

WHO IS GOD?

HIGHER SESSIONS

AIM

In this session, we are aiming to study the following:

Get the young people to ask themselves who is God?

Look at the characteristics of God as given to us in the Bible.

Remind them that Jesus IS God - His character is God's character.

DESCRIPTION

This session is 1 of 6 and is designed to start the course by tackling the question 'Who is God?'

We will explore what the Bible says about God, who Jesus is, and how we can relate those truths to our experiences of God. This session should also help the young people grow in confidence that the one true God of the Bible is who he says he is - revealed to us in the person of Jesus Christ.

All Higher sessions are designed to be used as part of a 6 session follow up program in schools, youth groups or other

youth work situations with new Christians or young people exploring faith. It has been created with the understanding that this is the start of the journey and should be delivered in an engaging and relevant way.

PRAYER

God,

Help us to understand who you are. Thank you for the Bible which gives us a bigger understanding of you, and that you sent your son Jesus so we can know you, and have relationship with you.

Amen.



Who is God? Intro

Time:1 min

Materials:

- **PDF contact form**

Welcome the group and make sure they feel safe and wanted as they explore this topic.

Example opener:

“Welcome to the first Higher session, we are so excited you are here.

Today we are going to be chatting about Who is God? Some of you might already know, some of you might still be trying to work that one out!

Wherever you are today on your understanding of God don't worry, this is the right place for you!

It's all about asking questions, hanging out together and starting to figure out who is God?”



Who is God? Opener

Time:5 min

Materials:

- **a few random objects**
- **prize**

Opener

This opener is to help the young people understand that you have to know all about something before you can talk about it or explain it to others. Sales people do this all the time, they get to know their product so they can sell it to

you.

Sell a product in 30 seconds.

Bring a few random objects to the session or get the the young people to pick something they have on them like their phone and try to sell it to the group (if you have a big group you could do it in pairs). The best pitch wins a prize.

Example link to the rest of the session:

“When you come to sell something you talk about its features and best qualities. You have to know what or who something is before you can sell it or tell someone about it. Today we are going to start looking at ‘Who is God’, so like a salesperson looks at the qualities of a product, we are going to look at Gods qualities.”



Who is God? Chat

Time:7 min

Materials:

- **well known product (eg Iphone)**

This chat time is to get the young people to start to thinking about how they know about the different features of the products they use day in day out. This begins to help the young people realise you need a source for all these features.

Pick a popular well know product (for example an iPhone) and get the group to list its best features and the most distinctive elements of the design. Then get them to discuss the following questions:

- How do you know what the products features are?
- How would you decide which of these are the best selling points?
- What are the products weaknesses? What might you try to hide when selling this to someone?



Who is God? Media

Time:3 min

Materials:

- **laptop with projector and sound**

This media slot is aimed to help link the last few activities around feature of product and selling things and how that relates to the questions ‘Who is God?’ by using the Bible as a foundation.

Play the group ‘WHO IS GOD?’ AAA sessions video

Click on this link <https://vimeo.com/153371157>

Or Search **'Who is God? AAA sessions'** on **'Vimeo.com'**

Example link to sessions:

'Everyone is talking about God and trying to figure out what they think about him.

Earlier when selling a product you list and highlight all the best things about it and explain clearly what it can do. However, the best news for you is with God there are no bad features for he is perfect!

How do we know that?

The Bible! It doesn't try to sell God to us by listing his best attributes, it simply tells us who he is, and from there we can decide if we want to put our trust into him and become a true child of God.

We will look at what the Bible says as we can base our understanding on God not just on our feelings and emotions but also on some truth.'



Who is God? Teaching

Time:7 min

Materials:

- **PDF - Who is God statements**
- **Bibles**

This teaching time is aimed at getting the young people to look at some peoples' popular issues or wrong ideas about God and get them to understand these better.

Here are some statements that people make about God and how His character relates to these statements. You can download a PDF which has been designed to help the young people follow or turn this into an interactive teaching slot.

God is...

LOVE

Statement: *"God can't be loving because the world is full of suffering."*

Reality: God is love (1 John 4:16) and one day he will put an end to ALL suffering (Revelation 21:3-4), and he invites everyone to be a part of that eternal hope.

WISE

Statement: *"God must be stupid to have created such a broken world"*

Reality: God created a good world (Genesis 1:31), and he is a wise and loving father (Proverbs 2:6), but he allows us to

chose for ourselves to worship him; when we reject him we have to live in the consequences of our choice and the world is affected.

POWERFUL

Statement: *“God can’t be all powerful because other religions have risen up and taken his place”*

Reality: God is the all powerful king of the universe, he has power over life and death (1 Peter 5:11), and Jesus demonstrated this by being resurrected from his death on the cross, so that we can know true life (Romans 6:4). However, God will not force you to worship him.

EVERYWHERE

Statement: *“God either doesn’t exist or He is dead”*

Reality: Not only does God exist, he is present everywhere (Psalm 139:7-12)! God is so powerful that He can be in all places at all times, He is not bound by space and time like humans, for He created those things (Genesis 1:1)!

GOOD

Statement: *“God can’t be gracious, good or kind if He sends people to hell!”*

Reality: God doesn’t want anyone to go to hell (2 Peter 3:9), and has graciously made a way for all to be saved through Jesus Christ (John 3:16), we are the ones who chose our eternal destiny.

Deeper content...

Here are some other claims the Bible makes about God, you can use these references to get them using the Bible, if you have a younger group you could print them out and ask what they think about these verses.

God is... Father (Ephesians 4:6)

God is... Perfect (Psalm 18:30)

God is... Eternal (1 Timothy 1:17)

God is... Forgiving (1 John 1:9)

God is... Compassionate (Matthew 9:36)

God is... Just (Isaiah 30:18)

God is... Saviour (Luke 1:47)



Who is God? Chat 2

Time:3 min

Materials:

This chat time is to lead the young people towards an understanding that God is not just a force but a personal God.

But who is He?

Who do they believe he is?

Who do thier friends believe he is?

Who do thier family say he is?

Try and lead the discussion towards or finish on "...Because God is a personal God, and Christianity is a personal faith."



Who is God? Game

Time:6 min

Materials:

- **Ping pong balls**
- **prize**
- **table/flat surface**

This is a game that is based around using the force you can create with your lungs.

Racing ping pong balls

You will need two ping pong balls for this game. Get two volunteers from your group to stand at one end of the table or a marked out floor space with a ball in front of them resting on the table. Using only the air that is in their lungs they have to get their ball to the other side of the table. It is a race, the first off the end of the table wins. You could turn this into a tournament so a number of people can have a go.

Alternatively you can compete, put two people at each end of a table or floor space opposite each other. They have to try and stop the ball from crossing the table and force it back.



Who is God? Media 2

Time:5 min

Materials:

- **laptop with projector and sound**

This clip is designed to show the young people that there are some amazing forces at work in our world. But none of them are personal.

Extreme weather - surfing the heaviest wave in the world <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=26KzUnEbTUs>

Search 'red bull heaviest wave in the world' on YouTube

God is more than a generic force, he is a knowable person!

Example link

"A force is invisible and you cannot have a personal relationship with a wave or the wind! But God wants relationship with you as He is the perfect heavenly father; He is Love itself. He has stepped into your world in the person of Jesus Christ so that we can know Him, and have relationship with Him for eternity."



Who is God? Chat 3

Time: 5 min

Materials:

This chat time is aimed at helping the group relate what they have just heard about God's characteristics to their own lives. They could do this by thinking about they want in a friend and then relating this back to God's characteristics.

If you were holding interviews for a new best friend, what would you ask them?

What would you want to know about them before you trusted them?



Who is God? Prayer

Time: 3 min

Materials:

After chatting about their best friends qualities, to start to finish the session help the young people pray before concluding and setting them something they can do.

Use the characteristics of God and get them to think for a minute about which one they want to know more about. Then get them to ask God in what ever language they want to use, out loud or in their hearts to ask God to show them more of who he is.



Who is God? Do

Time:5 min

Materials:

Every Higher session has something for the young people to go away and do from the session.

If you had to tell everyone what you believe in and understand God to be in a 30 second youtube clip, how would you do it? The three important things to consider are:

What would you say?

What aspects of God's character would you want to talk about?

How could you creatively show this in a video clip?

Then encourage them to actually film their own video, or get them to perform their ideas in front of the group if it is appropriate.



Who is God? Conclusion

Time:1 min

Materials:

Wrap up this session and point to the next session which is all about how God chose them!

Example:

"It has been great to see you guys this week. I know it's sad that it has finished but we have some more sessions planned!"

Keep asking your questions and taking your first steps on this life long journey of figuring out who God is.

Next time we will be chatting about how God chose you and how valuable you are!"