



# S T A R T

FOUNDATIONS

OF

THE

CHRISTIAN

FAITH



# START

## WEEK THREE: KNOWING GOD

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### *Review (10 minutes):*

Last session was about learning what the Bible is and how to read it. Take a few minutes together to discuss how your “teach” time from last session went.

Did you try using the REAP method in your own Bible reading?

Were you able to teach another person the REAP method and/or the story of the Bible?

## *Learn (30 minutes):*

This session will focus on who God is and how he relates to us.

**CIRCLE** the three words from the group below that best describe your view of God.

Father | Tyrant | Omnipotent | Love | Power | Wrath | Peace | Anger | Lie  
Force | Jesus | Judge | Forgiving | Close | Distant | Merciful | Eternal | Creator

God is so big, and his character is so amazing, that getting to know him will far exceed any of your hopes and dreams. It also might mean, as you discover more about him, that he does some things that offend you. At that point you have a choice: reject God's actual character, or learn to relate to him (like you do with anyone else) in a way that accepts and honors his personality. The more you learn about God you will be so amazed and overjoyed that you will learn to trust him with everything. You might even begin to worship him.

We can know God through the Bible, through other Christians, through Jesus, through creation and even through our experiences. All of these are subjected to the filter of the Bible. The Bible is where God has given us his most sure revelation of himself (remember 1 Peter from last week). Let's take a brief survey of who the Bible says God is and how he relates to us.

### ***1. God Is Trinity***

#### ***Key Concept:***

The Bible teaches that there is only one true God (Deut. 6:4). The Bible also teaches that although God exists as a single being, he is comprised of three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, who are equal in every way, yet distinct in their tasks and relations to humanity.

What do you learn about God the Father and the Son of God, Jesus Christ, in these passages?

John 1:1-14

John 6:38-40

Colossians 1:12-20

What do you learn about the Holy Spirit in John 14:16-17 and 26?

What do you learn about what he does and about his relationship to the Father and the Son?

### **Key Concept:**

The Bible teaches that God loves, protects, provides for, and disciplines us.

## **2. God Loves Us**

Look up Jeremiah 31:3:

“The Lord appeared to them from afar saying, ‘I have \_\_\_\_\_ you with an everlasting love,’ therefore I have drawn you with loving kindness.” (Jeremiah 31:3)

A. Based on what reason did God save you?

- \_\_\_\_ Because you are so bad?      \_\_\_\_ Because you first loved him?  
\_\_\_\_ Because you have bad luck?      \_\_\_\_ Because \_\_\_\_\_

“But because of \_\_\_\_\_, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even \_\_\_\_\_ . \_\_\_\_\_ .  
(Ephesians 2:4-5)

B. How does God reveal his love to you? Please write an example below.

1. Your personal example:

2. How does he reveal it according to 1 John 3:1?

C. In Luke 15:11-14, Jesus talks about how the father loves the son. How would you describe the similarity between a father and God?

## **3. God Protects Us**

“But the Lord is faithful, and he will \_\_\_\_\_ you from the evil one.”  
(2 Thessalonians 3:3).

A. In Psalms 34:7, what does God promise?

B. How does God protect Israel (II Kings 6:15-18)?

C. How does God protect you when you face temptation (I Corinthians 10:13)?

#### **4. God Provides for Us**

“And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.”  
(Philippians 4:19)

A. Why are God’s children not to worry? (Matthew 6:31-32)

B. What gift has God given his children to demonstrate he will meet our needs?  
(Romans 8:32)

#### **5. God Disciplines Us**

“Because the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son.” (Hebrews 12:6-7)

A. What does God expect for his children? (Ephesians 4:13)

B. How does God discipline his children?

1. Friend: (Proverbs 27:17)

2. Bible: (II Timothy 3:16)

3. Trials: (James 1:2-4)

Which aspect of God’s fatherhood is most meaningful to you right now?

\_\_\_ Love and Kindness      \_\_\_ Provision For Your Needs

\_\_\_ Discipline                      \_\_\_ Protection

#### **Key Concept: Prayer**

When we trust in Christ through faith we enter into an intimate relationship with a personal God who has chosen to reveal himself through creation, Jesus, and the Bible. The intimacy we experience with God is cultivated not only through reading the Bible, but also through prayer. Praying is a way to express our trust in God and is therefore a way our trust is increased and our faith is deepened.

Developing a consistent and vibrant prayer life is vital to our growth as a disciple of Christ. Start by committing 15 minutes each day to prayer. The ACTS model is a simple way to structure your time.

**A** Adoration: As you read the Scripture praise God for who he is and the attributes of his character.

**C** Confess: Ask God for forgiveness for the sin you've committed against him and others. Pray for the desire and willingness to follow Christ in full obedience.

**T** Thanksgiving: Spend time thanking God for his faithfulness in your life and in the lives of others.

**S** Supplication: Ask God to give you the desires of his heart as you pray for your needs and the needs of others. This can include prayer for friends, family, church, missionaries, government leaders, and the movement of the gospel around the world.

### *Practice (30 minutes):*

Divide up into groups of 2-3 and practice teaching the Key Concepts. The best way to do this is probably to divide up the Learn segments among one another and then, between the two or three of you, work your way through the lesson. Remember, the goal is to practice teaching what you just learned so it is ok if it feels a little redundant during practice time.

### *Teach:*

This week's session, "Knowing God," can seem overwhelming. Focus simply on the material you've covered when you teach someone the Learn segment for this week. Remember, this study is only trying to build a starting point to knowing God.

Who are you committing to trying to teach the "Knowing God" session to?

\_\_\_\_\_

I'll try:  Yes  No

### *Wrap-up:*

The most important thing in a person's life is his or her relationship to God. The God who built the heavens and earth with merely a word is also the God who came to live among us and who still lives in Christians today. Take time as a group to celebrate in prayer who God is and how he relates to us.

To begin your time of prayer, read Psalm 148 out loud.

Next, take turns praising God through prayer in your own words for who he is, and how he loves, protects, provides for, and disciplines us.