

## discussion guide for october 1st

“What You Need to Know About God”

Jeremiah 9:23-24



"Yes, I try to find **common ground** with everyone." 1 Corinthians 9:22b NLT

### ➤ Launch the Discussion (11:00 am)

Use one or two of the following questions to launch the discussion today.

- If you could ask God one question, what would it be?
- Can you describe an image of God from your mind's eye? What do you picture in your imagination?
- If we didn't have access to the Bible, what could we know about God by observing the world around us?
- Ask someone to read Psalm 146:5-6, (p. 789-DSB\*). Since God is “Maker of heaven and earth,” is there a particular place in creation that you find yourself more aware of God's presence?

\*\*“DSB” refers to the “Discovery Study Bibles” on the Table.

### • Guide the Discussion (11:10 am)

Pastor Tom mentioned three statements about God from the first line of the Apostles Creed. "I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth." In other words God is my father, God is my ruler, and God is my maker.

1. Since God is my Maker, I will align with his purpose.
  - Ask someone to read Proverbs 19:21, (p. 819-DSB\*). Discuss how God's purpose is effectively displayed in the life of a believer. What does God do? What do we do? (See Ephesians 5:17 p. 1564-DSB\*)
2. Since God is my Ruler, I will rest in his plan.
  - Read Revelation 1:8, (p. 1664-DSB\*), and 15:3b, (p. 1679). When the tough times come, how can a believer's knowledge of God bring peace?
  - Theologian E. Y. Mullins, said, “*In hours of weakness and sorrow and defeat, [God's] sovereignty is the rock foundation of my hopes. There are so many things which seem to control the world, it is the thought of God's control which saves me from despair.*” How does a believer's sense of hope relate to God as “The Almighty”? (See Romans 8:28, & 37-39 p. 1498-DSB\*)
3. Since God is my Father, I will depend on his provision.
  - What comes to mind when you think of God as Father? How can our earthly father impact our image of God? How can we gain a biblical view?
  - If you know someone with negative memories of a father, how could you help them appreciate the fatherhood of God? (See Matthew 7:9-11, p. 1257-DSB\*)

\*\*“DSB” refers to the “Discovery Study Bibles” on the Table.

C  
O  
m  
m  
O  
n  
g  
r  
O  
u  
n  
d

**Apply the Discussion (11:35 am)**

What image of God do you have hanging in the Art Gallery of your mind? The Apostles Creed summarizes the biblical image as "God the father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth." God is my Maker, Ruler, and Father.

- Because he is your Maker what do you need to do? \_\_\_\_\_
- Because he is your Ruler what do you need to do? \_\_\_\_\_
- Because he is your Father, what do you need to do? \_\_\_\_\_

Your entire life is a laboratory where you practice the truth of these three things.

Prayer Time: (11:45 am)

- Pray for those who share things God is leading them to do in response to this discussion.
- Pray for other shared needs from the group.
- Pray for absentees by name. (*Who will contact them this week and fill them in on group time?*)

Go Deeper: Use the "Going Deeper" section in your personal daily devotionals. It is a great way to strengthen and reinforce what you are learning and applying to your life.

C  
O  
m  
m  
O  
n  
g  
r  
O  
u  
n  
d

➤ **Going Deeper**

Last Sunday you explored God as Father, Almighty, and Creator. These verses and questions will help you solidify your biblical image of God.

Monday, October 2: Read John 14:8-10. (*p. 1418-DSB\**). How can your knowledge of God as father be enhanced by studying the life and actions of Jesus?

Tuesday, October 3: Read Exodus 33:18-23. (*p. 115-DSB\**). What happened when Moses asked to see God's glory? Can you incorporate this biblical image into your picture of God?

Wednesday, October 4: Read Job 38:1-4; 40:6-10; & 42:1-6, (*p. 651; 654; & 656-DSB\**). How was Job's knowledge of God "adjusted"? How does yours need to be improved?

Thursday, October 5: Read Genesis 1:26-27, (*p. 2-DSB\**). What impact do these verses have on you? Are you reflecting the image of God to the world?

Friday, October 6: Read Revelation 4:1-11, (*p. 1667-69-DSB\**). What picture of God did John see in his mind's art gallery?

\*"DSB" refers to the "Discovery Study Bibles" available in common ground.