



# Meatime Conversations

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## TOPIC 4: Knowing God

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## TOPIC 4 // Parent Prep:

In this study, we will look at seven characteristics of God. These aren't just interesting facts; these are promises we can trust, no matter what happens in our lives.



### **1. GOOD: God is good, all the time.**

*The LORD is good to everyone. He showers compassion on all his creation.*  
(Psalm 145:9 NLT)

### **2. SOVEREIGN: God knows everything and is in complete control.**

*[God] existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together.*  
(Colossians 1:17 NLT)

### **3. HOLY: God is high and holy, set apart from His creation in every way.**

*LORD, the God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below.*  
(1 Kings 8:23 NIV)

### **4. WISE: God's perfect knowledge always leads to the best decisions.**

*Oh, how great are God's riches and wisdom and knowledge! How impossible it is for us to understand his decisions and his ways!* (Romans 11:33 NLT)

### **5. JUST: God is always fair, even when life isn't.**

*Let the heavens proclaim his justice, for God himself will be the judge.*  
(Psalm 50:6 NLT)

### **6. LOVING: God's love will always find us.**

*The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.* (Luke 19:10 NIV)

### **7. FAITHFUL: God never breaks His promises.**

The word of the LORD is right and true; he is faithful in all he does.  
(Psalm 33:4 NIV)

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## GET TOGETHER

Gather around the table and have some fun.

- Play a quick game of “I Spy.”

The player gives the first letter or the color of the object as a clue. They say, “I spy with my little eye something that’s red” or “I spy with my little eye something that starts with the letter c.” Players take turns guessing the object. Whoever guesses correctly gets the next turn to guess.

- Imagine the world’s best vending machine. Describe it.



## GET TALKING

Read today’s Big Idea, and then use the questions to get everyone talking.

**BIG IDEA** God longs for us to see Him as He really is.

Many people see Him as a cosmic vending machine that will give us whatever we want. The truth is that God loves us too much to give us what we want; He gives us what we need.

Choose from these questions to best help your family talk about seeking after God.

- If you could have anything from God, what would it be? How would you feel if you never got it?
- God knows the difference between our needs and our wants. What is one thing you absolutely need from Him today?

Read the key verse out loud and, if you choose, work on memorizing it.

### KEY VERSE FOR THIS DISCUSSION

*If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me.*

JEREMIAH 29:13 (NLT)

**GET GOING**

Watch the “Vending Machine” video at <https://lote.me/MC-topic4-v1> and talk through these questions.

- What stood out to you the most while you were watching this video? Why?
- What was the point of the video? What did it teach about God?
- Whom do you imagine God is?

Pick five words that you think best describe God and write them down. Tell the group what they mean and why you picked them.

## Parent Prep:

### Understanding the Character of God

- All of God's actions are good. God cannot be tempted to do evil. When we experience pain and loss, it can be difficult to see that God is good. When we trust in His goodness, He becomes our anchor in the storm.

*You are good, and what you do is good. (Psalm 119:68 NIV)*

- As the Creator, God wants everyone to experience His goodness, offering blessing and refuge to all who will come to Him.

*Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him. (Psalm 34:8 NIV)*

- Every good thing in our lives comes from God. He's not an angry father or an unfair judge. God wants the very best for us because He is good.

*Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father. (James 1:17 NIV)*

**GET TOGETHER**

Gather around the table and have some fun discussing these “This or That” questions.

- Dog or cat?
- Hamburger or taco?
- Run or walk?
- Ocean or mountains?
- Pancakes or waffles?
- Phone or TV?
- Winter or summer?

**GET TALKING**

Read today’s Big Idea, and then use the questions to get everyone talking.

**BIG IDEA** God is good, all the time.

The goodness of God means He wants the best for us. God is generous, kind, and caring. God is good all the time, even when life is difficult.

Choose from these questions to best help your family talk about seeking after God.

- What good thing has God done for you in the past?
- How is God being good to you today?

Read the key verse out loud and, if you choose, work on memorizing it.

**KEY VERSE FOR THIS DISCUSSION**

*The Lord is good to everyone. He showers compassion on all His creation.*

PSALM 145:9 (NLT)

**GET GOING**

Watch the “Lost Dog” video at <https://lote.me/MC-topic4-v2> and talk through these questions.

- Is God good all the time? What if the dog never made it back home or if God doesn’t answer our prayers in the way we want?
- What are some situations in which it’s hard for you to be good toward others?
- Who are some people you have difficulty treating with goodness?

Gather a bunch of magazines. Have everyone cut out pictures of things that are “good” and create a collage. For the more tech-savvy families, make boards on Pinterest.

- Have everyone explain why they chose the things they did.
- Put your collage up on the fridge or somewhere around the house as a reminder of God’s goodness.



## Parent Prep:

### Understanding the Character of God

God's sovereignty is the attribute by which He rules His entire creation, and to be sovereign, God must be all-knowing, all-powerful, and absolutely free.

- God created all things, both in heaven and on earth, both visible and invisible. He sustains all things, holding them together.

*In him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. (Colossians 1:16-17 NIV)*

- God is all-powerful, and He can do all things. Nothing is too difficult for Him. Nothing—not anything—is impossible for Him.

*I am the Lord, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for me? (Jeremiah 32:27 NIV)*

- God knows all things. He isn't limited. He knows everything completely before it happens.

*Before a word is on my tongue you, Lord, know it completely. (Psalm 139:4 NIV)*

*Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.*

*(Hebrews 4:13 NIV)*



## GET TOGETHER

Gather around the table and have some fun!

- Play “Animal, Vegetable, Mineral.”

(Here “vegetable” means any plant or something made from a plant, and “mineral” means a non-living material, such as metal or stone.)

One person (the “Thinker”) starts the game by saying, “I’m thinking of a/an . . .” (announces which category).

The other players take turns asking a question to help them guess what the Thinker has in mind. The Thinker may answer each question with only a yes or no. The player to guess what the Thinker picked becomes the next Thinker.



## GET TALKING

Read today’s Big Idea, and then use the questions to get everyone talking.

**BIG IDEA** God knows everything and is in complete control.

**Because God is the Creator of the universe, nothing escapes His attention or is beyond His power. God is never surprised or out of control.**

Choose from these questions to best help your family talk about God’s sovereignty.

- Sovereign means holding a position of power and authority. How is human sovereignty different from God’s sovereignty?
- God knows everything about our lives. He knows about the good things and the bad things, such as worry, fear, and hurt. How can knowing and trusting that God is sovereign help us through the bad things?

Read the key verse out loud and, if you choose, work on memorizing it.

**KEY VERSE FOR THIS DISCUSSION**

*[God] existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together.*

COLOSSIANS 1:17 (NLT)

 **GET GOING**

Watch the “Micro Macro” video at <https://lote.me/MC-topic4-v3>-conversations and talk through these questions.

- What did you like the most about this video?
- How do you typically respond when things are out of your control—when things happen that you don’t like but can’t do anything about?

As a family, take ten minutes and have each person hunt for something in your home that best describes for you the sovereignty of God. Bring it back to the family and share why you chose that particular item.

## Parent Prep:

### Understanding the Character of God

- God's holiness makes Him utterly incomparable to anything we know or experience. Our minds are too limited to understand our unlimited God.

*Who among the gods is like you, Lord? Who is like you—majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders? (Exodus 15:11 NIV)*

- The holiness of God is powerful and shocking. His absolute purity reveals our impurity. In Isaiah 6, the prophet has a vision of God sitting on His throne. The angels were singing:

*"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined!" (Isaiah 6:3-5 NIV)*

- Without holiness, no one can see God. He is perfect, and our imperfection cannot exist in His presence. We are made holy and perfect by faith in the sacrifice of Jesus. Our response to the free gift of salvation is to pursue a life of holiness. God is calling His children to be holy like He is holy. This means living according to God's standard, not our own or the world's.

*Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. (Hebrews 12:14 NIV; see also Hebrews 10:14; 1 Peter 1:14-16)*

**GET TOGETHER**

Gather around the table and have some fun!

- Talk about the most amazing thing you have ever seen.
- Share the most astonishing TikTok or YouTube video you've ever seen.

**GET TALKING**

Read today's Big Idea, and then use the questions to get everyone talking.

**BIG IDEA** God is set apart from His creation, perfect and independent. The holiness of God separates Him from everyone and everything in His creation. He is perfect and independent in every way. God's holiness is total freedom from all evil. Literally, there is nothing like God. He is the ultimate.

Choose from these questions to best help your family talk about the holiness of God.

- If someone asked you what holiness meant, what would you say?
- God is holy and perfect, but the world we live in isn't. What are some negative things that happen in our world (actions that hurt others)?
- Through Jesus, God is working in us to make us more holy. How might Jesus be working in you to make you holy?

Read the key verse out loud and, if you choose, work on memorizing it.

**KEY VERSE FOR THIS DISCUSSION**

*Hear from heaven and forgive the sin of your people Israel and bring them back to the land you gave to their ancestors.*

1 KINGS 8:34 (NIV)



## GET GOING

Watch the “Arrow” video at <https://lote.me/MC-topic4-v4> and talk through these questions.

- What do you think this video was about?
- Talk about the symbolism of the story.
- How does the story describe the High King?
- What was the High King’s requirement, and how did the people respond?
- Why didn’t the last archer take the final shot?
- Why did the last archer get to see the King?

### **\*Additional Context for Video**

Only God is perfect (holy). Imperfect (sinful) people can’t have a relationship with a perfect God. In the video, no one could live in the presence of the King unless they passed the test. We have no way to become perfect on our own. In the video, no one could hit the target because it was an impossible shot. Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and defeated death through the Resurrection. In the video, this is shown by the Son hitting the target, perfectly in the middle. Our response is to accept the free gift of salvation by believing in Jesus. By faith, we can take credit for His perfection. In the video, this is shown by the fourth archer refusing to take the shot and asking the Son for mercy.

Work together to create a tower of playing cards or a pyramid of plastic cups on the floor. Find something round (a ball, a rolled-up sock, etc.) and use it to safely hit the target and knock down the tower.

## Parent Prep:

Understanding the Character of God

“What is wisdom? It is the skill to achieve the most perfect ends by the most perfect means.” - A. W. Tozer

- The wisdom of God is infinite, perfect, and complete. There is nothing God doesn't know. It is impossible for Him to be surprised.

*Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor? (Romans 11:33-34 NIV)*

- God is the ultimate source of wisdom. He didn't need to “learn” from anyone or anything.

*Whom did the Lord consult to enlighten him, and who taught him the right way? Who was it that taught him knowledge, or showed him the path of understanding? (Isaiah 40:14 NIV)*

- God has revealed His wisdom in Jesus, His Son. We are made right with God - have a relationship with Him - through faith in Jesus.

*It is because of [God] that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. (1 Corinthians 1:30 NIV)*

**GET TOGETHER**

Gather around the table and have some fun!

High and Low

- Take turns sharing something good (high) and something tough (low) from your day.

**GET TALKING**

Read today's Big Idea, and then use the questions to get everyone talking.

**BIG IDEA** God's perfect knowledge always leads to the best decisions. Wisdom is the application of knowledge to real life.

Choose from these questions to best help your family talk about the wisdom of God.

- What does it mean that God is wise?
- How is human wisdom different from God's wisdom?
- Share about a recent out-of-control situation in your life in which it was difficult to trust in God's wisdom.
- Why can you trust in His wisdom?

Read the key verse out loud and, if you choose, work on memorizing it.

**KEY VERSE FOR THIS DISCUSSION**

*Oh, how great are God's riches and wisdom and knowledge!*

ROMANS 11:33 (NLT)



**GET GOING**

Watch the “Frozen Moment” video at <https://lote.me/MC-topic4-v5> and talk through these questions.

- What good came as a result of the car accident? What happened to the man walking on the sidewalk due to the accident? What would he go on to achieve with his life?
- Do you think the driver ever saw the good that happened?
- In your opinion, was the car accident a good thing or a bad thing? Why?
- Reflecting on this video, how is God’s wisdom different from ours?

As a family, set up a time to interview (either face to face or virtually) a very wise person. For example, this could be a grandparent, a friend, a teacher, or your pastor. Have each family member prepare at least two questions to ask the wise person. Let the interview and fun begin. As a family, share some of the wisdom nuggets that you learned.

## Parent Prep:

### Understanding the Character of God

- God's justice means that people are going to get what they deserve based on God's clear and full understanding of what they did and why they did it.

*Your eyes are open to the ways of all mankind; you reward each person according to their conduct and as their deeds deserve. (Jeremiah 32:19 NIV; see also Colossians 3:25)*

- God's justice is impartial and fair. He cannot be bribed, tricked, or coerced into passing biased judgments.

*The Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes. (Deuteronomy 10:17 NIV)*

- We do not always understand God's justice. Although life is not always fair, we know that He does not treat people unfairly.

*The Almighty is beyond our reach and exalted in power; in his justice and great righteousness, he does not oppress. (Job 37:23 NIV)*

- God longs for everyone to receive mercy and enter His family through faith in Jesus. Therefore, God may delay His justice.

*The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9 NIV)*

 **GET TOGETHER**

Gather around the table and have some fun!

- Play "Fact or Fiction."

In this game, each person takes turns telling two things that are true about themselves and one thing that is not. The other players must then guess what is fact and what is fiction. Younger kids may not quite "get" this game, but often their additions to the conversation can lead to a lot of fun.

 **GET TALKING**

Read today's Big Idea, and then use the questions to get everyone talking.

**BIG IDEA** Life is not always fair, but God is!

**God's justice gives evil what it deserves. Every wrong will be made right. Justice is not a standard God follows. He *is* the standard. The truth is that bad things happen to people who don't deserve it. We can trust God because He will set all things right and His justice will be satisfied.**

Choose from these questions to best help your family talk about the justice of God.

- In your opinion, what does it mean that God is just?
- When you are treated unfairly, how do you feel? What is your natural impulse?
- If you see someone else being treated unfairly, what can you do to help?

Read the key verse out loud and, if you choose, work on memorizing it.

**KEY VERSE FOR THIS DISCUSSION**

*Let the heavens proclaim his justice, for God himself will be the judge.*

PSALM 50:6 (NLT)

**GET GOING**

Watch the “Closed Circuit” video at <https://lote.me/MC-topic4-v6> and talk through these questions.

- What was the point of the video? What did it teach about God?
- Can you relate to Ellie, the girl who was bullied? Have you ever had something happen to you that was totally unfair? What happened? Did it ever get resolved?

Unfairness exists in our world. What is an unfairness that you’ve witnessed? How do you think God feels about it? What is one way you can help this week? Do it.

## Parent Prep:

### Understanding the Character of God

"God's love is His holy disposition toward all that He has created that compels Him to express unconditional affection and selective correction to provide the highest quality of existence, both now and forever, for the object of His love."  
(Chip Ingram, *The Real God*, page 213)

- Holy disposition - Holy means "other" and "set apart." God doesn't love like people love. His love is perfect and infinitely better. God's love is unconditional.

*Great is his love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.*  
(Psalm 117:2 NIV)

- Affection and correction - God is affectionate and gracious when we are good, and He is affectionate and gracious when we are evil.

*God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.* (Romans 5:8 NIV)

- Highest quality of existence - God sent His Son, Jesus, so that we might have eternal life through faith in Him.

*God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.* (John 3:16 NIV)



## GET TOGETHER

Gather around the table and have some fun!

- **Play Pictionary.**

Supplies: scraps of paper or index cards, blank sheets of paper with crayons or a whiteboard with markers and a bowl

Directions:

- Hand out a scrap of paper or index card to each player.
- On each scrap of paper or index card, write down one thing you love and place it in the bowl.
- Take turns picking one paper or card out of the bowl.
- Using paper or a whiteboard, illustrate what is written on your paper while the rest of the players guess what you are drawing.
- Once the illustration is identified, try to guess who suggested it.
- Play until each person gets a turn or as many rounds as the group decides.



## GET TALKING

Read today's Big Idea, and then use the questions to get everyone talking.

**BIG IDEA** God's love will always find us.

God's love for us is perfect. We can't gain more of God's love—He loves us fully; it's not possible for Him to love us more. We can't lose any of His love—He loves us unconditionally, no strings attached.

Jesus is the ultimate expression of God's love. God sent His Son to live a perfect life, die for our sins, and defeat death through the Resurrection, all so that we might be found and have a relationship with God.

Choose from these questions to best help your family talk about God’s love.

- What’s your favorite possession, the thing you love the most?
- What would you do if you lost it?
- How far would you go to get it back?
- God’s love for us is constant, and it’s not based on anything we do—good or bad. How does this concept help with your faith?
- In your opinion, how is God’s love different from human love?

Read the key verse out loud and, if you choose, work on memorizing it.

### KEY VERSE FOR THIS DISCUSSION

*Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life.*

PSALM 23:6 (NLT)

### GET GOING

Watch the “Lost and Found” video at <https://lote.me/MC-topic4-v7> and talk through these questions.

- This video is a beautiful story of a boy searching for his lost toy. What is the point of the story?
- How do you think this story relates to God’s love and what He has done for us?
- The Bible says, “The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost” (Luke 19:10 NIV). How does this verse relate to the story in the video?

Play hide-and-seek with your kids. Before playing, in your own words say, “This is just a silly way to have fun, and it reminds us that no matter what we do in life, God’s love will find us.”

## Parent Prep:

### Understanding the Character of God

- Nothing is faithful like God is faithful. Eventually, everything else will let us down, but God never will.

*Remember that at that time you were separate from Christ . . . without hope and without God in the world. (Ephesians 2:12 NIV)*

- We can put our hope in God because His actions and words are consistent.

*The Lord is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does. (Psalm 145:13 NIV)*

- We can trust God's Word, the Bible, because God is faithful.

*As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. (Isaiah 55:10-11 NIV)*

- We can trust God to be faithful when we face difficult struggles. When we put our hope in Him, He provides a way out.

*No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it. (1 Corinthians 10:13 NIV)*





## GET TOGETHER

Gather around the table and have some fun!

Discuss these “Would You Rather” questions.

*Would you rather . . .*

- have an extra toe or an extra finger?
- be able to fly or be invisible?
- never have to shower again or never have to clip your toenails?
- be a bird or a reptile?
- fly a helicopter or fly a plane?



## GET TALKING

Read today’s Big Idea, and then use the questions to get everyone talking.

**BIG IDEA** God never breaks His promises.

Every relationship is built on trust. You trust the pilot to fly the plane, so you get onboard. You trust the bank to protect your money, so that’s where you deposit your paycheck. The world promises a lot more than it actually delivers.

The truth is that God has been making promises since the beginning of time and has kept every one of them. God is faithful. We can trust in Him because He never breaks His promises.

Choose from these questions to best help your family talk about the faithfulness of God.

- How does it make you feel when a person breaks a promise to you?
- What are some things a person can do to build trust with a friend?
- Why do you think it’s important that God is faithful?
- How has God kept His promises to you?

Read the key verse out loud and, if you choose, work on memorizing it.

**KEY VERSE FOR THIS DISCUSSION**

*The word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does.*

PSALM 33:4 (NIV)

 **GET GOING**

Watch the “Exploding Promises” video at <https://lote.me/MC-topic4-v8> and talk through these questions.

- Would you trust anything Jack Thomas had to say? Why or why not?
- Jack Thomas was not faithful to his promises. What advice would you give people who buy things from him?

Think about someone you trust. Why is this person trustworthy? What have they done to make a difference in your life?

Create a thank-you card. Thank someone for being an important person in your life and tell them why you are thankful for them. Give your card to that person.