



 **LIVING ON THE EDGE™**



# THE REAL GOD

How He Longs for You  
to See Him

**WORKBOOK**

## **The Real God: How He Longs for You to See Him Workbook**

© 2017 by Living on the Edge and Chip Ingram

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### **About Living on the Edge**

Living on the Edge exists to help Christians live like Christians. The ministry was established in 1995 as a radio ministry of pastor and author Chip Ingram, and has since grown into an international discipleship ministry. The ministry creates biblical teaching and tools that challenge and equip spiritually hungry Christians to become mature disciples of Jesus.

The ultimate vision of Living on the Edge is to be a catalytic movement of Christians living out their faith in ways that transform families, churches, and communities for the common good and the glory of God.

# THE REAL GOD WORKBOOK REQUIRES THE USE OF VIDEO

You can stream it for FREE by following the directions below.  
Or you can order a DVD at (888) 333-6003 or  
[LivingontheEdge.org](http://LivingontheEdge.org).

## YOUR ONLINE CODE:



Please visit **[LivingontheEdge.org/access](http://LivingontheEdge.org/access)** and enter this code.

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1

### CREATE AN ACCOUNT

Go to **[LivingontheEdge.org/access](http://LivingontheEdge.org/access)** and complete the steps to create your FREE account.

2

### GET IMMEDIATE ACCESS

Now you will be connected to the resources which will be needed throughout this workbook.

3

### ACCESS ANYTIME

Log back into your account anytime by visiting [LivingontheEdge.org](http://LivingontheEdge.org) and click STORE.

From the STORE page, click Login/Register.

Enter your login information. Once you are in your account, click on MEMBERSHIPS.





**Chip Ingram**

*I'm so glad you have decided to engage in this study on The Real God. There is no greater pursuit in life than to have an accurate understanding of God and experience a life-giving relationship with Him. I believe that each of us has been hard-wired with a desire and longing to know God. And here's the good news: God has revealed Himself and wants to be known by you.*

*Every one of us comes to a study like this with preconceptions, assumptions, and notions about who God is. Some of our ideas about God are probably accurate, but some might be distorted. Those mental pictures of God may have been shaped by your parents, some past church experience, or the influence of popular culture. I think it is important that we go straight to the source. We need to let God speak for Himself. So we are going to look at how God reveals Himself in the pages of Scripture.*

*I'm confident that as you get to know The Real God, you will be amazed and awed at the beauty of His character. You will see God clearly and be drawn to know Him intimately.*

*Let me encourage you to take this study seriously. Give yourself adequate time to listen to the teaching, interact with the Scripture passage, and thoughtfully answer the questions. We always grow the most when we dig into the Bible for ourselves.*

*This is going to be an exciting journey, and I pray that you will discover how God longs for you to see Him!*



**LivingontheEdge.org**

# Guide

Welcome to The Real God Workbook. We know from Scripture that God wants us to know Him.

Jeremiah 29:13 says: “You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all of your heart.” That’s what this study is all about. It will help you seek and find God.

The workbook contains eight lessons, and each lesson contains five components:



## Start Here

You’ll get a quick introduction and an exercise to get started.



## Take It In

Watch the video teaching by Chip Ingram on the lesson topic and follow along with the outline provided.



## Go Deeper

Dig into the Scripture passages and concepts about each trait of God’s character.



## Live It Out

Consider practical ways that you can live out these qualities in your own life.



## Talk It Over

We encourage you to do this study with at least one other person—better yet, with a small group! This section contains a few questions that will get your discussion started.

# How To Use This Workbook

The Real God Workbook has been designed for individuals and groups.

## **For Individuals**

Plan on setting aside 90 minutes each week, preferably in one sitting. Pick the best time and place for you personally. Your goal is to be focused and free from distraction.

Try to be consistent from week to week. We know your life is full and busy, but this important topic is worthy of your full and unhurried attention.

Work through the first four sections—Start Here, Take It In, Go Deeper, and Live It Out.



## **For Groups**

Here are a couple of ways groups might consider engaging with the material:

1. Begin each meeting by reading the introduction (Start Here) and interacting with the opening questions. Then, watch the video teaching (Take It In) together as a group. There is an outline provided that group members can use to follow along and take notes. Then, skip to the section called Talk It Over, where you'll find the group discussion questions. Finally, we encourage group members to do the Go Deeper and Live It Out sections as homework in the following week.
2. Alternatively, everyone can do some homework before coming to the meeting. Group members would individually do the Start Here, Take It In, Go Deeper, and Live It Out sections. Then at the group gathering, discuss the questions in the Talk It Over section and share what you learned in your personal study.

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# CHAPTER **ONE**

## Seeking God

*With whom, then, will you compare God?*

*To what image will you liken him?*

**Isaiah 40:18**



## START HERE

*Work through this section before you watch the video.*



*What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us. We tend by a secret law of the soul to move toward our mental image of God.*

**- A.W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy***

According to Tozer, more important than your vocation or your political views or even whom you marry is your understanding of God. Embedded in Tozer's statement is the belief that our view of God will shape how we view our vocation, political views, and marriage. Yet, if we could log our thoughts, we would certainly discover that we spend most of our time thinking about the stuff of life rather than the person of God.

The fact that you have picked up this study says that you care about having a clear and accurate view of God. But we hope that you are also motivated not only by the desire to see God clearly but to also know Him deeply.

As Jonathan Edwards put it, there must be light and heat. In other words: Not only is it important to have the light of revelation so we can see God *accurately*, there must also be the heat of affection, so we can know God *deeply*.

**It is our desire that this study will produce both light and heat.**

Think back to your earliest ideas about God and write down the five words that would have described what you thought God was like:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**TAKE IT IN**

*Watch Session 1 of The Real God and take notes below.*

**Three Facts to Consider**

1. God is not \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Left to ourselves we tend to \_\_\_\_\_ God to \_\_\_\_\_.
3. God can only be known as He \_\_\_\_\_ Himself to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Through \_\_\_\_\_.  
*Psalm 19:1-2; Romans 1:19-20*
  - b. Through \_\_\_\_\_.  
*John 1:1-4; 5:37-40*
  - c. Through \_\_\_\_\_.  
*John 1:14-18; Hebrews 1:1-3*

**Question:** What do you need to do to see God as He really is?

**Answer:** Seek Him

**How to Seek God**

*Proverbs 2:1-5 (NASB)*

*<sup>1</sup>My son, if you will receive My words and treasure My commandments within you,*

\_\_\_\_\_

*<sup>2</sup>Make your ear attentive to wisdom, incline your heart to understanding;*

\_\_\_\_\_

*<sup>3</sup>For if you cry for discernment, lift your voice for understanding;*

\_\_\_\_\_

*<sup>4</sup>If you seek her as silver and search for her as for hidden treasures; <sup>5</sup>Then you will discern the fear of the Lord and discover the knowledge of God.*

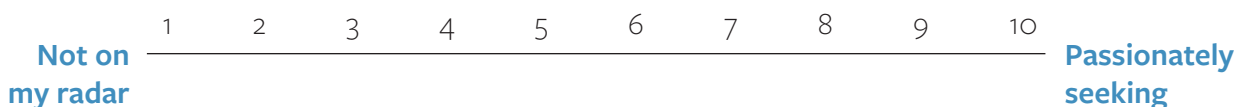
\_\_\_\_\_



## GO DEEPER


This section is designed to help you dig deeper into God's longing for you to know Him. The Bible consistently reminds us that those who seek God will find Him.

1. Chip's message challenges us to seek God with our whole hearts. As you think about your pursuit of God, where would you honestly place yourself on the following scale?



2. J.I. Packer, in his book *Knowing God*, helps us make a deeper assessment. Packer identified four areas of evidence that show how deeply a person knows God for who He really is.

Take a moment to rate yourself for each of these categories from 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest.

Rating	Evidence of Knowing God
	<b>Amount of ENERGY for God</b> Those who really know God take action and demonstrate initiative both in public and private as a result of knowing Him.
	<b>Greatness of THOUGHTS about God</b> Those who really know God fill their minds often with awe-inspiring reminders of God's greatness.
	<b>Degree of BOLDNESS for God</b> Those who really know God don't hesitate to obey by faith even when it might cost them.
	<b>Level of CONTENTMENT in God</b> Those who really know God experience peace even in the midst of trying circumstances.

3. Over the years, how has your view of God changed? What prompted that change?

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4. What are some ways that a distorted view of God could impact your everyday life?

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- ---
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- ---
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5. In his teaching, Chip challenged us to consider the fact that God is not like us. As you read the Scripture below, what most stands out to you about God?

<sup>25</sup> “To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?” says the Holy One. <sup>26</sup> Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one and calls forth each of them by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing. (Isaiah 40:25–26)

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6. One of the ways that God revealed Himself is through His Son, Jesus. What do you learn about Jesus from the following Scriptures?

*<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup> Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (John 1:1-5)*

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*<sup>14</sup> The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup> (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'" <sup>16</sup> Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. <sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known. (John 1:14-18)*

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*<sup>1</sup> In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, <sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. <sup>3</sup> The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. (Hebrews 1:1-3)*

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## LIVE IT OUT

*This section will help you apply and take action on what you've learned from this session.*

1. Read Proverbs 2:1–5 below and circle the word or phrase in the passage that is something you need to apply in your own pursuit of God.

*<sup>1</sup> My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, <sup>2</sup> turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding— <sup>3</sup> indeed, if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, <sup>4</sup> and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, <sup>5</sup> then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. (Proverbs 2:1-5)*

What would it look like for you to put that into action in the coming week? For example, if you circled “store up my commands,” what step could you take this week to store up the commands of God?

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2. As you conclude this first session, take just a few moments to write out a brief prayer articulating what you would hope happens in your life as a result of this study. Be honest with God about where you are right now. You might have to acknowledge that you have just been going through the motions or that you have been preoccupied with life and haven't made pursuing God your top priority.

There is an ancient proverb that says that the best day to plant an oak tree is 20 years ago. The second best day is today. No matter where you are in your journey, today is a great day to begin seeking God with your whole heart.

Sit quietly with the Lord for a few moments and then write out your prayer.

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## TALK IT OVER

*We are better together because God created us for relationships.  
Work through the following questions with a friend or your small group.*

1. Based on your experience, what are some common false beliefs many people have about God? In what ways does our world paint a distorted picture of God?
2. In the beginning of this session, you wrote down five words that describe your view of God. Share those words and why you chose them.
3. Over the years, how has your view of God changed?
4. In this session, you rated your spiritual life according to the categories below. Pick one or two and share why you chose your rating.
  - Amount of ENERGY for God
  - Greatness of THOUGHTS about God
  - Degree of BOLDNESS for God
  - Level of CONTENTMENT in God
5. Read Proverbs 2:1–5 out loud. Pick a word or phrase that you need to apply in your own life as you seek God.