

WORSHIP

SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

King Jesus, Alive In You, You Are God Alone

WELCOME

What is your most trusted brand name? Why?

WORD

GENESIS 2:4,7

This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD (YHWH) God made earth and heaven...⁷ Then the LORD (YHWH) God formed the man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living person.

We continue with the series, **BE ROOTED: KNOW GOD BY HIS NAMES**. In the Bible, names have meanings and GOD has revealed Himself to us through His Names. His different names are revealed progressively in Scripture so we will keep growing in our knowledge of Him. These names highlight qualities of God that we ought to know and embrace.

Hosea 6:6 reminds us that God desires for us to know Him. This week, we will learn about the second Name of God mentioned in Genesis 2: **LORD (YHWH)**.

1. YHWH (LORD) is PERSONAL AND RELATIONAL

In **Genesis 2:8-9**, God reveals Himself as "YAHWEH"—a personal and relational God. He provided a beautiful garden for the first man to live in. He first prepared everything that the man would ever need, the reason why Adam was created on the sixth day. Two trees were mentioned in these verses: the "**Tree of Life**" and the "**Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil**". Continuing towards **v. 15**, we see God giving Man an assignment to cultivate, manage, and take care of everything He created. When we highlight God's characteristics of being personal and relational, we also emphasize that He is purposeful in what He does. He loves us and cares for us. Many people find themselves stuck in life without meaning or purpose, or they create their own purpose. We will not know our purpose and meaning in life until we are connected to our Creator.

2. YHWH (LORD) is THE SUPREME MORAL BEING

Genesis 2:16-17 gives a clear commandment for Adam and Eve to follow. Their lives had no other rule than that specific instruction from God. Many times, people don't understand why God had to restrict Adam and Eve on this seemingly minor detail—they can eat from any tree in the garden except from the "Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil" mentioned specifically. This rule was given out of love! God could have made us into *robots*, but the very nature of God is love. He created man in His own image (**Genesis 1:26**) and He gave man the capacity to make choices. We must **assume responsibility** for every decision and action that we make. We are not just physical but

also moral beings with an amazing capacity to follow or not to follow God.

When the LORD (YHWH) revealed Himself to Moses through the burning bush (**Exodus 3**), we witness this Name declared to describe who He is. Further, God explained in **vv. 13-15** the famous statement "**I AM WHO I AM**" and in **Exodus 6:2-5** that His personal Name (**YHWH**) means that **HE IS THE SUPREME MORAL BEING**. He is eternal, self-existent, independent, and sovereign. He defines what is right and wrong. He emphasizes on **His HOLINESS! Leviticus 19:2-4** reminds us to "**be holy, for I the LORD (YHWH) your God am holy**". He is distinctly above any other pagan gods. He is without equal.

God is the **SUM OF ALL MORAL EXCELLENCE**. He is absolutely pure. God is light. In Him, there is no darkness (**1 John 1:5**). YAHWEH is completely pure and "*perfectly*" perfect! As **Stephen Charnock said**, "*Power is God's hand, omniscience His eye... eternity His duration, but holiness is His beauty.*" In **Exodus 34:5-7**, we see the holiness of God. The very nature of God's HOLINESS is seen in the perfection of His character. He is compassionate, merciful, and slow to anger. He is abounding in faithfulness and truth. He is forgiving but He will also JUDGE and PUNISH SIN. Many people forget that as the Supreme Moral Being, He establishes what is right and punishes what is wrong. If you read the Bible, you will see that people have **constantly failed** because of man's sinful nature.

However, this does not hinder God's plan for redemption. Look at the cross and Jesus Christ's suffering. We will not understand its significance if we don't understand the Holiness of GOD. Sin has to be dealt with and judged. Indifference to sin or evil is a moral blemish. **ON THE CROSS, JESUS SUFFERED AND DIED FOR OUR SINS**. That is because a HOLY GOD will also punish sin. What is your attitude towards the commandments of GOD? Do you desire to obey HIM? Do you have in your heart a conviction that God knows best and He wants what's best for you?

WORD (cont'd)

In **Genesis 2:16-18** the command was given to Adam and Eve. Even with all of these, Satan, cunning as he is, tempted Eve and eventually Adam who also gave in to the temptation. In **Genesis 3:1-5**, we see Satan (*the serpent*) CAST DOUBT not only on God's WORD, but on the very character of GOD. Satan will make you doubt God's character; he maligns God's character to make you believe that God is selfish. Satan attacks the mind and distracts us from following God and our disobedience results in **GUILT and SHAME (Genesis 3:7-11)**. When God looked for Adam and Eve in the garden, they were in hiding, attempting to cover their bodies with fig leaves (**v.7**). Aside from their personal suffering, the LORD had also cursed the earth and the life mankind will experience in a fallen world (**vv. 17-19**). What happened in the Garden of Eden powerfully shows us that when God gives a warning, we are to take it seriously. When HE gives a promise, we are to take hold of it.

3. YHWH (LORD) IS A PROMISE KEEPER

The LORD did not leave Adam and Eve in their fallen state. In **Genesis 3:21**, after giving the punishments, He made them "*garments of skin*", which obviously implies that there was bloodshed. **This is a foreshadowing of God's future provision--** the fig leaves illustrate man's way to solve our problem of shame and guilt resulting from sin; but the only way

to cover our sin is through **the blood of JESUS**. GOD wants us to enjoy eternity with HIM as originally planned, and He planned for our redemption from the very beginning. **Revelation 13:8** and **1 Peter 1:18-20** show how this was achieved. Redemption requires the precious blood of the unblemished and spotless Lamb, **Jesus Christ**, to cover and wash away our sins.

We see YAHWEH's promise-keeping attribute across Scripture, as in ABRAHAM's life in **Genesis 12:1-3** where we see the LORD (YHWH) command the childless Abram (Abraham) to leave everything behind and at the same time promised blessing upon him and generations under him. Even as he obeyed, he and his wife thought God's promise impossible (**Genesis 18:11-15**). The answer to the question "***is anything too difficult for the LORD (YHWH)?***" and the fulfillment of the promise soon after reminds us that **the God we serve fulfills His promises!** Years later, we see the ultimate fulfillment of this promise when Jesus claims the Name "**I AM WHO I AM**" (**John 8:57-59**). He is the ***promised blessing*** from the lineage of Abraham. Jesus gave His life so He can redeem ours. God's promises are fulfilled because He is a promise-keeping GOD! As we know the Lord, may we truly know Him and adhere to the things He delights in (**Jeremiah 9:23-24**)!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. **Self-Check.** Why is it important to know that God (YHWH) is personal and relational? What will you do for the remainder of this unprecedented year to grow in your relationship with Him?
2. **Setting It Right.** Are there any aspects in your life which you know are not in accordance with God's standards? Confess this to the Lord and ask for His grace to lead you in the right path. Do your part and with His help live according to His will.
3. **Living It Out.** How will knowing that God is HOLY and wants us to be holy affect the way you live your life at home, at work, and in society? What changes do you need to make from now on?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray that people will have a right and intimate relationship with our personal and relational God (YHWH). Reflect the image of Christ and build good relationships with other people. Share about the promises of God in His Word with them. Tell them how they can have a personal relationship with God because of what Jesus has done on the cross to reconcile us to God.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants and a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends