



GOD: His Divine Nature

Lesson 1: God is Self-Existent and Self-Sufficient
Genesis 1:1-5; Acts 17:22-28

As parents, we instinctively teach our children from a position of authority—we know something about a topic and we want to share that knowledge and experience with them. This approach works well when we're teaching them how to do something in one of our areas of expertise, such as doing the laundry, planning a trip, changing a tire, or building a deck. But even adults struggle to fully comprehend the nature of God, so as you share these devotions with your teenagers, you might approach them as a family exploring something new together, with room for everyone to ask questions, struggle with concepts, and learn more about God.

As a family, read Genesis 1:1-5 together and discuss: **If God created everything, then who created God?** Based on the biblical record, no one created God—He has always existed. He used His creative work to reveal His existence to us. Furthermore, with only His spoken word, He conquered the chaos and darkness of our unformed world and created a structured environment that is perfectly suited to the purpose of sustaining human life. As your family members ponder these truths, discuss the first and second questions in the list below.

Risking It All is a reality television show aired by TLC (The Learning Channel) that documents the struggles a family faces when they give up "the luxuries of modern-day society for a self-sufficient life." As they walk away from electricity, running water, and other basic resources, they determine to work together as a family to provide everything they need to live without help from outside sources. Needless to say, their efforts are not always successful.

As a family, read Acts 17:22-28 and discuss: **How did Paul emphasize that God is the self-existent Creator of all things?** Together, review Acts 17:25 and discuss: **If God can create anything He needs whenever He need it, then what does He need from us?** Emphasize that God gives people all things, even their very lives and the air they breathe. Ask: **Is it possible for anyone other than God to be completely self-sufficient?** As you conclude your family devotion, discuss questions three and four from the list below.

Close your devotions in a time of prayer, encouraging each family member to thank God for always being there for them and always knowing exactly what they need, when they need it.

Connection Questions

- How does the creation account emphasize that God is self-evident?
- Why is it important to build our faith on the certainty that God will always exist?
- If God is self-sufficient, then why did He create us and the world in which we live?
- Why is it important to know that I can trust God to provide the things I need?