

KIDMUNITY | This I Believe

Lesson 01: What is Theology?

Large Group Script

Bottom Line:

Theology is the study of what is true about God from the Bible.

Memory Verse:

“Let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord.”

Jeremiah 9:23–24a

Supplies Needed

Copies of the Apostles’ Creed and Nicene Creed

FACT OR FICTION

Bring up four contestants — an older boy, a younger boy, an older girl, and a younger girl. They will alternate answering. You’ll read a statement, and they must decide whether it is fact or fiction. Keep score as they go and let the audience react, but only the contestant answering gives the official answer.

Host Script

“Have you ever been absolutely sure about something and then found out you were completely wrong? Sometimes we think we know what’s true. We’ve heard it before, it sounds right, we’re confident. But sometimes what we think is a fact is actually fiction.

So we’re going to play a game called **Fact or Fiction**. I need two boys and two girls to come up front. You’re going to battle with your brains. I’ll read a statement, and you decide — is it fact or fiction? Some will be easy. Some will try to trick you. Let’s see who really knows what’s true.”

Game Statements

Statement: Lightning is hotter than the surface of the sun. **(FACT)**

Statement: Humans only use 10% of their brains. **(FICTION)**

Statement: Octopuses have three hearts. **(FACT)**

Statement: Paper was invented in Europe. **(FICTION)**

Statement: There have been exactly 50 U.S. presidents. **(FICTION)**

Statement: Bananas grow on trees. **(FICTION)**

Statement: Sharks existed before dinosaurs. **(FACT)**

Statement: The Great Wall of China is visible from space with the naked eye. **(FICTION)**

Bonus Statement: Goldfish have a three-second memory. **(FICTION)**

FACT OR FICTION – BUT IN REAL LIFE

“Those were tricky, weren’t they? Some sounded true but weren’t. Some sounded crazy but were actually real. That’s funny when we’re talking about sharks and bananas and lightning. But tonight I want to talk about the same kind of thing – ideas we think are real, but maybe aren’t.

If you’ve watched a movie, a cartoon, played a video game, or scrolled online, you’ve seen what culture says about who God is, who we are, what heaven is like, and what happens when we die.”

Examples Kids Recognize (With Slides)

“For example...”

[SLIDE] An old man with a long white beard sitting on a cloud.

[SLIDE] A powerful architect who created everything and then disappeared.

[SLIDE] An angry judge waiting to zap someone with lightning.

[SLIDE] A tiny angel on one shoulder.

[SLIDE] A tiny devil on the other.

[SLIDE] “If I’m good enough, I’ll get into heaven.”

[SLIDE] “If I mess up too much, I won’t.”

[SLIDE] Heaven means floating around in robes with wings and halos.

[SLIDE] Hell means horns and pitchforks.”

“These are ideas about real spiritual things, but most of them are fiction. They were created for entertainment — for comedy or drama — not for truth. Because we see them so often, they can warp our perception of the truth. We’re tempted to picture God this way and believe these stories instead of what’s actually true.

But truth matters. How we see God, how we see ourselves, and how we see others guides how we live. That’s why the pursuit of truth is important — and that’s what we’re studying this semester: theology.”

WHAT IS THEOLOGY?

“Theology sounds like a big word, but it’s simple. Theo means God. Ology means the study of.

We use that ending all the time:

- **Biology** — the study of life
- **Archaeology** — the study of ancient people and artifacts
- **Geology** — the study of the Earth
- **Psychology** — the study of the mind and behavior

So theology is the study of God — learning what is true about Him.”

Who Is a Theologian?

“If theology means studying God, what do you call someone who studies God? A theologian. You don’t have to be a pastor, an adult, or know big words. Anyone who wants to know what is true about God is a theologian. So this semester, and hopefully for the rest of your life, you carry that title.”

MEMORY VERSE

*“Let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord.”
Jeremiah 9:23-24a*

If you’re going to brag about something, let it be this — that you know God. Not that you’re the smartest, strongest, or most popular, but that you understand and know Him.

Some of you have read parts of your Bible, and some haven’t read much yet. There may be things you think are true about God that aren’t actually true. That’s why this semester we’re taking a deep dive into theology — so we can truly understand and know Him.”

THEOLOGICAL TOOLS

If we're going to study God, what's our textbook? The Bible. Everything we know about God comes from this book. It is our source, our authority, and our foundation. If something isn't in the Bible, it may not be true — so this is where theology begins.

The Apostles' Creed

The Apostles' Creed developed in the early church as new believers prepared for baptism. They would answer simple but powerful questions about what they believed regarding God the Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. Over time, those belief statements were written down, forming a clear summary of what the apostles taught and what Christians believed to be true.

The Nicene Creed

A few hundred years later, false teachings began spreading about Jesus — especially the idea that He wasn't truly God. Church leaders gathered, studied Scripture carefully, and wrote the Nicene Creed to clarify what the Bible teaches about who Jesus is. It helped protect believers from being led astray by ideas that sounded spiritual but weren't true.

Creeds are not the Bible, and they don't replace Scripture. They are summaries drawn from Scripture that help believers remember and defend what is true. They are tools — rooted in God's Word — that guide us as we grow in theology.

THEOLOGY SUMMARY

“Let's go back to our game. Some of us were tricked because something sounded true but wasn't. That's fine for trivia. But when it comes to God, our faith, and eternity, we cannot afford confusion.

We must know fact from fiction, and we do that by studying what is true about God — from the Bible — with helpful tools guiding us. That's theology.

Tonight, in small groups, you'll begin your theology journey. This semester, we're not guessing about God. We're becoming theologians.”

PRAY AND DISMISS

Pray together and dismiss to small groups.