**“I Know I AM” – Week 3 (Infinite)**

**September 30/October 1, 2017**

Intro: We are in a series called iknowIAM. We started with God being I AM, and last week we talked about God being gracious. This week we are talking about God being infinite.  Before we get started talking, I just want you to watch this video.  Put on your mind diapers because your brain is about to explode.

**(Leaders Note: Watch “Earth vs. The Universe” video)**

Wow is the only word I can think of after watching that video. Here’s what’s crazy… all of that still seems small compared to infinity. When you hear the word “infinite,” what do you think of? We might think of outer space. Many people for a long time believed outer space was infinite and just went on forever. Although we have no idea truly how big outer space is, scientists believe outer space is not infinite and that it eventually all connects. Outer space has billions and billions and trillions of stars and solar systems. We cannot even come close to understanding the size of outer space and how many stars and solar systems are in it so it is just easiest to explain outer space as infinite.

Another thing we might think of when we hear the word infinite is numbers. You may think of numbers on a number line. There will always be one number bigger than the biggest number. Did you know in math decimals represent a bigger infinity than the infinity of whole numbers? Meaning there are more decimal numbers than whole numbers on a number line. If you are confused don’t worry I am too. I am just quoting what I heard on a YouTube video.

Many times when we think of infinity in that way we are thinking of infinity of being a quantity. Meaning we are thinking about how many. How many numbers are there, or how many stars are in outer space, or how big is outer space. Today we are going to talk about infinity being a quality. Only one thing… or I should say only one being is infinite. You guessed it, God. So here is our Take Home point for today.

**THP: God’s infinite qualities can’t be understood… and that’s amazing!**

Isaiah 40:28says, *“Do you not know?* *Have you not heard?* *The Lord is the everlasting God,* *the Creator of the ends of the earth.* *He will not grow tired or weary,* *and his understanding no one can fathom.”* That last verse says and his understanding no one can fathom. The quantity of God’s infinite qualities can’t be understood… and that’s amazing!

So what is infinite? Dictionary.com says infinite is something immeasurably great; indefinitely or exceedingly great; unlimited or immeasurable in extent of space, or duration of time; or unbounded or unlimited; boundless; endless. Think about our THP again…The quantity of God’s infinite qualities can’t be understood… and that’s amazing! God is infinite in quality not quantity because quantity is amount and can be measured in some way. Quality is something that someone is. In this case God is infinite. For example when we say time is infinite we are using this in a quantitative way. This is so because we can measure time. We cannot measure all of time but we have measured a lot of time.

I’m sure you all have had a history class and learned about Pearl Harbor or JFKs assassination. We know when those were because they are measured in time. You all have phones with clocks on them, or you all know that it gets dark and after a while the sun will come up again which makes another day. Or when space is talked about as being infinite that is quantitative as well because although we cannot measure all of space as well, we can still measure it. According to spaceanswers.com the closest single planet solar system to us is called Epsilon Eridani which is 10.5 light years away and the closet multiple planet solar system to ours is Gliese 876 which is 15.3 light years away. The Milky Way galaxy is estimated to be between 100,000-120,000 light years across. You see even though we talk about space being infinite, it really still is limited by quantity because it can be measured, it’s measured by light years.

That is a lot to wrap our minds around and I really hope you are confused, because I’m confused myself. But what is even crazier our God is bigger than all that. With time and space those are all measurements to figure out how big things are. But God is infinite in quality meaning, He has no limits and his greatness cannot be measured. Because God is infinite all of our attempts to measure Him fall short of what and who He really is.

Isaiah 55:8-9 says *“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”* God is speaking through Isaiah and it is still relevant today. Because God is higher and beyond our ways. Because God is infinite, He cannot be measured. If your version of God fits into some standards of this world and of our thinking, then that’s not the true living God. Our God cannot be fit in a box or into any measurements. He is outside all things and is beyond all things.

You may say well we can measure Him in His love. Well we cannot exactly measure God’s love because not only is God infinite, God is love Himself. Because God is infinite this means all His other attributes are infinite as well. Which is amazing. He has immeasurable, timeless, boundless love, grace, mercy, forgiveness, kindness and many more wonderful qualities. I don’t know about you but that really humbles me and helps me to understand how I can’t do this life without God. But even though we can’t understand all of God, he still has given us a glimpse of Himself so we can know Him personally.

God sent His son Jesus for us to know God in intimate ways. How amazing is that God is beyond all things, is boundless, exceeds all greatness and everything but steps down out of Heaven to make Himself known to us tiny-minded people?! God comes down in the form of a man to make Himself known to us so that we can have a relationship with Him. In that moment when God came to earth he actually willingly limited Himself so that we could catch a glimpse of who He is. That just shows God’s infinite love. He did not have to come down out of Heaven and make Himself known to us. He did not have to create the world and everything in it. He CHOSE to make a sacrifice to show us Himself and to love us.

Okay, let’s stop for a moment and make this practical. If you checked out because we talked in ways that we cant really get our mind around, here is the moment I need you to check back in.  Because let’s be honest, just knowing that God is bigger, stronger, faster, and greater than we can imagine is important, but how does that impact us.

**(Leaders Note: Object Lesson idea…look at the following instructions.)**

***Make an iceberg on your stage.  It doesn’t need to be fancy, just recognizable.  Cover the majority of the iceberg with blue waves to indicate the water and ask for the students to call out all the attributes or characteristic of who God is.  As they call them out, write on the tip of the iceberg each of their examples.  After a short period of time, say something like.  We are trying to describe what we can think of God, but we can’t put God in a box.  We can’t limit his power or qualities because he is bigger than we can even imagine.  Then pull off the water and reveal the rest of the iceberg is filled with qualities of God – Love, healer, redeemer, creator, forgiver, beginning, end, Holy, Eternal, Unchanging, all powerful, infinite, omnipresent, all-wise, all-knowing, simple, self existent, self sufficient, immaterial, good, gracious, merciful, just, sovereign, freedom, jealous, trinity, joy, peace, patient, kindness, goodness, faithful, gentle, self-controlled, humble, courageous, a friend, Honest, dependable, responsible, content, generous, pure, confident, encouraging, available, approachable, wise, just, compassionate, efficient, diligent, agreeable, meek, loyal, selfless, tolerant, understanding, zealous, caring, faithful, etc. – Say something like “when we see the whole picture of who God really is, it’s overwhelming and this isn’t even a great illustration because we can’t list all of God… this is only a partial list.  But the point is… when we see how infinite God is, it should leave us in awe of His greatness.*)**

Let me wrap up this message with one more illustration

**(Leaders Note: Share personal story here of when you were overwhelmed – in a good way – with something and, as a result, how in awe you were)**

The Bible says in Proverbs 9:10, “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom.” I believe someday that followers of Jesus will enter into heaven and in that moment we will grasp how big and how infinite God really is, and in that moment we will fall on our knees and we will be terrified.  We will fear Him and in that moment it we will finally become wise because we will realize that He is God and we are not.  We will see Him for all that he is and because of that fear we will become wise and we will fall on our knees and we will worship Him for all of His glory.  And it will be amazing.  It will be awe-inspiring.  It will leave us with only one response and that is to worship Him.

What a confusing but amazing thing. God is infinite. We will never be able to fully understand God and who He is but we can still learn about Him every day. Since God is infinite, this means we can learn new things about Him every day and He can move in us in different and new ways. That’s why your Bibles and the Journey devotionals we gave you are so important. You can begin to understand more of who God is and then you become more and more in awe of Him. We serve an infinite God! Let’s pray!