FAMILY DISCUSSION GUIDE



Continue the Conversation at Home

LIVING ON THE EDGE™ rightnow MEDIA

The Real God: Family Discussion Guide
Campaign Edition

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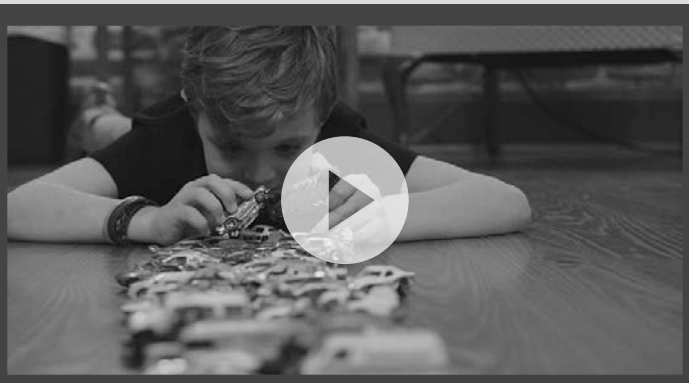
About Living on the Edge

Living on the Edge exists to help Christians live like Christians.

It was established in 1995 as a radio ministry of pastor and author Chip Ingram. It has since grown into an international discipleship ministry with a clear vision: to be a catalytic movement of Christians living out their faith in ways that transform families, churches, and communities for the common good and the glory of God.

Living on the Edge creates biblical teaching and tools that challenge and equip spiritually hungry Christians to become mature disciples of Jesus.

Each chapter in this Discussion Guide requires your family to view a video story together.



Access all 8 video stories from The Real God online at:

REALGODCHURCH.COM/VIEW

3 EASY STEPS TO WATCH ONLINE

1 **CLICK**
Go to RealGodChurch.com/View

2 **SIGN UP OR LOG IN**
Complete the steps to create or log in to your account.

3 **STREAM**
Stream weekly video sessions from RightNow Media anytime, from any device.

Contents


How to Use This Resource *pg 5*


Seeking God *pg 9*


The Goodness of God *pg 15*


The Sovereignty of God *pg 21*


The Holiness of God *pg 27*


The Wisdom of God *pg 33*


The Justice of God *pg 39*


The Love of God *pg 45*


The Faithfulness of God *pg 51*



HOW TO *Use This Resource*

GETTING STARTED

Way to Go!

The fact that you have this resource in your hands proves that you care about the spiritual life of your family. Let's face it, it's difficult to have significant and intentional conversations. This devotional can help.

Make it a goal to RECLAIM ONE DINNER A WEEK. Watch a short video and talk about it over dinner as a family. Then, throughout the week, we've provided you with a ton of ideas that will help your family engage that week's topic.

You may not realize it, but your entire life is built on a single foundation. Every thought and attitude, decision and goal; your relationships and hobbies and career choices; even how you handle success and deal with setbacks ... all of these things rest upon one thing.

The truth is, what you think about God is the most important thing about you. Here are two questions for you to consider:

> Who do you think God is?
> What do you think God thinks about when He thinks of you?

It's impossible to be human and not have some concept of God, and the thoughts we have about God make a real difference in our lives. If you think God wants to punish humanity, you'll live in constant fear. If you believe God is good, you'll trust Him even when life gets tough.

What you think about God shapes your whole relationship with Him. In addition, what you believe God thinks about you determines how close you will grow toward Him. This is true for you, and for everyone in your family.

In this devotional, you'll explore seven characteristics of God and get to know Him as He really is. The teachings in these videos are based on God's Word—not popular opinion or clever ideas. In addition to the videos, this guide will help you have meaningful conversations with your kids as you explore God as He really is.

Praying for your family's spiritual growth,

LIVING ON THE EDGE TEAM

Helping Christians Live Like Christians

HOW TO
Use This Resource

PRAY

God wants to hear from you, and He wants to help! Come to God in humility, ask Him to soften your heart and clear your mind so that you can hear Him speak.

PREPARE

Plan on spending 10 minutes a week to look over the session before you watch the video together as a family. During your PREP time, you should read through the session, watch the video, select some discussion questions, and choose some optional activities for the rest of the week. Each session has five sections:

PREP: This section contains a quick look into the topic for the session.

WATCH: This section reminds you to watch the video! (We told you we made this easy!)

TALK: This section contains some "conversation starter" questions for immediately after your family watches the video. We've provided a ton—probably more than you can use—so choose the few that work best for your family.

DO: This section contains more ideas to help your family "circle back around" to the topic each day during the week. It will be great if your family only watches the videos followed by a conversation. It will be BETTER if you can reinforce the topic throughout the week. Again, choose the activities that work best for your family.

TAKEAWAY: Each session also includes a downloadable TAKEAWAY page. Print and place copies around your home as fun reminders of the topics, Big Ideas and Key Verses. Choose a few unexpected locations - like inside the refrigerator or on the game console. Go to RealGodChurch.com/view and select the Family Devotional to download and print each session's TAKEAWAY page.

Things to Keep in Mind

1. RELAX AND BE REALISTIC.
You don't need to be perfect—no parent is. Neither do you need to be an expert on the Bible—no parent is. Ask God for His help! The Creator of the universe will help you. As a parent, you are the primary influence in your kids' spiritual lives. This is a big time responsibility, but don't let that stress you out! YOU WERE MADE FOR THIS! Literally, God chose you to be a parent to your kids. God will be with you as you grow closer to Jesus and help your kids do the same.

2. OWN IT.
Use your own words. Don't feel like you need to read the questions off the page. It's more natural to ask questions how you want to ask them.

3. DON'T GIVE UP.
Don't be discouraged if your kids don't "get it" right away. Doing some of the other activities during the week can help your kids understand more about God's character. Parenting, and learning about God, is a process! Much of what you do today will plant a seed for the future. If you have pre-teens or teens, they often show very little interest, even when they are engaging on the inside. Don't be discouraged if a conversation or activity doesn't go well—that's OK! It's difficult to have significant conversations, so they aren't all going to be "perfect."

4. BE CONSISTENT.
The best learning happens when we fall into a predictable rhythm. Life is busy, but don't let that keep you from your family devotions. There will always be a million reasons to skip a week. To put it simply: don't.

5. HAVE FUN!
Keep things upbeat and positive. If your conversations wander away from your plans, that's OK. The goal is to have great conversations about our great God!



SEEKING *God*

SESSION 1



Prep

Plan on spending 10 minutes without your kids to familiarize yourself with this session.

Begin with prayer, asking God for His wisdom and guidance.
Read through the session to:

- Be sure to understand the Big Idea and the Key Verse
- Preview the video
- Select the best questions in the **TALK** section and activities in the **DO** section for your family

Understanding the Character of God

Background information from the Bible about God's character.

Goodness: God is good, all the time.

"The Lord is good to everyone. He showers compassion on all his creation." (Psalm 145:9 NLT)

Sovereignty: God knows everything and is in complete control.

"He (God) existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together." (Colossians 1:17 NLT)

Holiness: God is set apart from His creation, perfect and independent.

"LORD, the God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below." (1 Kings 8:23 NIV)

Wisdom: God's perfect knowledge always leads to the best decisions.

"Oh, how great are God's riches and wisdom and knowledge! How impossible it is for us to understand his decisions and his ways!" (Romans 11:33 NLT)

Justice: Life is not always fair; God is.

"Then let the heavens proclaim his justice, for God himself will be the judge." (Psalm 50:6 NLT)

Love: God's love will always find us.

"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." (Luke 19:10 NIV)

Faithfulness: God never breaks His promises.

"For the word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does." (Psalm 33:4 NIV)

Big Idea:

GOD LONGS FOR US TO SEE HIM—AS HE REALLY IS.

Many people see God as a cosmic vending machine that will give us whatever we want. Truth is, God loves us too much to give us what we want; He gives us what we need.

Key Verse:

JEREMIAH 29:13 (NLT)

If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me.

Watch

Set up the video for your family:

"We're going to watch a video that tells a story to teach us something about God. Let's pay attention and see if we can discover what the story says about God."



VENDING MACHINE

RealGodChurch.com/View



Talk

Choose a few questions to best help your family talk about the video.

- [ ] What did you like most about the video?
- [ ] What was the point of the video? What did it teach about God?
- [ ] Even though the first two kids got what they wanted from the vending machine, they ended up being very frustrated. Why do you think this happened?
- [ ] Read the Big Idea and Key Verse.
- [ ] Whom do you imagine God is? Pick five words that you think best describe God and write them down. Tell us what they mean and why you picked them.
- [ ] If God loves to give us good things, why isn't He like a vending machine?
- [ ] If God is always there for us, why does it sometimes feel like He's far away?
- [ ] The narrator ends the story by saying, "Maybe it's better if we let God tell us who He is and base our picture of Him on what He says about Himself." In your opinion, how can we let this happen?
- [ ] What do other people think is true about you? Why does that matter to your relationship with them?
- [ ] The narrator said, "What you think about God is the most important thing about you." Why do you think this is true? Why did he say this?

(This may be a tough question for your kids. Take a moment to let it "soak" in and then share your response. The truth is, what we think about God impacts every attitude, thought, and action we take. If we believe God is loving, then we won't let our guilt keep us from Him. If we believe God doesn't care about us, we'll live according to our own standard.)

Do

Ideas to help your family understand God's character for the rest of the week.

- [ ] Go to **RealGodChurch.com/view** and select the Family Devotional to **LOG IN**. Download the TAKEAWAY page for this Session. Put up a few around your house (refrigerator, bathroom mirror, etc.). Encourage your kids to read the verse every morning and every night. One option is to memorize the verse as a family.



SEEKING GOD

God longs for us to see Him – as He really is.

"If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me."

(Jeremiah 29:13 NLT)

- [ ] Morning questions for breakfast or on the ride to school:

  - If you could have anything from God, what would it be? How would you feel if you never got it?
  - God knows the difference between our needs and our wants … what is one thing you absolutely need from God today?

- [ ] Questions for the evening in the car on the way home from school or dinner time:

  - The narrator said, "What if God had a purpose for you that was bigger than things?" What do you think that purpose might be?
  - Which of the following phrases best describes your spiritual journey right now? Why?

- [ ] (a) I feel close to God.
  (b) I don't think about God unless I want something.
  (c) I wonder if God loves me just as I am.
  (d) I feel like I'm growing.
  (e) I feel like I'm struggling.
  (f) I love God, but I want to know more about Him.

- [ ] Stories are powerful! Think through a few stories of how you've viewed God and share a couple this week. Be vulnerable, as this will encourage your kids. Here are a few prompts to get you thinking: What do you love most about your relationship with God? What is your favorite "thing" that you experience as a child of God? Did you ever have a false and maybe funny view of God that was later corrected?

- [ ] If your kids have a mobile phone, text them a few times this week. Here are a few suggestions:

    - God longs for us to see Him—as He really is.
    - "If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me." Jeremiah 29:13 (NLT)
    - I love that you want to know more about God. I'm excited that we are on this journey together as a family to explore God's characteristics together!
    - God isn't a vending machine that gives us what we want; God gives us what we need.
    - God is always there for us, and He loves to give good things.



The GOODNESS of God

SESSION 2



Prep

Plan on spending 10 minutes without your kids to familiarize yourself with this session.

Begin with prayer, asking God for His wisdom and guidance.
Read through the session to:

- Be sure to understand the Big Idea and the Key Verse
- Preview the video
- Select the best questions in the **TALK** section and activities in the **DO** section for your family

Understanding the Character of God

Background information from the Bible about God's character.

All of God's actions are good. God cannot be tempted to do evil. When we experience pain and loss, it can be difficult to see that God is good. When we trust in His goodness, He becomes our anchor in the storm.

"You are good, and what you do is good;" (Psalm 119:68 NIV)

As the Creator, God wants everyone to experience His goodness, offering blessing and refuge to all who will come to Him.

"Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him." (Psalm 34:8 NIV)

Every good thing in our life comes from God. He's not an angry father or an unfair judge. God wants the very best for us because He is good.

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father..." (James 1:17 NIV)

God's goodness means He teaches us to do right. No one is perfect. In spite of our brokenness and rebellion against God, His goodness draws us closer to Him.

"Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways." (Psalm 25:8 NIV)

Big Idea:

GOD IS GOOD,
ALL THE TIME.

The goodness of God means He wants the best for us. God is generous, kind, and caring. God is good all the time, even when life is difficult.

Key Verse:

PSALM 145:9 (NLT)

The Lord is good to everyone. He showers compassion on all His creation.

Watch

Set up the video for your family:

"We're going to watch a video that tells a story to teach us something about God. Let's pay attention and see if we can discover what the story says about God."



LOST DOG

RealGodChurch.com/View



Talk

Choose a few questions to best help your family talk about the video.

- [ ] What did you like most about the video?
- [ ] What was the point of the video? What did it teach about God?
- [ ] How was the story of the lost dog an example of God's goodness?
- [ ] What does it mean that God is good?
- [ ] Read the Big Idea and Key Verse.
- [ ] Describe a difficult or challenging time in your life when it was hard to see God as a good, loving father.
- [ ] Is God good all the time? What if the dog never made it back home, or if God doesn't answer our prayers in the way we want?
- [ ] What are some situations when it's hard for you to be good toward others? Who are some people that make it difficult for you to treat them with goodness?
- [ ] When we believe that God is good, we trust in Him. On a practical and personal level, what does it mean to trust God?

(Depending on the age of your kids, you may not get much of a response. After a few minutes of letting the question "soak in," answer the question. Tell your kids what it means for you and your family to trust God.)

Do

Ideas to help your family understand God's character for the rest of the week.

- [ ] Go to **RealGodChurch.com/view** and select the Family Devotional to **LOG IN**. Download the TAKEAWAY page for this Session. Put up a few around your house (refrigerator, bathroom mirror, etc.). Encourage your kids to read the verse every morning and every night. One option is to memorize the verse as a family.



GOODNESS

God is good, all the time.

"The Lord is good to everyone. He showers compassion on all his creation."
(Psalm 145.9 NLT)

- [ ] Morning questions for breakfast or on the ride to school:

  - "How do you think you might see God's goodness today?" After you and your kids answer, encourage them by saying, "Try to look for ways that God was good to you today."
  - What could it look like for you to be good to others today? Is there something new and different you can do today to be good?

- [ ] Questions for the evening in the car on the way home from school or dinner time:

  - "Where did you see God's goodness today?"
  - "How did you show goodness to someone today? Did you see an example of one person being good to another?"

- [ ] Stories are powerful! Think through a few stories of God's goodness and share a couple this week. Be vulnerable, as this will encourage your kids. Here are a few prompts to get you thinking: In the past, how was God good to your family? How was God good to your family in a difficult season? What is an example of God's goodness from when you were young?

- [ ] How is God being good to you now? Working alone, everyone should make a list of eight things he or she is thankful for. When finished, everyone should share their list. Put the lists up on your refrigerator as a reminder of God's goodness all week.

- [ ] If your kids have a mobile phone, text them a few times this week. Here are a few suggestions:

    - Don't forget: God is good, all the time!
    - "The Lord is good to everyone. He showers compassion on all his creation." (Psalm 145:9 NLT)
    - You are a gift to our family! I am thankful for you and every day I am reminded how good God is because of you!
    - Be good to someone today, even when you don't feel like being good.

- [ ] Gather a bunch of magazines. Have everyone cut out pictures of things that are "good" and create a collage. For the more tech-savvy families, make boards on Pinterest. Have everyone explain why they chose the things they did. When finished, ask, "How can God be good all the time if we don't get everything we want?" Once the discussion ends, talk about the difference between wants and needs. Explain that because God is good, He gives us everything we need, but not necessarily everything we want.



The SOVEREIGNTY of God

SESSION 3



Prep

Plan on spending 10 minutes without your kids to familiarize yourself with this session.

Begin with prayer, asking God for His wisdom and guidance.
Read through the session to:

- Be sure to understand the Big Idea and the Key Verse
- Preview the video
- Select the best questions in the **TALK** section and activities in the **DO** section for your family

Understanding the Character of God

Background information from the Bible about God's character.

God's sovereignty is the attribute by which He rules His entire creation, and to be sovereign, God must be all-knowing, all-powerful, and absolutely free.

1. God created all things, both in heaven and on earth, both visible and invisible. He sustains all things, holding them together.

   "For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together." (Colossians 1:16-17 NIV)

2. God is all-powerful, and He can do all things. Nothing is too difficult for Him. Nothing—not anything—is impossible for Him.

   "I am the LORD, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for me?" (Jeremiah 32:27 NIV)

3. God knows all things. He isn't limited. God knows everything completely before it happens.

   "Before a word is on my tongue you, LORD, know it completely." (Psalm 139:4 NIV)

   "Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account." (Hebrews 4:13 NIV)

Big Idea:

GOD KNOWS EVERYTHING AND IS IN COMPLETE CONTROL.

As the Creator of the universe, nothing escapes God's attention or is beyond His power. God is never surprised or out of control because He is the King of the universe.

Key Verse:

COLOSSIANS 1:17 (NLT)

He (God) existed before anything else, and He holds all creation together.

Watch

Set up the video for your family:

"We're going to watch a video that tells a story to teach us something about God. Let's pay attention and see if we can discover what the story says about God."



MICRO MACRO

RealGodChurch.com/View



Talk

Choose a few questions to best help your family talk about the video.

- [ ] What did you like most about the video?
- [ ] What was the point of the video? What did it teach about God?
- [ ] Read the Big Idea and Key Verse.
- [ ] "Sovereign" means holding a position of power and authority, like a king or president of a country. Can you name other examples of "sovereignty"? How do these positions impact and control your life?
- [ ] When it comes to "human sovereignty" (for example, a teacher at school or a boss at work), what are some healthy ways to respond to authority? What are some poor or unhealthy ways to respond to authority?
- [ ] How is human sovereignty different from God's sovereignty? How is human control and leadership different from God's control and leadership?
- [ ] How do you typically respond when things are out of your control ... when stuff happens you don't like but can't do anything about?
- [ ] God knows everything about our lives. He knows about the good things and the bad things like worry, fear, and doubt. On a practical level, how can the sovereignty of God help us through the bad things?
- [ ] Since God is both good (Session 2) and sovereign, why does God allow bad things to happen? (Parents: this is a HUGE question, but an important one to explore as a family. For more information on this topic, check out the book entitled *The Real God* by Chip Ingram.)

Do

Ideas to help your family understand God's character for the rest of the week.

- [ ] Go to **RealGodChurch.com/view** and select the Family Devotional to **LOG IN**. Download the TAKEAWAY page for this Session. Put up a few around your house (refrigerator, bathroom mirror, etc.). Encourage your kids to read the verse every morning and every night. One option is to memorize the verse as a family.



SOVEREIGNTY

God knows everything and is in complete control.

"He (God) existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together."
(Colossians 1:17 NLT)

- [ ] Morning questions for breakfast or on the ride to school:

  - The Bible says God is sovereign. What does that mean?
  - What's happening today that is out of your control? What could it look like for you to trust God as King of the universe?

- [ ] Questions for the evening in the car on the way home from school or dinner time:

  - What were some things that happened to you today that were out of your control? How did you respond?
  - What does it mean to worry or be anxious? How can the truth about God's sovereignty help us with worry?

- [ ] Stories are powerful! Think through a few stories of God's sovereignty in your life and share a couple this week. Be vulnerable, as this will encourage your kids. Here are a few prompts to get you thinking: Describe a time when a series of events were confusing/overwhelming/out of control until you were able to look back and see God at work.

- [ ] If your kids have a mobile phone, text them a few times this week. Here are a few suggestions:

    - Take comfort in the truth that God knows everything and is in complete control.
    - "He (God) existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together." (Colossians 1:17 NLT)
    - God is in control over everything that happens today. He loves you and so do I!
    - Take a moment and give thanks to God for being in control of everything. We worship the King of the universe!
    - If something stressed you out today, take a moment and say, "God help me to trust you more. Thank you for being in control and loving me."

- [ ] As a family, take 10 minutes and each person hunt for something in your home that best describes for you the sovereignty of God. Bring it back to the family and share why you chose that particular item.



The HOLINESS of God

SESSION 4



Prep

Plan on spending 10 minutes without your kids to familiarize yourself with this session.

Begin with prayer, asking God for His wisdom and guidance.
Read through the session to:

- Be sure to understand the Big Idea and the Key Verse
- Preview the video
- Select the best questions in the **TALK** section and activities in the **DO** section for your family

Understanding the Character of God

Background information from the Bible about God's character.

1. God's holiness makes Him utterly incomparable to anything we know or experience. Our minds are too limited to understand our unlimited God.

   "Who among the gods is like you, LORD? Who is like you—majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?" (Exodus 15:11 NIV)

2. The holiness of God is powerful and shocking. His absolute purity reveals our impurity. In Isaiah 6, the prophet has a vision of God sitting on His throne. The angels were singing:

   "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined!" (Isaiah 6:3-5 NIV)

3. Without holiness, no one can see God. He is perfect and our imperfection cannot exist in His presence. We are made holy and perfect by faith in the sacrifice of Jesus. Our response to the free gift of salvation is to pursue a life of holiness. God is calling His children to be holy like He is holy. This means living according to God's standard, not our own or the standards of the world.

   "Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord." (Hebrews 12:14 NIV. See also Hebrews 10:14 and 1 Peter 1:14-16.)

Big Idea:

GOD IS SET APART FROM HIS CREATION, PERFECT AND INDEPENDENT.

The holiness of God separates Him from everyone and everything in His creation. He is perfect and independent in every way. God's holiness is total freedom from all evil. Literally, there is nothing like God. He is the ultimate.

Key Verse:

1 KINGS 8:34 (NIV)

"Then hear from heaven and forgive the sin of your people Israel and bring them back to the land you gave to their ancestors."

Watch

Set up the video for your family:

"We're going to watch a video that tells a story to teach us something about God. Let's pay attention and see if we can discover what the story says about God."



THE ARROW

RealGodChurch.com/View



Talk

Choose a few questions to best help your family talk about the video.

- [ ] What did you like most about the video?

- [ ] What was the point of the story? What did it teach about God and His Son, Jesus?

- [ ] Ask your kids to explain the symbolism of the story. If needed, use the following prompts:

  - How does the story describe the High King?
  - What was the High King's requirement?
  - How did the people respond to the High King's requirement?
  - Why didn't the last archer take the shot?
  - Why did the last archer get to see the King?

- [ ] EXPLAIN

  1. Only God is perfect (holy). Imperfect (sinful) people can't have a relationship with a perfect God. In the video, no one could live in the presence of the King unless they passed the test.
  2. People have no way to become perfect on our own. In the video, no one could hit the target because it was an impossible shot.
  3. Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and defeated death through the resurrection. In the video, this is shown by the Son hitting the target, perfectly in the middle.
  4. Our response is to accept the free gift of salvation by believing in Jesus. By faith, we can take credit for His perfection. In the video, this is shown by the fourth archer refusing to take the shot and asking the Son for mercy.

- [ ] Read the Big Idea and Key Verse.

- [ ] What does it mean to be a Christian?

Do

Ideas to help your family understand God's character for the rest of the week.

- [ ] Go to **RealGodChurch.com/view** and select the Family Devotional to **LOG IN**. Download the TAKEAWAY page for this Session. Put up a few around your house (refrigerator, bathroom mirror, etc.). Encourage your kids to read the verse every morning and every night. One option is to memorize the verse as a family.



HOLINESS

God is high and holy, set apart from His creation in every way.

"Then hear from heaven and forgive the sin of your people Israel and bring them back to the land you gave to their ancestors."

(1 Kings 8:34 NIV)

- [ ] Morning questions for breakfast or on the ride to school:

  - If someone asked you what holiness meant, what would you say?
  - Through Jesus, God is working to make us holy like He is holy. What could that look like for you today? What is one way you can be different for God today?

- [ ] Questions for the evening in the car on the way home from school or dinner time:

  - God is holy and perfect, but the world isn't. What are some negative things you see happen at school — actions that hurt others?
  - God is holy, and through Jesus, He is working to make us more holy. What could it look like for you to stand apart from behavior that dishonors God?

- [ ] Stories are powerful! Think through a few stories of God's holiness and grace in your life and share a couple this week. Be vulnerable, as this will encourage your kids. Here are a few prompts to get you thinking: What is your testimony? When did you first come to faith in Jesus? Describe a time when you were overcome with awe at the holiness of God. When was a time when you really needed God's grace?

- [ ] If your kids have a mobile phone, text them a few times this week. Here are a few suggestions:

    - God is holy, which means He is different and unique from His creation in ways we cannot fully understand.

    - "Don't forget this week's verse: "LORD, the God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below." (1 Kings 8:23 NIV)

    - God loves you and is working to make you more like Him. I know it can be difficult to do good things when everyone else isn't. I love you and am praying for you!

    - But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8 NIV)

    - Take a moment and pray: "God, you have my permission to do whatever You need to make me holy."



The WISDOM of God

SESSION 5



Prep

Plan on spending 10 minutes without your kids to familiarize yourself with this session.

Begin with prayer, asking God for His wisdom and guidance.
Read through the session to:

- Be sure to understand the Big Idea and the Key Verse
- Preview the video
- Select the best questions in the **TALK** section and activities in the **DO** section for your family

Understanding the Character of God

Background information from the Bible about God's character.

"What is wisdom? It is the skill to achieve the most perfect ends by the most perfect means."
Tozer, A. W., *The Attributes of God* (Vol. 2, p. 130).

1. The wisdom of God is infinite, perfect, and complete. There is nothing God doesn't know. It is impossible for God to be surprised.

   "Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?" (Romans 11:33-34 NIV)

2. God is the ultimate source of wisdom. He didn't need to "learn" from anyone or anything.

   "Whom did the LORD consult to enlighten him, and who taught him the right way? Who was it that taught him knowledge, or showed him the path of understanding?" (Isaiah 40:14 NIV)

3. God has revealed His wisdom in Jesus, His Son. We are made right with God – have a relationship with Him – through faith in Jesus.

   "It is because of [God] that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption" (1 Corinthians 1:30 NIV)

Big Idea:

GOD'S PERFECT KNOWLEDGE ALWAYS LEADS TO THE BEST DECISIONS.

Wisdom is the application of knowledge to real life.

Key Verse:

ROMANS 11:33 (NLT)

Oh, how great are God's riches and wisdom and knowledge!

Watch

Set up the video for your family:

"We're going to watch a video that tells a story to teach us something about God. Let's pay attention and see if we can discover what the story says about God."



FROZEN MOMENT

RealGodChurch.com/View



Talk

Choose a few questions to best help your family talk about the video.

- [ ] What did you like most about the video?

- [ ] What was the point of the video? What did it teach about God?

- [ ] What good came as a result of the car accident? What happened to the man walking on the sidewalk due to the accident? What would he go on to achieve with his life?

- [ ] Do you think the driver ever saw the good that happened? How do you think the driver felt about the accident?

- [ ] What does it mean that God is wise? How is God's wisdom different from our wisdom?

- [ ] Read the Big Idea and Key Verse.

- [ ] In your opinion, was the car accident a good thing or a bad thing? Why?

- [ ] Can God really know everything since bad things happen? Why doesn't He stop them from happening?

- [ ] We are called to grow in wisdom and make increasingly better decisions. What can a person do to gain God's wisdom?

Do

Ideas to help your family understand God's character for the rest of the week.

- [ ] Go to **RealGodChurch.com/view** and select the Family Devotional to **LOG IN**. Download the TAKEAWAY page for this Session. Put up a few around your house (refrigerator, bathroom mirror, etc.). Encourage your kids to read the verse every morning and every night. One option is to memorize the verse as a family.



WISDOM

God's perfect knowledge always leads to the best decisions.

"Oh, how great are God's riches and wisdom and knowledge!"
(Romans 11:33 NLT)

- [ ] Morning questions for breakfast or on the ride to school:

  - What could it look like for you to lean more on God's wisdom than your own?
  - If something you don't like happens today, how should you respond in light of God's wisdom?

- [ ] Questions for the evening in the car on the way home from school or dinner time:

  - There are at least three good ways we can respond to God's perfect wisdom: (a) thank and worship our awesome God, (b) ask Him to make us wise, and (c) trust Him when something bad happens. Which one of these is easiest for you? Why?
  - What is a situation you are currently facing where you need more of God's wisdom?

- [ ] Stories are powerful! Think through a few stories of God's wisdom and share a couple this week. Be vulnerable, as this will encourage your kids. Here are a few prompts to get you thinking: Describe a time when you listened to God's wisdom … and a time when you ignored Him. Share about a recent "out of control" situation in your life where it was difficult to trust in God's wisdom.

- [ ] As a family, work on a difficult puzzle without looking at the picture. When the time is right, in your own words say, "God's wisdom is perfect. He always sees the big picture and He makes sure all the pieces fit together. We struggle because we don't have perfect knowledge. God is calling us to learn from Him to gain more wisdom, and He is calling us to lean on Him by trusting in His wisdom."

- [ ] As a family, set up a time to interview (either face to face or virtually) a very wise person – this could be a grandma, your pastor, a teacher, or a friend. Have each family member prepare at least two questions to ask the wise person. Let the interview and fun begin. As a family, share some of the wisdom nuggets that you learned.

- [ ] If your kids have a mobile phone, text them a few times this week. Here are a few suggestions:

    - God's perfect knowledge always leads to perfect decisions.
    - "Oh, how great are God's riches and wisdom and knowledge!" (Romans 11:33 NLT)
    - I love you and trust you to make good decisions today. And for the days you don't, I still love you and I'm cheering you on.
    - Give thanks to God for His perfect wisdom.
    - Ask God to teach you something new today.



The JUSTICE of God

SESSION 6



Prep

Plan on spending 10 minutes without your kids to familiarize yourself with this session.

Begin with prayer, asking God for His wisdom and guidance.
Read through the session to:

- Be sure to understand the Big Idea and the Key Verse
- Preview the video
- Select the best questions in the **TALK** section and activities in the **DO** section for your family

Understanding the Character of God

Background information from the Bible about God's character.

1. God's justice means that people are going to get what they deserve based on God's clear and full understanding of what they did and why they did it.

   "Your eyes are open to the ways of all mankind; you reward each person according to their conduct and as their deeds deserve." (Jeremiah 32:19 NIV; See also Colossians 3:25)

2. God's justice is impartial and fair. He cannot be bribed, tricked or coerced into passing biased judgments.

   "For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes." (Deuteronomy 10:17 NIV)

3. We do not always understand God's justice. While life is not always fair, we know that He does not treat people unfairly.

   "The Almighty is beyond our reach and exalted in power; in his justice and great righteousness, he does not oppress." (Job 37:23 NIV)

4. God's heart is for everyone to receive mercy and enter His family through faith in Jesus. Therefore, God may delay His justice.

   "The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:9 NIV)

Big Idea:

LIFE'S NOT ALWAYS FAIR. GOD IS.

God's justice gives evil what it deserves. Every wrong will be made right. Justice is not a standard God follows. He IS the standard. Truth is, bad things happen to people who don't deserve it. We can trust God because He will set all things right, and His justice will be satisfied.

Key Verse:

PSALM 50:6 (NLT)

Then let the heavens proclaim His justice, for God himself will be the judge.

Watch

Set up the video for your family:

"We're going to watch a video that tells a story to teach us something about God. Let's pay attention and see if we can discover what the story says about God."



CLOSED CIRCUIT

RealGodChurch.com/View



Talk

Choose a few questions to best help your family talk about the video.

- [ ] What did you like most about the video?

- [ ] What was the point of the video? What did it teach about God?

- [ ] Can you relate to Ellie, the girl who was bullied? Have you ever had something happen to you that was totally unfair? What happened? Did it ever get resolved?

- [ ] Read the Big Idea and Key Verse.

- [ ] In your opinion, what does it mean that God is just?

- [ ] When you are treated unfairly, how do you feel? What is your natural impulse?

- [ ] Do you feel like you've treated anyone unfairly in the last week? If so, what happened? Is there anything you can do to make it right?

- [ ] In the video, the narrator says, "God sees you. He watches over you. He knows your good days and your bad days. You are never forgotten, never left alone. And He promises in the end He will make all things right." How does this make you feel? What could it look like for you to trust God's justice?

Do

Ideas to help your family understand God's character for the rest of the week.

- [ ] Go to **RealGodChurch.com/view** and select the Family Devotional to **LOG IN**. Download the TAKEAWAY page for this Session. Put up a few around your house (refrigerator, bathroom mirror, etc.). Encourage your kids to read the verse every morning and every night. One option is to memorize the verse as a family.



JUSTICE

Life's not always fair. God is.

"Then let the heavens proclaim his justice, for God himself will be the judge."

(Psalm 50:6 NLT)

- [ ] Morning questions for breakfast or on the ride to school:

  - If you get treated unfairly today, how will you try to respond?
  - If you see someone else being treated unfairly, what can you do to help?
  - Describe a situation that might happen today where you will be tempted to treat someone unfairly.

- [ ] Questions for the evening in the car on the way home from school or dinner time:

  - Did you see anyone get treated unfairly today? What happened? How did you help?
  - How do you think God's justice is different than human justice?

- [ ] Stories are powerful! Think through a few stories of God's justice and share a couple this week. Be vulnerable, as this will encourage your kids. Here are a few prompts to get you thinking: Describe a time when you were treated unfairly, and how you responded. Share a time when you treated someone else unfairly and what you did to make it right.

- [ ] Cheater! Pick a simple card game to play as a family (Go Fish, Crazy 8's, War, etc.). For the first couple rounds, cheat in a way that's obvious. Deal the other cards face up, stack your hand, do whatever it takes to win in a way that's totally unfair. Play with a straight face, like you're doing nothing wrong. When the time is right, say, "This was just a silly example that life isn't always fair, but the Bible teaches us that God is. Let's now play for real."

- [ ] If your kids have a mobile phone, text them a few times this week. Here are a few suggestions:

    - Don't forget: life isn't always fair, but God is!
    - "Then let the heavens proclaim his justice, for God himself will be the judge." (Psalm 50:6 NLT)
    - I'm praying for you today—that you'll be treated fairly and I trust you to treat others fairly. Love you!
    - Be just like God is just. Try to treat everyone fairly today!
    - I know it can be discouraging when we're treated unfairly. Trust God and resist the urge to get payback.



The LOVE of God

SESSION 7



Prep

Plan on spending 10 minutes without your kids to familiarize yourself with this session.

Begin with prayer, asking God for His wisdom and guidance.
Read through the session to:

- Be sure to understand the Big Idea and the Key Verse
- Preview the video
- Select the best questions in the **TALK** section and activities in the **DO** section for your family

Understanding the Character of God

Background information from the Bible about God's character.

"God's love is His holy disposition toward all that He has created that compels Him to express unconditional affection and selective correction to provide the highest quality of existence, both now and forever, for the object of His love." (Chip Ingram, The Real God, page 213)

1. Holy disposition – Holy means "other" and "set apart." God doesn't love like people love. His love is perfect and infinitely better. God's love is unconditional.

   "For great is his love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever." (Psalm 117:2 NIV)

2. Affection and correction – God is affectionate and gracious when we are good, and He is affectionate and gracious when we are evil.

   "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8 NIV)

3. Highest quality of existence – God sent His Son, Jesus, so that we might have eternal life through faith in Him.

   "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16 NIV)

Big Idea:

GOD'S LOVE WILL ALWAYS FIND US.

God's love for us is perfect. We can't gain more of God's love—He loves us fully, it's not possible for Him to love us more. We can't lose any of His love—He loves us unconditionally, no strings attached. Jesus is the ultimate expression of God's love: He sent His Son to live a perfect life, die for our sins, and defeat death through the resurrection—all so that we might be found and have a relationship with God.

Key Verse:

PSALM 23:6 (NLT)

Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life.

Watch

Set up the video for your family:

"We're going to watch a video that tells a story to teach us something about God. Let's pay attention and see if we can discover what the story says about God."



LOST AND FOUND

RealGodChurch.com/View

Talk

Choose a few questions to best help your family talk about the video.

- [ ] What did you like most about the story?

- [ ] What was the point of the story? What did it teach about God?

- [ ] This video is a beautiful story of a boy searching for his lost toy. After much searching, he finds it! How do you think this story relates to God's love and what He has done for us?

- [ ] Read the Big Idea and Key Verse.

- [ ] What's your favorite possession, the thing you love the most? What would you do if you lost it? How far would you go to get it back?

- [ ] The Bible says, "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." (Luke 19:10 NIV) How does this verse relate to the story in the video?

- [ ] God's love for us is constant, and it's not based on anything we do—good or bad. How does this concept help with your faith?

- [ ] God loves the lost – people who don't believe in Jesus – so much that He sent His Son so that anyone who believes in Him will have eternal life. What could it look like for you to be loving to people who don't believe in Jesus?

Do

Ideas to help your family understand God's character for the rest of the week.

- [ ] Go to **RealGodChurch.com/view** and select the Family Devotional to **LOG IN**. Download the TAKEAWAY page for this Session. Put up a few around your house (refrigerator, bathroom mirror, etc.). Encourage your kids to read the verse every morning and every night. One option is to memorize the verse as a family.



LOVE

God's love will always find us.

"Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life"

(Psalm 23:6 NLT)

- [ ] Morning questions for breakfast or on the ride to school:

  - In the video, the narrator said, "You are much more valuable to God than anything you own." How does that make you feel? What does that mean for you?
  - What's a practical way you can show love to someone today?

- [ ] Questions for the evening in the car on the way home from school or dinner time:

  - What could it look like to show someone love tomorrow who is difficult to get along with?
  - In your opinion, how is God's love different than human love?

- [ ] Stories are powerful! Think through a few stories of God's love and share a couple this week. Be vulnerable, as this will encourage your kids. Here are a few prompts to get you thinking: Love is giving someone what they need the most, when they deserve it the least, at great personal cost. How have you experienced this kind of love? What made that experience personally powerful and meaningful?

- [ ] Play hide and go seek with your kids. Give away a prize for the person who stays hidden the longest. When the time is right, say the following in your own words: "This was just a silly way to have fun and serves as a reminder that no matter what we do in life, God's love will find us."

- [ ] Play a version of "The Price is Right" with your kids. Print out ten different items (pick at least one really expensive thing) and have everyone guess the price. Give away a prize for the person who scores the highest. In your own words, say, "You are more valuable to God than anything in the world. He sent His Son Jesus to pay the highest price for you, so that you might be found in Him."

- [ ] If your kids have a mobile phone, text them a few times this week. Here are a few suggestions:

    - God's love will always find us.
    - "Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life." (Psalm 23:6 NLT)
    - I'm praying for you today. As much as I love you, remember that God loves you more! His love is unconditional. He will always love you!
    - God's love is not based on anything we do. He loves us simply because He made us. He is a good Father!
    - Loving others the way God does isn't easy. Try to show love to the "unlovable" today.



The FAITHFULNESS of God

SESSION 8



Prep

Plan on spending 10 minutes without your kids to familiarize yourself with this session.

Begin with prayer, asking God for His wisdom and guidance.
Read through the session to:

- Be sure to understand the Big Idea and the Key Verse
- Preview the video
- Select the best questions in the **TALK** section and activities in **DO** section for your family

Understanding the Character of God

Background information from the Bible about God's character.

1. Nothing is faithful like God is faithful. Eventually, everything else will let us down, but God never will.

   "Remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, ... without hope and without God in the world." (Ephesians 2:12 NIV)

2. We can put our hope in God because His actions and words are consistent.

   "The LORD is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does." (Psalm 145:13 NIV)

3. We can trust God's Word, the Bible, because God is faithful.

   "As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it." (Isaiah 55:10-11 NIV)

4. We can trust God to be faithful when we face difficult struggles. When we put our hope in Him, He provides a way out.

   "No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it." (1 Corinthians 10:13 NIV)

Big Idea:

GOD NEVER BREAKS HIS PROMISES.

Every relationship is built on trust. You trust the pilot to fly the plane, so you get on board. You trust the bank to protect your money, so that's where you deposit your paycheck. The world promises a lot more than it actually delivers. The truth is that God has been making promises since the beginning of time, and He has kept every one of them. God is faithful. We can trust in Him because He never breaks His promises.

Key Verse:

PSALM 33:4 (NIV)

For the word of the Lord is right and true; He is faithful in all He does.

Watch

Set up the video for your family:

"We're going to watch a video that tells a story to teach us something about God. Let's pay attention and see if we can discover what the story says about God."



EXPLODING PROMISES

RealGodChurch.com/View



Talk

Choose a few questions to best help your family talk about the video.

- [ ] What did you like most about the video?
- [ ] What was the point of the video? What did it teach about God?
- [ ] Would you trust anything Jack Thomas had to say? Why or why not?
- [ ] Read the Big Idea and Key Verse.
- [ ] Why do you think it is important that God is faithful?
- [ ] Jack Thomas was not faithful to His promises. How do you feel when a person breaks a promise to you?
- [ ] What are some things a person can do to build trust with a friend?
- [ ] God promises to never break one of His promises. Can you think of another promise God has made?
- [ ] There are four practical ways we can trust in God's faithfulness. Which one do you think you might be able to do this week?

    (1) Put your past behind you by saying sorry to God.
    (2) Bring your problems, pain, and mistakes to God.
    (3) Put your hope for the future in God rather than the world.
    (4) Share with someone about God's faithfulness in your life.

Do

Ideas to help your family understand God's character for the rest of the week.

- [ ] Go to **RealGodChurch.com/view** and select the Family Devotional to **LOG IN**. Download the TAKEAWAY page for this Session. Put up a few around your house (refrigerator, bathroom mirror, etc.). Encourage your kids to read the verse every morning and every night. One option is to memorize the verse as a family.



FAITHFUL

God never breaks His promises.

"For the word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does."
(Psalm 33:4 NIV)

- [ ] Morning questions for breakfast or on the ride to school:

  - What are you facing today that will give you a chance to trust God?
  - What is something you can do today to build trust with someone?

- [ ] Questions for the evening in the car on the way home from school or dinner time:

  - Did anything happen today that reminded you of one of God's promises? If so, what was it?
  - Did you take the effort to build trust with someone? What did you do?

- [ ] Stories are powerful! Think through a few stories of God's faithfulness and share a couple this week. Be vulnerable, as this will encourage your kids. Here are a few prompts to get you thinking: For you personally, what is one of God's promises that is especially powerful for you? Who's the most faithful person you know? How did they keep your trust? Describe a time when someone broke his or her promise to you.

- [ ] The Promises of God. Make a copy of the worksheet (found on the next page) for everyone in your family. Have each person read one promise and scripture until they are all read. ASK: Which promise is your favorite, or means the most to you right now?

- [ ] If your kids have a mobile phone, text them a few times this week. Here are a few suggestions:

    - God never breaks His promises.
    - "For the word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does." (Psalm 33:4 NIV)
    - I love being your DAD/MOM! I'm not perfect like God, but I'm going to do everything possible to always be someone you can trust!
    - Text me back: what's one promise that God has made?
    - Be the kind of friend you'd like to have – build trust by being faithful to your commitments! When we do this, we treat others just like God treats us!

Seven PROMISES OF GOD

In this study, we have looked at seven characteristics about God. These aren't just interesting facts, these are promises we can trust, no matter what happens in our lives. Which of these promises means the most to you right now?

1. GOOD:

God is good, all the time.

"The Lord is good to everyone. He showers compassion on all his creation." (Psalm 145:9 NLT)

2. SOVEREIGN:

God knows everything and is in complete control.

"He (God) existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together." (Colossians 1:17 NLT)

3. HOLY:

God is high and holy, set apart from His creation in every way.

"LORD, the God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below." (1 Kings 8:23 NIV)

4. WISE:

God's perfect knowledge always leads to the best decisions.

"Oh, how great are God's riches and wisdom and knowledge! How impossible it is for us to understand his decisions and his ways!" (Romans 11:33 NLT)

5. JUST:

God is always fair, even when life isn't.

"Then let the heavens proclaim his justice, for God himself will be the judge." (Psalm 50:6 NLT)

6. LOVING:

God's love will always find us.

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost. (Luke 19:10 NIV)

7. FAITHFUL:

God never breaks His promises.

"For the word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does." (Psalm 33:4 NIV)

Acknowledgments

Any project like this Family Devotional requires many dedicated hands to successfully complete it. Living on the Edge would like to thank the following people for the many hours they put into this tool for parents.

HOMEWORD
AZUSA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY

Jim Burns played the pivotal role of inspiring the idea for a family devotional and formulated the original content of this resource. Every family with children at home should read his book, *Faith Conversations for Families*.

POLYMATH

Polymath Innovations, including Matt Pope, Tim Dalrymple, Dale Goldberg and Chris Arnold, for their exemplary work in creating narrative videos that express God's character.

Brian Bird, veteran screenwriter extraordinaire, Bill Daily for providing general counsel and guidance on the entire project, and Matt McGill, for fine-tuning and shaping the final form of the devotional.



WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

We encourage you to send us your feedback:

- Please send us your stories of how these faith conversations impacted your family.
- How did this resource work in your family?
- What creative ideas did you use? Did you come up with any on your own?
- What worked really well, and what could we improve?

Send your feedback to:
EMAIL: info@livingontheedge.org
ONLINE: LivingontheEdge.org/MyStory

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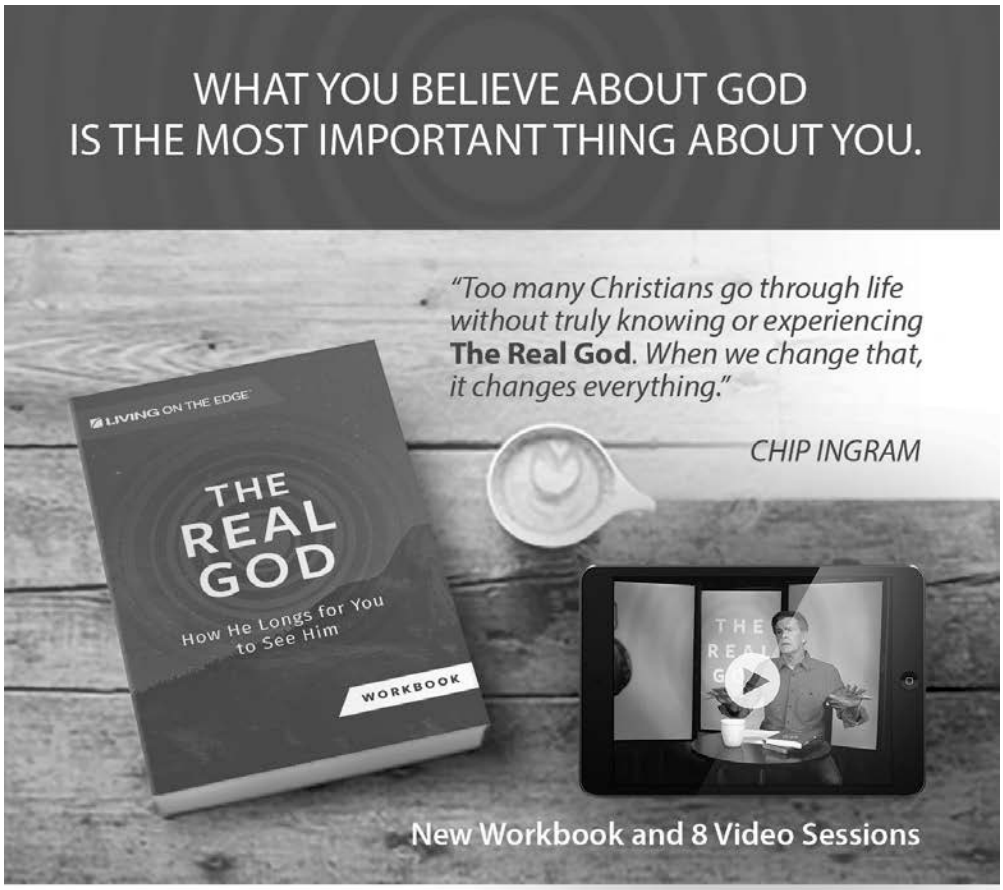

Includes 8 Streaming Video Sessions



The Real God Workbook includes a participant code that unlocks eight video lessons from Chip Ingram that may be streamed from any device. Participants have unlimited access to the video teaching.

Preview and order online:

LivingontheEdge.org/TheRealGod

Reclaim time with your family! *The Real God* Family Video Devotional will equip you to have meaningful and significant conversations with your kids about God.

This isn't an ordinary devotional.

Each session includes an engaging video along with a discussion guide. When used together, they will enable you to have important and memorable conversations with your family. The videos are short, yet deep enough to lead you in discovering a deeper understanding of seven characteristics of God. The discussion guides are easy to follow and include many activities and questions for you to choose from.

Sessions:

1. Seeking God
2. The Goodness of God
3. The Sovereignty of God
4. The Holiness of God
5. The Wisdom of God
6. The Justice of God
7. The Love of God
8. The Faithfulness of God



Living on the Edge exists to help Christians live like Christians.

It was established in 1995 as a radio ministry of pastor and author Chip Ingram. It has since grown into an international discipleship ministry with a clear vision: to be a catalytic movement of Christians living out their faith in ways that transform families, churches, and communities for the common good and the glory of God.

Living on the Edge creates biblical teaching and tools that challenge and equip spiritually hungry Christians to become mature disciples of Jesus.

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