

# February: GOD'S CHARACTER

## Family Devotional Guide

### WEEK 1: GOD IS OUR CREATOR AND SUSTAINER

#### Week 1 Overview

This week focuses on the foundational truth that God created all things and actively sustains His creation. Each day builds on this theme, helping fathers lead their households to understand that we belong to the God who made us.

#### Week 1 Memory Verse: Colossians 1:16 (ESV)

"For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities, all things were created through him and for him."

#### Week 1 Catechism:

**Q: What is our only hope in life and death?**

A: That we are not our own but belong, body and soul, both in life and death, to God and to our Savior Jesus Christ.

## DAY 1 (MONDAY): IN THE BEGINNING, GOD

**Scripture Reading:** Genesis 1:1-3; John 1:1-3

### Devotional

***"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."***

These are the first words in the Bible, and they establish the most important truth about reality: God was here first. Before there was anything else, there was God. No one made Him. No one gave Him permission to exist. He simply is, eternal and self-sufficient.

Think about what this means. When you look at the mountains, God made them. When you feel the warmth of the sun, God placed it in the sky. When you see your children's faces, God knit them together in the womb. Everything you can see, touch, hear, or imagine exists because God spoke it into being.

The apostle John connects this to Jesus: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made" (John 1:1-3). The same Jesus who walked on earth, who died on the cross, who rose from the grave is the eternal Son who created everything.

This changes how you see your day. That difficult project at work? You're doing it in a world Jesus made. That challenging conversation you need to have? You're having it with a person Jesus created. That problem keeping you up at night? The Creator of the universe knows about it and cares.

You're not navigating life alone in a random universe. You're living in a world purposefully created by a God who knows you, loves you, and has plans for you. Nothing about your existence is an accident.

As you go through today, look around. Every single thing you see exists because God made it. And He made you too, for a purpose beyond what you can imagine.

### Discussion Question

**For All Ages:** What's your favorite thing God created? Why do you think He made it?

**Deeper Question:** How does knowing Jesus created all things change the way you think about Him?

### Prayer Prompt

Thank God for creating the world and creating you. Ask Him to help you see His hand in everything around you today.

### Today's Application

Point out three things to your family today that God created and talk about what they tell you about God's character.

## DAY 2 (TUESDAY): CREATION DECLARES GOD'S GLORY

**Scripture Reading:** Psalm 19:1-6; Romans 1:19-20

### Devotional

***"The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork"*** (Psalm 19:1).

Look up at the night sky. Scientists estimate there are more stars in the universe than grains of sand on all the beaches on Earth. Our sun, which seems massive to us, is actually a medium-sized star. Some stars are so large that if you placed one where our sun is, it would extend past Mars. And God made every single one.

But He didn't just create big things. God also designed the microscopic world with equal care. A single cell in your body contains more complex information than the most advanced computer. Your DNA, if unwound and stretched out, would reach from Earth to the sun and back more than 600 times. And God designed it all.

Paul tells us that creation itself is a testimony to God: "For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made" (Romans 1:20). When you see a sunset, you're seeing God's artistry. When you watch a bird in flight, you're witnessing God's engineering. When you hold a newborn baby, you're marveling at God's craftsmanship.

Creation isn't just proof that God exists. It reveals what kind of God He is. The variety of creation shows His creativity. The beauty shows He cares about more than just function. The complexity shows His intelligence. The order shows His intentionality. The vastness shows His power.

Every part of creation, from the largest galaxy to the smallest atom, is designed to point you to the God who made it. Are you paying attention? Today, let creation do what it was designed to do: declare God's glory to you.

### Discussion Question

**For All Ages:** What's something in nature that makes you think "Wow, God is powerful and creative"?

**Deeper Question:** Paul says creation reveals God's "eternal power and divine nature." What have you learned about God from observing His creation?

### Prayer Prompt

Praise God for His creativity, power, and attention to detail. Thank Him that creation points you to Him.

### Today's Application

Spend 5 minutes outside today. Look carefully at something God made and think about what it reveals about His character. Share it with your family at dinner.

## DAY 3 (WEDNESDAY): MADE IN GOD'S IMAGE

**Scripture Reading:** Genesis 1:26-28; Psalm 139:13-16

### Devotional

***"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them"*** (Genesis 1:27).

Of everything God created, only humans bear His image. The sun displays God's power, but it doesn't reflect His image. The mountains show His majesty, but they don't bear His likeness. Only you.

What does it mean to be made in God's image? It means you have capacities no other creature has. You can think abstractly, create art, make moral choices, love sacrificially, and relate personally to God Himself. These abilities aren't accidents of evolution. They're divine gifts because you're made in God's image.

The psalmist marvels at this: "For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:13-14). God didn't mass-produce humanity. He personally crafted you. He chose your eye color, your personality traits, your natural abilities. He ordained every day of your life before you were born.

This truth has profound implications. When you look at another person, you're looking at an image-bearer of God. This is why murder is so heinous, why gossip is so destructive, why racism is so wicked. Every person you meet, regardless of age, ability, race, or status, bears the image of the Creator.

This is also why your life has inherent value. You're not valuable because of what you accomplish, how much you earn, or what others think of you. You're valuable because God made you in His image. On your worst day, when you feel like a failure, you're still an image-bearer of the Most High God. Live today knowing who you are: God's image-bearer, created with dignity and purpose.

### Discussion Question

**For All Ages:** What does it mean that you're made in God's image? How does that make you special?

**Deeper Question:** How should knowing every person is made in God's image change the way you treat others, especially people who are different from you?

### Prayer Prompt

Thank God for making you in His image. Ask Him to help you see others as His image-bearers and treat them accordingly.

### Today's Application

When you interact with someone today (family, coworker, stranger), remind yourself: "This person is made in God's image." How does that change your interaction?

## DAY 4 (THURSDAY): GOD SUSTAINS ALL THINGS

**Scripture Reading:** Colossians 1:15-17; Hebrews 1:3

### Devotional

Creating the universe was spectacular. But here's what many people miss: God didn't just create and walk away. He actively sustains everything, every moment of every day.

Colossians 1:17 says, "In him all things hold together." Right now, as you read these words, Jesus Christ is holding every atom in your body in place. He's maintaining the laws of physics that allow your brain to process these words. He's sustaining the earth's orbit, the cycle of seasons, the beating of your heart.

Hebrews 1:3 tells us Jesus is "upholds the universe by the word of his power." The same voice that spoke creation into existence continues to speak, holding it all together. If Jesus stopped sustaining creation for even a moment, everything would collapse into nothing.

This is why you can trust Him with your life. The God who keeps planets in their orbits and atoms in their structures is powerful enough to handle your problems. The God who sustains the life of every creature can certainly sustain you through your current trial.

Think about your biggest worry right now. Financial stress? Health concerns? Relationship problems? The God who holds galaxies together can hold your life together. The God who never forgets to make the sun rise won't forget about you.

Jesus doesn't just care about "spiritual" things. He cares about every detail of your life because He's sustaining every detail of creation. There's no area of your life outside His concern or beyond His power.

When you're tempted to worry today, remember who sustains you. When you're tempted to think God doesn't care about your "small" problems, remember He's the one keeping your heart beating and your lungs breathing. Nothing about you is too small for His attention.

### Discussion Question

**For All Ages:** What does it mean that Jesus "holds all things together"? What would happen if He stopped?

**Deeper Question:** How does knowing God actively sustains you every moment change the way you approach your worries and problems?

### Prayer Prompt

Thank God for sustaining your life, your family, and the whole universe. Give Him a specific worry and ask Him to sustain you through it.

### Today's Application

Every time you're tempted to worry today, physically stop and say: "The God who holds the universe together is holding me together too."

## DAY 5 (FRIDAY): YOU BELONG TO GOD

**Scripture Reading:** 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Psalm 100

### Devotional

This week we've learned that God created everything, that creation declares His glory, that you're made in His image, and that He sustains all things. Here's the conclusion: You belong to God.

Paul writes, "You are not your own, for you were bought with a price" (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). God has a double claim on your life. First, He made you. A potter owns the pots he makes. A builder owns the house he builds. The Creator owns His creation. Second, He bought you. When you were enslaved to sin, Jesus paid the price to redeem you with His own blood.

This means your life isn't yours to do with as you please. Every breath is a gift. Every ability is a trust. Every moment is an opportunity to glorify the God who made you and saved you.

Psalm 100 captures the right response: "Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture" (v. 3). Notice the order: First, know who God is (He's the LORD, the Creator). Second, know who you are (you're His, you belong to Him). Then the response flows naturally: worship, thanksgiving, praise.

Belonging to God is the most liberating truth you'll ever embrace. You don't have to create your own meaning. You don't have to justify your existence. You don't have to prove your worth. You belong to the God who made you, knows you completely, loves you deeply, and has a purpose for you.

As you end this week, ask yourself: Am I living like someone who belongs to God? Are my choices, my words, my attitudes reflecting the fact that I'm His? Today, live as what you are: God's beloved possession.

### Discussion Question

**For All Ages:** What does it mean to belong to God? How should that change the way we live?

**Deeper Question:** In what areas of your life are you living like you belong to yourself instead of to God? What needs to change?

### Prayer Prompt

Thank God that you belong to Him both by creation and redemption. Surrender a specific area of your life to Him, acknowledging His ownership.

### Today's Application

Complete this sentence and share it with your family: "Because I belong to God, I will \_\_\_\_\_ today."

# WEEK 1 REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Gather your household for these questions at week's end:

1. What did you learn about God as Creator this week?
2. How did this week's devotionals change the way you see the world around you?
3. What's one way you'll live differently this week because you know you belong to God?
4. Can everyone recite our memory verse together?

## HYMN FOR WEEK 1

**"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" or "How Great Thou Art"**

Take time this weekend to read or sing this hymn as a family. Discuss how the words connect to what you learned this week about God as Creator and Sustainer.

## LOOKING AHEAD TO WEEK 2

Next week we'll explore God's holiness, justice, and faithfulness. These attributes might seem stern at first, but they're actually the foundation of why we can trust God completely. Get ready to see how God's perfect character is actually the best news possible for sinners like us.

## WEEK 2: GOD IS HOLY, JUST, AND FAITHFUL

### Week 2 Overview

This week focuses on God's perfect character attributes that both humble us and give us hope. God's holiness shows us our need for a Savior. God's justice assures us that every wrong will be made right. God's faithfulness guarantees that His promises will never fail. These truths are the foundation of our security in Christ.

### Week 2 Memory Verse: 1 John 1:5 (ESV)

"This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all."

### Week 2 Catechism:

**Q: How do we know God?**

A: God fully reveals himself to us in the Bible, which is given to us by the Holy Spirit.

## DAY 1 (MONDAY): THE HOLINESS OF GOD

**Scripture Reading:** Isaiah 6:1-7; Leviticus 19:2

### Devotional

When the prophet Isaiah saw the Lord seated on His throne, surrounded by angels, he heard them crying out: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!" (Isaiah 6:3). They didn't say "loving, loving, loving" or "merciful, merciful, merciful," though God certainly is those things. They proclaimed His holiness three times because it's the foundation of everything else about God.

What does it mean that God is holy? It means He is completely set apart, utterly different from His creation. He is perfect in every way. He has never had a wrong thought, never spoken a careless word, never acted with mixed motives. There is no darkness in Him at all. No shadow. No flaw. No sin.

Isaiah's response to seeing God's holiness is instructive: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!" (Isaiah 6:5). When confronted with God's holiness, Isaiah immediately became aware of his own sinfulness.

This is what God's holiness does. It exposes our sin. Standing next to perfect purity, our stains become obvious. Next to perfect righteousness, our compromises become clear. Next to absolute holiness, our best efforts look like filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6).

But here's the beautiful part: God didn't leave Isaiah in his guilt. An angel touched his lips with a coal from the altar and said, "Your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for" (Isaiah 6:7). The holy God who exposes our sin is also the gracious God who provides atonement for it.

God's holiness should drive you to your knees. But it should also drive you to the cross, where the holy God dealt with your sin once and for all.

### Discussion Question

**For All Ages:** What does it mean that God is holy? Why did Isaiah say "Woe is me!" when he saw God?

**Deeper Question:** How does God's holiness both convict you of sin and give you hope in the gospel?

### Prayer Prompt

Confess specific sins to God, acknowledging His perfect holiness. Thank Him that Jesus's sacrifice has made you clean in His sight.

### Today's Application

When you're tempted to minimize sin today ("it's not that bad" or "everyone does it"), remember God's holiness. Let it drive you to repentance and to the cross.

## DAY 2 (TUESDAY): THE JUSTICE OF GOD

**Scripture Reading:** Deuteronomy 32:3-4; Romans 2:5-11

### Devotional

***"The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he"*** (Deuteronomy 32:4).

God's justice means He always does what is right. He never makes mistakes. He never overlooks evil. He never plays favorites. He never grades on a curve. Romans 2:11 says plainly: "God shows no partiality."

This should terrify us. Every lie you've told, every hateful thought you've harbored, every commandment you've broken has been seen by the perfectly just Judge of the universe. And unlike human judges who can be bribed or deceived, God knows everything. "Nothing is hidden from him, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account" (Hebrews 4:13).

God's justice demands that sin be punished. A good judge doesn't let criminals go free. If an earthly judge said, "Yes, you committed murder, but I'm just going to overlook it because I'm loving," we'd be outraged. That's not love; that's injustice. A truly good judge must punish wrongdoing.

And here's the problem: we're all guilty. "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). If God is truly just, and we are truly sinful, we're all in serious trouble.

But this is where the gospel shines brightest. God's justice wasn't ignored; it was satisfied. At the cross, Jesus took the punishment we deserved. God's justice was upheld, and His mercy was displayed. As Romans 3:26 says, God is "just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus."

God's justice isn't bad news for those who trust in Christ. It's the best news imaginable because it means our sin has truly been dealt with. The just Judge has declared us righteous through faith in His Son.

### Discussion Question

**For All Ages:** Why can't God just ignore sin and let everyone into heaven without punishment?

**Deeper Question:** How does God's justice being satisfied at the cross give you confidence before God today?

### Prayer Prompt

Thank God that His justice was satisfied through Jesus's death on the cross. Praise Him that you stand righteous before Him because of Christ.

### Today's Application

When you're tempted to complain that life isn't fair, remember God's perfect justice. Thank Him that, in Christ, you don't get what you deserve but what Christ deserves.

## DAY 3 (WEDNESDAY): THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD

**Scripture Reading:** Lamentations 3:21-26; 2 Timothy 2:11-13

### Devotional

***"The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness"*** (Lamentations 3:22-23).

Jeremiah wrote these words while sitting in the ruins of Jerusalem. The city had been destroyed. The temple was burned. The people were in exile. Everything seemed lost. Yet Jeremiah declared God's faithfulness.

What does it mean that God is faithful? It means He always keeps His promises. Every single one. He never changes His mind. He never fails to follow through. He never forgets what He said. "God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?" (Numbers 23:19).

Think about the promises God has made to you in Christ:

- He will never leave you or forsake you (Hebrews 13:5)
- He will work all things for your good (Romans 8:28)
- He will complete the good work He started in you (Philippians 1:6)
- He will supply all your needs (Philippians 4:19)
- He will give you eternal life (John 10:28)

Every one of these promises is guaranteed by God's faithfulness. Not by your performance. Not by your strength. Not by your worthiness. But by His unchanging character. Even when you're unfaithful, God remains faithful. "If we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot deny himself" (2 Timothy 2:13). Your salvation doesn't depend on your ability to hold onto God, but on God's faithfulness to hold onto you.

Today you might face uncertainty. You might doubt yourself. But you never have to doubt God. His faithfulness is as certain as His existence. What He has promised, He will do.

### Discussion Question

**For All Ages:** What does it mean that God is faithful? What are some promises God has made to us?

**Deeper Question:** Which of God's promises do you need to trust today? How does God's faithfulness help you in your current circumstances?

### Prayer Prompt

Thank God for specific promises He's made to you in Scripture. Ask Him to help you trust His faithfulness when you face doubts or difficulties.

### Today's Application

Write down one promise from God's Word that speaks to a current struggle. Post it somewhere you'll see it throughout the day and thank God for His faithfulness to keep it.

## DAY 4 (THURSDAY): FEARING THE LORD

**Scripture Reading:** Proverbs 1:7; Proverbs 9:10; Psalm 111:10

### Devotional

***"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction"***  
(Proverbs 1:7).

The Bible repeatedly tells us to fear God. But what does that mean? Should we be terrified of God?

The fear of the Lord isn't cowering terror. It's reverent awe. It's recognizing who God is, holy, just, faithful, all-powerful, all-knowing, and responding with appropriate humility and worship. It's understanding that the same God who loves you enough to die for you is also the God who created the universe with a word and will one day judge every person who has ever lived.

Think about standing at the edge of the Grand Canyon. You're filled with awe at its majesty, but you also respect its danger. You don't get careless near the edge. That's a picture of the fear of the Lord. You marvel at His greatness while also understanding the seriousness of approaching Him.

The fear of the Lord is the foundation of wisdom because it puts everything else in perspective. When you fear God rightly, you stop fearing everything else wrongly. You don't fear man's opinion because you know God's opinion matters more. You don't fear failure because you know God's faithfulness. You don't fear death because you know God's power.

Proverbs 9:10 says, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight." True wisdom starts with knowing God as He really is and responding appropriately. It means taking His Word seriously. It means treating sin as seriously as He does. It means trusting His promises completely.

The fear of the Lord isn't the opposite of love. It's the proper response to who God is. And it changes everything about how you live.

### Discussion Question

**For All Ages:** What does it mean to "fear the Lord"? Is it the same as being scared of God?

**Deeper Question:** How does fearing God properly free you from fearing other things wrongly?

### Prayer Prompt

Ask God to give you a proper fear of Him, reverent awe that leads to wisdom. Pray that you would take His Word and His holiness seriously.

### Today's Application

Before making decisions today, ask: "Does this choice reflect proper fear of the Lord?" Let reverence for God guide your choices.

## DAY 5 (FRIDAY): RESPONDING TO GOD'S CHARACTER

**Scripture Reading:** Exodus 34:5-9; Micah 6:8

### Devotional

When Moses asked to see God's glory, God revealed His character: "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty" (Exodus 34:6-7).

Notice how God describes Himself. He's merciful and gracious. He's slow to anger. He abounds in steadfast love and faithfulness. He forgives sin. But He's also just...He won't clear the guilty. All of God's attributes work together perfectly. His holiness, justice, and faithfulness aren't in conflict with His love and mercy. They work together in perfect harmony, especially at the cross.

This week we've learned that God is holy, exposing our sin. He's just, requiring that sin be punished. He's faithful, keeping all His promises. What's the proper response to such a God?

Moses fell to the ground and worshiped (Exodus 34:8). That's always the right response to seeing God clearly. Worship flows from understanding who God really is.

But worship isn't just Sunday morning singing. Micah 6:8 tells us what God requires: "To do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God." When you truly grasp God's holiness, you pursue holiness. When you understand God's justice, you practice justice. When you experience God's kindness, you show kindness. When you know God's faithfulness, you become faithful.

Your life is meant to reflect God's character. Not perfectly because you will fail daily. But progressively, as the Holy Spirit works in you, you become more like the God you worship.

As you end this week, ask: Does my life reflect the character of the God I claim to serve? Let your growing understanding of who God is transform how you live.

### Discussion Question

**For All Ages:** What have you learned about God this week? How should that change the way you live?

**Deeper Question:** Which of God's attributes (holy, just, faithful) do you need to reflect better in your daily life? What specific action will you take?

### Prayer Prompt

Thank God for revealing His character to you. Ask Him to transform you to become more like Him in holiness, justice, and faithfulness.

### Today's Application

Complete this sentence and share it with your family: "Because God is holy, just, and faithful, I will \_\_\_\_\_ today."

## WEEK 2 REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Gather your household for these questions at week's end:

1. What did you learn about God's holiness this week? Why is it important?
2. How does God's justice both convict you and comfort you?
3. What promise from God do you need to trust more fully because of His faithfulness?
4. How should what we learned this week change the way we worship God?
5. Can everyone recite our memory verse together?

## HYMN FOR WEEK 2

**"Holy, Holy, Holy" or "O Worship the King"**

Take time this weekend to read or sing this hymn as a family. Notice how the words celebrate God's holiness and perfection. Discuss how these truths should lead us to worship.

## LOOKING AHEAD TO WEEK 3

Next week, we'll explore how to live in light of who God is. Knowing facts about God isn't enough; those truths should transform how we pray, work, worship, and face struggles. Get ready to make this personal and practical as we learn to live coram Deo, before the face of God.

## WEEK 3: LIVING IN LIGHT OF WHO GOD IS

### Week 3 Overview

This week transitions from knowing about God to living for God. Knowing facts about God's character isn't enough, that knowledge should transform how we pray, work, think, struggle, and worship. Each day focuses on a different area of life that changes when we truly understand who God is.

### Week 3 Memory Verse: Psalm 119:11 (ESV)

"I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you."

### Week 3 Catechism:

**Q: What do the Scriptures principally teach?**

A: What man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man.

## DAY 1 (MONDAY): PRAYER THAT REFLECTS GOD'S CHARACTER

**Scripture Reading:** Matthew 6:9-13; Philippians 4:6-7

### Devotional

When Jesus taught His disciples to pray, He started with "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name" (Matthew 6:9). Notice the order: before asking for anything, we acknowledge who God is. Before presenting our needs, we worship His character. This sets the foundation for everything that follows. How does knowing God's character change your prayers?

Because God is your Creator, you approach Him with reverence, not casual presumption. He's not your buddy or your personal assistant. He's the Almighty God who spoke worlds into existence.

Because God is holy, you approach Him honestly about your sin. You don't have to pretend or hide. The holy God already knows everything about you, and through Christ, He's made you clean.

Because God is just, you can pray for justice and trust He will ultimately make all things right. You don't have to take revenge or harbor bitterness. God will deal with every wrong.

Because God is faithful, you can pour out your heart without fear. Every promise He's made, He will keep. When He says to cast your anxieties on Him, you can trust He'll carry them (1 Peter 5:7).

Because God is all-knowing, you can pray specifically. He already knows what you need before you ask (Matthew 6:8), but He invites you to ask anyway. Prayer isn't informing God of something He doesn't know; it's aligning your heart with His will.

Because God is all-powerful, nothing you pray about is too difficult for Him. The God who made everything can handle anything you bring to Him.

Your prayers reveal what you really believe about God. Anxious prayers suggest you doubt His power or faithfulness. Vague prayers suggest you question whether He cares about details. Prayerless days suggest you don't think you need Him. Let your growing knowledge of God's character deepen and transform your prayer life.

### Discussion Question

**For All Ages:** How should knowing God created everything change the way we pray?

**Deeper Question:** What does your prayer life reveal about what you truly believe about God's character? What needs to change?

### Prayer Prompt

Thank God for who He is before you ask Him for anything today. Specifically praise His holiness, justice, and faithfulness, then bring your requests.

### Today's Application

Before praying about a concern today, name one attribute of God that gives you confidence He can and will handle it.

## DAY 2 (TUESDAY): WORK AS WORSHIP

**Scripture Reading:** Colossians 3:23-24; 1 Corinthians 10:31

### Devotional

"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ" (Colossians 3:23-24).

Most of your life isn't spent in church or Bible study. It's spent working, whether that's algebra homework, spreadsheets, cooking meals, fixing cars, or changing diapers. How does knowing God's character transform ordinary work into worship?

Because God is your Creator, all legitimate work has dignity. God Himself worked for six days creating the world. When you work, you reflect His image. There's no such thing as "secular" work for the Christian. Fixing a leaky faucet can glorify God just as much as preaching a sermon if it's done for His glory.

Because God is holy, your work should be done with integrity. No cutting corners. No lying to get ahead. No shoddy craftsmanship. "The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, while the soul of the diligent is richly supplied" (Proverbs 13:4). Holy work reflects a holy God.

Because God is just, you can work honestly even when others cheat. You don't have to compromise your integrity to succeed. God sees your faithfulness and will reward it, if not in this life, then in the next.

Because God sustains all things, even your ability to work is a gift from Him. Every breath, every heartbeat, every thought comes from Him. This should produce humility and gratitude.

First Corinthians 10:31 says, "Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." That includes the mundane. The tedious. The difficult. The work no one sees. Today, as you tackle your tasks, remember: you're not just working for a grade, a paycheck, or approval. You're working for the God who made you, saved you, and sustains you.

### Discussion Question

**For All Ages:** How can ordinary work (like homework or chores) be worship to God?

**Deeper Question:** What would change about your work ethic if you truly believed you were working for God and not just for people?

### Prayer Prompt

Thank God for the ability to work. Ask Him to help you see your tasks today as opportunities to glorify Him through excellence and integrity.

### Today's Application

Before starting a task today, say: "God, I'm doing this for You." At the end of the day, ask: "Did my work today reflect God's character?"

## DAY 3 (WEDNESDAY): THINKING GOD'S THOUGHTS

**Scripture Reading:** Philippians 4:8; Romans 12:2

### Devotional

***"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect"***  
(Romans 12:2).

Your thoughts matter to God. What you dwell on, fantasize about, and meditate on shapes who you're becoming. The mind is the battlefield where spiritual transformation happens.

Because God is holy, your thought life should be pure. Jesus said, "Everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart" (Matthew 5:28). Sin starts in the mind before it becomes action. Guarding your thoughts is guarding your soul.

Because God is truth, your thinking should be grounded in reality, not fantasy, gossip, or lies. Satan is the father of lies (John 8:44). When you believe what contradicts God's Word, you're believing the enemy.

Because God knows all things, you can't hide your thoughts from Him. "The LORD knows the thoughts of man" (Psalm 94:11). This should both humble you and motivate you. You can't fool God with outward religious actions while harboring sinful thoughts. Philippians 4:8 gives the standard: "Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."

Practically, this means controlling what you consume. What shows do you watch? What websites do you visit? What conversations do you engage in? What music do you listen to? All of these shape your thought patterns. It also means actively replacing ungodly thoughts with truth. When temptation comes, quote Scripture. When worry intrudes, recall God's promises. When bitterness grows, remember God's forgiveness toward you.

### Discussion Question

**For All Ages:** Why does what we think about matter to God? Can we sin in our thoughts even if we don't act on them?

**Deeper Question:** What are you allowing into your mind (media, conversations, entertainment) that doesn't align with Philippians 4:8? What needs to change?

### Prayer Prompt

Confess sinful thought patterns to God. Ask Him to help you "take every thought captive to obey Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:5).

### Today's Application

When a sinful or anxious thought comes today, immediately counter it with a truth from Scripture. Write down what worked.

## DAY 4 (THURSDAY): SUFFERING WITH HOPE

**Scripture Reading:** Romans 8:28; James 1:2-4

### Devotional

***"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).***

Suffering is inevitable. Jesus promised, "In the world you will have tribulation" (John 16:33). But knowing God's character transforms how we face trials.

Because God is sovereign, nothing happens by accident. Your suffering isn't random. It's not pointless. God hasn't lost control. Joseph told his brothers who sold him into slavery, "You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good" (Genesis 50:20). God can take the worst circumstances and use them for His purposes.

Because God is good, you can trust that His purposes are for your benefit, even when you can't see how. Romans 8:28 doesn't promise that everything that happens is good. Cancer isn't good. Betrayal isn't good. Loss isn't good. But God works all things together for good for those who love Him.

Because God is faithful, His promise to complete His work in you stands firm (Philippians 1:6). Suffering isn't wasted in God's economy. James 1:2-4 says, "Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."

Because God is compassionate, He doesn't stand at a distance from your pain. Jesus wept at Lazarus's tomb (John 11:35). He knows suffering firsthand. He was "a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief" (Isaiah 53:3). The God who sustains you through trials is the God who endured the cross.

You may not understand why God allows what He allows. But you can trust who He is even when you can't trace what He's doing.

### Discussion Question

**For All Ages:** How does knowing God is in control help when bad things happen?

**Deeper Question:** What current trial are you facing? How does God's character (sovereign, good, faithful, compassionate) help you endure it?

### Prayer Prompt

Bring your current struggle to God. Thank Him that He's working even when you can't see how. Ask for faith to trust His character.

### Today's Application

When difficulty comes today, say: "God is sovereign, good, and faithful. I will trust Him even when I don't understand."

## DAY 5 (FRIDAY): WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

**Scripture Reading:** John 4:23-24; Psalm 95:1-7

### Devotional

Jesus said, "The hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth" (John 4:23-24).

Worship isn't just singing on Sunday morning. It's your whole life lived in response to who God is. Everything we've covered this week, prayer, work, thinking, suffering, all of it is worship when done for God's glory.

What does it mean to worship "in spirit and truth"?

Worshipping in truth means your worship is grounded in accurate knowledge of God. You can't worship God rightly if you don't know Him rightly. This is why we've spent three weeks learning about God's character. True worship flows from true theology.

Worshipping in spirit means your worship comes from your heart, not just external motions. God isn't impressed with religious routines if your heart isn't engaged. The Pharisees had worship rituals down to a science, but Jesus said they honored God with their lips while their hearts were far from Him (Matthew 15:8).

God deserves worship because of who He is. He created you. He sustains you. He's holy, just, and faithful. He saved you when you were His enemy. He's working all things for your good. He will never leave you or forsake you.

The proper response to such a God is whole-life worship. Not compartmentalized Sunday religion, but Monday-through-Saturday devotion. Every moment is an opportunity to glorify the God who made you for His glory. As you end this week, ask yourself: Is my life an act of worship? Do my prayers, my work, my thoughts, my response to trials all point to the God I claim to serve?

### Discussion Question

**For All Ages:** What does it mean to worship God "in spirit and truth"? Is worship just singing?

**Deeper Question:** What would change in your daily life if you truly saw every moment as an opportunity for worship?

### Prayer Prompt

Thank God for who He is and what He's done. Commit your whole life, not just Sundays, to worshipping Him in spirit and truth.

### Today's Application

Complete this sentence and share it with your family: "Because of who God is, I will worship Him today by \_\_\_\_\_."

## WEEK 3 REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Gather your household for these questions at week's end:

1. How has learning about God's character changed your prayer life?
2. What does it mean to work "as for the Lord"? How can you apply this next week?
3. What thoughts or thought patterns do you need to change based on Philippians 4:8?
4. How does God's character help you face suffering differently?
5. Is your life marked by whole-life worship? What needs to change?
6. Can everyone recite our memory verse together?

## HYMN FOR WEEK 3

**"Take My Life and Let It Be" or "Trust and Obey"**

Take time this weekend to read or sing this hymn as a family. These hymns are about consecration, giving every part of life to God. Discuss how the words reflect what you learned this week about living in light of who God is.

## LOOKING AHEAD TO WEEK 4

Next week we'll explore how knowing God's character transforms our relationships. Because God first loved us, we love others. Because He showed mercy, we show mercy. Because He pursued us, we pursue the lost. Get ready to see how vertical theology produces horizontal love.

## WEEK 4: LOVING OTHERS BECAUSE GOD FIRST LOVED US

### Week 4 Overview

This week brings everything full circle. The vertical realities we've learned about God's character must produce horizontal love toward others. We cannot truly love God without loving others, and we cannot truly love others apart from first being loved by God. This week explores how God's character toward us shapes our character toward others.

### Week 4 Memory Verse: 1 John 4:11 (ESV)

"Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."

### Week 4 Catechism:

**Q: How and why did God create us?**

A: God created us male and female in his own image to know him, love him, live with him, and glorify him. And it is right that we who were created by God should live to his glory.

## DAY 1 (MONDAY): THE FOUNDATION OF LOVE

**Scripture Reading:** 1 John 4:7-12, 19-21; Romans 5:6-8

### Devotional

**"We love because he first loved us"** (1 John 4:19).

Every command to love others is built on this foundation: God loved you first. Not because you were lovable, but because He is loving. Romans 5:8 says, "God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." You weren't God's friend when He saved you. You were His enemy (Romans 5:10). Yet He loved you anyway.

Think about what God's love cost Him. The holy God who cannot tolerate sin welcomed you despite your sin. The just God who must punish wrongdoing took your punishment on Himself. The eternal Son of God left heaven's glory, took on human flesh, lived a perfect life you couldn't live, and died the death you deserved. That's love.

First John 4:10-11 makes the connection explicit: "In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."

Notice the logic: God loved you when you were unlovable. Therefore, you should love others even when they're difficult to love. God showed patience with you when you were rebellious. Therefore, you should show patience with others. God forgave you an infinite debt. Therefore, you should forgive others' comparatively small offenses against you.

This is why Jesus said the second commandment is "like" the first (Matthew 22:39). You cannot separate loving God from loving others. First John 4:20 is stark: "If anyone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen." Your love for others is the proof and overflow of God's love for you.

### Discussion Question

**For All Ages:** How did God love us first? Why does that mean we should love others?

**Deeper Question:** Who in your life is hard to love? How has God loved you in ways you didn't deserve? How should that change how you treat them?

### Prayer Prompt

Thank God for loving you when you were unlovable. Ask Him to help you extend that same love to someone specific who is difficult to love.

### Today's Application

Identify one person who is difficult to love. Before interacting with them today, remember: "God loved me when I was His enemy. I can love this person."

## DAY 2 (TUESDAY): PATIENCE AND KINDNESS

**Scripture Reading:** 1 Corinthians 13:4-7; Ephesians 4:32

### Devotional

***"Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude" (1 Cor.13:4-5).***

Patience and kindness aren't popular virtues in our culture. We value efficiency, results, and getting what we deserve. But God's character calls us to something different.

How patient has God been with you? How many times have you promised to change and failed? How many times have you confessed the same sin? How many times have you doubted, complained, or wandered? Yet God remains patient. Second Peter 3:9 says He is "patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance."

If the holy, perfect God can be patient with your repeated failures, surely you can be patient with others' imperfections. That slow coworker. That child who makes the same mistake repeatedly. That spouse who hasn't changed as quickly as you'd like. Patience is remembering that God isn't finished with them yet, just as He isn't finished with you.

And kindness? How kind has God been to you? Romans 2:4 asks, "Do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience?" God's kindness toward you is meant to lead you to repentance. In the same way, your kindness toward others might be the thing that opens their hearts to the gospel.

Ephesians 4:32 ties it together: "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you." Notice the standard: "as God in Christ forgave you." Not a little bit. Not grudgingly. Not with conditions. God forgave you completely, freely, and permanently. That's the measure of how you should forgive others.

Today you'll have opportunities to show patience and kindness. Each one is a chance to reflect the God who has been patient and kind with you.

### Discussion Question

**For All Ages:** How has God been patient with you? How should that change how you treat others who frustrate you?

**Deeper Question:** Who needs your patience or kindness today? What specific action will you take to show it?

### Prayer Prompt

Thank God for His patience and kindness toward you. Ask Him to help you extend the same patience and kindness to others, especially those who test you.

### Today's Application

When someone frustrates you today, pause and ask: "How has God been patient with me?" Then choose to respond with patience instead of irritation.

## DAY 3 (WEDNESDAY): FORGIVENESS AS YOU'VE BEEN FORGIVEN

**Scripture Reading:** Matthew 18:21-35; Colossians 3:12-14

### Devotional

Peter asked Jesus, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus answered, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times" (Matthew 18:21-22). Then He told a parable that should shake us.

A servant owed his king an impossible debt, ten thousand talents, roughly 200,000 years' wages. He couldn't possibly repay it. He begged for mercy, and the king forgave the entire debt. But then that same servant found someone who owed him a hundred denarii, about a hundred days' wages. He grabbed him by the throat and demanded payment. When the man couldn't pay, the servant had him thrown in prison.

The king, hearing this, was furious: "You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?" (Matthew 18:32-33).

The point is devastating: your sin against God is the ten-thousand-talent debt. The sins others commit against you are the hundred-denarii debts. They're real. They hurt. But they're nothing compared to what God has forgiven you.

That person who betrayed you? Painful, but God forgave your betrayal of Him. That family member who wounded you? Real pain, but God forgave you for wounding Him with your sin. That offense you can't let go? It's a hundred denarii compared to the ten thousand talents God forgave you.

Colossians 3:13 says, "Forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive." Not if you feel like it. Not when they deserve it. Not after they've apologized enough. You must forgive because you've been forgiven.

Unforgiveness in a Christian is spiritual amnesia, forgetting the massive debt God cancelled for you.

### Discussion Question

**For All Ages:** In Jesus's parable, which debt was bigger, the servant's debt to the king, or the other servant's debt to him? What does that teach us?

**Deeper Question:** Who do you need to forgive? What makes it hard? How does remembering God's forgiveness of you help?

### Prayer Prompt

Confess any unforgiveness or bitterness you're holding. Thank God for forgiving your massive debt. Ask Him to help you forgive others as He forgave you.

### Today's Application

If you're holding a grudge, take a specific step toward forgiveness today. Write a note, make a call, or simply release the bitterness in prayer.

## DAY 4 (THURSDAY): PURSUING THE LOST

**Scripture Reading:** Luke 15:1-7; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21

### Devotional

Jesus told a parable: "***What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it?***" (Luke 15:4).

Think about what God did to pursue you. You weren't seeking Him; you were running from Him. You weren't calling out for rescue; you were content in your sin. But God pursued you anyway. He left the glory of heaven, took on flesh, lived a perfect life, and died a brutal death to bring you home. That's pursuit.

Second Corinthians 5:18-20 says God "gave us the ministry of reconciliation... Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God." God pursued you so that you could join Him in pursuing others. Your salvation isn't just about you. It's about God using you to reach others who are still lost.

Who in your life doesn't know Jesus? Family members? Coworkers? Neighbors? Classmates? The same God who pursued you is calling you to pursue them. Not obnoxiously. Not without wisdom. But intentionally and lovingly. This might mean having difficult conversations. It might mean inviting someone to church who might say no. It might mean living so differently that people ask questions. It might mean serving someone sacrificially so they see Jesus in you.

God didn't wait for you to clean yourself up before He pursued you. He came to you in your mess. You don't have to wait for perfect conditions or eloquent words. You just have to care enough about others' eternities to point them to the Savior who pursued you.

The Good Shepherd left the ninety-nine to find the one. Will you?

### Discussion Question

**For All Ages:** How did God pursue us? Who in our lives needs to hear about Jesus?

**Deeper Question:** What's stopping you from sharing the gospel with someone you know? How does remembering how God pursued you motivate you to pursue others?

### Prayer Prompt

Thank God for pursuing you when you were lost. Ask Him to give you boldness and wisdom to share the gospel with someone specific.

### Today's Application

Pray by name for one person who doesn't know Jesus. Ask God for an opportunity to share the gospel with them, and be ready when He provides it.

## DAY 5 (FRIDAY): LIVING AS IMAGE-BEARERS

**Scripture Reading:** Genesis 1:26-27; Matthew 5:14-16; Ephesians 5:1-2

### Devotional

***"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us" (Ephesians 5:1-2).***

We began this month learning that you're made in God's image. We end by understanding what that means practically: you're called to reflect God's character to a watching world.

Jesus said, "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden... Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 5:14, 16). Every interaction you have is an opportunity to display God's character. When you show patience, you're displaying God's patience. When you extend kindness, you're reflecting God's kindness. When you forgive freely, you're demonstrating God's forgiveness. When you pursue the lost, you're imitating the Good Shepherd.

This month you've learned about God's character: He is Creator and Sustainer. He is holy, just, and faithful. He is worthy of worship. He is love. Now the question is: does your life reflect these truths?

Your family sees you when you're tired and frustrated. Do they see God's patience? Your coworkers watch how you respond to unfair treatment. Do they see God's justice and mercy? Your neighbors observe how you live. Do they see someone who worships the living God?

You won't do this perfectly. You'll fail daily. But God isn't finished with you. He's conforming you to the image of His Son (Romans 8:29). Every day, by His Spirit, you're being transformed to look more like Jesus.

As this month ends, commit to living as what you are: an image-bearer of the Most High God, called to display His character to a world that desperately needs to see Him.

### Discussion Question

**For All Ages:** What does it mean to be an "imitator of God"? How can we show people what God is like?

**Deeper Question:** If someone watched your life this week, what would they learn about God's character? What needs to change?

### Prayer Prompt

Ask God to help you reflect His character more clearly. Pray for specific relationships where you need to be a better image-bearer of God.

### Today's Application

Complete this sentence and share it with your family: "This week, I will reflect God's character by \_\_\_\_\_."

## WEEK 4 REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Gather your household for these questions at week's end:

1. How does God's love for us change how we should love others?
2. Who in your life needs your patience, kindness, or forgiveness?
3. Who do you know that needs to hear about Jesus? What's your plan to share with them?
4. What does it mean to be an image-bearer of God? How should that affect daily life?
5. Looking back at this whole month on God's character, what's the most important thing you learned?
6. Can everyone recite our memory verse together?

## HYMN FOR WEEK 4

**"O Love That Will Not Let Me Go" or "The Love of God"**

Take time this weekend to read or sing this hymn as a family. These hymns celebrate God's unfailing love for us. Discuss how experiencing God's love should overflow into love for others.

## MONTHLY REVIEW: JANUARY

Take time this weekend to review the entire month:

**Week 1:** God is our Creator and Sustainer - we belong to Him **Week 2:** God is holy, just, and faithful - we can trust Him completely

**Week 3:** Living in light of who God is - our knowledge should transform our lives **Week 4:** Loving others because God first loved us - vertical theology produces horizontal love

**Monthly Memory Passage:** Can your family recite Exodus 34:6-7a together?

**Application:** Choose one truth about God's character from this month. How will you live differently in February because of what you learned?

## LOOKING AHEAD TO FEBRUARY

Next month we'll explore Scripture's authority. God has not left us to guess about Him; He's revealed Himself in His Word. We'll learn why the Bible is trustworthy, how to read it, why it matters, and how it transforms us. Get ready to grow in your love for God's Word.

# NOTES FOR HEAD OF THE HOUSE ON MONTH 1

Congratulations on completing the first month! Here are some encouragements:

**If it was hard:** That's normal. Building new habits takes time. Don't quit. Consistency matters more than perfection.

**If you missed days:** Don't let guilt paralyze you. Start again tomorrow. God's mercies are new every morning.

**If your kids were distracted:** Keep going. You're planting seeds that will grow over time, even when you can't see immediate results.

**If you learned something:** Share it. Tell your wife, your accountability partner, or your pastor what God taught you.

**If this was encouraging:** Thank God for His faithfulness and keep going into February.

Remember: You're not the Savior of your household. Point them to Jesus, trust the Holy Spirit to work, and be faithful in your imperfect efforts.