

The word personal in relation to God means: That God wants to develop a personal or individual relationship with all of His children. That includes you! (point to every child individually in the room)

**God is a Personal Spirit and we can get to know Him better every day!
It's important to know that God is not an "it." Let me show you what I mean....**

**Does a rock tell you how it feels? No
Does lightning talk about itself using words like "I" and "Me?" No
Does a rock say, "Wow, the sun is hot today. I'm really warm!" No**

Of course not, that's silly! Rocks don't have a personal spirit. Lightning doesn't have a personal spirit. They are "its."

Let's read what God has to say in Isaiah 46:3-4. (Hand out bibles to those who need them.)

"Listen to me, you descendants of Jacob, all the remnant of the people of Israel, you whom I have upheld since your birth, and have carried since you were born. Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you.

Does God tell you what He has done? Yes!

Does God use the words, "I" and "Me?" Yes!

Yes! Because He IS a Personal Spirit! He is not an "it." The Bible is God's letter to us. Only a person can write a letter. It tells us how He feels, what He thinks, and what He wants. And what He wants is to talk with us like a loving family!

What do you learn about how God feels about us from this verse?

(He cares; He holds us up; He wants to carry us. He can sustain and rescue us, He wants to take care of us.)

Read Exodus 3:7

The LORD said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering.

How does this verse reveal that God is a Personal Spirit?

(He sees and hears us)

A cat may see its master cry, but it doesn't understand why its master is sad. Because God is a Personal Spirit, He sees His children and understands them.

If God was an impersonal force like in Star Wars, or a statue like an idol, we could never get to know Him or have a relationship with Him. Because He is a Personal Spirit, we can have a relationship with Him and get to know Him!!! In the Bible, in the verse John 3:16, God tells us for sure that He loves us and He wants us to be able to get to know Him forever! John 3:16 says,

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Read James 4:8a.

Come near to God and he will come near to you.

What kind of relationship does God want with you? One that is mutual, God is willing and wanting a relationship with us, if we want a relationship with God

Jesus says in John 15:4

You are my friends if you do what I command.

Jesus said the Disciples and all who follow Him are His friends.

How is having a friendship with God different than having a friendship with someone else?

How is it the same? Allow children to answer

It can seem difficult to have a friendship with someone you can't see. Many people use letters, e-mail, and phone calls to stay in touch with friends they can't see face-to-face.

2) God and Jesus are the Vine Color Page

10 minutes

Hand out color page of vine and verse along with crayons. Tell the children to write their names on the back of the sheet and then together read the verse aloud on the sheet.

Read John 15:5.

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

The word "remain" in that verse means "stick close to" or "hold on tight to." Jesus wants us to know how important it is to stick close to Him. Think of your closest friend.

If you stop talking with your friend, what happens to the friendship?

(Your friendship will not last. It will die.)

If you have a big fight and stop talking with each other, what must happen to begin fixing the friendship?

(You must forgive one another and start talking to each other again.)

If friends stop talking, there is no hope for the relationship to stay the same or to grow stronger. It will get weaker. It is the same with our friendship with God.

Let's all color our pages and remember the importance of having a relationship with God because He is personal and has feelings, joy, and desire to be with others, just like we do!

Allow kids to color the page. When almost completed say:

How would you describe your relationship with God? Don't answer aloud but think of your answer in your head.

I am holding on tight to the vine (You talk with God often and like to hear His Word, the Bible).

I am holding on, but not tightly. (I like to read His Word. I talk with God at night and sometimes during the day when I need His help.)

I am holding on with my pinky finger (You talk with God some but not much).

I don't talk to God at all; I am not connected.

If the answer isn't what you want it to be in your relationship with God, learn how to make your relationship better with God today!

How would you answer someone if he were to ask you, "Why does it matter if God is Personal or not?" Raise your hand if you have some ideas."

God talks with us. How does He do that?

Through the Bible; His letters to us. Read 1 Peter 1:24-25

Through Prayer; talking with God. Read Philippians 4:6-7

3) God is Personal Word Search

10-15 minutes

Hand out Word search and make sure each child has a pencil. Say, "This is to remind us of some of the words we can use that remind us that God is personal. **Let's go through the list of words at the bottom and read them aloud and then once we have done that, I will hand out pencils and we can get started, remember with word searches the words may be found, left, right, up, down, diagonal, or backwards. Let's get started, if you have any questions raise your hands, ok?"**

4) God is Personal Banner Craft

15-20 minutes

Hand out one piece of construction paper or large copy paper to each child for their banner. Tell kids to write their name on the back of the paper. Then hand out markers, crayons or pencil crayons for each child.

"Each week that we study a characteristic about God we will make a banner. This will help us remember that God is many things and all of them amazing! This week we will add to our banner and make a God is Personal page! I am handing out (either twigs if you chose those or banner template with pictures of branches on them)_____.

Cut out the branches from your template and glue on your banner paper - under or beside each branch write or draw something that you think reminds you of how God is personal. What are some ideas we could use that show God is personal? (Ideas include: prayer or praying hands, bible, heart for love, etc.) *If used twigs, do the same thing but put the idea or drawing beside each twig that you would glue to the banner paper.

You can go through your activity sheets for words or ideas of things that remind you of how God is personal. You can also draw pictures of things that remind you. Remember to fill up the whole banner with things and ways that show God is personal; He wants a relationship with each and every one of us! As well include the title "God is personal!" on your page. (Or if they prefer they can use the template phrase provided in the template page and cut it out) Hand out scissors and glue for students.

Go ahead and start and if you need help or have any questions feel free to ask!

Make sure students have access to their bibles and activity pages for ideas and if necessary help them with cutting, gluing, verse look ups, or other things. Ensure kids clean up before leaving. If banners are dry kids can take them home or you can collect them and then hand them out to each child at the end with all banners the child will make stapled together to make one huge rolled up banner!

5) Optional: Invite a guest to answer questions on an older church members relationship with God **10-15 minutes**

If you don't have time this week, this option will be made available in next weeks' lesson.

Do you know someone who has had a great relationship with God for a long time? Ask them to come to class and give the following answers to these questions. Tell them there may be other questions the children may want to ask as well. Give them the sheet on the C.D. marked questions for guest church member so they know in advance. Remind them this will happen during Bible class so make sure they are comfortable with that and are available.

When you are ready, invite them in or let them stay for the whole class to see "how it works" then have them sit in a place where all the children can see them. Ask each child to read one of the questions below to the guest and remind the children to sit quietly as they guest answers. Take turns for each child to ask a question. When done, see if the children have any other appropriate questions to ask. Allow if time and thank the guest for being a part of this special class time.

What is your relationship with God like?

How do you get to know God better every day?

What were some answers to prayer that have been amazing in your life?

What do you do when you feel far away from God?

6) Optional - Snack: Vine Fruit - Grapes! **5 minutes**

Hand out grapes along with a glass of water or juice to each child. Show the kids that: **the snacks you are eating come from a vine. Just like Jesus is the vine and we are the branches, and in Him we bear fruit or make good fruit. The branches from this vine, made all these wonderful grapes for us! Isn't it great when branches produce good fruit! Let's all pray this week that we bear good fruit as well!** Have a napkin for children to clean their hands. Discuss questions and examples of how God is personal while snacking!

7) Close in prayer

Thank you God for wanting to have a relationship with us. Thank you that You gave us a way to communicate with You, by looking at the Bible and talking to You in prayer. Thank you for loving us, wanting to care for us, and wanting to know what our thoughts, dreams, worries, and problems are. Thank you that you can help us with anything we face because You love us and care for us! We pray that we will always want to have a relationship with You too and remember all the wonderful things You do for us every day! (Take time to pray for any needs the class may have as well.) In Jesus' name we pray this, Amen.

Thank you for serving Christ in this way!