

# Lesson Guide: Theology – The Study of God

Koinonia Family Group – April 6, 2025

Dr. Mike Lawson

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## Summary

In this first lesson of a three-part study on Trinitarian theology, Dr. Mike Lawson introduced the foundational concept of studying theology—specifically, the doctrine of God. Though the series has no formal title, it is structured around understanding the three Persons of the Trinity: God the Father, God the Son (Christology), and God the Holy Spirit (Pneumatology).

This lesson emphasized that theology is not an intimidating academic pursuit, but simply means "the study of God." God is the central figure of the Bible and the center of the Christian life. The lesson traced how the Church has historically articulated its understanding of God—from the Nicene Creed to the Westminster Confession, and even modern summaries like Metropolitan Bible Church's doctrinal statement. Using Charles Ryrie's theological framework, Dr. Lawson explored the attributes, names, and triune nature of God.

Through storytelling, humor, and biblical insight, Dr. Lawson reminded us that studying God is meant not only to inform but to transform. It draws us into deeper relationship and worship.

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## Key Takeaways

- **Theology is for everyone.** It means "the study of God," and every believer should be growing in their understanding of who God is.
  - **God is knowable because He has revealed Himself in Scripture.** Theology involves gathering what the Bible says about Him and learning from it.
  - **Historical theology matters.** The Nicene Creed, Westminster Confession, and even Dr. Lawson's children's book "Grandpa Mike Talks About God" are all efforts to summarize truth about God.
  - **Attributes of God:** He is infinite, eternal, immutable, omnipresent, sovereign, omniscient, just, loving, truthful, free, omnipotent, and holy.
  - **Names of God reveal His character:** For example, Jehovah-Jireh (The Lord Will Provide), Jehovah-Shalom (The Lord Is Peace), El Shaddai (God Almighty).
  - **God is Triune.** Though mysterious, the Bible consistently reveals God as one Being in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
  - **God desires to be known as Father.** This relational reality changes how we see Him—not just as Creator or Judge, but as loving Father.
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## Discussing and Applying the Lesson

- What stood out to you most in the story of the Albanian man who wanted to "study for God"? How does that illustrate God's initiative in our lives?
- Dr. Lawson shared how hard it was to write a children's theology book because God used it to refine him personally. Have you experienced growth through serving or teaching others?

- Of the attributes of God listed, which one do you find most comforting or challenging? Why?
  - The names of God express aspects of His character we often overlook. Which name speaks most to your life right now?
  - How does thinking of God as your Father—not just as God—change the way you relate to Him?
  - In what ways does understanding the Trinity stretch or deepen your faith?
  - Do you have a plan for growing in your knowledge of God this year (e.g., reading Scripture, studying theology, joining a group)?
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## Additional Resources

- **Read:** Genesis 1:26; Matthew 28:19; John 14–16
  - **Explore:** The Nicene Creed and the Westminster Confession online
  - **Consider:** Getting a Ryrie Study Bible for easy reference to systematic theology concepts
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## About This Study

This lesson is the first of a three-part exploration of foundational Christian theology centered on the Triune God. Each session focuses on one member of the Trinity:

1. God the Father (Theology Proper)
2. God the Son (Christology)
3. God the Holy Spirit (Pneumatology)

The goal of this study is not merely intellectual growth, but deeper worship and relationship with the God who has revealed Himself through Scripture and through His Son.