

ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

MIDWEEK SERIES



***An Eight-Session Bible Study on the
Character of the Living God***
August – September 2026 • Wednesday Evenings

BURNETT AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

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The Attributes of God

An Eight-Session Bible Study on the Character of the Living God

August – September 2026 • Wednesday Evenings

August 5, 2026	Holiness	<i>Sanctitas</i>	Isaiah 6:3
August 12, 2026	Omnipotence	<i>Omnipotentia</i>	Genesis 18:14
August 19, 2026	Omniscience	<i>Omniscientia</i>	Psalm 139:1
August 26, 2026	Omnipresence	<i>Omnipraesentia</i>	Psalm 139:7
September 2, 2026	Immutability	<i>Immutabilitas</i>	Malachi 3:6
September 9, 2026	Love	<i>Caritas</i>	1 John 4:8
September 16, 2026	Justice	<i>Iustitia</i>	Psalm 89:14
September 23, 2026	Faithfulness	<i>Fidelitas</i>	Lamentations 3:22–23

AUGUST 5, 2026 · SANCTITAS

Holiness

Set Apart, Above All

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.”

— **Isaiah 6:3**

DEFINITION

God's holiness is not merely moral purity — it is ontological otherness. God is wholly set apart from all creation, utterly distinct in nature, yet radiantly present. Holiness is the root from which all other divine attributes grow.

THEOLOGICAL INSIGHT

The Hebrew *qadosh* means to be cut off, separated, consecrated. When Isaiah saw the Lord, the seraphim's triple declaration was not repetition — it was the Hebrew superlative. Nothing is holier than holy. God is Holy cubed.

PASSAGES FOR THIS SESSION

1 Leviticus 19:2 *The call to imitate God's holiness as the ground of ethics*

2 Isaiah 6:1–8 *The throne room vision — holiness encountered, not merely studied*

3 1 Peter 1:15–16 *Holiness as the shape of the redeemed life*

4 Revelation 4:8 *The eternal doxology of heaven*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Q1

If God's holiness means total 'otherness,' how does the Incarnation change how you understand that distance?

Q2

Where do you feel the weight of God's holiness most in your daily life — in worship, in failure, in decision-making?

Q3

How does Isaiah's response (6:5) mirror the posture God calls us to? What does that look like in community?

THIS WEEK'S PRACTICE

This week, before prayer, spend 60 seconds in silence — not petition, just acknowledgment. Practice the discipline of approach: God is holy ground before God is a problem-solver.

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MEMORY VERSE “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.” Isaiah 6:3

SESSION OUTLINE • AUGUST 5, 2026 • HOLINESS

Fill in the Blanks

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory." — Isaiah 6:3

I. Holiness Is Not Primarily Moral — It Is Ontological

- The Hebrew word qadosh means to be _____ from all else.
- God is not merely cleaner than creation — God is _____ than creation.
- Holiness is the _____ from which all other divine perfections flow.

II. The Throne Room Encounter (Isaiah 6:1–8)

- Isaiah's vision does not begin with God's love or power — it begins with God's _____.
- The seraphim's triple declaration (trisagion) is the Hebrew _____ — the highest possible degree.
- The proper human response to holiness is _____, not casual familiarity.

III. Holiness Makes a Demand on the People of God

- Leviticus 19:2 grounds Israel's ethics not in law but in _____: 'Be holy, for I am holy.'
- 1 Peter 1:15–16 extends this call to the _____.
- Holiness is not performance — it is _____ in the nature of God through grace.

IV. Holiness and the Incarnation

- In Jesus, the holy God does not _____ human sinfulness — he enters it.
- The cross is the place where holiness and _____ meet.
- The resurrection is the _____ of the holy life of Jesus.

NOTES

AUGUST 12, 2026 · OMNIPOTENTIA

Omnipotence

All Power, No Limit

“Is anything too hard for the LORD?”

— **Genesis 18:14**

DEFINITION

Omnipotence is not brute force — it is the absolute freedom of God to accomplish whatever is consistent with God’s nature and will. God can do all things that are genuinely possible. God does not contradict God’s own character.

THEOLOGICAL INSIGHT

Theologians distinguish God’s absolute power (*potentia absoluta*) from God’s ordained power (*potentia ordinata*) — what God can do versus what God has chosen to do within the covenant. This distinction protects us from making God arbitrary or magically coercive.

PASSAGES FOR THIS SESSION

1 Job 42:1–2 *Job’s hard-won confession after encountering divine power*

2 Jeremiah 32:17 *Nothing too hard for God — spoken over ruins and exile*

3 Matthew 19:26 *Impossibility is a category that applies to humans, not God*

4 Ephesians

3:20–21

Power at work within us — not just above us

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Q1

Have you ever doubted God’s power in a specific situation? What did that feel like, and what did it teach you?

Q2

How do we hold together God’s omnipotence and the reality of suffering and unanswered prayer?

Q3

What is the difference between faith in God’s power and demanding God perform for us?

THIS WEEK’S PRACTICE

Identify one situation you’ve mentally written off as impossible. Pray over it this week — not demanding an outcome, but opening that closed door in your heart to God’s agency.

MEMORY VERSE “Is anything too hard for the LORD?” **Genesis 18:14**

SESSION OUTLINE • AUGUST 12, 2026 • OMNIPOTENCE

Fill in the Blanks

“Is anything too hard for the LORD?” — Genesis 18:14

I. What Omnipotence Actually Means

- Omnipotence is not the ability to do _____ — it is the freedom to do all genuinely possible things.
- God’s power is always exercised in accordance with God’s _____.
- Power divorced from goodness would not be _____ — it would be tyranny.

II. Two Dimensions of Divine Power (Theological Distinction)

- Potentia absoluta: what God _____ by sheer divine capacity.
- Potentia ordinata: what God has _____ within the covenant order.
- This distinction protects God from being seen as _____.

III. Omnipotence Tested: The Book of Job

- Job does not doubt God’s power — he doubts God’s _____.
- God’s response in Job 38–41 does not explain suffering — it reveals _____ over all creation.
- Job’s confession (42:2) is not defeat — it is _____.

IV. Power at Work In Us (Ephesians 3:20–21)

- God’s omnipotence is not only exercised _____ — it operates within us.
- The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is available to _____.
- Omnipotence calls us not to _____ but to bold, Spirit-empowered action.

NOTES

AUGUST 19, 2026 · OMNISCIENTIA

Omniscience

Known Fully, Knowing All

“O LORD, you have searched me and known me.”

— **Psalm 139:1**

DEFINITION

God knows all things — past, present, future, actual, and potential. But God’s omniscience is not cold data retrieval. It is intimate, relational knowledge. The God who knows all chose to know you.

THEOLOGICAL INSIGHT

The Hebrew *yada* — ‘to know’ — carries covenantal weight. It is the same word used for marital union in Genesis. When Psalm 139 says God has ‘known’ David, it is not surveillance — it is the most intimate knowledge conceivable. You are not data to God; you are beloved.

PASSAGES FOR THIS SESSION

- 1 Psalm 139:1–18** *The fullest biblical meditation on being known by God*
- 2 Isaiah 46:9–10** *God’s knowledge extends to the end from the beginning*
- 3 Matthew 10:29–31** *Omniscience expressed in the numbering of sparrows and hairs*
- 4 1 John 3:20** *God’s omniscience becomes comfort when our hearts condemn us*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Q1

Is it comforting or unsettling to know that God sees everything about you? What does your answer reveal?

Q2

How does the intimate dimension of God’s knowing (*yada*) change how you approach confession and prayer?

Q3

If God already knows your needs before you ask (Matthew 6:8), why does prayer still matter?

THIS WEEK’S PRACTICE

Read Psalm 139 aloud, slowly, this week. Pause after verse 23 and let the prayer — ‘Search me, O God’ — become yours. Sit with what surfaces.

MEMORY VERSE “O LORD, you have searched me and known me.” Psalm 139:1

SESSION OUTLINE • AUGUST 19, 2026 • OMNISCIENCE

Fill in the Blanks

“O LORD, you have searched me and known me.” — Psalm 139:1

I. The Scope of God’s Knowledge

- God knows all things: _____, actual and potential.
- God’s knowledge is not _____ — it is eternal and inherent.
- Isaiah 46:9–10 shows God declaring _____ — time is transparent to God.

II. The Hebrew Word That Changes Everything: Yada

- The Hebrew yada does not mean merely _____.
- It is the same word used for _____ in Genesis 4:1.
- To be known by God is not surveillance — it is _____.

III. Psalm 139 — Being Known from the Inside Out

- God knows David’s _____, his thoughts from afar (v. 2).
- Even before a word is on David’s tongue, God knows it _____ (v. 4).
- The psalm ends not with fear but with an _____: ‘Search me, O God’ (v. 23).

IV. Omniscience as Comfort, Not Threat (1 John 3:20)

- When our own hearts condemn us, God’s knowledge is _____.
- God’s omniscience means nothing is hidden — and _____ in Christ.
- We pray not to _____ but to align ourselves with the One who already knows.

NOTES

AUGUST 26, 2026 · OMNIPRAESENTIA

Omnipresence

Everywhere, Always, Here

“Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?”

— **Psalm 139:7**

DEFINITION

God is fully present everywhere simultaneously — not spread thin across space, but wholly present in everyplace. There is no location where God is absent, and no corner of creation beyond divine reach or care.

THEOLOGICAL INSIGHT

Omnipresence is distinct from pantheism. God is not identical to creation — God transcends it. But God is not removed from it either. The theologians call this ‘immanence without identification.’ God fills all things without being dissolved into them (Ephesians 4:6).

PASSAGES FOR THIS SESSION

1 Psalm 139:7–12 *Even the darkness is light to God — no place is God-forsaken*

2 Jeremiah

23:23–24

God’s nearness is not nearness to some and distance from others

3 Acts 17:27–28 *The Areopagus sermon — in God we live and move and have our being*

4 Matthew 28:20 *The promise of presence through the Great Commission*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Q1

Are there places or seasons of your life where you felt God was absent? What does omnipresence say to those moments?

Q2

How does God’s omnipresence inform how we treat physical places — our bodies, our neighborhoods, our world?

Q3

What is the difference between God’s omnipresence and God’s manifest presence (Exodus 33:14–15)?

THIS WEEK’S PRACTICE

Choose one ‘ordinary’ space this week — your commute, your kitchen, your workplace — and practice the prayer: ‘You are here.’ Let omnipresence reframe your environment.

MEMORY VERSE “Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?” Psalm 139:7

Fill in the Blanks

“Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?” — Psalm 139:7

I. What Omnipresence Does Not Mean

- Omnipresence is not _____ — God is not identical to creation.
- God is not _____ across space — God is wholly present in every place.
- Theologians call this _____ : God fills all things without being absorbed into them.

II. The Inescapability of God (Psalm 139:7–12)

- David asks: where can I _____ ? — and the answer is: nowhere.
- Even Sheol — the place of death — is not _____ .
- The darkness is not dark to God — even _____ (v. 12).

III. God Near and God Far (Jeremiah 23:23–24)

- God is both the God who is _____ and the God who is far.
- No one can hide in secret places where God _____ .
- Omnipresence rules out both _____ and divine absence.

IV. Presence as Promise: The Great Commission (Matthew 28:20)

- Jesus sends the disciples into _____ with the guarantee of his presence.
- The promise ‘I am with you always’ is not _____ — it is a statement of divine omnipresence.
- Mission is possible because God goes _____ into every place we are sent.

NOTES

SEPTEMBER 2, 2026 · IMMUTABILITAS

Immutability

The God Who Does Not Change

“I the LORD do not change.”

— **Malachi 3:6**

DEFINITION

God’s nature, character, purposes, and promises are permanently fixed. God does not improve, decline, evolve, or contradict God’s own self. Immutability is the foundation of every covenant promise — if God could change, no promise would be safe.

THEOLOGICAL INSIGHT

Some confuse immutability with impassibility (God having no emotion). They are distinct doctrines. God’s character doesn’t change, but Scripture is full of God grieving, delighting, and relenting. The apparent ‘change’ in passages like Genesis 6:6 is God’s consistent character responding to changing human conditions — not divine fickleness.

PASSAGES FOR THIS SESSION

1 Malachi 3:6 *God’s unchanging nature as the ground of Israel’s preservation*

2 Numbers 23:19 *God is not human — God does not lie or change the mind capriciously*

3 Hebrews 13:8 *Jesus Christ — the same yesterday, today, and forever*

4 James 1:17 *No shadow of turning — every good gift flows from a fixed source*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Q1

How does God’s immutability give you confidence in seasons of personal change or instability?

Q2

What do we do with passages where God seems to ‘change his mind’ (Exodus 32:14, Jonah 3:10)?

Q3

How is an unchanging God still personally responsive to you?

THIS WEEK’S PRACTICE

Make a list of five things in your life that are in flux right now. Next to each one, write one immutable promise of God that speaks to that uncertainty. Pray those promises back.

MEMORY VERSE “I the LORD do not change.” **Malachi 3:6**

SESSION OUTLINE · SEPTEMBER 2, 2026 · IMMUTABILITY

Fill in the Blanks

"I the LORD do not change." — Malachi 3:6

I. What Does It Mean That God Does Not Change?

- Immutability means God's _____ are permanently and perfectly fixed.
- God does not _____ — God is already fully and perfectly God.
- This is the foundation of all _____ — a changing God would make unstable promises.

II. Immutability Is Not Impassibility

- Immutability (character doesn't change) and impassibility (no emotion) are _____.
- Scripture shows God _____ — these are not contradictions of immutability.
- When God 'relents' (Exodus 32:14), it is God's _____ responding to human change.

III. The Malachi Text: Immutability as Grace

- 'I the LORD do not change — therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not _____',
(Malachi 3:6).
- Israel's survival is grounded not in their faithfulness but in _____.
- Immutability is not a cold philosophical abstraction — it is _____.

IV. Jesus Christ: The Same Yesterday, Today, and Forever (Hebrews 13:8)

- The Jesus who healed, forgave, and welcomed in the Gospels is the _____ today.
- His character, compassion, and covenant faithfulness are _____.
- We can stake our lives on his promises because he is _____.

NOTES

SEPTEMBER 9, 2026 · CARITAS

Love

The Defining Movement of God

“God is love.”

— **1 John 4:8**

DEFINITION

Love is not merely something God does — it is what God is. Before creation, before covenant, before the cross, love was the eternal dynamic within the Trinity: Father, Son, and Spirit in self-giving relation. Creation is the overflow of that love, not its origin.

THEOLOGICAL INSIGHT

The Greek *agape* in 1 John 4:8 is not sentimental affection. It is costly, volitional, other-directed love that moves toward the unlovable. Theologians from Augustine to Barth have argued that the Trinity is itself the first act of divine love — the Son eternally beloved of the Father, in the Spirit. You are invited into that.

PASSAGES FOR THIS SESSION

1 1 John 4:7–21 *The most concentrated NT theology of divine love*

2 John 3:16 *Love quantified in giving — and in cost*

3 Romans 8:31–39 *Nothing separates — the unbreakable bond of divine love*

4 Hosea 11:1–4,

8–9

God’s love expressed through parental anguish

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Q1

How does understanding love as God’s essence (not just God’s action) change how you read the whole Bible?

Q2

Where do you find it hardest to believe that God loves you specifically, not just ‘the world’ in the abstract?

Q3

How does God’s love as self-giving shape what love looks like in our congregation and our relationships?

THIS WEEK’S PRACTICE

Memorize 1 John 4:10 this week: ‘In this is love, not that we have loved God, but that he loved us.’

When self-condemnation rises, let that word interrupt it.

MEMORY VERSE “God is love.” 1 John 4:8

SESSION OUTLINE • SEPTEMBER 9, 2026 • LOVE

Fill in the Blanks

“God is love.” — 1 John 4:8

I. Love Is Not What God Does — It Is What God Is

- 1 John 4:8 does not say God is _____ — it says God is love.
- Love is not a divine _____ — it is the essence of God’s being.
- Before creation existed, love was the eternal dynamic within _____.

II. The Meaning of Agape

- Agape is not _____ or emotion alone.
- It is costly, volitional love that moves _____.
- The cross is the definitive _____ (1 John 4:10).

III. Love That Cannot Be Separated From Us (Romans 8:31–39)

- Paul lists the most formidable forces imaginable: _____.
- None of them can _____ from the love of God in Christ Jesus.
- Divine love is not contingent on _____.

IV. The Parental Anguish of God (Hosea 11)

- God speaks as a _____ who taught a child to walk, but the child turned away.
- God’s heart _____ at the thought of destroying the beloved (v. 8).
- Divine love does not _____ even when the beloved is faithless.

NOTES

SEPTEMBER 16, 2026 · IUSTITIA

Justice

The God Who Makes Right

“Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne.”

— **Psalm 89:14**

DEFINITION

Divine justice is not punitive wrath detached from relationship — it is the active commitment of God to set the world right. Justice flows from God’s love and holiness together. The same God who judges is the God who redeems.

THEOLOGICAL INSIGHT

The Hebrew mishpat and tzedakah — justice and righteousness — are a word pair in the Hebrew Bible that together mean ‘the world ordered as God intends.’ Biblical justice includes both retributive (wrongdoing addressed) and restorative (the marginalized lifted) dimensions. You cannot separate God’s justice from God’s care for the poor.

PASSAGES FOR THIS SESSION

1 Amos 5:21–24 *Justice as God’s demand — worship without justice is rejected*

2 Isaiah 61:1–3 *The justice program of God’s anointed*

3 Romans 3:25–26 *The cross as the demonstration of divine justice and justification together*

4 Revelation 19:1–2 *The final act of divine justice — the saints’ hallelujah*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Q1

How have you seen ‘justice’ used in ways that feel contrary to the biblical vision of mishpat and tzedakah?

Q2

How does the cross satisfy divine justice without making God the cosmic punisher the caricature describes?

Q3

What does God’s commitment to justice demand of our church in this neighborhood, this city?

THIS WEEK’S PRACTICE

Research one justice issue in your city this week — housing, education, food access. Ask: where is God’s mishpat calling the church to be present? Bring what you find to the group next week.

MEMORY VERSE “Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne.” Psalm 89:14

SESSION OUTLINE · SEPTEMBER 16, 2026 · JUSTICE

Fill in the Blanks

"Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne." — Psalm 89:14

I. The Biblical Word Pair: Mishpat and Tzedakah

- Mishpat refers to _____ — cases decided fairly, the wrongdoer held accountable.
- Tzedakah refers to _____ — the marginalized lifted, the community made whole.
- Together, they describe _____ .

II. Justice and Worship Are Inseparable (Amos 5:21–24)

- God rejects Israel's feasts, offerings, and songs because they were divorced from _____ .
- Worship without justice is not _____ — it is rejected worship.
- Justice must _____ — not trickle, not drip.

III. The Cross as the Meeting Place of Justice and Mercy (Romans 3:25–26)

- The cross demonstrates that God is _____ — sin is not overlooked or dismissed.
- The cross also demonstrates that God is the _____ of those who trust in Jesus.
- At Calvary, divine justice and divine _____ are not in tension — they are unified.

IV. The Church as an Agent of God's Justice

- Isaiah 61 describes the mission of the anointed one: _____ , freedom for the captive.
- Jesus reads this text in Luke 4 and says, _____ in their hearing.
- The church, as the body of Christ, is called to _____ in every community.

NOTES

SEPTEMBER 23, 2026 · FIDELITAS

Faithfulness

The God Who Keeps Every Word

“His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”

— **Lamentations 3:22–23**

DEFINITION

God’s faithfulness is the perfect correspondence between what God promises and what God performs. It is not obligation — it is character. God keeps covenant not because God must, but because God cannot deny God’s own self.

THEOLOGICAL INSIGHT

Lamentations 3 is striking: this declaration of faithfulness erupts in the middle of the book of grief. The city is destroyed. The temple is ash. The people are exiled. And yet — great is your faithfulness. Divine faithfulness is not proved in the absence of pain, but confessed in its midst. That is the witness.

PASSAGES FOR THIS SESSION

1 Lamentations

3:19–24

Faithfulness confessed in the ruins

2 Deuteronomy 7:9 *Faithfulness to a thousand generations — the long view of covenant*

3 2 Timothy 2:13 *Even our faithlessness cannot cancel God’s faithfulness*

4 Hebrews 10:23 *The basis of our hope — God who promised is faithful*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Q1

Think of a time when God was faithful when you least expected it. How did that deepen your trust?

Q2

How does 2 Timothy 2:13 (‘he remains faithful — he cannot deny himself’) speak to our moments of doubt and failure?

Q3

How do we cultivate communities of faithfulness that reflect the character of the God we proclaim?

THIS WEEK’S PRACTICE

Start an ‘Ebenezer List’ this week — a running record of moments where God proved faithful in your life. Share one with someone in the congregation before the next session.

MEMORY VERSE “His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”

Lamentations 3:22–23

SESSION OUTLINE · SEPTEMBER 23, 2026 · FAITHFULNESS

Fill in the Blanks

"His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." — Lamentations 3:22–23

I. Faithfulness Defined: Promise and Performance in Perfect Correspondence

- Divine faithfulness is not _____ — it is the expression of God's unchanging character.
- God keeps covenant not because God must, but because God cannot _____ (2 Timothy 2:13).
- Every promise of Scripture is backed by _____.

II. Faithfulness Confessed in the Ruins (Lamentations 3)

- Lamentations is written in the aftermath of Jerusalem's _____.
- The declaration of faithfulness does not wait for _____ — it erupts in the middle of grief.
- 'Great is your faithfulness' is not a _____ — it is a defiant confession from the ash heap.

III. Faithfulness Across Generations (Deuteronomy 7:9)

- God's faithfulness extends to _____ — not just to us, but through us.
- The covenant community is the living _____ of God's faithfulness across time.
- Our children and grandchildren inherit not just our faith, but the _____.

IV. When We Are Faithless, God Remains Faithful (2 Timothy 2:13)

- Our doubt, failure, and sin do not _____.
- God cannot be _____ — and we are held in that self-consistency.
- The response to God's faithfulness is not _____ but renewed covenant commitment

NOTES



