

4. Watch the “Divine Simplicity” explainer video on YouTube (Kevin DeYoung Channel). What is this doctrine and why is this doctrine important for us?

5. Take one of the incommunicable attributes of God (e.g., his omnipresence, eternality, omniscience, omnipotence) and consider how it deepens your worship of and love for God.

6. What are some specific ways you can grow in your appreciation and understanding of the God whose story the Bible tells?

The First Page (A Series on Genesis 1)

“5 Ways God is Not Like Us (Thank God!)” (Part 3)

Genesis 1:1

Bigger, Faster, Stronger?

God is not a bigger, faster, stronger, smarter, wiser, better version of ourselves; he is wholly _____.

“We need to dispense with the modern theological agenda to create a God in our own image, a God whose immanence has swallowed his transcendence, a God that can be _____ by the creature because he is not that different from the creature.” (Matthew Barrett)

Transcendence and Immanence, Incommunicable and Communicable

The first page establishes that as Creator, God is _____ other. He is before all things, including time and space. Only he truly creates anything. He can simply speak and nothing becomes something, chaos is ordered, meaning and purpose are bestowed. The first page starts with the transcendence of God. It displays the incommunicable aspects of God first. Might our understanding of God be diminished when we begin at a different starting point?

Knowing the Unknowable

So much of what makes God God is so different from us and so much outside of our own _____ and ability to perceive that we cannot comprehensively comprehend him. But we can comprehend what he graciously reveals to us. (1 Kings 8:27; Psalm 139:5-6; 145:3; Romans 11:33; 1 Timothy 6:15-16; Romans 1:20; 1 Corinthians 2:12-13; John 14:9)

Bigger Than Big

- Omnipresence (God’s unlimited relation to _____)
- Eternal (God’s unlimited relation to _____)
- Omniscience (God’s unlimited relation to knowledge and _____)
- Omnipotence (God’s unlimited relation to _____)

God's Nostrils

4 Benefits to God NOT Being a Better Version of Us

- Shock & _____ (Exodus 20:18-20; Job 38:1-4)

- A _____ (Philippians 1:6; "I will never leave you or forsake you")

- D _____ (Genesis 1:26-28)

- L _____ (Deuteronomy 6:5)

Resources:

- J. Ryan Lister (Author), Anthony M. Benedetto (Illustrator), Emblems of the Infinite King: Enter the Knowledge of the Living God, chapter 1 ("The Throne Room Key: The Doctrine of God") and/or listen to the chapter on YouTube, "Emblems of the Infinite King Podcast: Chapter 1." We listened to a portion of that chapter, from 9:54 to 14:42.
- Credo Podcast, March 4 and 19 (2019) episodes. Matthew Barrett (see next resource) talks about his book, None Greater and/or "God Doesn't Come with a Leash," review of Matthew Barrett's book.
- Matthew Barrett, None Greater: The Undomesticated Attributes of God.
- "Divine Simplicity" explainer video on YouTube (Kevin DeYoung Channel).
- Rick Cornish, 5 Minute Theologian: Maximum Truth in Minimum Time.

Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

2. Why is it natural for us to think of God as a bigger, faster, stronger, smarter, wiser, better version of ourselves?

3. Dive into Isaiah 40. How is God's immanence and transcendence on display in this passage (give examples)? How are both his immanence and transcendence important for us?