

Concept of God

1. Discover Your Functional View of God

Describe how you FEEL about God? How do you view God on a FEELING level? Quickly, on each line, check ONE statement that FEELS most true. If you are unsure, leave it blank. Then go back and number each statement with a number from 1 (rarely) to 5 (usually).

1. ___ God is distant.	___ God is close.	Psa 139
2. ___ God is hard to talk to.	___ God is easy to talk to.	Heb 4:16/Jer 33:3
3. ___ God is hard, cold, and far away.	___ God is gentle and warm.	Isa 40:11
4. ___ God is easily angered.	___ God is patient and kind toward me.	Rom 2:4
5. ___ God has no hope in me.	___ God has hope in me.	Col 3:4/2 Cor 3:5
6. ___ God doesn't listen or understand me.	___ God listens and understands me.	Psa 40:1/Heb 4:15
7. ___ God's concerned mostly with my behavior.	___ God is interested in me as a person.	Isa 45:3-4
8. ___ God is disappointed with me.	___ God is pleased and delighted with me.	Zeph 3:17/Ps18:19
9. ___ I am unimportant to God.	___ I am special and important to God.	Isa 49:16/Ps 18:19
10. ___ God doesn't care how I feel.	___ God cares a lot about my feelings.	John 11:35
11. ___ God sees my faults and tears me down.	___ God builds me up and encourages me.	Psa 103:2-5
12. ___ I feel abandoned when I need help.	___ God is there when I need help.	Psa 139/Psa 46:1
13. ___ I can't depend on God.	___ I can depend on God .	2 Tim 2:13
14. ___ God reminds me of sins.	___ God doesn't remind me of my sins.	Jer 31:34
15. ___ God gets angry with me when I fail.	___ God allows me to learn from mistakes.	2 Cor 12:8-10
16. ___ God is angry when correcting me.	___ I feel loved when disciplined.	Heb 12:7,9
17. ___ I think I can lose my salvation.	___ I am God's forever, no matter what.	2 Cor 1:21-22

Quickly, draw a simple picture of God. Include yourself in the picture.

Using the last page of this handout, look up the Scriptural truth for each item you marked on the left-hand side.

Then write the lie(s) and the truth in the space provided on the lines provided in the prayer on page 2.

2. How we develop distorted views of God:

- You derive your concept of God from your parents, most significantly from your father.
- You inherit your parent's or grandparent's misconceptions about God.
- You concluded things about God based on experiences and events you witnessed.
- You derive your image of God from your self-image.

3. Why is the correct concept of God necessary? (Psalms 13:1-6)

- If your concept of God is not a Biblical view of God's character, it is a lie.
- What you believe about God determines how you interact with God.
- So we see that they were not able to enter because of unbelief. (Heb 3:19)
- Then He touched their eyes, saying, "It shall be done to you according to your faith." (Matt 9:29)

4. Correcting your distorted concept of God

- Call lies what they are—lies!
- Write all of the lies that you believe about God in the first set of lines below.
- Write the truth about God, as revealed in His Word, on the second set of lines below.
- Prayer

Father God,

I now understand that I have a distorted view of you and your character. I felt and thought of you as _____

I confess that what I believed about You was not true. I now choose to believe your Word about Yourself, that you are (Scriptural truth about God) _____

Thank you for showing me that I had a wrong view of You, Father God. Jesus, take all of the pain and confusion from these lies unto Yourself and exchange them for Your peace. Holy Spirit, I invite you to renew my mind through the washing of the Holy Spirit. Thank you that Your abounding grace destroys every lying fortress, every speculation, and every lofty lie that contradicts the true knowledge and character of God.

Amen!

Discover the Truth about God

(These verses corresponded to page 1 of this handout.)

1. Psa 139:8-10, where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, Even there Your hand will lead me, and Your right hand will lay hold of me.
2. Heb 4:16 draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.
Jer 33:3 Call to Me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things you do not know.
3. Isa 40:11 Like a shepherd He will tend His flock, in His arm He will gather the lambs and carry *them* in His bosom; He will gently lead the nursing ewes.
4. Rom 2:4 Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance.
5. Col 3:4 When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.
2 Cor 3:5 Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as *coming* from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God.
6. Psa 40:1 I waited patiently for the LORD; and He inclined to me and heard my cry.
Heb 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as *we are*, yet without sin.
7. Isa 45:3-4 I will give you the treasures of darkness and hidden wealth of secret places; so that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who calls you by your name. I have also called you by your name; I have given you a title of honor though you have not known Me.
8. Zeph 3:17 The LORD your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior. He will exult over you with joy, He will be quiet in His love, He will rejoice over you with shouts of joy.
Psa 18:19 He brought me forth also into a broad place; He rescued me because He delighted in me.
9. Isa 49:16 I have inscribed you on the palms of *My hands*; your walls are continually before Me.
Psa 18:19 He brought me forth also into a broad place; He rescued me, because He delighted in me.
10. John 11:35 Jesus wept.
11. Psa 103:2-5 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget none of His benefits; Who pardons all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases; Who redeems your life from the pit, Who crowns you with loving-kindness and compassion; Who satisfies your years with good things, *So that* your youth is renewed like the eagle.
12. Read and discuss Psalms 139:1-18. Psa 46:1 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
13. 2 Tim 2:13 If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.
14. Jer 31:34 Know the Lord, “for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,” declares the Lord, “for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”
15. 2 Cor 12:8-10 And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.
16. Heb 12:7-9 It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom *his* father does not discipline? But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.
17. 2 Cor 1:21-22 Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God, who also sealed us and gave *us* the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge.