

LESSON ESSENTIALS

OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

LESSON 3: KNOWING GOD

Knowing God is the first step to building a strong relationship with Him. You can get to know Him through His Word, through the life of Jesus Christ and with the help of the Holy Spirit. It is important to know God if you want to understand His will for your life, and if you want to be more like Jesus. Read on to find out how you can develop your friendship with God.

God is only too happy to reveal Himself to you, if you'll just take the time and make the effort to get to know Him. This lesson will tell you how to get started.

Don't forget that the Bible is God's letter to us. Just reading the message that He's given us is all we need to know about Him. The answers to all our questions are in his book to us!

There is no hard decision that you need to face alone. When you read God's Word, He will direct your paths, reveal His will, and give you the assurance that He's with you.

How do you get to know a person? By spending time with them, talking to them, and listening to them, you might say. Well, that's exactly how you get to know God, too. Just knowing that He is our Creator, that He loves us and cares for us, and that He sent His Son to save us, is more like knowing 'about' God, than actually knowing Him. If you want to know His will for your life or if you want to become increasingly more like Him, you will have to make the effort of getting to know God better. He'll only be too happy to reveal aspects of His nature and His attributes to you. You can get better acquainted with God by reading His Word, by learning more about Jesus Christ, God's Son, and also with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Don't forget that the Bible is God's letter to us. Just reading the message that He's given us is enough to understand more about Him. Imagine a scenario where a new family has moved into your neighbourhood and your child wants to know more about their son. He wants to know his name, which class he's in, whether he enjoys sports etc. The only way in which your son can make friends with the new boy is by asking him questions, listening to him, and spending time with him. And who knows: they might become great friends as time goes by.

Similarly, we can spend time getting to know God by reading the Bible. Through it, God will reveal truths and insights into His character as He talks to us day after day. The Bible is God's Word, and when we listen to it, we're listening to what God is telling us! And when we listen to what God tells us, we get to know more about Him and fall in love with Him afresh. He then ceases to be a God 'up there' and becomes an intimate friend to us.

There is no hard decision that you need to face alone. When you read God's Word, He will direct your paths, reveal His will, and give you the assurance that He's with you. You can't take too lightly the importance of reading God's Word and waiting on Him to speak to you.

Another way of getting to know God better is by learning more about His Son, Jesus Christ. After all, doesn't John 14:7 say, 'If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

The first four books of the New Testament - Matthew, Mark, Luke and John - aptly describe Jesus' nature, His ministry, His dealings with people, and more. Don't forget that Jesus Christ, God's Son, is the second person of the Trinity, and therefore, a part of the triune

Godhead, being God Himself. Jesus Christ is God in human form. By observing the nature and behaviour of Jesus, we can understand the personality of the Almighty God.

Many people have a hard time reconciling what they see as the loving and caring Jesus of the New Testament, with the God of wrath in the Old Testament. However, you can't dismiss the many passages in Isaiah and Hosea, for example, where God talks about His unending love for His people. Just think about it: if God did not love us so much, He wouldn't have sent His Son, Jesus, to die for us on the cross! Jesus came to this world to demonstrate God's nature and love to us, and left behind the gift of the Holy Spirit to remind us of that love and to give us insights into God's character.

God actually reveals a lot about Himself to us through the Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 2:9-10 says, 'But just as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him" – these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.' Sometimes, we may listen to the Word of God, or we may listen to many sermons, but without the help of the Holy Spirit, we will not be able to understand anything about God's attributes!

God knows you inside and out. Psalm 139 says, 'You know when I sit and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You search my path and my lying down; you are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, You, Lord, know it altogether. You hem me in behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.' That's how well God knows us. Wouldn't you want to get to know God that well, too? You don't have to try too hard to make a start. He's already reaching out the handshake of friendship to you.

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