CHARIS YOUTH

Series: Why We Believe

Lesson 2: One True God

About This Lesson

Salvation is the first step to a relationship with God. In order to receive salvation, you must believe that God is real and sent His Son to pay the price of sin. True fellowship with God can be seen in a believer's life.

Key Takeaway: God is real, and I am accountable to Him.

Key Verse: John 17:3 *And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.*

Teaching Outline:

I. GOD IS REAL

Deuteronomy 6:4–5 *Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!* [5] *You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.*

A. This is one of the most important truths in the entire universe!

B. There either is a God, or there isn't. It's a yes or no question that demands a response from each person. Is there a God? YES! There is a God! This is a reality.

C. The reality, that there is a God, affects every aspect of a person—spirit, soul, and body.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 *Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely: and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

1. Spirit – the eternal part of every human being. This is what God breathed into Adam.
2. Soul – the mind, will, emotions, dreams, desires, thought-life, and attitude of a person.
3. Body – the physical part of you.

D. Each person is accountable to God. You can't be your own god and make up your own rules.
   1. On TV and social media people declare what they think is right and wrong and do whatever they want to do. These people disregard God, but that doesn't mean God isn't real. Someday, they will give an account to Him.

II. GOD IS THE CREATOR OF THE UNIVERSE

Genesis 1:1–3 *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. [2] The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. [3] Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.*

A. ILLUSTRATION: (chaotic piano creation) If there is beauty, if there is order, if there is love, if there is purpose—there is a creator! Chaos doesn't lead to beauty!

B. For the universe to exist, there are 3 key components.
   1. TIME – "In the beginning"
   2. SPACE – "God created the heavens"
   3. MATTER – "And the earth"

   God created all three!

C. For a musical creation to take place, there are 3 key components:
   1. TIME – Tempo/Rhythm- the orderly division of tempo
   2. SPACE – Register/Pitch/Timbre
   3. MATTER – Weight/Dynamics

D. Chaos does not lead to beauty. Chaos does not lead to order. Chaos does not lead to destiny.
   1. The Big Bang Theory is a lie!

2. Evolutionary Theory is a lie! Evolution is not proven science; it is a weak theory that is easily disproved today through modern scientific research. Charles Darwin hated God, hated the Bible, and was married to his first cousin.

E. God is not the author of chaos, confusion, or anything evil. He is the author of life! He is the author of beauty! He is the author of destiny!
   1. He is still a Creator!
   2. He still takes dead things and brings them back to life.
   3. He still takes ashes and turns them into beauty.
   4. He still takes the broken pieces and puts them back together.
   5. He still restores that which was lost.

III. LOOKING AT THE EVIDENCE

Romans 1:20–22 *For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, [21] because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. [22] Professing to be wise, they became fools.*

A. God placed within each person knowledge of Him. When you know God, glorify Him, and are thankful, your heart is enlightened. It is positive. It is constructive. It works the way God designed it to work.

James 1:16–17 *Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. [17] Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.*

B. Keep thanking Him for every good thing in your life! If there is anything good- if there is anything perfect- if there is anything beautiful in your life- if there is anything joyful in your life- it is from God!

C. When you thank God, it affects your soul! It affects your imagination! It affects your destiny! It affects what happens to your life here on this earth, and it affects where you go after this life on earth is complete.

Bottom Line:
God is real, and you are accountable to Him!

Small Group Time:

1. It's important to thank God for the good things He has done in your life!
    - What is something in your life that you feel especially grateful for?
    - How does that point you back to the existence of God? (Examples: shows God's love, God's care, God's wisdom in creating, God's attention to details)

2. Each person has to answer the question, "Is God real?"
    - Is there something that happened to you, or something that you experienced that convinced you that God is real? (Possible examples: maybe it was seeing an incredible sunset over an ocean, seeing an incredible view from the top of a mountain, or seeing a newborn baby)
    - If you can't answer "yes" right now, what will help you come to a "yes" answer? As young people answer, pray for God to speak to each one and for them to have the boldness to believe.

Optional Extra Material for Discussion:

John 17:3–5 *"And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. [4]I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. [5]And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was."*

1. Eternal life comes from knowing the only true God! One reason God sent Jesus was so we could know God for who He truly is! Jesus came to put a face on who God is!
    - What are some things that Jesus did that show us the true nature of God? (healed people, forgave people, loved people, empowered people, gave His disciples power to cast out tormenting/evil spirits, gave His disciples power to lay hands on the sick and see them recover)

2. Jesus said He finished the work.
    - What do you think this means? (He made it possible for us to know God and to have a relationship with God. He came to be the perfect sacrifice for our sins to make us right before God.)

3. Jesus made it possible for us to obtain God's promises!
    - What are some of those promises? (eternal life, supernatural peace, divine healing)

4. Jesus said, "… Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was" John 17:5.
    - When Jesus said they were together before the world was, what does that mean? (It means that Jesus was one with the Father before creation. It means that Jesus is eternal. He was not created. It means that Jesus is LORD!)

Declaration:
"There is one true God. He is the Creator. He is the Author of life. God is completely good! I thank God for all the good, beautiful, and perfect things He has done in my life!"

Youth Weekly Journal:

Handout, Email, or Download

- **Question:** What did you see or experience that showed you God is real today?
- **Pray:** Ask the Holy Spirit to open your eyes to see the reality of God around you and in you.
- **Read:** Set aside time to read Genesis 1. Think about the unique aspects of each animal created and how God equipped each for its setting and role.
- **Live It:** Choose one verse or promise from the book of the Bible you read and put it into practice today. Tell us about it next week.
- **Create:** Look online for creation stories in other cultures. Choose one and see which parts match the Genesis account and which parts are different. Make a spreadsheet, explain it and the flaws on a short video, or draw the story as a picture.

EXTENDING THE LESSON

Icebreaker Question: If you had to speak with a foreign accent for the rest of your life, which would it be and why?

Opening Activity Suggestion: Look for an object lesson about testing whether something is real or not. Another option is to make a list of words, some real and some you make up. Have the young people vote on whether the word is real or made up. You can have fun making up definitions for the fake words and then read the real word and definition and a fake word and fake definition. Point out that once they know the word is real, it can be used in their vocabulary. The tie-in is knowing God is real, causing each person to choose to serve Him or deny Him and face the consequence of eternal life without Him.

Opening Affirmation: "Today, I will be taught the Word of God. My mind is alert, my heart is receptive, and I will never be the same. I am about to receive the incorruptible, indestructible, ever-living seed of the Word of God. I will never be the same—never, never, never. In Jesus' name. Amen."

Giving Time: Hebrews 10:35–36 *Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. [36]For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise.*

Keep your confidence in God. He will reward you, if you are patient. Give in confidence and with faith. I have everything I need to do everything God has called me to do. I have no lack in any area of my life.

BEYOND – ADDITIONAL APPLICATION FOR CHURCH OR HOME

Challenge: Every day, youth are bombarded with examples of social media influencers and sports and entertainment celebrities flaunting and acting as if they are gods. When people deny the existence of God, that "frees" them from God's consequences of sin—for a season. Each person will stand before God and give an account of their life and whether they accepted Jesus' payment for their sins. Often, it looks like, to the youth, people "get away with" being their own god. Challenge the youth to look for examples in current events of someone in the spotlight who was caught and finally held accountable for their actions. Help the youth understand that they have to decide for themselves whether they believe God is real, and if so, it affects how they live!

Biblical Worldview: In order to have a biblical worldview, you have to believe the first verse in the Bible. Genesis 1:1 states that God is the Creator, therefore, God is real. It

takes more faith to believe in evolution than in God creating everything. Young people would never believe that the computer they use to do their homework just "happened" to have all the pieces come together over millions of years and operate flawlessly. Yet, many accept evolution without questioning it. Challenge the young people to choose to live a biblical worldview that accepts that God is real, and He is the Creator!

Outreach/Missions: Often, missionaries see amazing miracles that cause people to believe in God. Pray for your church sponsored missionaries as they tell people that God is real. Ask God to show Himself in powerful ways.