

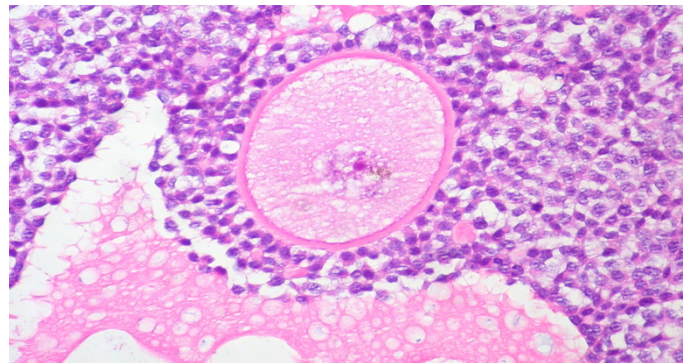
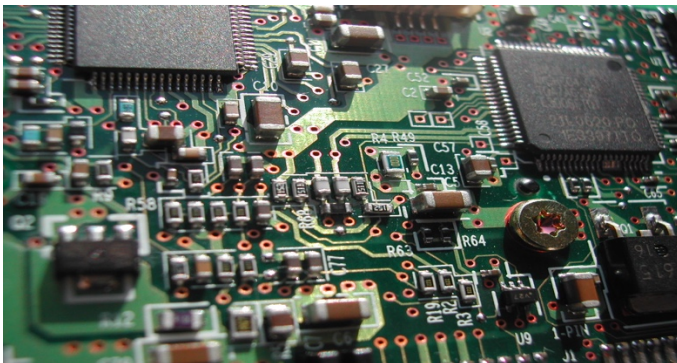
What is God like?

When it comes to this question, it's almost like people walk down the "God-aisle" of the supermarket and pick off the shelves whatever they want.

Augustine, one of the early leaders of the Christian faith, once prayed to God, "Thou hast made us for thyself, and restless is our heart until it comes to rest in thee." So we have to ask the question, is it possible to know what God is like?

How can we know what anyone is like:

1. We can observe what they do and the things they design or work on



Think about it...behind each creation there is a creator

By thinking about what God has made, we see that we already know quite a lot about him:

- What God has made is big, so he must be *incredibly powerful*
- What God has made is staggeringly complex, so he must be *profoundly intelligent*
- What God has made has order, so he must be *purposeful*
- God has given us morality, so he must be *a moral being*
- Since God created this universe, then he existed before it and *is not among the created things*

The great scientist Isaac Newton wrote at the end of his life: "I seem to have been only like a boy playing on the seashore, diverting myself now and then finding a smoother pebble or a prettier shell than ordinary, whilst the great ocean of truth lay all undiscovered before me."

The incredible thing is that God wants us to know him. Looking at God through his creation gives us his basic outline, but it's like looking at someone through a frosted glass door. What we need is for God to open the door, to introduce himself to us and let us see him.

2. We can ask them to introduce themselves to us

How does God open the door and introduce himself to us?

1. He came into our world in the person of Jesus Christ
2. Through his autobiography, the Bible

One of the greatest truths in the Christian message is that God speaks!

Reading God's autobiography we see that God is kind, that he's loving and patient, truthful and good. He's what a loving father should be. He hates abuse and injustice and everything else that's wrong. Moreover, he loves what is right and he's just. He's gentle, compassionate, honest and full of integrity.

A great place to start reading in the Bible is at the section titled "Mark". Find it in the index. If you need a Bible, ask your LifeWorks host to help you get one.



Topic 1 – What is God like?

What can we conclude about God?

1. God is above everything—the Supreme Being, the Creator
2. God is involved in this world ... and in *your* world
3. God is good
4. God is holy—totally set apart from everything else there is
5. God is relational in his very being, existing as a Trinity of three persons

In the Bible the prophet Isaiah wrote, “For this is what the Lord says—he who created the heavens, he is God; he who fashioned and made the earth, he founded it; he did not create it to be empty, but formed it to be inhabited—he says: I am the Lord, and there is no other.”

What does all this mean for me?

- It changes my view of myself. Since a perfect, intelligent, good God made me, I have God-given value and dignity. I am not a cosmic accident. I have meaning and purpose.

Psalm 139:13-15 in the Bible

“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place.”

versus

Jacques Monod

“Man is alone in the unfeeling immensity of the universe from which he emerged by chance.”

- It means that I am accountable to God. This is his world and that means that God has the right to hold me accountable for the life that he has given to me.

Like that gardener on the desert island, God has revealed himself to us
and he invites us to know him!

Group Expectations

- We finish on time
- We are here for a purpose
- It is okay/safe to raise anything
- Feel free to speak openly
- Understand that someone will think differently from you and that is okay
- Respect and confidentiality

Discussion questions (choose a few)

- What is your reaction to the fact that Australia is no longer considered a Christian country under current world definitions?
- What emotions do you feel when you think about God?
- Do we need God?
- If there is a God, what does that mean for our lives?
- If our world does not believe in God, why do you think people always pray in a crisis?
- What do you like most about God?