light

A physical game to represent stopping bad choices and moving towards God's way.

Scripture Scavenger Hunt

Hide verses about God's justice (e.g., Psalm 11:7, Proverbs 11:18) and have teams find and discuss them.

Connecting to Life

Discuss Tough Choices

Talk about peer pressure and how to make right choices, referencing Bible figures like Daniel or Joseph who stayed righteous.

Journaling

Have kids write down things they struggle with and pray for God's help to be righteous in those areas.

Acts of Service

Plan a service project (like helping an elderly neighbor) to show righteousness in action.

God is Omniscient - He is All-Knowing

Interactive Learning and Discussion

God Knows Journal

Give each child a journal. Have them write down questions only God could answer (e.g., "How many stars are in the sky?") or personal things they wonder about. Discuss how God already knows the answers and their deepest thoughts.

Smart Speaker Comparison

Use a smart speaker to show it knows facts but fails on personal, deep, or future questions (e.g., "How many hairs on my head?" or "What will I dream tonight?") to highlight God's complete knowledge vs. limited tech.

Active Listening (Psalm 139)

Divide kids into groups to listen for what Psalm 139 says about God knowing when they sit/stand, their thoughts, and their future, then share findings.

Creative and Kinesthetic Activities

Draw God's All-Seeing Eyes

Provide paper and art supplies. Have kids draw large eyes, discussing how God's eyes see everything and are everywhere, nothing is hidden.

"Hidden Toy" Game

Hide a toy in plain sight but covered. Ask kids if they know where it is (no), then ask if God knows (yes). Discuss His hidden knowledge.

Crown for a Future King/Queen

Decorate paper crowns while discussing how God knows their future dreams and plans

Storytelling and Scripture

Ezekiel's Vision

Tell the story of Ezekiel (Ezekiel 8-11) where God shows him secret idols and sins, proving He knows the hidden wickedness and hearts of people.

The Storm (Jesus' Power)

Briefly reenact the story of Jesus calming the storm (Mark 4:35-41), showing God's power through Jesus's knowledge and control over nature.

Reflection and Prayer

Memory Verse Art

Have kids illustrate a verse like Matthew 10:30 on paper

Prayer Time

Pray for God to reveal how He knows them personally and guide them, acknowledging His constant awareness of their lives.

God is Eternal

Hands-On and Visual Activities

Infinite Mobius Strips

Make Mobius strips (a loop with a half-twist) and cut them to show how they create a larger, endless loop, symbolizing God's unending nature. You can even join two to form interlocking hearts for God's eternal love.

Circle Painting/Chains

Have kids stamp circles (no start/end) on paper or make paper chains without beginning or end, writing "God is Eternal" on them to represent timelessness.

The "Wear Out" Jar

Use two types of packing peanuts (cornstarch vs. styrofoam) in water. The cornstarch ones "melt" (wear out), while styrofoam ones don't illustrating how God is eternal while creation can fade.

Infinite Thread

Use spools of thread (blue for past, white for future) to create a visual of endless time, with a small knot representing a human life and the vastness showing eternity with God.

Discussion and Scripture-Based Activities

Timeline of Eternity

Draw a long timeline. Start with kids' first memories, then go back to Abraham, Jesus' time, and forward to the future. Emphasize GOD was always before, is now, and always will be, using verses like Revelation 1:8 (Alpha and Omega).

Sticky Note Love Heart

Draw a big heart. Kids write names of people who love them on sticky notes and place them inside. Then discuss how God's love is similar (actions prove it) but greater and forever, using Romans 5:8

"God's Forever" Stories

Read Bible stories (like creation or Abraham) and discuss how God's presence and plan are consistent and eternal, unlike the temporary things in the stories.

Creative and Reflective Activities

Cosmic Creation Art

Discuss the vastness of space and galaxies as a reflection of God's endlessness. Have kids draw or paint their vision of an endless universe.

Family Forever Drawing

Use Scripture to have kids draw what it means for families to be together forever in God's presence, highlighting eternal life.

God Reveals Himself to Us as God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit (the Trinity)

Analogies and Demonstrations

Water (H₂O)

Explain how water is one substance but exists as liquid, solid (ice), and gas (steam), just like God is one but Father, Son, and Spirit.

Trinity Punch

Mix yellow juice (Father/Creator), grape juice (Son/Jesus), and clear soda (Spirit/invisible presence) for a drink that's one punch but three distinct flavors.

Candle

Use a candle with its light, flame and heat, showing one source with three aspects

Egg/Apple

Show the shell, white, yolk (or skin, flesh, core) as three parts that make one whole, but note God is more unified than these examples (like water).

Crafts and Activities

Three-Cord Bracelet

Braid three different colored cords (Father, Son, Spirit) into one bracelet to show distinctness and unity.

Trinity Triangle

Glue popsicles sticks into a triangle, decorating each side to represent the Father, Son, and Spirit working together.

Cereal Letters

Form "F," "J," and "S," (Father, Jesus, Spirit) with cereal on a plate, then eat it together.

Discussions and Bible Study

Ask Questions

Use John 16:12-15 to ask "Who do you think Jesus is?" and "What does He mean to you?"

Focus on Roles

Discuss God the Father (Creator/Protector), Jesus (came in flesh, Savior), and the Holy Spirit (Helper, guides us to grow in faith).

Interactive Storytelling

Have kids act out or draw scenes where Jesus reveals Himself (e.g., Baptism, Transfiguration).