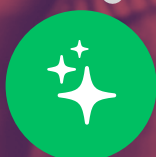


# REFLECTING GOD'S CHARACTER



**Term 2 Community Group  
Studies**



# Introduction

The most common way to speak of God's nature is by two categories called **incommunicable attributes** (those that cannot be shared with creatures) and his **communicable attributes** (which humans can reflect in limited form). You can see how they are divided up below and there's descriptions in the back of this book.

This distinction seeks to affirm both that humans bear God's image and that God remains essentially distinct from creation.

Over the next 4-weeks, we will press into some of God's communicable attributes that he shares with, looking at verses that call us to imitate God, so that we can walk in love and follow him more faithfully.



## Incommunicable

- Transcendence
- Immanence
- Aseity
- Perfection
- Omnipresence
- Unity (Simplicity)
- Eternity
- Immutability
- Invisibility
- Spirituality
- Omniscience
- Omnipotence



## Communicable

- Glory
- Beauty
- Blessedness
- Jealousy
- sovereignty
- Goodness
- Peace
- **Holiness**
- Love
- Mercy
- Righteousness
- Wrath
- **Patience**
- **Faithfulness**
- Truthfulness
- Grace
- **Wisdom**
- Will
- Freedom



# Week 1: Holiness

**Quote** "God's holiness signifies everything about God that sets Him apart from us and makes Him an object of awe, adoration, and dread to us." - RC Sproul

**1 Peter 1:13-16** <sup>13</sup>Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. <sup>14</sup>As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. <sup>15</sup>But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; <sup>16</sup>for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

## Talk About

What standards or examples do people use to determine how they should live? What makes a Christian different? Is there a difference?

## Watch & Discuss

[www.vimeo.com/266356351](http://www.vimeo.com/266356351)

## Investigate

What does it mean for God to be holy? How would you describe that to a new believer or nonbeliever? What texts might you draw on for support?

In 1 Peter 1:13–16, what is the relationship between knowledge (head) and passions/affections (heart) and conduct (hands)? How do we bring our lives into conformity with God and his word?

What is wrong with the passions Peter describes in 1 Peter 1:14? You can refer to Ephesians 4:22 for help.

Define what it means to “be sober-minded.” How do those activities relate to hope in Peter’s mind, and what does that mean for the Christian life?

## Getting Personal

Consider an area of your life that you want to see made more holy. Pray to the Lord, confess your sin, and ask him to show you how you might take steps this week toward growing in holiness.



## Week 2: Faithfulness

**Quote** “God’s covenantal faithfulness teaches us to view him not as a frighteningly arbitrary and chaotic power, but a personal, righteous God worthy of our absolute trust and fervent hope. God is real, eternal, powerful, and unchangeable, constant and certain in his will and word.” - Matthew Poole

**Hebrews 10:19-23** <sup>19</sup>Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup>by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, <sup>21</sup>and since we have a great priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup>let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. <sup>23</sup>Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.”

### Talk About

Who has encouraged you the most in the last six months?

### Watch & Discuss

[www.vimeo.com/266380080](http://www.vimeo.com/266380080)

## Investigate

Why does the author of Hebrews say that those under the new covenant that could draw near to God? (10:19–22) What does this teach us about God's closeness to us and his faithfulness to his promises?

What happens to the guilty conscience of those who put their faith in Christ? (10:22) Why can we do this? Is it dependant on us being faithful to God?

Read Isaiah 46:9–11. How does God's unchanging nature speak into what he's done through Jesus on the cross?

How does God's faithfulness to himself speak into how we use our words (James 5:12)?

## Getting Personal

Consider someone with whom you haven't always been true to your word. Pray and ask the Lord to help you live honestly and faithfully in all things, imitating your heavenly Father.



## Week 3: Wisdom

**Quote** “What then is God’s wisdom? It is that aspect of the divine life by which God is infinitely skilled to create the world and rule it well as its righteous Lord. Wisdom is the riches of God’s royal intelligence by which he directs all things to his glory, even using the unbelief of some people for the salvation of others. Wisdom is God’s infinite knowledge at the service of his holy will.” - Joel Beeke

**1 Corinthians 3:18-23** <sup>18</sup>Do not deceive yourselves. If any of you think you are wise by the standards of this age, you should become “fools” so that you may become wise. <sup>19</sup>For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God’s sight. As it is written: “He catches the wise in their craftiness”; <sup>20</sup>and again, “The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile.” <sup>21</sup>So then, no more boasting about human leaders! All things are yours, <sup>22</sup>whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, <sup>23</sup>and you are of Christ, and Christ is of God.”

### Talk About

What does wisdom look like in Australia? Is it valued?

### Watch & Discuss

[www.vimeo.com/266407718](http://www.vimeo.com/266407718)

## **Investigate**

What is the root of being foolish according to these verses?

What's the link with human leaders and what are the Corinthians boasting in?

What are the dangers of human wisdom?

Read Proverbs 1:7 and Job 28:20–28. How and where can we find wisdom that would reflect God's nature and help us live according to his ways?

## **Getting Personal**

Boldly ask God for wisdom for a specific situation or relationship, believing he freely grants his wisdom to those who ask.



## Week 4: Patience

**Quote** “God is not only placable<sup>1</sup>, and ready, and disposed, to pardon, but he patiently waits for those who have sinned, and invites them to repentance by his long-suffering.” - John Calvin

“God is a sufficiently sufficient treasurer of patience.” - Tertullian

**James 5:7-11** “Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. <sup>8</sup>You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near. <sup>9</sup>Don’t grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door! <sup>10</sup>Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. <sup>11</sup>As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job’s perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.”

Note the ESV in 5:8, “You also, be patient. **Establish your hearts.**” The NIV implies this by the phrase stand firm, where as the ESV brings out the meaning explicitly, leaving no confusion that it’s talking about out inner attitude.

### Talk About

What kinds of experiences try your patience?

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<sup>1</sup> Gentle, Forgiving, Easily calmed.

## Watch & Discuss

[www.vimeo.com/266382490](http://www.vimeo.com/266382490)

## Investigate

What illustration does James use to describe the kind of patience we need? (5:7) Explain how this links with his idea of waiting for the Lord to return?

What is the link with grumbling about others and being patient?

How does the story of Job help to underline what James is saying?

In the New Testament, Paul wrote how Jesus Christ displayed his “perfect patience” toward himself as an example for others (1 Timothy 1:16). How does God’s patience relate to mission?

## Getting Personal

Consider a circumstance or relationship that needs your patience this week. Pray about how you can abound in supernatural patience and thereby reflect the image of God to those around you.



# i

# Definitions

## Communicable Attributes

**Glory** God's glory is the manifestation of the perfections of all his attributes, supremely revealed in his saving acts and in Christ.

**Beauty** God has all desirable qualities in himself.

**Blessedness** God delights fully in himself and in all that reflects his perfect character.

**Perfection** God possess all attributes perfectly, eternally and no attribute is beyond the others.

**Jealousy** God always seeks to protect his own honour.

**Goodness** God defines and is the standard of good and all he does is good and praise worthy.

**Peace** God is perfectly ordered and complete in himself, free from all chaos, disorder, or conflict

**Holiness** God is morally pure, utterly separate from sin, and opposed to all evil.

**Love** God eternally gives himself to others because he is in the perfect Triune relationships of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Mercy** God shows compassion to those in misery and distress, even when they deserve punishment.

**Righetousness** God is the final standard of what is right and he acts justly all of the time.

**Faithfulness** God is committed to being true to his own character and to fulfilling every word he has spoken.

Wrath	God intensely hates all sin and will punish it.
Truthfulness	God is perfectly true in his being, words, and actions, and never lies or deceives.
Wisdom	God will always choose the best goals and the best means to those goals.
Will	God sovereignly determines and approves all that comes to pass according to his wise and holy purpose.
Freedom	God does whatever he pleases and is not constrained by anything outside himself.
Patience	God willingly withholds immediate judgment, in order to accomplish his redemptive purposes, display his mercy, and bring sinners to repentance, without compromising his justice or holiness.
Sovereignty	God rules over all things with absolute authority and control.
Grace	God's goodness toward those who deserve only punishment.

## Incommunicable Attributes

Transcendence	God transcends all creation and is only knowable because of his self-revelation.
Immanence	God is active in the world, cares about our lives, and works through history to bring about his purposes.
Aseity	God is self-existent and self-sufficient, and neither we nor creation add anything to his being.

Omnipresence	God has no size or shape and is fully present in all places at all times with all his being.
Unity (Simplicity)	God is not divided into parts, yet we see different attributes of God emphasised at different times.
Eternity	God has no beginning or end and exists eternally without succession of moments.
Immutability	God cannot change in his being, purpose, perfections, promises and no change exists in him.
Invisibility	God's total essence will never be visible to us.
Spirituality	God is not made of matter but is spirit, unlike all created things.
Omniscience	God knows all things past, present, future, actual and possible, perfectly and exhaustively.
Omnipotence	God has unlimited power, nothing can compete with him and does all according to his holy will as sovereign creator.







**Reflecting God's Character**

Term 2 2026 Community Group Studies

Trinity Church Golden Grove