

Series Title: 'How great is our God'

Subtitle: 'Exploring the character of God the Father'

Primary Aim: In this series we will try to explore the character of God the Father. Even with the best minds we can only ever scratch the surface of this theme but as we dip our feet into this topic we hope to have our convictions about God deepened and allow our understanding of the character of God to transform our lives in practical ways. The six sessions will stretch our understanding of a God who is both Almighty Father God but who also loves, knows and cares for us personally.

1. Indescribable (Supreme):

Passage: Romans 1:18-19, Colossians 1:15-23, Psalm 8 & 19

Definition of indescribable: Something too intense, extreme or unusual to describe...beyond words.

Blurb: We introduce the series by looking at God as indescribable and supreme over all. We see His supremacy in creation, in the way that all of the complexities of our world hold together and in the church. We see His glory and yet this same glorious God is mindful of us, cares for us and wants a relationship with us. Our indescribable God is worthy of our worship and adoration.

2. Incomparable (Jealous):

Passages: Exodus 20:1-6, Ezekiel 16, Isaiah 40:12-26, 44:6-20 and/or Jeremiah 10:1-16

Definition of incomparable: beyond comparison; matchless or unequalled.

Blurb: Implicit in the Ten Commandments is the character of God and the first two commandments speak of a God who is Jealous and Sprit. We will see that despite all of our idolatry (anything that takes God's rightful place) God is simply incomparable. It is simply ridiculous to worship created things rather than their creator. The Bible regularly describes God as jealous (E.g. Deuteronomy 4:24, 5:9 & 6:15) for what rightfully belongs to Him. We will consider the implications of our response to the *one true God* rather than the gods (or even our understanding of God Himself) which we make in our own image.

3. Uncontainable (Sovereign):

Passages: Isaiah 46:8-10, Daniel 4:35-37, Proverbs 16:9, 19:21, 21:30

Definition of uncontainable: not able to be restrained, checked, or controlled.

Blurb: The next three sessions all hang together to provide a picture of a God who in the words of Jerry Bridges is "...completely sovereign, infinite in wisdom and perfect in love" (Trusting God). This session is about the Sovereignty of God and the comfort that can be ours through knowing that God is always in control. He is Sovereign over all things including the difficult things in life (Isaiah 45:7, Lamentations 3:37-38, Ecclesiastes 7:14). In diminishing His Sovereignty we leave ourselves with a weak God who is unable to act and unable to help us in our time of need: no God really has to be Sovereign over all.

4. Unfathomable (Wise):

Passages: Romans 11:33-36, Romans 8:28-29, Isaiah 55:8-9, Psalm 139 & Job 41 & 42:2-6, Genesis 50:19-21

Definition of unfathomable: not able to be fathomed, or completely understood; incomprehensible.

Blurb: The Narnia books (C. S. Lewis) describe Aslan as "not safe (tame) but he is good". In this session we will see that though we don't always understand what God is doing He does always work for our good. His thoughts and His ways are way above our understanding: if they were He would not be worthy of our praise. We will touch again on the tricky passages from (3) and the question of when things go to pot!

5. Immeasurable (Loving):

Passages: Ephesians 3:14-21, 1 John 4:7-10, Hebrews 12:5-7 & Romans 8:31-39

Definition of immeasurable: incapable of being measured; limitless

Blurb: Building on the foundation of God's Sovereignty and Wisdom we also wrestle with the fact that is God also a God of love; indeed John says He is the very the source of love. We will see how that love is so vast in height, depth, width and length that it cannot be measured. Finally we will also see how God is a good Father who loves and disciplines us for our own benefit.

6. Unchanging (Eternal):

Passages: Hebrews 13:8, Numbers 23:19, Joshua 21:45, 23:14 & John 17:3

Definition of unchanging: constant, invariable, staying the same.

Blurb: God does not change: He is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. God is supreme, God is holy, God is wise, God is jealous & God is love. God will always be these things because they describe His eternal character. This is the God who keeps His promises and does not lie: He is 100% trustworthy and will never let us down, leave us or forsake us. Jesus describes eternal life as knowing God, the one true God.