

## WORSHIP

### SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

No Other Like Jesus, Oh Lord My Rock and Redeemer, Waymaker

## WELCOME

Do you know the story behind your name? How did your parents come up with your name?

## WORD

### GENESIS 1:1-2

*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.<sup>2</sup> And the earth was a formless and desolate emptiness, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.*

We're now on a new series called **BE ROOTED: KNOW GOD BY HIS NAMES!** The recent typhoon in the Philippines showed us that deeply rooted trees can survive the storm. Similarly, our lives will remain firm amidst the storms and trials of life when we are deeply rooted in God as we grow and bloom in Him.

We must **KNOW GOD**, more than "know about God". He reveals Himself to us through His Word, Works, and Names. He introduces Himself to us using different Names that capture, in essence, who He is and what He is able to do. Knowing God is essential and in **Hosea 4:1-6**, God expresses His issues with His wayward people who had no faithfulness, and no loyalty to Him. He expresses to them the importance of KNOWING Him. When we know God, we know what He wants, what pleases Him, and what displeases Him. **2 Peter 3:18** is a reminder to keep on growing in the grace and knowledge of Christ. Many times, we are either **ignorant** (*we don't know the Lord*) or **shallow** (*we know Him but there is no clear view of who God is*). God reminds us through **Psalm 50:21** that He is way above us and we cannot box Him in a mold of what we just want Him to be. The more we know God, the more we can be rested and can combat internal battles such as worries, fears, anxieties, or anger. As **J.I. Packer** said, "What were we made for? **To know God...** What is the best thing in life? **To know God.**"

The first Name of God we see in Scripture is **ELOHIM (Genesis 1)**. Let us unpack what it means:

### **1. GOD IS ALMIGHTY**

**ELOHIM** is a "plural" form of the word **EL**. The name El is found over 200 times in the Hebrew Bible and is best translated as "**God**", depicting might and power. **Genesis 35:11** uses EL (God) alongside **Almighty**. Elohim occurs **over 2750** times in the Old Testament. Knowing God is almighty assures us that He is able, that nothing is too difficult for Him; thus, He is worthy of our trust and confidence.

### **2. GOD IS OUR CREATOR**

**Elohim** appears **32 times** in Genesis 1 alone. When the Bible says "God (Elohim) **CREATED**", it uses the Hebrew word

**"BARA"** which means creating something out of nothing. Anything created by humans beings, anything that we make, is always from something. We only modify it. If you make a car, you need iron, copper, and all other materials. But GOD is able to CREATE something from nothing. The most amazing thing is that He created everything by His WORD (confirmed by **Psalm 33:8-9, 62:11**). He says it and it happens. What an imagery of God's power!

### **3. GOD IS ETERNAL**

That first verse of the Bible also reminds us of God's eternal nature. **IN THE BEGINNING** shows God had already been existing before time and the world began! ELOHIM not only created everything, but He existed even before everything else has appeared. He is an eternal being not constrained by time. He is therefore all-knowing. If we don't get this, we'll have problems with miracles all over the Bible! Those who hold on to evolution or naturalism look at the world with a particular worldview. So even if the basic tenets of science contradict their claims, they still stand on what they believe in and reject the eternal existence of God. The good thing is that God provides us with many evidences that He created the universe. An example would be the **FINE TUNING of the universe**—how everything (*distances of stars and planets, the unique qualities of Earth, etc.*) is designed meticulously and perfectly by the Eternal God, to ensure sustainable living and to carry His divine purpose and plan.

### **4. GOD IS IMMUTABLE – HE DOESN'T CHANGE**

**Isaiah 45:18** reminds us that God is purposeful. His eternal nature assures us that He knows BEST. He does not need changing or improving. Understanding that God is already PERFECT gives us much confidence in Him. **Malachi 3:6** and **Hebrews 13:8** say that He doesn't change. He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. He is never caught by surprise. His purpose does not change. In **Jeremiah 31:3**, God loves us even before the world began. His love for us is a secure reality. He also assures us of His ability to change us for the better.

## **5. GOD IS ABLE TO TRANSFORM US**

Hidden in the simplicity of **Genesis 1:1-2** is a picture of how God is able to transform something from desolate to beautiful, from emptiness to fullness, and from darkness to light. He transformed everything BY HIS WORD! God can do the same thing for us. Whatever the status of our life, He can transform it for the glory of His Name if we just let His Word sink deep, take root and bear fruit in our hearts and minds!

## **6. GOD IS GOOD**

The Creation Story shows how the Lord provided EVERYTHING GOOD even before He made the first man. It is a loving picture of His goodness. After every stage of creation, God would say “**It Is Good**” (*repeated all over Genesis 1, vv. 4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 27, 31*). All that He created suited perfectly well to all creation’s needs. GOD also loves us so much that He made humans unique and special. GOD made us in **HIS** image (**Genesis 1:26-28**). It’s not about physical likeness, but in the sense of intellect, emotions, and the will/volition. We were made in the image of God to have a relationship with God! God gave us physical, spiritual, and moral laws to live by. God made us, He designed us, and knows what’s best for us.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

*(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)*

1. **Self-Check.** When you go through the trials and storms of life, how do you cope and rise above it?
2. **Setting It Right.** Trusting God is only possible if we constantly make an effort to KNOW HIM FULLY. What can you do to improve on your efforts of knowing God more?
3. **Living It Out.** Now that you know the character of God through His Name ELOHIM, what will you do in order to reflect His nature in your life and introduce Him to your relatives/friends who still have to discover His redeeming grace?

## WORKS

### **PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION**

Pray that people will truly know God. Nurture their knowledge of God as you share His Word to them. Share how you experienced the reality of God in your life through Christ and how they too can know Him, God Almighty and Giver of Life!

## **7. GOD’S TRIUNE (TRI-UNITY) BEING – HE GIVES LIFE!**

**Deuteronomy 6:4** is clear. The LORD is **ONE**—this is **Ekad**, an expression of compound unity and not numeric oneness (*used also in Genesis 2:24*). The human mind cannot fathom this easily, but that is the truth. It is revealed in a progressing declaration of who God is from Genesis to Revelation. **Genesis 1:26** has a wonderful display of this when God said “let **US** (*plural*) make mankind in **OUR** (*plural*) **image** (*singular*)”. This was shown by John’s gospel in John 1. The “**Word**” clearly pertains to **JESUS** (**John 1:14**). He was present in the creation, as well as the Holy Spirit (**Genesis 1:2**). **Hebrews 1:3** and **Colossians 1:15-17** prove that Jesus Christ’s purpose has been fulfilled as “by Him and for Him all things were created”. He gives life (**John 11:43-44**) and upholds life by His power. He is truly worthy of our worship!

At the end of everything, we are to test ourselves and our commitment to GOD—in our worship, thankfulness, adoration, confidence, obedience (**John 14:15**). We are to trust Jesus Christ who paved the way for us to know HIM, **ELOHIM**, who is able to give life eternal (**John 10:10, John 17:3**)!

### **WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS**

#### **I. Thanksgiving**

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

#### **II. Country and the World**

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants and a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

#### **III. Church**

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

#### **IV. CCF Facilities**

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

#### **V. Personal Concerns**

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends