

discipleship essentials

Essentials for Christian Living
Leader's Guide

OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD LESSON 3: KNOWING GOD

INTRODUCTION

This lesson is part of a Discipleship Essentials module entitled *Our Relationship with God*. This series of lessons examines the relationship we have with God. It begins by understanding our identity in Christ which is a result of our becoming a child of God. This series of lessons looks at the attributes of God, how we learn about God and know Him better, and how we develop this personal relationship. Understanding ourselves in God's eyes, and having a clearer picture of who God is, will help us live the life that God designed for us.

INTENDED AUDIENCE

The intended audience for these lessons is new Christians, those who would like a refresher on the basics of Christianity, as well as those preparing to teach these Christian practices and beliefs. Also, those with an interest in Christian thought will find value in these lessons as they pertain to daily living and choices.

The Leader's Guide is intended to help you as a leader in your preparation. These lesson outlines may be used in conjunction with other Discipleship Essentials materials found online at www.discipleshipessentials.org.

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OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

LESSON 3: KNOWING GOD

PURPOSE

The purpose of this lesson is to begin exploring some of the attributes of God, and learning how God reveals Himself to us.

LEADER'S NOTE

This lesson is about learning who God is. The fact that God wants us to know Him, and has made a way for us to do so, sets Him apart from the gods of other false religions. We can thank God He has revealed His character to us. Help participants to appreciate this privilege and help them desire to know God better. Subsequent lessons will examine specific attributes of God. This lesson serves as an introduction to the topic of the attributes of God.

INTRODUCTION

Select two or three of the following questions to ask the group.

- ❖ What do you think is the best way to get to know a person?
- ❖ Who are the people you know best in this world? How long have you known them? What have you experienced together?
- ❖ What is the difference between knowing someone and knowing about them?

STUDY

Instruct the group on the following points.

TEACH:

- ❖ **Getting to Know God:** How do we really get to know God? Just like getting to know a person, we must spend time with them, talk to them, and listen to them. It takes time and effort.
 - The God of the Bible wants us to know Him! He wants a relationship with us and He has provided the means to know Him intimately (Read Jeremiah 9:22-24)



- Knowing that God is our creator, that He loves us, cares for us, and sent His son to save the world, is more like knowing *about* God, rather than knowing Him personally.
 - If you want to know God's will for your life, or be more like Jesus Christ, you will have to make the effort to know God better. To know how to please God, you must know what He desires of you. Knowing God will help you grow in your love for Him. God will reveal Himself to you and help you get to know who He is and what He is like.
- ❖ **Knowing God through the Bible:** The Bible is God's own letter to us. We learn about Him through His interactions with people through history as recorded in the Bible, and what these people said about Him.
- The Bible is how God speaks to us. It is the way we listen to Him. It is how we experience Him. Regular Bible reading will become a joy.
 - Through the Bible God reveals to us His plan for our lives, and who He is. Look at the following verses together to see what they say about reading the Bible:
 - Psalm 119:105
 - Romans 15:4
 - Proverbs 30:5
 - 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- ❖ **Knowing God through Jesus Christ**
- We can also know God by knowing His son, Jesus Christ, as He is revealed in the Bible. We can learn about how Jesus lived His life, what was important to Him, and what He desires from us. The first four books of the New Testament, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, describe Jesus' nature, His teaching, His ministry, and His dealings with people.
 - Jesus is God's son, the second person of the Trinity, and therefore part of the triune God. Jesus is God Himself in human form.
 - Look up the following verses together about how knowing Jesus can reveal the character of God:
 - John 14:6-7
 - John 1:1
 - 1 John 2:3-6
- ❖ **Knowing God through the Holy Spirit**
- Jesus came into this world to demonstrate God's nature and love to us, and left us the gift of the Holy Spirit to remind us of that love and to give us insights into God's character.



- 1 Corinthians 2:6-14 tells us God reveals the things we have not seen through His Spirit. The Holy Spirit allows us to understand the wisdom and revelations of God that would seem like foolishness to us if it weren't for the Spirit of God within us.
- The Holy Spirit teaches our own spirit. We may not understand everything when we read the Bible or listen to sermons, but the Holy Spirit helps us understand spiritual things.
- Knowing God happens with the help of the Spirit, who teaches us and helps us remember spiritual truths.
- ❖ **Attributes of God:** To begin studying the attributes of God, look at these verses together to see how God reveals Himself to us through His word:
 - Joel 2:13; John 4:24; Acts 17:24; 2Thessalonians 1:6; 1 John 4:8,16; Psalm 50:6; Isaiah 44:6; Matthew 19:24; Hebrews 6:10; Psalm 18:30

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ❖ From your knowledge of the Bible, how would you describe who Jesus is?
- ❖ How can you take action this week to learn more about who God is?
- ❖ Why do we need to learn who God is? Why is it important that we know who He is and what He desires?
- ❖ How would you define your relationship with God? Do you feel you know God? Or do you feel that you mostly just know about Him? Or neither?

PRAYER

Close with a time of prayer. Thank God for His Word, and how He reveals His nature to us through it. Thank God for the example of Jesus and that we can know Him through the Word of God. Ask God to be present with every participant, revealing Himself to them. Thank God that He knows us intimately and desires a relationship with us. Praise God for His goodness, holiness, and His love for each one of us.