

The Attributes of God: Self-Existent

Elementary Lesson January 19, 2020



Vintage Elementary

January 19

God is Self-Existent. He is so Creative!

Daniel 4:29-47

Verse to Memorize: Psalm 86:8 There is none like you among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like yours.

Catechism Question: What is God? God is the creator of everyone and everything.

Session	Activity	Materials Needed
Welcome and Greeting	Greet students and discuss their week. Spend time building relationships.	
Music	"God of Wonders"	Spotify or Apple Music
Memory Verse Game/Activity	<p>Allow students to make memory verse cards. Give every student an index card and allow them to write Psalm 86:8 on the front and the verse: "There is none like you among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like yours." on the back of the card. Allow them to decorate the card with images that help them remember the main idea of the verse.</p> <p>Once students have written and decorated, allow them to get with a partner and practice saying their verse. At the end come together and practice saying the verse together.</p>	Index Cards Crayons or Markers
Catechism and Lesson	Review with students that over the next 8 weeks they are going to be learning the answer to the question What is God? Each week we will think about the answer the that question: God is the creator of everyone and everything. God is the creator of everyone and everything so He has special parts of himself that we do not have. For the next 8 weeks we are going to learn about those parts that make God so special.	

Last week we learned about how God is immutable. He never changes! How many of you noticed yourself changing this week- maybe changing something you like or don't like, changing your mind, changing how you feel. Isn't it nice to remember from last week that because God is immutable and never changes we can always count on him!

This week we will be learning a new descriptor of God- that he is Self-Existent or So Creative!. (The motion for Self-Existent is clapping your hands together and opening them like a book.) Teach students the motion for self-existent. God is the master creator and doesn't need anything else to create!

Don't take my word for it! Let's learn about how God is self-existent (do motion) by reading from His word. We want to hear about how He is so creative!

Open your bible to Daniel 4:29-47 to show students where to find the story of God creating something out of nothing in the story of Daniel and King Nebuchadnezzar. Read the following child friendly version.

All this happened to King Nebuchadnezzar. He was walking on the balcony of the royal palace in Babylon and boasted, "Look at this, Babylon the great! And I built it all by myself, a royal palace adequate to display my honor and glory!"

The words were no sooner out of his mouth than a voice out of heaven spoke, "This is the verdict on you, King Nebuchadnezzar: Your kingdom is taken from you. You will be driven out of human company and live with the wild animals. You will eat grass like an ox. The sentence is for seven seasons, enough time to learn that the High God rules human kingdoms and puts whomever he wishes in charge."

It happened at once. Nebuchadnezzar was driven out of human company, ate grass like an ox, and was soaked in heaven's dew. His hair grew like the feathers of an eagle and his nails like the claws of a hawk.

"At the end of the seven years, I, Nebuchadnezzar, looked to heaven. I was given my mind back and I blessed the High God, thanking and glorifying God, who lives forever:

	<p>rule lasts and lasts, his kingdom never declines and falls. Life on this earth doesn't add up to much, but God's heavenly army keeps everything going. No one can interrupt his work, no one can call his rule into question.</p> <p>"At the same time that I was given back my mind, I was also given back my majesty and splendor, making my kingdom shine. All the leaders and important people came looking for me. I was reestablished as king in my kingdom and became greater than ever. And that's why I'm singing—I, Nebuchadnezzar—singing and praising the King of Heaven: Everything he does is right, And he does it the right way. He knows how to turn a proud person Into a humble man or woman.</p> <p>A lot happened in that story! Let's go back and re-read Nebuchadnezzar's first statement and think about that. He says "Look at this, Babylon the great! And I built it all by myself, a royal palace adequate to display my honor and glory!" What was wrong with Nebuchadnezzar's mindset and view of the kingdom? (Discuss how he saw it as something HE had created, as his own work for his Glory.)</p> <p>What happened to Nebudchadnezzar next? What did he learn? (Help students share the story of how Nebudchadnezzar was humbled and lost his mind for the mind of an animal for seven years. He regained it and realized that God is the only one who can say "I built this by myself.") God is the only one who can create something out of nothing and He just allows us to use what he has given us for his glory.</p>	
<p>Small Groups and Prayer</p>	<p>Split into small groups of 3 or 4. In each small group allow students to discuss the following:</p> <p>Share about a time when you did something really well or you made something you were really proud of.</p> <p>As students share, walk around the room and encourage discussion. Share times when you have been proud.</p>	

	<p>Bring students back together and ask the question “Is it ok to be proud of something you have done or made?” Make sure students understand that the story of Nebudchenezzar doesn’t mean we can’t be proud of something we have done, it just means we need to point back to our creator who created us to be able to do that thing. For example, if you are a great soccer player, God is the one who gave you your legs so you can play! We didn’t create ourselves and our ability to do things, God did. Make sure this is a time of praising God for things we are good at doing, not a time of legalism.</p> <p>Close in prayer Thanking God for our gifts and abilities, and that God is the ultimate creator, creating us and being creative with our world.</p>	
<p>Missional Moment</p>	<p>Discuss how each week we will have a missional moment where we discuss a way our church is on mission for Jesus in our city or in the world! We will talk about the same group for a whole month, learning about them throughout that month and praying for them. This month we are learning about Vintage’s new church plant: Vintage West!</p> <p>Use the pictures included if needed to review our missional moment of the month: West.</p> <p>This week we want to talk about ways to encourage our friends at Vintage West in all that they are doing to share about Jesus. They left a place where they had been for a long time and went and made a new church so people could know Jesus! That is so brave!</p> <p>As a class create a card to sign for our friends at Vintage West reminding them how much we love them and encouraging them!</p>	<p>Cardstock or cards *turn in cards to your kids director at the end of the day.</p>
<p>Activity</p>	<p>Can you create it?</p> <p>Give each student or pair of students a small ball of play-dough. Allow kids to play for a few minutes and then begin the game.</p> <p>Start by saying you want to see who can create the best masterpieces. Start by having kids use their play-dough to create a ball. Allow everyone to show what they made and</p>	<p>play-dough</p>

	<p>compliment their creations. Then progress into more difficult builds- a flower, a tree, a dog, a house. Then take all of the play-dough away and ask the students to create a castle. When they complain that they can't move to the easiest build- a ball. When they continue to complain ask WHY they can't create?</p> <p>Discuss how, even if they are creative and can build beautiful masterpieces, they still had to be given the building tools (in this case play-dough.) It is the same way with anything we create or are good at, we may be good at that thing but God gave us the ability like the teacher gave play-dough.</p> <p>Discuss how God doesn't have to be given anything, he already has it and already created it, making him Self-Existent.</p>	
<p>Closing and Pick Up</p>	<p>Allow students to continue working on activities from the day or free play until parents arrive. Give a five minute timer for pickup before the end of service. This is a great time to play the spotify playlist of worship music.</p>	