

discipleship essentials

Essentials for Christian Living
Study Guide

OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

LESSON 3: KNOWING GOD

INTRODUCTION

This lesson is part of a Disciple 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.

The Student's Guide is intended for an individual to look deeper into a specific lesson on their own. The lessons can be used in conjunction with other Discipleship Essentials materials, such as the video and audio productions found on www.discipleshipessentials.org.



OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

LESSON 3: KNOWING GOD

WHAT IS IT ABOUT?

God desires that we know Him – isn't that a wonderful thing? This lesson looks at how God reveals Himself to us and how we can know Him!

JUST SO YOU KNOW...

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! If someone asked you to describe your best friend or spouse, you could probably easily come up with some descriptive words. As we spend time with the people close to us, we learn about who they are and how they would respond to different situations. The same is true of God – we learn about Him in many ways! Read on to learn more.

GETTING STARTED

1. What do you think is the best way to get to know a person?

2. What is the difference between knowing someone and knowing about them?



STUDY

❖ **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. What does Jeremiah 9:22-24 say?

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- 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. Knowing God personally takes time, history together, knowing what God desires for you 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 and write down 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 and write down what you learn about how 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.

- Read 1 Corinthians 2:5-14. What does God reveal through the Holy Spirit? How does the Holy Spirit help us to know God better?

- 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.



❖ **THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD:** The word ‘attribute’ means a characteristic or feature that is inherent in something. The attributes of God are things that we can say of God that are true. They are traits, characteristics, aspects, distinctives or signs of who He is. Many of these attributes are listed in the Bible. They help us know who God is, how He behaves, what He does in different circumstances. The study of these should help us know and Love God more.

➤ Read the following verses and list any attributes of God that you see in these verses.

Joel 2:13	
John 4:24	
Acts 17:24	
2 Thessalonians 1:6	
1 John 4:8,16	
Psalms 50:6	
Isaiah 44:6	
Matthew 19:24	
Hebrews 6:10	
Psalms 18:30	

IN SUMMARY

- ❖ Knowing God is something that is possible because God reveals Himself to us in many ways
- ❖ God desires that we know Him, know His will and His heart
- ❖ We can know God through the Bible, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit
- ❖ God has many attributes as revealed in the Bible



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Why do we need to learn who God is? Why is it important that we know who He is and what He desires?

2. 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? How could you know God more?

3. How can you take action this week to learn more about who God is?