

New City Catechism

Discussion Questions

Episode 2: What is God?

Short Answer (matches song): God is the creator of everyone and everything.

Long Answer (doesn't match song): God is the creator and sustainer of everyone and everything. He is eternal, infinite, and unchangeable in his power and perfection, goodness and glory, wisdom, justice, and truth. Nothing happens except through him and by his will.

Verse to learn: Psalm 86:8–10, 15

There is none like you among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like yours. All the nations you have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name. For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God. . . . But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

Discussion Questions:

1. How do you feel about something you created (picture, song, craft, etc.)?

A: Answers can vary - allow people to share something they created, and how they feel toward that thing. Usually you feel ownership towards it, you take care of it. It is treasured by you. You like it the way it was made (you don't want people to change it).

2. What do you think God feels about His Creation (you, me, earth, animals, etc.)?

A: Allow discussion. Treasured. Cared for. Designed a specific way (God's design). A good follow up might be: "How should we, as God's children, act toward God's Creation (people, animals, earth, etc.)?"

3. In our verse today, what does it say about who God is (Psalm 86:8-10)?

A: Unlike any other = holy. Made all nations (Creator). Worthy of praise (worship). He alone is God. He alone does great deeds.

4. What word that describes God gives you comfort, and why?

A: Allow discussion. Perhaps challenge people after they have shared their answers, by saying that the danger is that we focus too much on one aspect of God, without regard to others, which can get us into trouble with our view of God. Example: If we focus on God being intimate, we may forget that God is also transcendent or "above" everything and "holy" (separate) from us. God is love vs. God is also just/wrathful/jealous. Feel free to read verses that show both sides of God that work together even though they seem to be in opposition.

5. What word that describes God makes you feel UNcomfortable, and why?

A: Allow discussion. Challenge the group to discover more about that UNcomfortable characteristic about God this week. Perhaps challenge the group to study it together (Example: God's wrath/judgment). Reminder - God is perfect in every characteristic.