



GOD ALONE

Study Guide

Study Questions for Chapter One

1. God Alone emphasizes the incommunicable attributes of God, attributes that mankind doesn't share. If we can't share them, why study them? (p 18)
2. What does it mean to 'number our days to gain a heart of wisdom'? (p 18)
3. How does understanding the 'eternity of God' help us to endure trials? (pp 18-19)
4. Chapter one shares the example of the difference between a river and a lake in trying to define the difference between how humans move through time but God encompasses it. (p 21)
Can you think of another example?
5. Chapter one concludes with a focus on four things that the eternal nature of God gives to us: perspective, confidence, warning, and hope. Which one of the four do you most easily relate to and why? Which implication is a 'new thought' for you or is the hardest to relate to and why? (pp 22-29)



Study Questions for Chapter Two

1. Chapter two challenges us with the thought that “if our view of God’s power is too small, we will not trust Him.” (p 32) Can you think of a time when you didn’t trust God with a difficult situation that was important to you (e.g., a job change, a financial need, a shattered relationship)? Why did you choose not to trust God with the situation?
2. The Scripture tells us that God’s power is on display in His creation. Describe either a one-time experience or perhaps an outdoor location that you regularly like to visit where you have sensed God’s power through His creation.
3. Think about the statement, “We must not be anxious, but we must pray and trust the sovereign Lord of all to direct the affairs of human history in accordance with His will.” (p 38) Are you personally grieved by a particular political situation or perhaps a government policy that isn’t likely to change? How might you pray and ask God to work out His will in that issue?
4. King Ahab (p 40, I Kings 22) heard advice from false prophets who were lying and from a genuine prophet who was speaking God’s truth. (He chose poorly.) Have you ever sought Godly advice only to receive contradictory counsel? How did you decide what to do? What happened?
5. One of the most amazing ways God’s power is displayed is through the gospel itself. If someone asked you to explain what ‘the gospel’ is, what would you say? (1 Corinthians 1-4)



Study Questions for Chapter Three

1. Share the story of a biblical or historic follower of God whose faith and perseverance have always made him or her a hero to you. How does it make you feel to know that the God who walked alongside that hero is the same God who hears you when you cry out for help?
2. How would you define God's unchanging, grand plan for the universe? (Write down your thoughts or share them with another study group member.) The author gives his definition on page 54. How is your definition similar or different?
3. Chapter 3 opens with a reference to "fixed points" in life (p 47), things that don't change in a world that is constantly changing. Think of something in your life that you truly believed would always be a fixed point...until it changed? How did that affect you?
4. Now reflect on the focus of this chapter: God never changes. Each of us goes through times of doubt and feelings of broken fellowship with God. How can knowing that He never changes help us to navigate those feelings?



Study Questions for Chapter Four

1. Chapter four focuses on God's quality of complete independence. God needs nothing. We, on the other hand, are constantly dependent. Think about the many things that we as humans need to be productive or just to survive. List ten of them.
2. s 65-66 feature various teachings that seem to claim God made the world because He needed something. But the author states that God has never needed anything, including us. Why do you think God chose to create us if He didn't need us?
3. It's not uncommon to hear people say that they responded to a need by giving a financial gift or by participating in a mission trip (or some of other form of ministry) and that doing so made them feel good. What motivations does Jonathan encourage us to have when we give and serve? Is there a place for some level of 'feeling good' about giving or serving?



Study Questions for Chapter Five

1. What do you think Jonathan means when he says, “We cannot see or encounter the very essence of God”? (pp 79, 80) Are there aspects of God that we can see and encounter? What are they?
2. God’s ways can sometimes seem not only confusing but harsh. Finish this sentence: When I think about the nature of God, His character, and His ways, I don’t think I will ever understand _____. Has that inability to understand ever escalated to the point that you were angry with or doubted God? (pp 85, 86)
3. On page 82, we read the example of the safety and security we feel knowing that the surgeon who is about to operate on us is infinitely more knowledgeable than we are about the procedure. Can you think of other examples where being in the hands of someone with vastly more skills and knowledge than our own is comforting and reassuring.
4. Consider this thought from page 88: “We must humbly accept what we do not know, we must be responsive to what we do know, and finally, we must be hungry to know more.” Which of these do you find the most difficult? Why?
5. For those readers who have had a relationship with Christ for at least several years: As you look back over the years that you have been a Christian, in what ways do you feel you know God more (or better) than you did as a new believer?



Study Questions for Chapter Six

1. How would you define '*spiritually vulnerable*'? Why do you think that failing to grasp and believe God is all knowing and all wise would leave us spiritually vulnerable? (pp 92, 93)
2. On page 94, Jonathan tells us that even if God does not heal your body when you are facing illness or disease, "He has power to sustain you, come what may." Can you think of a time when you asked God for healing or for some other crucial need to be met, but it wasn't. How did God "sustain you" through that circumstance?
3. Chapter six points out that the Scriptures are a collection of illustrations of God saying what He will do and then doing it. (p 100) Aside from the promise of Jesus, can you name 2 or 3 instances in the Bible where God clearly foretells what He is about to do, either soon or in the future, and then does it? Of the instances you named, which is your favorite? Why?
4. The author states that "the all-wise God displays and expresses His wisdom supremely in the agony and shame of the cross." (p 104) We often think of the cross as displaying God's love and sacrifice for us, but how do you think it displays His wisdom?
5. So far, each chapter in this book has focused on one unsharable characteristic of God. Why do you think this chapter links all-knowing and all-wise together?



Study Questions for Chapter Seven

1. Has there ever been a time when you felt like you were in a ‘dead zone’ with God—that He wasn’t present with you—that you had lost all communication with Him? How did that situation resolve?
2. Chapter seven reminds us that the same God who has been present throughout history is present with us. Jonathan Griffiths uses the Garden of Eden as an example of the God of creation being the same God who walks beside us now (p 111). Fill in the blank with at least three separate and unique biblical events and then read the sentence aloud: “The God who was present (when/during/at) _____ is the same God who is present with me now.”
3. On page 115, we read that God “is with us to minister His grace to us, to help us, to comfort us, and to uphold us.” How would you define each of these four unique descriptions of God’s presence with us?
4. It is a comforting thought to know that God always sees your tears, your joys, your sorrows, your brokenness, your successes, and your fears. What is the first word that comes to mind when you consider that God also sees all your sins? (p 118)
5. Think of something looming in the future for you that makes you feel nervous or afraid. Maybe it’s the start of new job or the end of a long career. Perhaps it’s surgery or another medical procedure. Or maybe you’re dreading an encounter with someone with whom you desperately want to reunite or with someone you wish you could avoid. How can knowing that God is always with you affect your frame of mind?



Study Questions for Chapter Eight

1. Chapter one begins by reminding us that the “true glory” of God is not like the “fading glory” of the world. How would you define the world’s “fading glory”? List some examples of it. (p 123)
2. The story of the Lord passing by Abraham comes from Exodus chapter 33. In that story, the Lord allows Abraham to see His back as He passes by. He tells Abraham that no one can see His face and live. (Exodus 33: 19-23) Why do you think Abraham could “safely” see the back of God as He passed but not His face? (pp 126-127)
3. Think of the last Good Friday message you heard, or perhaps the last book you read about the cross, or even the last time you explained what happened during the crucifixion to another person. What adjectives were used to describe the cross? Is the word “glory” typically among those descriptions? Why not? (Or why?)
4. The Westminster Shorter Catechism (a summary of principles written in 1646 by English and Scottish theologians) famously describes the “chief end of man” (man’s purpose) as “to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.” Do you agree? If you wrote your own catechism on the purpose of mankind, what would it say?
5. The author hopes that for each of the unsharable characteristics of God discussed in this book, you as a reader will ask yourself, “What will I lack in my Christian life if I fail to grasp this truth about God?” (p 123) How would you answer that question for this chapter’s subject on the glory of God?