

BasicFaith

Christian Theology for Everyone

Session 1: Introduction & God

Introduction to BasicFaith

The Schedule (as of Session 1)

Please note: this class meets every other Tuesday

<u>Date</u>	<u>Session Content</u>
12 March	Introduction & God <i>Why not start with the most impossible thing to explain?</i>
26 March	God Talks—The Bible <i>What the Bible is, why it's so important to Christians, and how to not misread it</i>
9 April	Humanity & Sin <i>Who we are in relation to God and each other. How and why we screw up.</i>
23 April	Patriarchs, Prophets, & the People of God <i>What (and who) happened before Jesus that helps explain Jesus</i>
7 May	Jesus Christ—Life and Teaching <i>This week we begin learning about the guy Christianity is named for.</i>
14 May	Jesus Christ—Death <i>How Jesus beat down sin and death by letting it kill him, and how bizarre this is.</i>
28 May	Jesus Christ—Resurrection <i>What it matters and why it matters that Jesus didn't stay dead.</i>

<u>Date</u>	<u>Session Content</u>
11 June	The Holy Spirit <i>This is hard to explain in a sentence. Just come to the class.</i>
25 June	The Church <i>The community of God's presence in the world.</i>
9 July	Praise & Prayer (Worship) <i>That thing we do every Sunday morning and how to be more engaged with it.</i>

[more to come]

God - What, or Who Do You Think God Is?

What, or who, do you think God is and where did you learn your view?



Is this God?
(Michelangelo thought so)

God - A Few Basics From the Bible

What do we learn about God from the following?

Exodus 3:14 - God IS . . . the **ultimate reality** . . .
the basis of all reality

Genesis 1:1-2 - God **creates**

Genesis 1:27 - God **created humans in God's image** to resemble and reflect God in the various ways that God is

Daniel 7:9-13, Revelation 1:8 - God is before and after time/history

Deuteronomy 6:4-5, Isaiah 6:1-3, Revelation 4

- God is **Lord** (King, ultimate ruler, Biggest Cheese, the One)

Acts 17:22-31 - God is **unseen but real**

God - Where is God?

Option 1: Pantheism – God is everywhere & everything is God

- NO: God created the universe so God is not a part of the universe

Option 2: Deism – God is really, really, really far away; distant, separate, disinterested in the affairs of the world, and does not travel the distance to intervene in the world

- NO: God involves himself in history, the most notable expression of this being Jesus

Option 3: Christianity – God is in “God’s dwelling place”, that place where God has always been: heaven

God - More of the Church’s Basic Teaching

God sustains

God loves

God suffers

God judges

God redeems/saves

God rules/reigns/is Lord

God transcends

God is **omnipresent** (everywhere)

omnipotent (all powerful)

omniscient (all knowing)

infinite

God is **perfect**

God is **righteous & just**

God is awkwardly & inaccurately described as a single whatever-God-is that is expressed in three

personalities (Father, Son, Spirit—the Trinity), which is too large a subject to address here