

foundations[™] for Middle School



20 Day Devotional for **MIDDLE SCHOOLERS**
Attributes of God



SOUTHLAND
CHURCH

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Versions of scripture quotations are noted.

Welcome to...

foundations[®] for Middle School

Dear Student,

This eBook is a tool that we hope will help you to get into the habit of doing regular devotions with Jesus. Now what are devotions? Devotions are simply a time you set aside to spend time with Jesus one-on-one! When you do devotions you pray, read your Bible and listen to God's voice for encouragement and direction in your life. You may already do this, or maybe you don't know where to start. This eBook is a GREAT place to start! Each time you do devotions you will want your Bible, a journal (like a notebook) and a pen!

If you have any questions about this eBook or how to do devotions, please ask Pastor Amy or Kyle – of course you can email me directly as well! I trust you will grow closer and closer to Jesus this year!

In Him,



Thom Dick
Pastor of Resource Development
Southland Church

We welcome any ideas you have to make *Foundations for Middle School* better. If you want to offer some feedback or have questions about how to use *Foundations* more effectively talk to the pastor in your ministry area or email Pastor Thom at thom@mysouthland.com.

Foundations for Middle School is also available for download at www.therenewedfamily.com.

DAY 1 – Atta–whaaat??

Attributes! That’s what we will be learning about in this devotional! The word ‘attribute’ means a quality or characteristic of something or somebody. Basically an attribute is any word that you could use to describe what someone or something is like. For example: George is friendly and energetic. Bam! Attributes!

Think of some of your attributes – what are some words that you would want people to use to describe you? Maybe kind, brave, artistic, strong, helpful? The cool thing is that all of those good things can be used to describe God too!

We are learning about the attributes of God. Basically, what God is like! Words that describe God. How many words can you come up with that describe God? Write them down! And no looking ahead and cheating! There are a lot, but we will focus on a few main ones.

Knowing what God is like is a really important part of being close to Him. You wouldn’t be very close friends with somebody if you didn’t know if they were quiet or loud, or patient or hurried, or careful or reckless. And what we think about God will make us want to get close to Him or not. If you think that God is always grumpy, you probably won’t want to pray very much! But if you know that He is friendly towards you, you will feel good about coming to Him.

Read Psalm 103

DAY 2 – Faithful

Read: Genesis 9:1-17

The first attribute we're going to tackle is God's faithfulness. God always keeps His promises. Everything He says is absolutely true!

This also means that we can trust what the Bible says. Maybe it's obvious, but all of the stories in the Bible actually happened! In real life! Sometimes I like to read a Bible story slowly and really imagine what it would be like if I was there. I wonder how the people felt who got to actually see it in real life!

Imagine Noah and his family walking off the ark, knowing that they are the only people left alive in the whole world! Imagine spending 5 months in a huge boat with hundreds or thousands of wild animals as the biggest storm in history destroys everything! It must have felt amazing to walk out of the ark onto dry land after so long. It must have been so good to see the rainbow and hear God's promise that He will never do that to the earth again.

Thank God that He is faithful, and that we can trust the Bible. Ask the Holy Spirit to help the words and truths of the Bible go deep into your heart. Ask Him to make it more real to you.

Work on memory verse:

"I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me,"
John 10:14 (NLT)

DAY 3 – Faithful

Read: Hebrews 10

What are the kinds of things that make you want to be friends with somebody? How would you describe somebody who would be a good friend? In other words, what are the attributes of a good friend? Make a list for yourself of words that would describe a really good friend.

Now, the thing is, that even if you found somebody who matched all of the things on the list, to be a perfect friend they would have to be all of those things ALL THE TIME. They could never be selfish or grumpy even for a moment! And even if you could find that perfect friend, God would still be a better friend because He is always right there with us. He never sleeps, or has to go home, or is too busy to talk to us.

In the Old Testament, the Jewish people made offerings of animals and grain to God for their sins. It was a picture of how Jesus would die for all of our sins. And the Jewish priests would pray to God that He would forgive the sins of all the people. Now the Bible tells us that Jesus is our faithful Priest, in heaven, and because He died as the offering for our sins, we are forgiven and we can come near to God.

This means that no matter what happens, we can always go to God. Even if we've done something very bad, if we go to God and ask Him to forgive us and to help us never do it again, He will! He is always there for us when we turn to Him. In a crowd of people, you can pray to Him in your heart and He is with you. All by yourself, with nobody around, He is with you. When you feel good, He's there. When you feel awful, He's there. We can always rely on Him to be there for us.

Ask God to help you turn to Him for forgiveness right away when you sin. Thank Jesus that He has made it so you can be close with God all the time.

DAY 4 – Good

Read: John 10:1-21

“Wow, this burger is good!” “I had a good day!” “That was a good game!”

We use the word ‘good’ in everyday life for pretty much anything that we like. But when we say that God is good, the word has a bit of a different meaning. God’s goodness means that He wants good things for us. He wants to do good things for us and give good gifts to us. He is kind to us.

Jesus is the Good Shepherd because He takes care of us so well. He leads us to what we need and guides us on the best paths. It is such a wonderful thing that the God who made the universe is good to us and does good things for us! Life would be pretty scary if we knew that God was all-powerful and all-knowing, but we didn’t know that He was good. It is His goodness that gives us peace, because we know that all of that power is working for us, not against us.

Teachers give us a picture of God’s goodness. You have probably had some really good teachers. Think of the best teacher you’ve had. That teacher is good because they want you to do well and they work hard to help you learn. They believe in you and they care about you. God is the same way. He is on our side, helping us learn and grow and cheering us on.

Ask God to show you some of the good gifts that He’s given you. Why do you think He gave them to you? Ask God to show you how He is being a good shepherd to you in your life right now. Thank Him!

Work on memory verse:

“I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me,”

John 10:14 (NLT)

DAY 5 – Good

Read: Romans 8:18-39

Maybe after yesterday's devotional you were thinking, "Well that all sounds great, but God's given me some 'gifts' in my life that sure don't seem very good! What about those?"

Sometimes life can be really hard. We've all had tough times in our lives, and we've all had bad days. It happens to everybody! It can be really hard to see God's goodness on days when everything seems like it's going wrong.

Let's think back to the Good Shepherd. A flock of sheep needs to be on the move, if they stay in one spot they will eat all the plants and have no food left. So a shepherd always has to be leading his sheep to new places where there is more food for them. Now sometimes to get to those good places with lots of food, the shepherd has to lead his sheep on tough, rocky paths. I bet sometimes those sheep get grumpy and think in their little woolly heads, "What is this guy doing? I don't want to be going this way, this way is hard! My hooves hurt! I'm tired! Why do we have to walk so much, anyways?" (Or maybe they would if they were smarter. Sheep are...not the smartest animals.)

That's exactly what the Israelites did after God rescued them from Egypt. They crossed through the Red Sea and they had to walk through a desert on their way to the land that God had promised them as their home. But they didn't get very far before they started complaining. Some of them even wanted to go back to Egypt! They didn't see the big picture: that God was taking them to a place way better than where they had come from. He had a really good plan for them, they just had to cross a desert to get there!

Think of a problem or a tough thing in your life right now. Ask God to show you the goodness that He sees in it or the goodness that He wants to bring through it. Ask Him to help you trust His big plan, even if it doesn't seem good right now.

DAY 6 – Just

Read: Psalm 37

You've probably heard the word 'justice' before. Basically, it means fairness. For example, if somebody steals something, they have to repay whoever they stole from. That is the right and fair thing to do.

Remember when I said teachers give us a picture of God? Well, actually, lots of people give us a picture of God. Gardeners, moms, dads, farmers, shepherds, God used all of these pictures to show people something about Himself in the Bible.

Think of a king, with a castle and a crown and an army and everything. There are kings and queens in the world today, but most of them don't have full control over their countries. Queen Elizabeth is the Queen of England, but they also have a Prime Minister like ours who runs the country. So think of an olden days king, who rules over his country well. He cares about his people very much. He has made their country into a great nation. He is very wise. If George farmer has been sneaking to Joe farmer's barn in the night and stealing all his cows, he makes sure that George farmer has to give all those cows back to Joe farmer and make it right. That is what God does: He is a just King who makes sure that everything will be made right and fair.

Because God is just it means that we can stop worrying about getting our fair share in life. Even if things seem unfair at the moment, we can trust that God will make sure everything is made right in the end. What a relief! It can be a lot of work trying to make sure that life is fair for you! Because God is just, we don't have to try to get payback on people who do bad things to us. We know that God is big enough and wise enough to handle it.

If there's something unfair in your life that is bugging you, give it to God. Tell Him that you trust Him to make everything fair in the end. Then you can stop worrying about it!

Work on memory verse:

"I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me,"
John 10:14 (NLT)

DAY 7 – Just

Read: Revelation 20

Right now, if we look around, we can tell that not everything is fair all the time. In fact, a lot of unfair things go on. Bad things happen to good people and good things happen to bad people. The world is pretty messed up and some pretty awful things happen.

That's why we need to know that God is just. Some people like to just think about God's mercy but don't like thinking about God's justice. But when the wrong and sad and bad things in the world feel like they're slapping you in the face, there is so much hope in knowing that one day God will make everything right.

God's justice also means that we, His followers, need to live justly too. We need to do what is right, even when it is hard. We need to be honest and fair. We need to treat everybody the same. We need to treat the people who bug us or annoy us the same way we treat the people who are really cool: with respect and kindness. We need to look out for people who are getting picked on or made fun of. People notice if you are somebody who lives justly and stands up for what is right, and even if they don't live that way, they admire it. It helps show them what God is like.

Do you need to make some changes to how you treat certain people? Ask God to help you see everybody the way He does: as somebody super important! Are there things that you have done that our Just God doesn't like? Ask Him to give you the strength to live justly and to do what is right.

DAY 8 – Loving

Read: John 15

One of the most amazing things about God is that He wants to be close to us. He wants us to know Him and to have a relationship with Him. Think about the Christmas story – no other religion in the world has anything like it. Our God loves us SO much, and He wants to be with us SO badly, that He wrapped Himself up into a tiny little baby and became *like us*. There is no god like our God!!! That is the biggest difference between Christianity and other religions – God’s love (that and Christianity is true and the others aren’t!).

Can you imagine if God wasn’t loving? If He never came to earth as Jesus, if He didn’t want relationship with us, but just wanted us to be servants who would do whatever He said? God does want us to obey Him, but that’s just part of our relationship with Him.

Take some time to soak in God’s love for you. Ask Him questions like: What is something You like about me? Show me things that You have given me because You love me. What about me makes You happy? What did You think when You created me? How do You feel about me right now? Then listen in prayer and write down what He speaks to you.

Work on memory verse:

“I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me,”
John 10:14 (NLT)

DAY 9 – Loving

Read: Romans 5:1-11

It is pretty easy to remember that God loves you when you are obeying Him and doing devos and feeling like a pretty good person, but it can be hard to know that He loves you all the time, even on days when you mess up, even on days when you're not sure if you really love yourself.

The good thing is that God's love is about who HE is, not about who WE are. He doesn't love us because we are good or special or helpful or anything. He loves us because He is loving. Simple as that. So when you have those little thoughts that say "Can God really love me? I'm a mess" or "I never do anything right" or "I'm not special" or whatever, the answer is, YES! Because it's not about you. The right question is: "God is loving! How could He *not* love me?" There is absolutely nothing we can do to make God stop loving us, or make Him love us less.

In fact, in our reading yesterday, John 15, Jesus says, "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you." Wow! If there's anyone who deserves God's love, it's Jesus – after all, He is perfect and He is God Himself! But He says that He loves us with that same love, even though we don't come anywhere close to deserving it!

Think of the worst thing you have ever done – even in that moment, God loved you! Just as much as He loves you right now! And what is the best thing that you've ever done? God loves you right now just as much as He loved you then.

DAY 10 – Loving

Read: Exodus 22:21-27

Bears are usually pretty calm animals. Yes, they are big and strong and fast and can be really dangerous, but usually if you make enough noise a bear would rather stay out of your way and not give you any trouble. Unless it's a mama bear. If you ever see a cute little baby bear, you'd best stay far far away from it, because if you happen to get between a mama bear and her baby you are in a whole heap of trouble.

God is like a mama bear too sometimes. He loves His people so much, and sometimes it's easy to forget that everybody you meet is very special to Him. When we treat people badly we are hurting people He loves very much, and that makes Him angry. And you do not want that!

Ask God if there is anybody who you have treated badly or even just don't like very much. Ask God to show you how much He loves that person; how special they are to Him.

Work on memory verse:

"I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me,"

John 10:14 (NLT)

DAY 11 – Merciful

Read: Matthew 18:21-35

Mercy is when God forgives us and gives us second chances, even when we really don't deserve it. Mercy is what causes God to treat us way better than we could ever deserve or earn. We've all done bad things and hurt people, and none of us love God as much as He deserves. The only way we have a hope of having a relationship with God is by His mercy.

When you get an idea of how messed up we all are, God's mercy is really something to be thankful for! If you don't have that feeling of needing God's mercy, ask God to show you how sinful you are and how far you are from being good enough. I dare you!

Yikes! Thank goodness for God's mercy, right! Thankfully, God's mercy never changes. We don't have to be afraid that God will stop forgiving us. The Bible says that God's mercies are new every morning! We can trust in His mercy. No sin is so big that God can't forgive it.

Because God gives us so much mercy every day, we also need to give mercy to each other. Ask God if there is somebody that you need to forgive, even if that person hasn't said sorry to you. You can also ask Him for the strength to be able to do it. You know what the true test of forgiveness is? Try to pray some blessings for that person. Think of things that you would want somebody to pray for you and pray it for them. If you have a hard time with that, you probably still have some unforgiveness in your heart. Ask God to help you truly forgive them.

DAY 12 – Omnipotent

Read: Exodus 10

Woah! What a word! Let's break it into chunks to make it more manageable. 'Omni' means 'all', and 'potent' means 'powerful'. So 'omnipotent' just means all-powerful or somebody who has all the power.

The story of God's plagues on Egypt really shows us how powerful He is. The Egyptians worshipped many gods. They had a god for good harvests, a moon god, a sun god, a sky god, an earth god, an air god, even a god for the river that ran through Egypt, and many more. All of the plagues on Egypt showed who *really* had power over the harvest, the sky, the earth and everything, and that was the God of Israel!

When we trust in God we don't have to be afraid of anything because He is more powerful than everything! We don't need to be afraid of the dark because He is the one who created the night.

Tell God some of your biggest fears and ask Him to give you a picture of how He is stronger than anything that you are afraid of.

Work on memory verse:

"I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me,"
John 10:14 (NLT)

DAY 13 – Wise

Read: Job 38

This passage is at the end of the book of Job when God is reminding Job that He is God and He doesn't have to answer to anybody. He shows the hugeness of His wisdom and understanding and how little Job knows compared to God.

It's like a housefly buzzing around your house: He flies around, looking for food, and he sees your TV, he lands on your books and walks across your computer keyboard. But he doesn't understand a computer the way you do, he just thinks it's a thing to walk on while he looks for crumbs hidden between the keys.

We're like little flies buzzing around God's universe. We learn more and more all the time through science, but our understanding just barely scratches the surface! God understands all the depths of the universe; He knows what dark matter is and where it came from, He's seen the inside of black holes, He created gravity and knows exactly how it works. All of these things are still mysteries to scientists. Never mind all the things that we don't know that we don't know! A fly doesn't know that it doesn't know about the internet because its brain is way too small to even think of the idea. There are things and ideas out there so big that our brains can't even imagine them!

Now, do you think you can trust what God says when you ask Him for wisdom about a problem in your life? Of course you can! He understands the problem way better than you ever will; He knows the hearts of the people involved more deeply than they know themselves. If your problem is math, well, God is the creator of math! If your problem is learning to do something, God is the ultimate Teacher!

Bring one of your problems to Him and ask Him for wisdom on how you can figure it out. God promises to give wisdom to everybody who asks in faith.

DAY 14 – Wise

Read: Psalm 19

If you've ever babysat a baby or a toddler, you know that they come with a lot of instructions. "Joey needs a bottle before bed but not too hot. Like hot enough to be more than warm but not hot enough to be *hot* hot. And then he needs to lie on his side with his blue blanket on his tummy and his red blanket behind him, but it can't touch the back of his neck, he doesn't like that. And then you have to sing him rock-a-bye baby three times, not too loud and not too fast. And you have to pat his back as you sing, but when you sing the word "rock" you have to rub his back instead of patting it. And then he'll fall asleep." And the mom or dad isn't giving you all those instructions to make it hard on you, they just know what works and doesn't work with their kid!

That's a good picture of why God gives us instructions, or laws, to live by. He created people, He knows us better than we know ourselves, and He knows what does and doesn't work for us. If the parent says their child can't have juice at bedtime, it's because they know that if the kid has juice they will be too hyper to fall asleep, and then after the sugar rush, they will crash and be way too *mad* to fall asleep! And nobody wants that. The parent is wiser than the child.

God knows what kinds of things are good for people to do and what kinds of things will turn out bad for people if they do them. That's why He created His laws, because He wants what is best for us. And even though they may not be fun all the time, following God's laws leads to joy and peace for us because we are living the way we were made to live!

Think about your life, is there anything you are doing that God doesn't want you to do because it won't be good for you later on?

Work on memory verse:

"I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me,"

John 10:14 (NLT)

DAY 15 – Wise

Read: Ephesians 1

When you think about God’s big plan it really is amazing. He is always at work, speaking to people, guiding us by His Holy Spirit, but we won’t see the whole picture until the end. It’s like looking at a picture super zoomed in, it just looks like smudges and blur, and maybe you could take a guess of what you’re looking at, but when you zoom out it becomes clear.

The Bible is packed full of those zoomed in glimpses where even the writer probably didn’t fully understand what God was telling him to write. But then hundreds or even thousands of years later it makes sense. Like, in Isaiah 44 and 45, Isaiah prophesied about somebody named Cyrus who would set the exiles free, not for price or reward. Didn’t make a ton of sense at the time. But 150 years later, it made a whole lot of sense when every single detail in the prophecy came true.

When we feel the Holy Spirit nudge us to do something, or talk to somebody, it can feel pretty scary, but it’s an amazing chance to be part of God’s big plan! Who knows, maybe that’s all that person needed to choose to follow Jesus! Or maybe they don’t, but in 20 years they will remember what you did and start asking questions and going to church. Even though we don’t see the whole picture, we can trust that God is wise and He has an awesome plan going on behind the scenes. Thank God that He lets us play a little part in His big plan.

DAY 16 – Sovereign

Read: Genesis 50

God's sovereignty means that He is the king of everything. He is in control all the time. Nothing can ruin His plans.

Now being in control is actually pretty different from being *controlling*. God doesn't control everything all the time. The world isn't a huge puppet show with God holding all the strings. Then we would just be robots! No, God lets us make our own choices, even if they hurt us, because He loves us and He wants us to be free to love Him back. That's why there is pain and sad things in the world. God doesn't make people do bad things, but He lets them because He doesn't want to make us robots.

But even though God lets bad things happen sometimes, He always has the power and ability to step in and stop whatever is happening. He is always in control. It's like you walking your dog (if you have one). Not a cat, because, really, nobody has control over a cat. They do their own thing. But if you're walking your dog on the leash, you're not controlling everything it does. You don't decide what it's going to sniff at or when it will need to take a bathroom break. But you are still *in control*, because you are holding the leash. If you've decided that you are going to walk to the mailbox and back, that is what will happen, whether the dog likes it or not.

God's plans (like your plan to go to the mailbox) can't be ruined by anything that anybody does, because He is in control. He is sovereign. That's why we know that in the end, God will win and Satan will lose. Because God is in control and His plan will never fail.

Have you ever felt like your life is out of control? Thank God that He is always in control and nothing can take you out of His hand.

Work on memory verse:

"I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me,"

John 10:14 (NLT)

DAY 17 – Sovereign

Read: Psalm 96

Remember how yesterday we said that God is the king of everything? Today we are going to look back at all the attributes we've learned about so far and think about what kind of a King we have.

First we learned that God is **faithful**. Our King is always there for us. He will never stop being King or ruling over everything. He will never stop caring for us.

Then we learned that God is **good**. Our King wants good things for us. He gives us good gifts. He is a good King over His people.

God is **just**. Our King knows what is right and wrong, in fact, He *is* right and whatever goes against Him is wrong. His laws are just and He judges fairly.

Our King is **loving**. Wow! A mighty King who loves each of His people specially. You are special and precious to the King!

He is a **merciful** King. We all know this because He has forgiven us. Our just King has been merciful to us; He forgave us when He didn't have to. He is not harsh and unforgiving; He gives us second chances.

He is a **wise** King. He knows the ins and outs of the whole universe. He knows each of His people deeply. He knows how to rule well.

God is an **omnipotent** King. He is all-powerful; there is nothing stronger than our King! And because of that...

Our King is **sovereign**. He reigns and He will continue to reign forever. Nothing can take the crown away from Him.

Worship God for who He is! What an amazing King! Which of these attributes means the most to you right now? Why?

DAY 18 – Transcendent

Read: Psalm 139:7-18

Transcendent is bit of a tricky word to understand, but I like to think of it like this: you put a cup in the sink and turn on the tap so the cup fills up with water, but you never turn the tap off and the water keeps overflowing the sides of the cup. It means ‘more than’, ‘bigger than’, ‘beyond’. God transcends the world because He is bigger than it. But He’s not just bigger than it, He fills up every inch of it and extends far beyond it. He can’t be contained by the world.

He also transcends the universe and space itself! He fills it up and is bigger still. He transcends time because He has existed before the beginning of time. He transcends our thoughts because our tiny brains can’t imagine a God that big! He transcends language because He is so awesome that words can’t fully describe Him. He has no limits at all. He is beyond everything we’ve ever known or ever will know. We will always be learning about Him in heaven because He is more than we can ever understand.

Sometimes we say that God is so big that we are like tiny ants and He is an elephant. But that’s not really true because an elephant still has limits. It is that size and no bigger. But God’s big-ness goes on forever! An elephant is almost as tiny as an ant to Him because they both have limits, but He is limitless. Does your brain feel like exploding yet? Isn’t it so cool to have a God so vast, so transcendent, that we can’t even barely grasp Him? And that God cares about us! He crouches down to speak to teeny tiny you and me. Can you imagine how it must have felt for that infinite God to become a little baby? Probably weighing less than 10 pounds? A God who knew no limits became a human less than two feet tall!

Spend some time thinking about just how big and amazing God is. It stretches our brains (in a good way!) to try and think about Him. Even though we will never fully grasp Him, it is good to keep trying to understand Him more. There will always be something to learn about God!

Work on memory verse:

“I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me,”
John 10:14 (NLT)

DAY 19 – Transcendent

Read: Ephesians 3:14-21

Because God is transcendent, all of His attributes are transcendent too!

His wisdom has no limit; He knows all that there is to know! From the teeniest detail to the loftiest, most complicated idea, He knows it all. He knows how many hairs are on your head and He knows all of the digits of pi! (pi is an infinite number; it has an infinite number of digits. You'll learn about it in school.)

His power is transcendent. He is strong enough to do anything and still have infinite strength left over. In fact, He is strong enough to do everything at once and still have strength left over! He created the universe and everything in it (except people) with the words that He spoke. (People are the only thing He made with His hands, Adam out of the dust of the earth, and Eve out of Adam's rib.)

His love is transcendent. There is no place you can run from His love. His love for you is unconditional and has no limits. You will never be able to fully grasp with your mind how big His love is.

His mercy has no limits. There is no sin so bad that God cannot forgive. There is no sinner so awful that God won't have mercy on them. God's mercy is far far far bigger than any sin you have done. You will never reach the end of God's mercy.

His sovereignty has no limit. There is nothing that He is not King over, and His kingdom will never end. The throne will be His forever.

Ask God to give you a picture of how one of His attributes is limitless. Ask Him what it means for you.

DAY 20 – Faithful (again)

Read: Psalm 85

God is faithful to us, but He is also always faithful to Himself.

God's attributes aren't like feelings. God doesn't say "well, I'm feeling loving right now so I'll do this." His attributes are descriptions of who He is, what His character is like. God never changes, so we can trust that He is always all of His attributes at the same time.

Because He is just, He is always just and everything that He does is just. He never sets aside His justice to be something else. That is why Jesus had to die, because God is just and our sins needed to be paid for. His justice and His mercy aren't opposites at all. Everything that God does is just *and* merciful. The cross is the perfect picture of this – Jesus died on the cross because it was just and our sins needed a perfect sacrifice. He also died on the cross because it was merciful and it made a way for us to have second chances and for our sins to be forgiven, even though we don't deserve it.

When you pray to God, how do you picture Him? Which attributes do you normally focus on more? Which attributes don't you think about very much? Ask God to help you remember that He is all of His attributes, all the time. Ask Him to give you a better picture of who He is and help you know Him better and better all the time. Ask God to take everything that you learned about Him through your devotions and put it into your heart so that it isn't just knowledge *about* God, it's knowledge *of* God.

Work on memory verse:

"I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me,"
John 10:14 (NLT)