



Wired

Week 1: God is present

What we want students to learn: God is all around us.

What we want students to do with what they've learned: Recognize and pay attention to God all around them.

Scripture Focus: Genesis 1:1

The Main Point

Middle school is a time for students that's full of change and trying to figure out who they are. This can also bring up questions about God and their faith. They may even ask questions like "Is God real," "How do I spend time with Him," and "How can I further my relationship with Him?" Sometimes these questions are intimidating and difficult to answer, but don't worry! Asking these questions doesn't necessarily mean that your students are walking away from God. It's how students get more familiar with Jesus in their walk at this age.

INTRODUCTION

To kick off group for the night, ask the following icebreaker questions.

- **What piece of technology could you not live without?**
 - *iPhone, computers, TV, etc.*
- **What would life be like without the internet?**
 - *Life without the internet would be SO different! Communication would not be so easy and we wouldn't have Google around to answer all of our questions.*

Today, we are going to help your students understand who God is a little more by comparing God to the internet. Have you ever gotten confused trying to figure out the internet? You can't see it, but you can see evidence of it. This is similar to God. We can't necessarily see Him standing right in front of us, but we can see evidence of Him around us in creation (the world he created) and in the image of God in the people He created.

- **How would you describe the internet?**
- **Is God like the internet? How so?**
 - *Let your students have some fun with this question. Give them time to compare and contrast the two.*
 - *Examples*
 - *God knows everything! (The internet doesn't quite know everything but it sure does feel like it).*
 - *Just like the internet, sometimes God can be hard to understand.*

PRAY as you begin your small group time tonight. Pray that your students would be encouraged that God loves them, no matter what doubts they may have.

LESSON

- **What are some things you see in nature that make you feel connected to God?**
 - *The mountains, the ocean, sunsets/sunrises, the wind, etc.*
 - **Talk about a time when you saw the love of God in the actions of someone else.**
 - *If your students don't have an experience to share or don't feel comfortable sharing, share an experience of your own or talk about how Jesus' actions show us what God is like.*
 - **Noticing God around us is one way we can love God. How are these two things connected, noticing God and loving God?**
 - *When we notice God and praise Him, having quiet time, and serving, we're loving God.*
 - **When is it difficult for you to feel connected to God?**
 - *When we are distracted, or God does something we don't understand.*
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LIFE APPLICATION

- **Have you ever been on a vacation where you were outdoors a lot? Tell your group about that vacation.**
- **Think back on that vacation. What did you see, feel, hear, and smell?**
- **How do these things reflect God?**
 - *God's creation reflects God's power, God's care for us, etc.*

Optional small group activity - For this life application activity, you'll reinforce the main point of today's talk by reminding students that God can be seen in our everyday lives, and His image is all around us. To do this, go on a "field trip" during your small group time by taking your students outside. Spend five minutes looking at God's creation and start a conversation about what your students see, feel, hear, and smell and how these things reflect God's image.

- **What do you see, feel, hear, and smell?**
 - *Trees, grass, flowers*

Now, read the following verse to your students.

Genesis 1:1 (MSG) - *"First this: God created the Heavens and the Earth- all you see, all you don't see."*

Encourage your students to remember this verse as they're looking around. God created this!

- **How do these things reflect God's image?**
 - *Because God made them! God is around us all the time. They show God's power, love, and his care for us.*
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TAKE IT OUT

Close small group out with prayer requests. Pray specifically that your group would have a chance to grow together over the next year, growing with Jesus along the way too.

After prayer, be sure to remind them of any upcoming group serving activities or student events and THE WEEKEND!