

**THE BUILD & DEFEND SERIES**

# **LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS OF ONENESS THEOLOGY**

**A SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY SERIES**

# Introduction

Welcome to our five-part journey through the rich and profound landscape of Oneness Theology. In this series, we will explore the biblical foundations of the belief in one God who reveals Himself to us in Scripture and through the person of Jesus Christ.

At the core of our study is the majestic truth that God is one. This truth is not merely a doctrinal statement; it's a reality that has profound implications for our lives, our faith, and the way we relate to God and to each other. Throughout this series, we will dig deep into what it means for God to be singular in His nature and how this oneness sets Christianity apart in a world filled with myriad beliefs.

Each lesson is structured to engage you actively—with hooks to capture your interest, central verses to focus our study, in-depth exploration of topics, and thought-provoking discussion questions that encourage participation and personal reflection.

- **Lesson 1: Introduction to Oneness Theology**
  - We'll understand the background and significance of God's oneness in a polytheistic world and its implications for our identity as His people.
- **Lesson 2: The Nature of God in Oneness Theology**
  - Here, we will examine the unique attributes of God that reflect His oneness and how they distinguish Him from all else that exists.
- **Lesson 3: Scripture and the Oneness of God**
  - We will explore how the Bible serves as the primary way God has chosen to reveal Himself and His singular nature to humanity.
- **Lesson 4: Jesus: The Embodiment of God's Oneness**
  - This lesson focuses on Jesus as the physical manifestation of God's oneness on earth, bridging the gap between humanity and the Divine.
- **Lesson 5: Responding to the Revelation of Oneness Theology**
  - Lastly, we will discuss how we can respond to and live out the truth of God's oneness in our personal lives and in our communities.

As we embark on this series, you are invited not just to learn but also to engage, question, and apply. The truths we will uncover are not meant to stay within the pages of your notebook; they are to be lived out and shared. You are encouraged to take these lessons beyond our time together and into your daily walk with God.

# Lesson 1: Understanding Oneness Theology

## 1. Hook/Ice Breaker:

*Activity:* Give each participant a puzzle piece and ask them to describe its unique features. Later, bring a board with the complete puzzle and have each participant fit their piece into the bigger picture.

*Transition:* Just like a single puzzle piece makes sense when placed in the bigger picture, today we'll see how the concept of God's oneness fits into the larger narrative of God's revelation.

**2. Central Verse:** Deuteronomy 6:4 - "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one."

## 3. Body of the Lesson:

### A. Introduction to Oneness Theology

- The context of Deuteronomy 6: Israel was about to enter the Promised Land, moving away from the practices of Egypt which included the worship of many gods.
  - *Sub-point:* Understanding God's oneness was crucial for Israel to maintain their distinct identity and worship in the new land.

### B. God's Revelation of His Oneness

- God is a God of revelation. He reveals Himself so that we can know and understand Him.
  - *Sub-point:* Without God's revelation, we would remain in darkness about who He truly is.

### C. Why Oneness Theology is Important

- Oneness theology affirms that God is unique, unlike any other, and there is no division within His nature.
  - *Sub-point:* Recognizing God's oneness prepares our hearts to love Him fully and serve Him singularly.

## Additional Scriptures:

- Isaiah 43:10-12 - Emphasizing the uniqueness of God and His role as the only savior.
- Exodus 20:3 - "You shall have no other gods before me."

## Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think God emphasized His oneness to the Israelites before they entered the Promised Land?
2. In what ways do you see the concept of oneness reflected in God's creation?
3. How does understanding God's oneness affect your personal relationship with Him?
4. Why is it important for believers today to grasp the concept of oneness theology?

## 4. Closer:

**Action Item:** Encourage participants to spend some time this week meditating on God's oneness. As they go about their day, let them find moments to recognize and appreciate the singularity of God in the midst of a diverse world.

**Focus for the Closing Prayer:** Lord, thank You for revealing Yourself as the one true God. Help us to recognize Your uniqueness and majesty. Guide us to love and serve You with an undivided heart. Strengthen our understanding of Your oneness so that we may stand firm in our faith amidst a world with many competing voices. Amen.

# Lesson 2: The Attributes of God

## 1. Hook/Ice Breaker:

*Activity:* Bring in a variety of objects that have distinct features (e.g., a sponge, a magnet, a light bulb, etc.). Ask the participants to describe the unique attributes of each object.

*Transition:* Just as these objects have distinct features that define their nature and function, God has unique attributes that define His nature. Today, we'll delve into these attributes to understand Him better.

**2. Central Verse:** Psalm 86:8 - "Among the gods there is none like You, Lord; no deeds can compare with Yours."

## 3. Body of the Lesson:

### A. How God Reveals Himself Through His Attributes

- God is distinct from His creation and all other beings.
  - *Sub-point:* Attributes are not merely characteristics God has; they define who He is.

### B. What Makes God Unique and Different

- Exploring the attributes mentioned in the article:
  1. **Holy** – God is set apart, distinct from creation.
  2. **Omnipotence** – God's unparalleled power.
  3. **Omniscience** – God's complete knowledge.
  4. **Omnipresence** – God's presence everywhere.
  5. **Omnibenevolence** – God's boundless love.
  - *Sub-point:* These attributes are not only descriptors; they are invitations for us to understand, trust, and worship God more deeply.

### Additional Scriptures:

- Isaiah 6:3 - Describing God's holiness.
- Jeremiah 32:17 - Speaking of God's omnipotence.
- Psalm 139:1-4 - Illustrating God's omniscience.
- Psalm 139:7-10 - Highlighting God's omnipresence.
- 1 John 4:8 - Declaring God's omnibenevolence.

### Discussion Questions:

1. Which attribute of God stands out to you the most and why?
2. How have you personally experienced or recognized these attributes of God in your life?
3. In what ways do these attributes challenge or comfort you?
4. How can we, as believers, reflect these attributes in our daily lives?

## 4. Closer:

**Action Item:** Challenge the participants to pick one attribute of God each day this week and find a way to recognize or reflect it in their daily actions. For example, if they choose God's omnipotence, they can trust God with a challenge they're facing, recognizing that He is powerful enough to handle it.

**Focus for the Closing Prayer:** Lord, we are in awe of Your incredible attributes. They remind us of Your greatness and Your love. As we come to know more about who You are, may we be drawn closer to You. Empower us to reflect Your attributes in our interactions and in our relationship with You. Amen.

# Lesson 3: Scripture: The Primary Method of God's Revelation

## 1. Hook/Ice Breaker:

*Activity:* Provide participants with a variety of books (fiction, non-fiction, biographies, etc.). Ask them what each book reveals about its author or subject. Discuss the importance of an authentic source when wanting to know the truth about someone or something.

*Transition:* Just as we can learn about authors or subjects from books, we have been given the Bible, an authentic source, to learn about God. Today, we'll explore how Scripture serves as God's primary method of revealing Himself.

**2. Central Verse:** 2 Timothy 3:16 - "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness."

## 3. Body of the Lesson:

### A. How the Bible Serves as God's Revelation

- The Bible isn't just a book; it's God's chosen way to communicate His character, will, and purposes.
  - *Sub-point:* Unlike other books, the Bible has a transformative power because it is inspired by God.

### B. Importance of Scripture in Knowing God

- The Bible provides a comprehensive view of God's character and His dealings with humanity.
  - *Sub-point 1:* From Genesis to Revelation, we see a consistent picture of God's love, justice, mercy, and holiness.
  - *Sub-point 2:* Through Scripture, we can understand God's redemptive plan for humanity.

### Additional Scriptures:

- Hebrews 4:12 - Describing the living and active nature of God's word.
- Psalm 119:105 - Highlighting the guiding nature of Scripture.
- Romans 15:4 - Speaking of the encouragement and hope we receive from Scripture.
- John 5:39 - Jesus highlighting the Scriptures testify about Him.

### Discussion Questions:

1. How has Scripture impacted your understanding of God?
2. Can you share an instance when a particular Scripture deeply spoke to you or changed your perspective?
3. Why do you think it's vital for believers to regularly engage with the Bible?
4. In what practical ways can we make Scripture a more central part of our daily lives?

## 4. Closer:

**Action Item:** Encourage participants to start a new reading plan this week. It could be a particular book of the Bible, a thematic plan, or following a Bible app's recommended plan. The goal is to engage more deeply with God's Word.

**Focus for the Closing Prayer:** Father, thank You for giving us Your Word to guide, correct, and teach us. As we delve deeper into Scripture, may our understanding of You grow. Equip us to be diligent students of Your Word, drawing us closer to Your heart with every passage we read. Amen.

# Lesson 4: Jesus: The Embodiment of God's Oneness

## 1. Hook/Ice Breaker:

*Activity:* Show participants a coin (like a quarter or any other national coin with a prominent figure). Discuss how that single coin represents and embodies the entire nation's value, history, and identity.

*Transition:* Similarly, Jesus embodies and represents the entirety of God's nature and oneness. Through Him, we see the fullest expression of who God is.

**2. Central Verse:** Colossians 2:9 - "For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily."

## 3. Body of the Lesson:

### A. How Jesus Fulfills the Attributes of God

- Jesus displays all attributes mentioned earlier: Holiness, Omnipotence, Omniscience, Omnipresence, and Omnibenevolence.
  - *Sub-point:* Examples from Jesus' life, like His miracles (Omnipotence), His knowledge of people's thoughts (Omniscience), His promise to always be with us (Omnipresence), and His sacrifice on the cross (Omnibenevolence and Holiness).

### B. Understanding Jesus as God Manifested in Flesh

- Dive deep into Scriptures:
  - John 1:1,14 - The Word (Jesus) was God and became flesh.
  - 1 Timothy 3:16 - God was manifested in the flesh.
  - Philippians 2:5-11 - Jesus, though God, took on human form.
  - *Sub-point 1:* The importance of the Incarnation - God coming to earth to bridge the gap between the Divine and humanity.
  - *Sub-point 2:* How Jesus, being fully God and fully man, plays a crucial role in our redemption.

### Additional Scriptures:

- Hebrews 1:3 - "The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word."
- John 14:9 - Jesus said, "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father."
- Philippians 2:6-7 - "[Jesus], being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage."

### Discussion Questions:

1. How does understanding Jesus as the embodiment of God's oneness affect our view of His teachings and sacrifice?
2. Why was it essential for Jesus, as God, to take on human form?
3. How do the attributes of God manifested in Jesus encourage or challenge you in your faith journey?
4. In what ways can we honor and worship Jesus for His unique role in revealing God's oneness to us?

## 4. Closer:

**Action Item:** Reflect on the nature of Jesus this week. Choose a Gospel (like the Gospel of John) and read a chapter daily, focusing on seeing Jesus as the embodiment of God's oneness.

**Focus for the Closing Prayer:** Lord Jesus, we are in awe of You. You fully reveal the Father to us, and through Your life, death, and resurrection, we grasp the profound depths of God's love and nature. May we grow in our relationship with You, recognizing and honoring Your unique position as God in the flesh. Guide us as we delve deeper into Your Word this week. Amen.

# Lesson 5: Responding to the Revelation of Oneness Theology

## 1. Hook/Ice Breaker:

*Activity:* Present a short story or anecdote about someone receiving a significant piece of information (like winning a lottery or getting into their dream school). Discuss the range of emotions and subsequent actions the individual took in response to this news.

*Transition:* Just as people have varied and significant responses to life-altering news, we too should have a profound response to the revelation of God's oneness. How do we embrace this truth, and how does it shape our lives?

**2. Central Verse:** 1 John 5:20 - "And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life."

## 3. Body of the Lesson:

### A. How We Can Respond to God's Revelation

- With Awe and Worship: Recognizing the magnitude of God's nature and His desire to reveal it to us.
- With Humility: Accepting our limited understanding and constantly seeking to grow in our knowledge.
- With Evangelism: Sharing this profound truth with others.
  - *Sub-point:* Personal testimonies of how understanding God's oneness has transformed lives.

### B. Living Out the Truth of God's Oneness

- Unity in the Body of Christ: Just as God is one, we, as the body of Christ, are called to unity.
- Personal Integrity: Being consistent in our faith and actions, reflecting God's singular nature.
- Worship and Devotion: Prioritizing time with God, understanding Him more deeply through prayer and study.
  - *Sub-point 1:* The importance of community in strengthening our understanding and response.
  - *Sub-point 2:* The transformative power of fully grasping and living out the oneness theology.

## Additional Scriptures:

- Ephesians 4:6 - "One God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."
- John 17:21-22 - "That all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you."
- 1 Corinthians 8:6 - "Yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live."

## Discussion Questions:

1. How has the revelation of God's oneness personally impacted you?
2. What are some tangible ways you can live out this understanding in daily life?
3. How can we support one another in the church community to better understand and embody this theology?
4. In what ways can we make this profound theology relatable and understandable to non-believers or new believers?

## 4. Closer:

**Action Item:** Commit to one specific action this week that reflects your understanding and appreciation of God's oneness, whether it's sharing this truth with a friend, spending more time in worship, or seeking unity in a strained relationship.

**Focus for the Closing Prayer:** Heavenly Father, we are profoundly moved by the revelation of Your oneness. Strengthen our resolve to live out this truth daily and grant us the wisdom to share it with others. May our lives be a testimony to Your singular, consistent, and unmatched nature. Help us to grow in unity, love, and understanding as a reflection of Your oneness. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.