God of Gods

In the Beginning, God · Genesis 1:1

Read it. Talk about it. Live it.

Overview

This session is based on a foundational teaching from Genesis 1:1 — "In the beginning, God." The sermon challenges believers to move beyond a surface-level relationship with Christianity and into a genuine, personal knowledge of the one true God. As false systems of belief, materialism, and cultural distraction compete for our attention, this guide will help your group examine what — and who — truly holds the center of your life.

Key Takeaways

- The Bible does not argue for the existence of God — it assumes it. Our most powerful apologetic is not a logical argument but a personal testimony.
- Throughout history, humanity has created thousands of false gods and deities. Many of the same spiritual forces those idols represented — injustice, materialism, consumerism, the sacrifice of family for comfort — are still active today.
- Knowing about God is not the same as knowing God. A relationship with Christianity is not a substitute for a relationship with Jesus Christ.
- What you give your attention and energy to increases in your life. Intentionality in faith, family, and worship is not optional — it is essential.
- Blessing and interceding over the next generation is a responsibility that belongs to the whole church, not just parents.

Discussion Questions

OPENING

1. The pastor opened with a simple phrase: "In the beginning, God." Before diving deeper, what does that phrase personally mean to you right now in this season of your life?
2. Have you ever had your faith seriously challenged — by a person, a circumstance, or a doubt? How

did you respond, and what did you learn from that experience?

THE GOD WE SERVE

1. The pastor made the point that the Bible does not argue for God's existence — it assumes it. He also said that personal testimony is the one thing no one can refute. What is a moment in your own life where God showed up in a way that no argument could explain away?
2. Deuteronomy 6:4 presents the foundational declaration that God is one. Why do you think it is important for believers to be grounded in who God is before anything else — before doctrine, programs, or even church attendance?
3. The sermon referenced John 1:1 and 1:14, pointing to the Word becoming flesh as the revelation of God's name. How does understanding Jesus as the fullness of God change the way you approach worship and prayer?

FALSE GODS THEN AND NOW

1. The pastor described three major false gods from Scripture — Marduk, Baal, and the golden calf — and connected each of them to forces still active today: injustice, false promises of increase, and materialism. Which of these do you think is most present in your own culture or community? Why?
2. The golden calf in the Old Testament was called by the name of Yahweh. The people gave it a godly label but withheld genuine worship. In what ways can modern Christians do the same thing — using the language of faith while actually serving something else?
3. The pastor mentioned that what we pay attention to increases in our lives. Take an honest look at your week. What has received the most of your time, energy, and focus? What does that reveal?

FAMILY, LEGACY, AND THE NEXT GENERATION

1. The pastor described the Shabbat meal he experienced in Jerusalem — where parents individually laid hands on each child and spoke a blessing over them every single week. What struck you about that image? Does anything like that exist in your own family or household?
2. He asked a piercing question: "Am I playing hide and seek with my children in the Valley of Molech?" In other words, are we sacrificing our children's spiritual formation for the sake of our own comfort and convenience? What does that look like practically, and how can it be corrected?
3. The pastor challenged those without young children in their lives to find a young couple or family and simply offer to pray a blessing over them. What would it look like for your small group to take that kind of initiative in your church or neighborhood?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

1. The pastor drew a sharp distinction between having a relationship with God and having a relationship with Christianity. He said you can be baptized, filled with the Spirit, and still not truly know Jesus personally. How would you honestly describe your relationship with God right now — is it personal and active, or has it become routine and distant?
2. He challenged the group with this question: "Is our prayer life so convicting that devils understand the God we serve?" What would need to change in your prayer life for that to be true?

Practical Applications

Choose one or more of the following to practice before your group meets again.

1. Examine Your Attention For one week, track what receives the most of your time and mental energy each day. At the end of the week, compare that list to what you say your priorities are. Bring your observations back to the group.

2. Speak a Blessing If you have children or grandchildren, intentionally gather them this week and speak a specific, personal blessing over each one. If you do not have children in your home, identify a young family in your church and ask if you can pray over them.

3. Build Your Testimony Write down one specific moment when God showed up in your life in a way that no one could argue away. Practice telling that story out loud so that you are ready to share it when your faith is challenged.

4. Identify Your Idols Spend time in honest prayer asking God to reveal any false god — materialism, comfort, approval, fear — that has taken up space in your heart. Confess it, and ask God to tear it down.

5. Get Into the Word The pastor said, "You've got to have the word inside of you more than you ever have it on a flip diagram." Commit to a daily Scripture reading plan this week, even if it is only one chapter per day. The goal is not information — it is formation.

Closing Prayer Guide

Close your group time by praying together in three parts.

- **Confession** — Acknowledge any false gods, distractions, or idols that have taken priority over a genuine relationship with God.
- **Intercession** — Lift up the children, grandchildren, and young families connected to your group and your church by name.
- **Declaration** — Speak aloud together that the God you serve is the one true God — the self-existent I Am — and that He alone holds authority over your homes, your families, and your futures.

GATHER WITH US

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