



Lesson 4: The God Who Feels

1. Think of your closest friend or family member. What makes that person a good friend?

Answer:

For most of us, what differentiates a close friend from other friends is how much they get you—how much they care about you, how much they are willing to listen to you, and—likely the deepest characteristic—the fact that they understand you. That is why they are able to celebrate your joys with you and cry with you during your darkest times.

Do you think that God gets you in that same way, or even better than your closest friend?

- ☐ Yes
 - ☐ I'm not sure
 - ☐ No
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2. Let's look at what the Bible has to say. Which of the following verses touch you the most?
 - ☐ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied. Jesus wept. Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" (John 11:33-36, NIV).
 - ☐ In all their affliction He was afflicted, And the Angel of His Presence saved them; In His love and in His pity He redeemed them; And He bore them and carried them All the days of old. (Isaiah 63:9, NKJV).
 - ☐ You keep track of all my sorrows. You have collected all my tears in Your bottle. You have recorded each one in Your book. (Psalm 56:8, NLT).
 - ☐ Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Isaiah 53:4, NKJV For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. (Hebrews 4:15, NKJV).

3. It's clear from these verses, taken from both the Old and New Testaments, that God keenly feels our struggles and pain. Scan the code on the right to view the video.



“Describing the empathy of God in Christ, Scripture says that He was “touched with the feeling of our infirmities” (Hebrews 4:15, KJV). Then, pulling aside the veil to show us what He went through in Gethsemane, we are told that He “offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears (Hebrews 5:7)... Behold, the infinite empathy of a God who feels all the feelings of every person in the world!”^[1]

- TY GIBSON, “INFINITE EMPATHY” (BLOG POST).

“Not a sigh is breathed, not a pain felt, not a grief pierces the soul, but the throb vibrates to the Father’s heart.”

- ELLEN WHITE, “THE DESIRE OF AGES”, P. 356.

4. If we love someone, our hearts reach out to them to feel what they feel. Nowhere is this more evident than in how God relates to us. The reason God feels us so acutely is because of His great love for us.

“If God is love, then, of necessity, God suffers with us in every stab and twist of pain we ever feel. And there is immense potential for comfort and healing in knowing that the One in whose image we were originally made feels all that we feel.”^[2]

- TY GIBSON, “WHEN EVIL STRIKES” (BLOG POST).

5. Do you know that God loves you so much that He actually sings love songs over you?! Read these incredible words:

“The Lord your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing.” ZEPHANIAH 3:17, NIV.

Here is what Ty Gibson has to say about this:

“According to the prophet Zephaniah, God sings over you! In fact, He sings over all of us! Just as a father sings or speaks to his unborn child, God sings to us. From just the other side of the thin wall that separates the seen from the unseen, He serenades our hearts, constantly whispering the truth of His love into our consciousness. According to the prophet Zephaniah, God sings over you! In fact, He sings over all of us!

There is some real but inaudible sense in which God's thoughts and feelings, like a song, are floating sweetly into our hearts. And as He sings over us, He is hoping we will hear His song and come to know His heart.

The very idea that God sings at all is actually quite an astounding revelation about the kind of Being this Almighty Creator must be. What kind of person sings anyway? Well, first of all, a very personal kind of person, someone with thoughts they want to express and feelings they want others to feel.

That's the sort of God we're dealing with here. Not the "Unmoved Mover" kind of God Aristotle would have us imagine. Not the "impassible" and deterministic" God of classical theism, which is merely a Christianized version of Aristotle's God. Not the "impersonal force" or the "collective soul" of pantheism and Star Wars ("May the Force be with you!"). None of these match up with the character profile of the God revealed in Scripture.

A God who sings must be a God who feels, a God of deep, stirring passions. If God sings—and the Bible says He does—it opens our minds to the realization that within all this enormous power there beats a tender heart. If God sings, we find ourselves standing in awe before the union of absolute might housed within infinite sensitivity.” [3]

6. We see more of the *feeling* side of God in episode 3 of *The Chosen*, where we see Jesus crying out to His Father at the campsite. His prayer echoes His later prayer in John 17, where He pleads with God to “*Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you*” (John 17:1, NIV).

What does the word glorify mean here?

Answer:

To make God known is to glorify Him.^[4] Another word might be magnify.

7. Think of some of the classic tools of magnification, like a microscope or telescope. The microscope takes that which is difficult to see and magnifies it, while a telescope takes that which appears far away and brings it closer. Both God the Father and God the Son are glorified by being made known through Their love and holiness as seen through Jesus’ death, resurrection, and ascension (see John 7:39, John 12:16; John 12:23).^[5]

In Jesus’ heartfelt prayer, He longs for the people He will encounter on earth to ‘get Him’—that is to understand His love for them and His purposes here on earth to save them. Scan the code on the right to watch more.



8. In episode 3 of *The Chosen*, between Jesus’ pleadings with His Father to make Their love for people known, we can see the beginnings of His prayer being answered through His interaction with the children.

These scenes bring to mind Matthew 19:14. Jesus said:

“*Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them,
for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.*”

MATTHEW 19:14, NIV.

Why do you think Jesus said this?

Answer:

9. In this episode, the children in all their innocent questioning are sincerely trying to understand not just who Jesus is and what He is doing, but also all He is teaching them about Torah and how to “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your

soul and with all your strength and with all your mind' and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself' (Luke 10:27, NIV).

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*You make known to me the path of life; **in your presence there is fullness of joy**; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*” PSALM 16:11, ESV.

“

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” HEBREWS 12:2, BSB.

10. Without any hindrance, baggage, or inauthenticity, these children soak up what Jesus has to say. And just as the children delight in Jesus' presence as they hang out with Him, learn from Him, and help Him, He delights in their presence as well.
11. Are you amazed? You can bring the all-powerful Creator God joy! **God has feelings because He is love.** The very essence of His character, the very foundation of His existence is love. **Nothing can bring us more joy than when we realize God's love for us, and, in turn, nothing brings God more joy than to see us happy and saved in His love.**

How would you like to respond to God's love for you?

- ☐ I have heard God's love song and desire to experience the full joy of His love.
- ☐ I would love to keep learning how I can find joy in God's presence.
- ☐ I have more questions about God's love for me.

Scan the code on the right to visit our sister program at [Hopetv.org/Biblehelpdesk](https://hopetv.org/Biblehelpdesk) to ask your questions.



[1] <https://lightbearers.org/blog/infinite-empathy/>

[2] <https://lightbearers.org/blog/when-evil-strikes/>

[3] Adapted from Ty Gibson, *A God Named Desire*. <https://www.signstimes.com/?p=article&a=44146212100.1021>.

[4] *Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges*, <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/john/17-1.htm>.

[5] Adapted from *Expositor's Greek Testament*, <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/john/17-1.htm>.