

Lesson At-A-Glance – Spiritual Chapter 1

Teaching Tips:

You can get the class involved by having them read some of the verses in the lesson

Emphasize key points as they appear in the left hand margin of the lesson notes

Build the diagram piece by piece as shown in the lesson notes

Add the individual points to the diagram as you explain it

Words capitalized in the left hand margin of the lesson notes are words you will be adding to your diagram

I AM NOT GOD

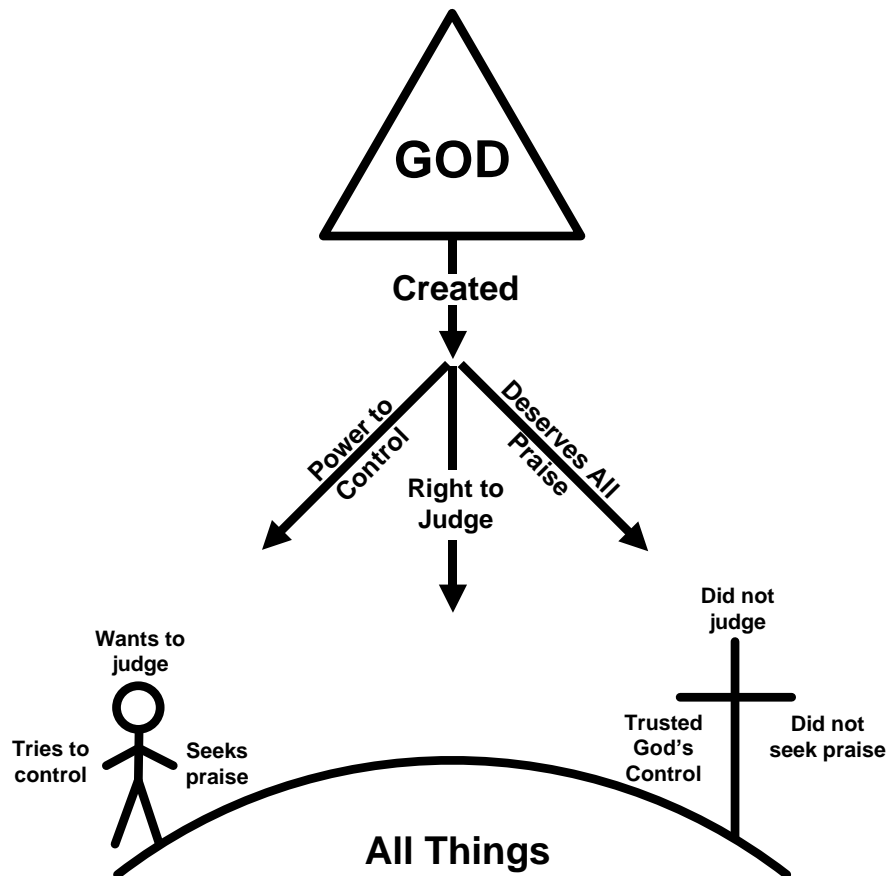
Key Verse:

“For thus says the Lord, Who created the heavens, Who is God, Who formed the earth and made it, Who has established it, Who did not create it in vain, Who formed it to be inhabited: ‘I am the Lord, and there is no other.’” Isaiah 45:18 (NKJ)

Summary:

There is only one God who has the power to control, the right to judge, and who deserves all praise. When I try to control, judge others, or seek praise I am taking God’s place. Jesus trusted God’s control, did not judge and did not seek praise.

Completed Diagram:



Group Guide – Spiritual Chapter 1

Group is:

I AM NOT GOD

A time for encouragement

To facilitate discussion in your group choose from the following list of questions.

Centered around sharing how the lesson applied to your life and hearing how it applied to the rest of the group

Specific Questions

What does it look like when man tries to play God?

Note: These questions are taken directly from the SALT workbook.

Q3. Does it bother you that someone may have the right to rule over you? Explain.

Q12. Does it bother you when things don't go your way? Why?

Q15. Do you get impatient when people don't do things "right?" "Right" according to whom?

Q18. Do you look for approval or thanks from others? Why?

For drawing and explaining the diagrams to each other

General Questions Related to:

Content

What are the main points of this lesson?

Who can summarize this lesson for us?

An opportunity to ask questions about the lesson

Scripture

What was a significant scripture for you and why?

How did it speak to you?

Benefits

What are the benefits of understanding this lesson?

Why do we need to know this? How will it help us?

For reading the Bible verses that spoke to you

Application

How does this lesson apply to your specific life situation?

What is one choice you can make as a result of this lesson?

What does believing God's truth from this lesson look like for you?

Equal time for all – with no one dominating the time

Sharing

Could you share this diagram with someone who needs it?

Helpful suggestions:

Be prepared. Review the lesson and personally answer the questions. Pray for the group time.

Be transparent. Be ready to share your own story. When you are real, other people will feel more comfortable being honest.

Be a good listener. When people are sharing, give them your full attention and acknowledge what they have shared.

A great place for praying for personal and/or group needs.

Lesson Notes

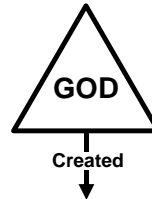
Notes

Key Verse

“For thus says the Lord, Who created the heavens, Who is God, Who formed the earth and made it, Who has established it, Who did not create it in vain, Who formed it to be inhabited: ‘I am the Lord, and there is no other.’” **Isaiah 45:18** (NKJ)

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”
Genesis 1:1 (NKJ)

**GOD
CREATED
ALL THINGS**

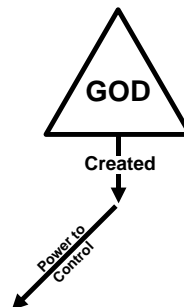


If God exists and He made everything, then He has the right to rule His creation, including all the people in it.

If God created all things, then He possesses power and privileges that are **exclusively** His. God has the power to control all the things that He created.

*“All the people of the earth are nothing compared to him. **He has the power to do as he pleases** among the angels of heaven and with those who live on earth. No one can stop him or challenge him, saying, ‘What do you mean by doing these things?’”* **Daniel 4:35** (NLT)

**God has the
POWER TO
CONTROL**

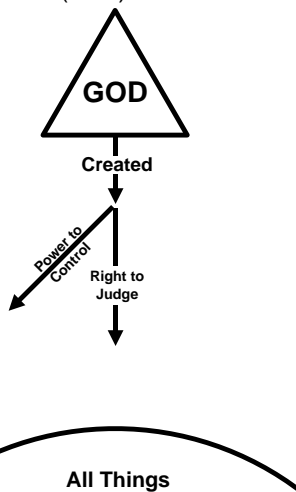


Notes

Because God created all things, He has the exclusive right to determine standards of conduct for all people and to judge all people.

“God has every right to exercise his judgment and his power, but he also has the right to be very patient with those who are the objects of his judgment...” **Romans 9:22** (NLT)

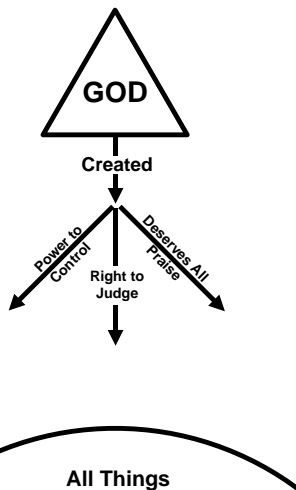
God has the RIGHT TO JUDGE



Because God created all things, He deserves the praise of mankind.

“You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created.”
Revelation 4:11 (NKJ)

God DESERVES ALL PRAISE



Satan tries to be like God

Lucifer, one of the angels God created, decided he could be like God, the Most High. By trying to become like God, he became God's enemy, known as Satan.

“How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’”

Isaiah 14:12–14 (NKJ)

Notes

Adam and Eve follow in Satan’s rebellion

Trying to be like God did not end with Satan. Satan (in the form of a serpent) successfully tempted Adam and Eve to follow his rebellion of trying to be like God.

*“Then the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and **you will be like God, knowing good and evil.**”* **Genesis 3:4–5** (NKJ)

Adam and Eve chose to follow Satan in trying to be like God, rather than acknowledging God as God and obeying Him. That pattern of behavior passed to all mankind.

Whom else do you know who has been deceived into thinking they could assume the rights of God?

Do: Have class turn to page 8 and circle their answers to the quiz.

- | | | |
|---|-----|----|
| Does it bother you when you’re not in control? | Yes | No |
| Does it bother you when things don’t go your way? | Yes | No |
| Do you have trouble asking for help? | Yes | No |
| Do you get impatient when people don’t do things right? | Yes | No |
| Does it upset you when you don’t get good service? | Yes | No |
| Do you try to change people? | Yes | No |
| Do you look for approval or thanks from others? | Yes | No |
| Do you try to keep people happy? | Yes | No |
| Do you reject those who mistreat you? | Yes | No |

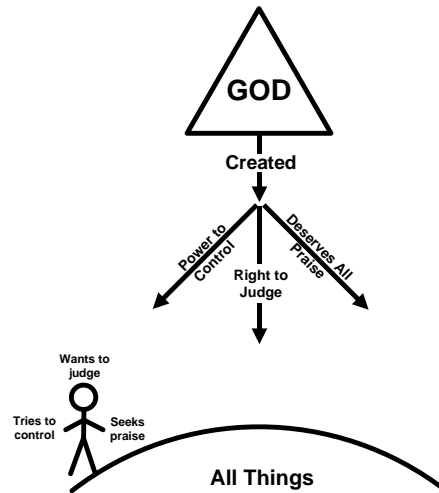
If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, even if your “yes” depended upon your situation, that is an area where you are trying to be like God in your own life or the lives of others.

Notes

Man
TRIES TO
CONTROL

WANTS TO
JUDGE

SEEKS
PRAISE



Man wants to control people and the outcome of things but only God possesses that kind of power. He has the ability to control you, yet He gave you a free will. When you use that free will to try to control life around you, you are taking God's place.

"Has the LORD ever needed anyone's advice? Does he need instruction about what is good or what is best?" **Isaiah 40:14** (NLT)

Being controlling can result in unpleasant emotions like frustration, anger, exhaustion, depression, fear, or worry.

Man wants to judge and condemn others but only God who created man has the right to judge mankind. You may even be judgmental of yourself. Only God has the right to be your Judge.

*"God alone, who made the law, can rightly judge among us. He alone has the power to save or to destroy. So what right do you have to **condemn your neighbor?**"* **James 4:12** (NLT)

Wanting to judge creates feelings of irritation, disgust, and disappointment with people.

Man seeks people's praise even though everything he has (looks, talents, possessions, and abilities) come from God. Only God is worthy of praise from those He created.

People who *seek praise* and live for the acceptance of others may feel hurt, rejected, unappreciated, or insecure.

"I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not give my glory to anyone else. I will not share my praise..." **Isaiah 42:8** (NLT)

Testimony: Share a time in your life when you tried to be like God by controlling, judging others, or seeking praise. What were the results?

Notes

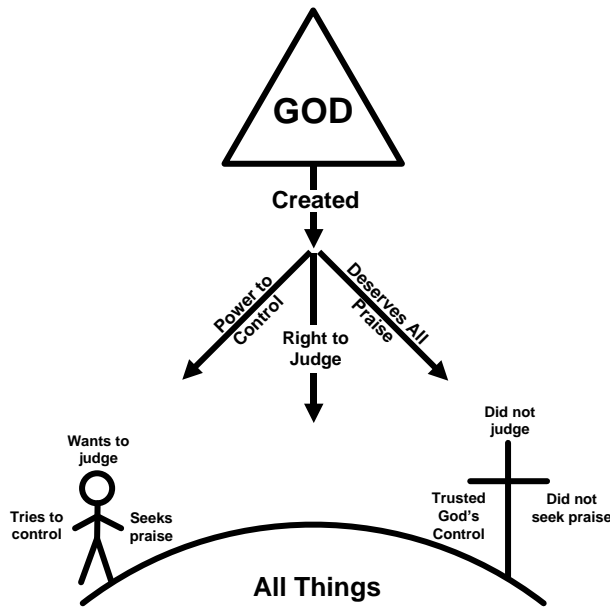
Jesus gave up His rights as God

Jesus TRUSTED GOD'S CONTROL

DID NOT JUDGE

DID NOT SEEK PRAISE

The life of Jesus, the Son of God stands in stark contrast to Satan and Adam. Although He Himself is God, He gave up His rights as God and became a man.



He trusted God's control.

“And while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously.” 1 Peter 2:23 (NASB)

He did not judge.

“If anyone hears My sayings and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world.”

John 12:47 (NASB)

He did not seek praise.

“[Jesus] who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.”

Philippians 2:7–8 (NKJ)

Conclusion

When you try to be “god” of your own life, not only is it following Satan, but it is going in the opposite direction that Jesus went. Your state of rebellion stands in the way of your relationship with God. This rebellion is **sin**.

If you have seen through this lesson that you have been trying to control, judge others, or seek praise, now is the time to repent.

“I pondered the direction of my life, and I turned to follow your statutes.”

Psalms 119:59 (NLT)

