

THERE'S ONLY ONE GOD

"We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things, visible and invisible" (Creed of Nicaea [A.D. 325]).

THEOLOGICAL QUESTION

Who is God, and what is He like?

BIG IDEA

God is triune, and He is the one and only true, living, God. God has spoken through the Word, through Jesus, and the Holy Spirit that He is completely sovereign and that He simultaneously desires a personal relationship with each individual.

SCRIPTURE USED

Isaiah 45:20-22:

*Gather together and come,
you fugitives from surrounding nations.
What fools they are who carry around their wooden idols
and pray to gods that cannot save!
Consult together, argue your case.
Get together and decide what to say.
Who made these things known so long ago?
What idol ever told you they would happen?
Was it not I, the LORD?
For there is no other God but me,
a righteous God and Savior.
There is none but me.
Let all the world look to me for salvation!
For I am God; there is no other.*

Isaiah 46:9:

*Remember the things I have done in the past.
For I alone am God!
I am God, and there is none like me.*

Ephesians 4:4-6: *For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, in all, and living through all.*

John 17:3: *And this is the way to have eternal life—to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth.*

OPENER

For the opener you will need:

- About 20 examples of symbols: the Microsoft “apple”, car emblems, the Starbucks mermaid, Golden Arches, a smiley face, a mockingjay pin from *The Hunger Games* series, etc. Anything that instantly would be associated with what it represents—without the use of words or numbers—is acceptable. You may choose to create a folder or simple PowerPoint of these images for digital display, or you may print them out.
- A large heart of any material, shape, or form
- Plain paper and writing materials for students
- OPTIONAL: Prizes for the game. Remember that you may need several prizes as it is unlikely there will be only one “winner,” and it does not have to be candy! Comb your personal library (or if you have access to church resources, check for available extras) for appropriate and encouraging books the winners could select from.

(Leader’s Note—Optional: Visuals are powerful reminders. What you may view as overkill or even somewhat simplistic, might just be the thing that sticks with a student for many years to come. Consider decorating your meeting space with the #1. You could buy or make cookies or cupcakes that have a “1” on them, wear a T-shirt with a “1” on it, or hide them all over the room either blatantly or discreetly. Some leaders find it fun to do all this and NOT call attention to it, but you could also just tell your students—if they ask—about your important theme for the evening.)

EXPLAIN

If I showed you this (hold up or point to your heart image), **odds are you will immediately associate this image with love. You probably did not have to actually “think it.” This little symbol is so directly connected to our idea of love because we’ve all grown up using it that way, so our minds just go straight there.**

We are going to play a little game to get us started this evening. I need everyone to take a sheet of paper and number it 1-20. Now, speed is critical if you want to win this game. I am going to show you several images and I need you to very quickly jot down what they represent. Please don’t bother