



**UN
CHANGE
ABLE**

SUMMER 2020 DEVOTIONS

TBC STUDENT MINISTRY



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ABLE**

WEEK 1



DAY 01: UNCHANGING GOD

25 Long ago you established the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. **26** They will perish, but you will endure; all of them will wear out like clothing. You will change them like a garment, and they will pass away. **27** But you are the same, and your years will never end.

PSALM 102:25-27

Pause

Take a minute and think about how many times you've changed your mind already today. Now, thank God that He is not like you, constantly changing His mind and purpose. Ask Him to prepare your heart to meet with Him.

In your Bible, read Psalm 102:25-28. Then, consider verses 25-27. As you read, highlight the words or phrases that point to God's unchanging character.

What do these verses teach you about God's Character? Why is it important that God never changes?

If God never changes, what does that mean for his purposes or work? Explain.

DAY 01: UNCHANGING GOD

Behind the Story

Written during the Babylonian captivity, Psalm 102 reflects a low point in the history of Israel. God's Word was not being proclaimed and the temple lay in ruins. The psalm begins in despair. Recognizing his frailty and the momentary nature of his life, the psalmist cried out to God and found hope in God's unchanging nature.

Why is understanding God's unchanging character important in today's world?

The Point

God is unchanging. He established the earth, and He remains on His throne. He is unwavering about carrying out His divine work and will always remain true to His purpose.

Respond

Unchanging. Permanent. Steadfast. Immutable.

That is who God is. He does not change and isn't led away by whims. He remains committed to His work and His purpose. Let the enormity of that truth overwhelm you today. Journal your prayerful response below.

DAY 02: BEYOND COMPREHENSION

God, how precious your thoughts are to me; how vast their sum is! PSALM 139:17

Pause

Before you begin today's study, go on a quick walk. Marvel at God's creation around you. Ponder what this says about His incomprehensible nature.

Think about what it would be like to scoop up a handful of sand and try to count the individual grains. What words would you use to describe that process? Jot down a few.

With that idea in mind, read Psalm 139:17-24 in your Bible.

Why do you think David compared God's thoughts to counting grains of sand? What analogy would you have used to convey the same idea?

Even though David struggled to understand God's ways, he still walked with God. When you find it difficult to understand God's plan, do you remain faithful? Why or why not?

Why is it important that we realize God is so powerful and so vast that His ways and knowledge are beyond our understanding? What would it be like if this were not a part of God's character?

DAY 02: BEYOND COMPREHENSION

Behind the Story

Just as the songs of our day and age use familiar language and imagery to express feelings and inmost thoughts, the psalms do the same. David's comparison in Psalm 139 of God's incomprehensible thoughts to grains of sand was not coincidental. He lived in a place where sand was part of the landscape around him.

The Point

We can't understand the depth of God any more than we can count grains of sand. God knows every detail of everything. Don't be afraid to trust Him!

Respond

You may not always understand God's thoughts, but you can trust that He knows what He's doing. Take some time to praise Him for His incomprehensible wisdom and the ways you have seen that wisdom at work in your life. Be specific! Journal a short prayer.

DAY 03: INFINITE GOD

The Lord is great and is highly praised; his greatness is unsearchable. PSALM 145:3

Pause

When you need to know information about something, where do you go? Circle the ones that apply:

Books

Google

Scholarly Journal

YouTube

Parents

Twitter

Wikipedia

Friends

Teachers

News Media

When you're researching something, you consult all kinds of sources, trying to discover every little detail. But you can't do that with God.

Read Psalm 145:1-7 in your Bible. As you read, underline all of the words and phrases that describe God's nature and His power.

Consider these questions:

What if God wasn't infinitely beyond our understanding? Would he be a God worth worshipping? Why or why not?

Re-read the verses. What did the psalmist do in response to God's infinite greatness?

DAY 03: INFINITE GOD

Infinite *adj.*

Limitless or endless in space, extent, or size; impossible to measure or calculate.

Behind the Story

Psalm 145 is an acrostic poem. Each verse begins with a different letter of the Hebrew alphabet. In traditional Jewish worship, the psalm is recited three times each day, twice in the morning service and prayers, and once during the afternoon service.

The Point

God's greatness is beyond our human comprehension. No matter how hard we try, our finite minds will never fully understand our infinite God.

Respond

Meditate on the concept of God's infiniteness. Ponder His character and all the things He has done. Think of all the qualities He possesses that call you to praise Him. List as many as come to mind below.

DAY 04: NO LIMITS

Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the whole earth. He never becomes faint or weary; there is no limit to his understanding. Isaiah 40:28

Pause

Focus your mind on meeting with God by praying and listening to a few of your favorite worship songs. Think about a time in your life when you wanted someone to step in on your behalf and make everything OK. Maybe you wanted your parents to make a bad grade go away, or a friend to resolve a conflict. Journal about that time, your feelings, and what actually happened.

Now, read Isaiah 40:27-31. The Israelites were in a similar position. They were in exile and had accused God of overlooking their troubles (v. 27). They wanted Him to step in and fix the problem.

Instead of doing what the people expected, God pointed to His character. What did he Reveal about Himself?

What does it mean that there is no limit to God's understanding? Explain.

God knows things that are well beyond our comprehension. Why is it important that this is part of His character? What if it wasn't?

DAY 04: NO LIMITS

Behind the Story

In Isaiah 40:28, the prophet Isaiah made four statements about God's character:

1. God is everlasting. There is nothing in the past or future that is outside His knowledge.
2. God is Creator. There is no people group or creature that is outside His knowledge or care.
3. God never gets tired. He isn't worn out by caring for His people. Nothing exhausts him.
4. God's wisdom is unlimited. There are no uncontrollable circumstances that confuse or overtax Him.

The Point

God has infinite understanding. He knows the why behind everything that happens, and has a purpose for it all.

Respond

God isn't like an encyclopedia, full of information, but distant and uncaring. He is never worn out, overwhelmed, or confused.

- Think about the things in your life or in the world that confuse you or seem purposeless. Pray for specific situations and concerns.
- Thank God that he knows all the details and how they fit together. Affirm your commitment to trust that He knows the beginning from the end (Isaiah 46:10) and is working all things together for His purpose (Romans 8:28).

Memory Verse

Find a partner to memorize our theme verse for the summer Psalm 102:26-27 with you. Remind and test each other about the verse throughout the week, but also make a point to discuss it and how it applies to your lives.