

Knowing God

Making an Introduction



Leader Check-in

What do you hope to gain from this study? When you consider the fact that we can “know God,” what confuses you? Frustrates you? Encourages you?

Discover

What does it really mean to be a Christian? Why do we often boil Christianity down to simply following all the rules?

What would happen if we began to view Christianity as a means for setting people free? What would that Christianity look like?

Read Acts 2:41-47. Compare and contrast the church in this passage with the modern church. What is similar and what is different? In your opinion, which one is better?

Read Acts 4:32-35. How does the author (Luke) describe the people in the first church in this passage? Does this seem like a group of people simply following a list of rules?

Fully Own

In the video, Lysa said that she felt like a “throw-away person.” Have you ever felt this way? How do you think God’s gift of grace can affect these feelings in your heart?

Based on what you saw and read today, how is one “introduced” to God?

If you are a believer, tell the story of how you discovered God. If you are not a believer, share with the group your story of how you got to where you currently are spiritually.

Read Luke 11:9-13. What does this passage have to say about knowing God?

Challenge

Watch this video: (<http://www.exploregod.com/connecting-with-god-video>)

Read this article: (<http://www.exploregod.com/how-can-i-know-god>)

Come back next week ready to discuss both of them.

Knowing God

God and Prayer



Leader Check-in

What did you learn from the video? What did you learn from the article? Did you try connecting with God this week? Describe your experience.

Discover

When you meet a new person, how do you get to know them? So then how would you get to know a personal, knowable God?

What is prayer? How do you do it? How do you know if God is actually listening? How many ways can you pray to God?

Read Matthew 6:5-15. What does Jesus have to say about prayer? What disciplines could you take from this teaching to help you in your prayer life?

Are there ways in which following “steps” or “rituals” help you learn something new? How can this apply to prayer?

Fully Own

How might you differentiate between your own thoughts, feelings, and God’s answers to your prayers?

Read John 17:1-26. How did Jesus pray? In what ways are your prayers similar to Jesus’s prayer? In what ways are yours different?

Describe a time in your life when you felt you had to “fix yourself” before you could talk to God. Did that enhance or hinder your time of prayer?

In your opinion, what is the most challenging thing about praying to God?

Challenge

Experiment with different ways to make prayer more comfortable for you. Perhaps try speaking aloud, journaling, singing, or thinking silently. Try something new for a week and come back ready to discuss your experiences.

Knowing God

God and Scripture



Leader Check-in

What did you experience this week in your prayer time?

Discover

Why should we bother reading the Bible at all? How is it relevant for our life 2,000 years later? What can we learn from reading the Bible?

If someone asked you to describe the Bible, how would you respond? What might be a solution to helping people understand the Bible better?

Read Luke 4:16-22. What does this passage teach us about the Bible itself? How did Jesus view the Bible based on these verses?

Why do you believe the Bible is true and accurate? What proof do you have that shows the Bible is reliable?

Fully Own

What biases—positive or negative—do you have about the Bible?

Micah said in the video, “The Bible was not necessarily written just for information; it was written for transformation.” What do you think he meant by that? Would you agree or disagree?

Read 2 Timothy 3:10-17. What areas of your life can the Bible influence today? How is the Bible completing and equipping you?

Describe a time when the Bible surprised you by having something to say about what you were going through.

Challenge

Watch this video: (<http://www.explorethegod.com/is-todays-bible-authentic-video>)

Explore for yourself the evidence for the Bible. You can find some interesting archeological discoveries at this website: <https://www.christianitytoday.com/news/2016/december/biblical-archaeology-top-ten-discoveries-of-2016.html>

Knowing God

God and Community



Leader Check-in

What did you discover in your research on the archeological evidence for the Bible?

Discover

In today's highly independent and individualistic world, do we really need others to help us grow spiritually? Why? How can being around people we admire lead to positive change?

Read Ephesians 4:1-16. What does this verse teach about community? What principles and values from this passage are still true today?

Describe a time in your life when being around others changed your behavior, your thoughts, or your mind-set—for better or for worse.

What types of communities are the most productive for spiritual growth? What types of relationships are the most productive?

Fully Own

Looking at your life right now, who encourages and challenges your faith the most? Is there someone you see as a mentor? If not, whom could you contact right now to be your mentor?

Read Colossians 3:12-17. How can you apply the truth from this passage to your life? What might be a solution to our lack of healthy community in our church today?

What do you think of the concept of the church as a family? What types of experiences have you had with families?

What steps could you take to better connect to a faith community?

Challenge

Commit to attending church and Life Group every week for 2 months. After 2 months, evaluate your spiritual progress with someone in those communities. If you need to, find someone to personally mentor/disciple you.