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## Introduction

World Changers, as you begin this journey, you will be starting a discipleship that you will continue for the rest of your life. Our fervent prayer for you is that you would grow in faith and the knowledge of Jesus, begin a habit of daily quiet time with God and see the impact God is having in your lives.

With this book, you will begin to explore several key concepts of faith and learn how they actually apply to your life. Though the homework in this book, the SOAP journal and the application of what you learn in your prayer life; expect to have God do amazing things in your life.

## Tools

In order to help you through the World Changer program, you need to know how to find things in your Bible. When a Bible verse is written out, it is presented as follows: Book Name Chapter Number: Verse Number. (e.g. Genesis 1:1) Until you learn the books of the Bible, you can use the index in the front of your Bible to find what page number the book you are looking for can be found. Each book of the Bible is divided by chapters and each chapter has a number of verses to help you in finding what you are looking for. At the end of a verse listed here in this book, there will be a set of initials. The initials are an abbreviation for the version of the Bible that was used for the verse. (e.g. NIV – New International Version, KJV – King James Version)

In addition to your Bible, there are several good websites available to help you find what you are

looking for. BibleGateway.com is an excellent resource for you to use to help you find what you are looking for.

Also, if you have any questions, you can ask your parents, your World Changer leaders and your Children's Pastor – all of whom will be happy to help you with any questions you have.

## ***God, the Father***

### **I. Introduction**

When Christians talk about God, they often use the word "Trinity". This word means that God is in three distinct parts that make up who He is. The first part of the Trinity is God, the Father. The other two are God, the Son, and God, the Holy Spirit. Just like an egg has three parts – a yolk, the egg white and the shell, it is still part of one whole. So it is with God. In this section, we will begin our four weeks of study on God, the Father.

### **II. Week 1**

#### **God our Father**

*Malachi 2:10a "Have we not all one father? Did not one God create us?" NIV*

In His word, God describes Himself as our Father. The fatherhood of God lets us know the relationship that we have with Him as His children. He loves us. He provides for us. He protects us. And He disciplines us. While human fathers make mistakes and in some cases are not what their children need, God is a perfect Father who cares for His children. What's more, God does not do these things because He has to. He does them because He loves us and wants to spend time with us.

Not only this, but God wants us to know that we belong home with Him so much so that He told Jesus to tell us that our "Father's House" is prepared for us when we can meet with Him in heaven (John 14:2).

*Romans 8:15 "For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, 'Abba, Father.'" NIV*

The term 'Abba' is a Hebrew word that means Daddy. What Paul was telling us here is that God our Father, wants us so close that we can call out to him not in formal terms but as loved children to their daddy.

Why do you think that a loving God would discipline us?

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### God the Father is our Creator

*Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." NIV*

The Bible tells us that God was the source of everything in the universe. He did not just create the world by accident, but He had a plan. He sought to create you with a purpose.

In fact, God's word tells us that "For You created my inmost being" and He "knit me together in my mother's womb." (*Psalms 139:13 NIV*) That tells us that all of God's acts of creation were intentional. Moreover,

God did not make us half-heartedly. Verse 14 says that we are "fearfully and wonderfully made."

Ultimately, God's plan for His creation is not just to exist, but to have a reason for being and what He desires is to spend time with us and have us worship Him. Paul put it this way, "for He chose us in Him before the creation of the world, to be holy and blameless in His sight." (*Ephesians 1:4 NIV*) Get this! He knows we are not perfect, but He CHOSE US before He even created the world! He knew we were not perfect, but He planned ahead to set us apart, make us over as perfect and then we would get to hang out with Him! Think of the planning that you need to put into a project for school. You might spend a few hours or days planning out something that you will turn in for your teachers. How much planning must God have done to have His plan for YOU before he even created the whole world?

Think about the things you enjoy. Write about below some of your favorite things and how God is connected with these. For example, an iPod. God created Music and worship. God gave ideas to the inventors to put it together.

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Pretend you were a reporter at the Jerusalem Post and were present for the creation of the world. Read

Genesis Chapter 1 and draw out what you believe would be the most exciting part of creation.

### III. Week 2

#### God is always there

*Isaiah 40:28 "Do you not know, have you not heard, the LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the Earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and His understanding no one can fathom." NIV*

What the prophet Isaiah was telling us is that we can always count on God being there for us. He does not take sick days. He does not take vacations. He does not take breaks. He is never out to lunch. We can count on God when we need Him. Our friends may let us down. We may let ourselves down. Even our parents and teachers can let us down. But God never will. He is always there.

The prophet Jeremiah was once in a situation that was pretty scary. His country was being invaded. He tried to tell the people to obey God but no one listened. He felt alone and in trouble. God spoke to Jeremiah a message that is as important for us to understand as it was for that prophet long ago. In *Jeremiah 23:23*, God tells us that He is a God that is at hand and not a God that is far off. He wants us to be able to count on Him in bad times as well as good times.

#### God knows everything

*Psalms 147:5 "Great is our LORD and mighty in power; His understanding has no limit." NIV*

At some point, you may have heard the term that God is Omniscient. This word simply means that God knows everything that is going on. Read *Isaiah 40:14*. In this verse, Isaiah is asking questions to people about God.

#### Memory Verse:

*Genesis 1:1 "In the Beginning, God created the Heavens and the Earth." NIV*

In the spaces below, write out the questions and what you believe the answers are.

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There is nothing that we can hide from God, no matter how hard we try. Sometimes it seems like our parents may have eyes in the back of their heads, but they have nothing on God. He knows what we are doing when we are alone and when no one else would know. There are no secrets that can be held from God.

But just as God can see us when we don't act like we should, He also sees us when we are good. Just because our friends, parents and teachers may not thank you for things that you have done. God knows. What is more, God is not selfish. He gives His wisdom freely to us. In *James 1:5* it says, "*If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.*" NIV How cool is that! What it does not mean is that you can decide to not study for a test, then pray before taking it and get an 'A'. That is not how God works.

Take a few minutes and think about your life so far. Have you had a time when God has helped you or you just knew He was there with you? Describe that in the spaces on the next page.

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Look up the story of Paul and Silas in *Acts 16:16-32*. Answer the questions below:

What were Paul and Silas doing in the city of Philippi?

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What happened to Paul and Silas?

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How was God there for them?

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Memory Verse:

Deuteronomy 6:5 "Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength." NIV

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IV. Week 3

God Loves us

Titus 3:4-5a "But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy." NIV

How often do we hear people make comments like "I love pizza" or "I love baseball." They are not really thinking of what love is. How can our preference for a sport or food compare with what love really is. In other languages, the word love is expressed by many words. Greek and Hebrew (the languages of the Bible) each have three different words to mean what we call love. God's love is not fleeting and does not change as we change. The person who says that they love pizza, will they still love that pizza after it has been left outside for a week in the middle of summer? No, they might actually begin to hate it! But God's love for us is unchanging, even if we disobey God. In *Jeremiah 31:3*, God says "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness." NIV Get that! No matter what we have done, He wants to be closer to us to the point He pulls us to him.

Read *Ephesians 2:4-5*. In the spaces on the next page, how does God show us that He loves us.

God is Merciful

2 *Corinthians 1:3* "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort." NIV

Mercy is compassionate treatment and forgiveness given by someone who is in authority. God has mercy on us. Even though we have not done our part, God reaches out to us in love and mercy. Another term similar to mercy that we use to describe God's love for us is grace. The word grace means unmerited favor. In other words, we get something we definitely don't deserve. The forgiveness, acceptance and love of God are all things we receive by grace because we don't deserve it. God's word says that we all have sinned. Yet God still loves us.

Have you ever received something good that you did not deserve? Describe it on the space below and the next page.

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Memory Verse:

John 3:16 "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." NIV

V. Week 4

God provides for us

Matthew 7:11 "If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!" NIV

Isaiah 40:28-31 "Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." NIV

We have learned that God made us, that He loves us and that He is always with us. What is more, He just does not stand by and watch us. He also provides for us. In the Bible, God has a Title – JEHOVAH JIREH. This title literally means "provider." Everything that we need is given to us by God.

Read II Kings 4:1-7. What was the problem that the widow had? Answer on the next page.

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Name four things that you love and why.

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Has anyone ever done something to you and you forgave them even though they did not deserve it? If so describe why you forgave them.

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Read Genesis 22:1-18. This is a story that should be familiar to us.

What did God ask Abraham to do?

Through the prophet Elisha, how did God meet the woman's needs?

We can know God

*Romans 1:20 "For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse." NIV*

Many other religions and cults try to deceive people by telling them that no one can know God. Islam says people cannot know God. Hinduism says that there are many gods.

These are lies. The Bible tells us that not only can we know God, but He wants us to know Him. God goes out of His way so that we can not only know Him, but have a relationship with Him. God wants to be our friend.

What did Abraham do?

Why did Abraham call God his provider?

**Memory Verse:**

*Matthew 11:28 "Come to me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." NIV*