

Knowing God

Intro: In this first session, we will lay a biblical foundation upon which we can deepen our understanding and energize our pursuit in *Knowing God*.

1. **John 17:26** reveals the **heart** and the assignment of Jesus Christ.

John 17:26 *I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.*

- a. He says he has made the Father known and will "continue to make the Father known to us." When you follow Jesus, he will lead you to God.
- b. **John 14:6** *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*
- c. **John 17:3** *This is eternal life that they may know you the one true and living God and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.*

2. God designed Eden, placed Adam and Eve there to tend to both **relationships** and **responsibilities**. Those really are the basics of life. Our most primary relationship is our relationship with our Creator. Our most important responsibility is our responsibility to our Creator. We are made to be image-bearers.

Genesis 1:27 *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.*

- a. God wants Adam and Eve to extend Eden to cover the entire earth. God's desire is that the earth be a beautiful place to walk with God, to talk with God, to **know** God personally.
- b. The most fulfilling life for every person who's ever been created or ever will be, is to know God!
- c. That is the heart of God. That is the design of God's creation.

Jeremiah 9:23-24 *Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, ²⁴ but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD."*

3. God is telling us not to glory, not to look for meaning and purpose in other things. Knowing God is the meaning of life.

4. What pleases God the most?

Hosea 6:6 *For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.*

a. Here we find there that it's **not religion** that pleases God, its **knowing God** that pleases God.

5. Back to **John 17:3** *And this is eternal life, that they **know** you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.*

- a. Greek: "**know**" is *Ginosko*: to become known; to know, understand, perceive. It plays off of the Jewish idiom for sexual intercourse between a man and a woman: "*Adam knew Eve and she conceived and birthed a son.*"
- b. This word "**know**" used both in the Hebrew and the Greek as a way of expressing not just knowledge in terms of information, it's about intimate relationship.

Philippians 3:10 *"...that I may know him..."*

6. This cry out of Paul's spirit is from the deep revelation of Jesus to the heart of Paul. And now it is Paul's revelation to our hearts. And certainly all of this is inspired of the Holy Spirit, because it is his heart also that we would know the Father.

1 John 2:12-14 *I am writing to you, **little children**, because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake. ¹³ I am writing to you, **fathers**, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, **young men**, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, **children**, because you know the Father. ¹⁴ I write to you, **fathers**, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, **young men**, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.*

- a. We find three levels of spiritual growth. First, we find the **babe** and it says of these baby Christians that they know the Father, they know they have a "*dada*" who loves them.
- b. Then it talks about the **young men** the spiritual adolescent. There called to walk in victory to learn the word, to become strong, to overcome Satan, and false teaching, they want to know God's word. They grow strong in their knowledge of Christ.

- c. And then the third level is that of **spiritual fathers and mothers** -- maturity in the spiritual life. It says of them that *"they know the one who is from the beginning."* The spiritually mature come to understand God's eternal purpose and plan. God is progressively revealing himself that we may know him.

Revelation 22:4 *They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.*

7. This workshop is about knowing God. It is the most exciting thing anyone could ever do. But more than a study this must be a pursuit.

Jeremiah 29:13 *You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.*

8. God is knowable. All humans have the opportunity to know God. **Romans one** teaches us that God has made himself known to everyone. He has done it through his creation.

Romans 1:19-21 *For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. ²⁰ For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. ²¹ For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.*

Romans 1:28 *And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done.*

9. God never judges people on light they don't have. He only judges people on the light they do have. So God gives everyone opportunity to know him. There is enough information in creation alone that people can begin to know God.
- a. **Romans 12:26** says that God gave them over to these wrong desires because why? Because they didn't accept their Creator; they rejected their creation; they became their own gods. They left the very meaning and purpose of being a human being. The Bible deals with the question of our humanity over and over. What does it mean to be a human?
 - b. You have the ability and the opportunity to know God: **personally—intimately—organically.**