

# CLC Host's Personal Meeting Room

## Overview

This Bible study session focused on understanding the nature of God the Father, exploring His attributes, names, and relationship with humanity. Pastor Lucas led the group through Lesson 5, examining theological concepts about God's character, His revelation through Jesus Christ, and the Trinity. The discussion emphasized God as spirit, light, and love, while clarifying the distinction between being God's creation versus being His child through salvation.

## Key Concepts or Theories:

- God's nature as spirit, light, and love
- The plurality of God (Trinity) expressed through the Hebrew word "Elohim"
- The compound names of God revealing His character (El Shaddai, Elohim, Jehovah)
- The hypostatic union of Christ (100% God, 100% man)
- The distinction between being God's creation versus being God's child

## Important Questions Raised:

- What does it mean that God is spirit, light, and love?
- How has God revealed Himself throughout history?
- What is the relationship between God the Father and Jesus Christ?
- How can we understand the difference between being God's creation versus being His child?
- How does God's love manifest through discipline?

## Key Takeaways and Summary of Learning Objectives

- God is spirit, meaning He does not have a physical body but has revealed Himself in various ways throughout history
- The Trinity (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) is presented in Scripture from Genesis 1:1 through the plural Hebrew word "Elohim"

- All humans are God's creation, but only those who accept Christ become children of God
- God's names reveal His character and attributes (El Shaddai - Almighty God, Elohim - God, Jehovah - Lord)
- Jesus Christ is the physical manifestation of God (Emmanuel - "God with us"), allowing humanity to know God
- God's love is demonstrated through His discipline of believers, just as a parent disciplines a child

## Topic 1: The Nature of God

God's nature is revealed through three primary attributes: spirit, light, and love. As spirit, God does not have a physical body but has revealed Himself in various ways throughout history. In Exodus, He appeared as a burning bush to Moses and as a pillar of cloud and fire to guide the Israelites. God's spiritual nature means humans cannot see His full essence and live, which is why Moses could only see God's "afterglow" when hidden in the cleft of the rock. Jesus Christ, as the second person of the Godhead, took on human form to reveal God to humanity while maintaining His divine nature. This "hypostatic union" means Christ was simultaneously 100% God and 100% man. As light, God represents truth, holiness, and purity, contrasting with darkness which represents error and falsehood. In Revelation, we learn that heaven will not need the sun or moon because God's glory will illuminate it. As love, God demonstrates unconditional "agape" love toward humanity, even disciplining those He loves for their correction and growth.

## Relevant Q&A

Irene: Would it be safe to say that God would be like the wind? We can only see, hear and feel his effects?

Pastor Lucas: Absolutely. But what he did was reveal himself through His Son, and his son was in the likeness of the Father.

Collean: We can't even look at the sun.

Pastor Lucas: We can't even look at the sun. You see my point? Absolutely, that's a good one. We can't even look at the sun. We would burn up!

## Topic 2: God's Names and Revelation

Throughout Scripture, God's names reveal His character and attributes. "Elohim," God's official title in Genesis 1:1, is a plural noun in Hebrew indicating three or more, pointing to the Trinity's presence at creation. "El" is the singular form of Elohim, appearing in names like Bethel (house of God), Daniel (God is my judge), and Elijah (my God is Jehovah). "Jehovah" is God's personal name connected with redemption and deliverance, as when He led Israel out of Egypt. Compound names further

reveal God's character: El Shaddai (Almighty God), El Olam (Everlasting God), and Jehovah Jireh (The Lord Will Provide). God has revealed Himself in various ways throughout history—through the burning bush to Moses, as a pillar of cloud and fire to the Israelites, and ultimately through Jesus Christ. John 1:18 states that no one has seen God, but Jesus has made Him known. While humans cannot see God's full essence in this life, believers will see Him face to face in heaven (1 Corinthians 13:12, Revelation 22:3-5).

## Relevant Q&A

Pastor Lucas: What does "inspired" mean, that the word is inspired?

Reggie: It's kept from error. The Holy Spirit makes sure it's not error.

Pastor Lucas: What does "revelation" mean?

Reggie: It's being revealed with God's Word. He's revealing His Word. He revealed His Word onto the biblical writers, and then as they wrote it, and it was transcribed and translated, the Holy Spirit made sure it was inspired, made sure the word was not error.

## Topic 3: God's Relationship with Humanity

A critical distinction was made between being God's creation versus being God's child. While all humans are created by God, only those who accept Jesus Christ as Savior become children of God (John 1:12). Before salvation, people are described as children of the devil, following their own desires rather than God's will. God loves all humanity (John 3:16) but offers the relationship of Father only to those who receive Christ. This theological understanding impacts how believers view both their relationship with God and their interactions with others. As children of God, believers are called to demonstrate love, even toward those who are difficult to love, reflecting God's character. God's love is also expressed through discipline, as He corrects those He loves just as a parent disciplines a child (Hebrews 12:6, Revelation 3:19). This discipline is evidence of God's care and desire for His children's growth, not punishment for its own sake.

## Relevant Q&A

Irene: I figured that out, that we're all creations of God. God created us all with a mom and dad. But everybody's not a child of God.

Pastor Lucas: Yes, yes, yes.

Irene: If someone says, "I love God" and hates his brother, he is a liar. For he who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, how can he love God, whom he has not seen?

Pastor Lucas: We have not seen, absolutely.

## Actionable Next Steps / Assignments

- Continue reading and studying Lesson 5 on God the Father
- Prepare for next week's discussion on "God is a person"
- Reflect on the nature of God as spirit, light, and love and how these attributes manifest in daily life
- Consider the implications of being God's child versus simply being His creation

## Supplemental Resources and Readings

- Genesis 1:1-27 - Creation account showing God's nature and the Trinity
- John 1:1-18 - Jesus as the Word becoming flesh, revealing God
- 1 John 4:8-20 - God's nature as love and implications for believers
- Revelation 21:23 - Description of heaven illuminated by God's glory
- Galatians 4:4 - The "fullness of time" when God sent His Son