

# KNOWING GOD

week 2



NOTES

The Christian life and God's Word are filled with exciting aspects. One of the most exciting of those is that the God of the universe desires to have a relationship with us. Let that sink in for a moment. Once we have accepted Jesus Christ as our Savior, not only did we miss Hell and gain Heaven, but we also gained access to God the Father.

We were created to know God and worship Him. We were made to desire the influence of a higher power. Some may try to fill this void with an idol or someone that they look to for guidance, but every man-made scheme of God will leave you empty and wanting more. Eventually, we must come to the conclusion that we need a God that we can build a relationship with and who wants to build a relationship with us.

The goal of this lesson is to show us how each Christian can enjoy a wonderful and intimate relationship with the one true God.

**John 17:3**

*And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*

## GOD REVEALS HIMSELF TO US

Have you ever tried to meet up with someone that you didn't know who they were or what they looked like? It is difficult to get to know someone that you know nothing about. God does not expect us to figure Him out by ourselves. He has chosen to reveal Himself to mankind through many different avenues.

### GOD REVEALS HIMSELF THROUGH CREATION.

Have you ever seen something while on this earth that you knew had to have been touched by the hand of an all-powerful God? All we have to do is simply look around at what God has given placed on this earth to know that there truly is a higher power.

**CONVERSATION STARTER:** *Has there been a time in your life where you have seen something that you know could only have been created by God?*

**Psalm 19:1-3**

Our perfectly created world points to a perfect Creator.

**Romans 1:20****Genesis 1:1, 3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24, 31**

The very first verse of the Bible tells us that God created the world. God spoke the world out of nothing. Not only did He speak the world out of nothing, but following creation, He said it was “very good.”

There have been many who have sought to disprove the Creation account of the Bible. There are also many contrasting views to the Creation story. The fact is that there is no scientific data that can prove or disprove the origins of the earth. Both the Biblical view of Creation and the views contrary to the Bible, require us to believe by faith. The Bible actually speaks to that faith.

**Hebrews 11:3**

*Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.*

Believing in creation is faith in a Creator, while believing in evolution is faith in a chance.

When we choose to accept God as the Creator, we must understand that we were created for His glory and not our own.

**Revelation 4:11**

*Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*

God reveals Himself through conscience.

Deep within the heart of man, there is a void that can only be filled by God. Some have observed that no one was ever born an atheist. God existed before the world and created man to have a knowledge of Himself.

**Romans 2:14-15**

While many have declared there is no God or they do not believe in a god, all around the world people have a sense of God. Every civilization has included religion and god-worship into their culture. Each person was born with a sense of right and wrong. To conclude there is no God, that sense must be molded, twisted, and even ignored as a result of environment or even life circumstances.

**Romans 1:19, 21-24**

Sadly, there are those who will develop a wrong view of God and there will always be people who will reject God, but it cannot be because there is no proof from within and from without.

**Psalms 14:1**

*The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.*



**GOD REVEALS HIMSELF THROUGH SCRIPTURE.**

Creation and conscience reveal to us that there is a God, but the Bible shows us exactly who God is and what He is like. We talked about this in Lesson 1 and we will look at specific verses throughout this lesson.

**GOD REVEALS HIMSELF THROUGH HIS SON.**

Jesus Christ was God in the flesh. He walked the earth to reveal to us who God is. We will talk more about how we can know Jesus Christ is God in the next lesson.

*1 Timothy 3:16*

*Hebrews 1:2*

God has done the work to reveal Himself to us through creation, conscience, the Word of God, and sending His Son. As a disciple, we must choose whether or not we will develop our relationship with Him. God desires to have a relationship with you!

**GOD EXISTS AS A TRINITY.****THERE IS ONE TRUE GOD.**

The Bible clearly teaches that there is one true God. Throughout Scripture, we see that there is no other true God besides the God of the Bible.

*Mark 12:29*

*Isaiah 45:5*

*I am the Lord, and there is none else, there is no God beside me...*

*James 2:19*

*Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well...*

**THE ONE TRUE GOD IS THE GODHEAD.**

While there is only one true God, He operates as a Trinity - God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. This is referenced in Scripture sometimes as the "Godhead."

*Acts 17:29*

*Romans 1:20*

Sometimes in Scripture, we see all three parts represented individually.

**Matthew 3:16-17**

<sup>16</sup> *And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water:and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:*

<sup>17</sup> *And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*



**Matthew 28:19**

*Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.*

**2 Corinthians 13:14**

*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.*

**1 John 5:7**

*For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.*

**Note:** The use of the “the Word” in this verse refers to Jesus Christ. You can compare this John 1:1, 14 where Jesus is also referred to as “the Word.”

While there is one true God with three different persons, each are equal and carry the same attributes. The Bible teaches that all three are God.

The Father is God.

**Romans 1:7**

The Son is God.

**Hebrews 1:8**

The Spirit is God.

**Acts 5:3-4**

**WE ARE CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF GOD.**

The Trinity is one of the aspects of God that we may never be able to wrap our minds around completely, but we can gain some understanding by simply looking at how God created us.

**Genesis 1:26**

This is one of the earliest revelations in God’s Word about the Trinity. God is speaking in the plural form when referencing Himself. As God begins to reveal Himself, He also reveals that we are created like Him.

Just as God is a three-part being so are we. God functions as a Trinity while we function as what is known as a trichotomy - body, soul, and spirit. Each part operates independently while still making up one being.

**1 Thessalonians 5:23**

*The Bible shows each individual aspect and desires that each aspect be used for God’s honor and glory.*

**Hebrews 4:12**

*If God desires that each part of our makeup be used for His honor and glory, the only tool that speaks to all three is the Word of God.*



## THE WORD OF GOD REVEALS HIS ATTRIBUTES.

The Bible teaches us much more about God than just the Trinity. Throughout Scripture, you will find that there are certain characteristics of God that only He can attain. These are often referred to as the attributes of God. These attributes should cause us to reverence God and see Him as the wonderful God that He really is!

### **SOME OF THE ATTRIBUTES CAN ONLY BE ATTAINED BY GOD.**

Here are just a few of the amazing attributes that can only be possessed by our awesome God!

#### **He is Holy (completely sinless and absolutely unique).**

##### *Isaiah 6:3*

*And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.*

#### **He is omnipresent (all-present, or present everywhere at the same time).**

##### *Proverbs 15:3*

*The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.*

##### *Jeremiah 23:24*

*Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the Lord. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the Lord.*

#### **Omnipotent (all-powerful)**

##### *Jeremiah 32:17*

*Ah Lord God! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee:*

#### **Omniscient (all-knowing)**

##### *Psalms 139:1-4*

<sup>1</sup> *O Lord, thou hast searched me, and known me.*

<sup>2</sup> *Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off.*

<sup>3</sup> *Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways.*

<sup>4</sup> *For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether.*

#### **Immutable (cannot and will not change)**

##### *Malachi 3:6*

*For I am the Lord, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.*



**Sovereign (ruler of all)***Isaiah 46:10*

*Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure.*

**Infinite (eternal with no beginning and no end, without measure or limit)***Psalm 90:2*

*Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.*

**SOME OF GOD'S ATTRIBUTES HE DESIRES TO DEVELOP IN US.**

There are certain of God's characteristics can be developed in our lives. These are often called communicable attributes. They are the moral characteristics of God. Even as we are created in the image of God, He also desires that we begin to take on His attributes and characteristics to become more like Him while on this earth.

Some of these attributes are known as the fruit of the Spirit. They are not natural for man to attain, but can be attained by the Christian who walks in the Spirit of God.

*Galatians 5:22-23*

Sometimes God allows things into our lives to make us more like His Son.

*Romans 8:28-29*

We may not understand everything about our God. Some do not like a god that they cannot comprehend, but the more we get to know Him, the more we become like Him. The more we get to know Him the more we fall in love with Him. A god that could be comprehended by human minds would be a very weak god.

God desires a relationship with you. He has taken drastic steps to ensure that we can have that relationship. Let's review and apply the truths that we talked about in today's lesson. As you review over the main points of this lesson, take the time to apply and commit to the following statements:

Because God reveals Himself to mankind, I commit to developing my knowledge of God through the avenues that He has given. Choose today to get to know God as you would in close friendship with another person. You won't be disappointed.

Because God is a Trinity and I have been created in His image, I commit to growing every aspect of my life through His Word. When God speaks to me through His Word about something in my life, I commit to changing it for His honor and glory.

Because of the attributes of God and the attributes of God that I can attain, I commit to maintaining a holy reverence of God. We should understand that God is not One to be mocked or laughed at. Rather, He should be feared and worshiped. Not only should I be in awe of God, but we should desire to become more like Him by developing His attributes in our lives for the world to see.



## ASSIGNMENTS

Write out Revelation 4:11 in the space provided below. Plan to study and memorize the verse through the week so that you can quote it by your next meeting.

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Read the four daily readings for each day and answer the review questions for this lesson on day five. The daily readings will help reinforce what you have learned during this lesson. The review questions will help remind you of some of the key principles that you discussed with your discipler.

Choose one of the daily Bible reading plans and begin discovering God's Word for yourself. It's okay if you do not understand everything right away. These reading plans are intended to get you into the discipline of studying God's Word and applying it to your life. As you read, if you have questions, write them down and present them to your discipler next week.

### DAY 1: GOD THE CREATOR OF THE UNIVERSE AND YOU

#### *Genesis 1:1*

*In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.*

During the first part of this lesson, we discussed the Biblical view of Creation. The Bible clearly teaches that God is the Creator of the universe. As we mentioned, there have been many who have tried to refute that God is not the Creator and that the earth evolved or just came into existence out of nothing.

If the world came evolved from nothing and came from nothing and there are no traces of intelligent design by a masterful creator, then we are also nothing! We just came into existence without plan or purpose. Because we sprang from nothing, at our best we can only be nothing. That is pretty depressing, right?

Not only does the Bible contradict all of this, but it teaches us that God created mankind from the dust of the earth. The Bible tells us that our Creation was special and intentional (Psalm 139:14). Not only did God create mankind from the dust of the earth, but He also created us with a plan and a purpose for our lives. He desires for us to glorify Him (Revelation 4:11). He desires for us to get to know Him (John 17:3).

Those who choose to believe that everything just came into existence live a life without hope and cause. As a committed follower of Jesus Christ, when



we choose to believe God is the Creator of the universe, we are also believing that He is our Creator. And if God is our Creator, He has a plan and a purpose for us to bring honor and glory to Him. For us to find God's plan for our life, we must learn His ways by building a relationship with Him. Take the time to review your first commitment from lesson two and reconfirm with God that you are choosing to allow Him to work in your life.

## DAY 2: GOD'S PROFILE

### **Genesis 1:26**

<sup>26</sup> *And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.*

<sup>27</sup> *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.*

There are many ways that we can find out about someone in today's culture. One of those ways is by viewing a profile of the person. Sometimes this is on a social media website or a job application or even a picture. Whatever form it may, we can spend a lot of time finding out the smallest details through a profile.

Did you know that God has a profile as well? You can learn about His actions and His attributes. You can learn about His love and His power. You can even learn about His plan for your life like we mentioned in yesterday's devotional. His profile can be seen in the pages of Scripture.

Because we are created in the image of God, when we learn more of Him, we are learning more about ourselves as well. We are learning where we do not line up with God or we are learning what we need to work on in our lives. The Bible actually refers to itself as a mirror or glass for us to see ourselves.

### **James 1:23-25**

<sup>23</sup> *For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:*

<sup>24</sup> *For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.*

Just as you would never walk away from a mirror with something wrong in your appearance so you should never walk away from the mirror of God's Word with something wrong in your life. As you continue to maintain the discipline of reading God's Word, allow it to be a mirror that you can use to correct the things God wants you to. The Bible is the only book that promises to work on every aspect your life.



**Hebrews 4:12**

*For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

**DAY 3: DO KNOW OF HIM OR DO YOU KNOW HIM?****John 17:3**

*And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*

If someone were to ask you if you knew the President? Most likely, you would be able to say yes. You could probably even recite several basic facts about the President. Even by reciting facts, you would simply “know of” the President. You do not have a personal relationship with him, you do not talk to him daily, and chances are; the President has never bailed you out of a tough spot. Despite only knowing of the President, it is safe to say that knowing the President personally would be life changing.

Many Christians live their lives simply knowing of God. They are only able to recite a few simple facts and quote some of their favorite verses, but they never get to know Him personally. They do not talk to God daily, they do not know what He desires, and they have never seen Him work in their life.

God has given us the opportunity to know Him personally. Not to just to know of Him, but to actually know Him! The Bible teaches that this is the greatest relationship that we can develop. As a committed follower of Jesus Christ, do not simply commit to knowing of God; commit to knowing God through your personal relationship with Him.

**DAY 4: THE WORK OF GOD****Romans 8:28-29**

<sup>28</sup> *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose.*

<sup>29</sup> *For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.*

Our faith in Jesus Christ was never intended to be a lucky rabbit's foot. Some people accept Jesus Christ because they think that will erase all of the bad situations and problems they face in life. Salvation does not guarantee that bad things won't happen, but it does give us the guarantee that God will go through those bad situations with us. Not only does God go through the trials of this life with us, but according to Romans 8:28-29, those tough times are intended to make us more like His Son.

In the midst of a trial or tribulation, it is easy to stay focused on how bad the



situation is, but the Lord is using it to make you a better Christian. Choose not to focus on how bad life is, but on how great God is. Losing sight of God in the middle of a trial is dangerous. Choose to see every situation in life as a chance to get closer to God and to know Him more intimately.

**DAY 5: REVIEW QUESTIONS**

The following questions are intended to reinforce what you learned during last week's lesson. Feel free to look over the notes to find these questions. We would encourage you to write down any Scripture references associated with the answers to help you familiarize yourself with the Bible passages. You will begin the next lesson with your discipler by going over these review questions and any other questions that may have come up through this lesson's material.

Believing God created the earth is a matter of what?

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Who was God in the Flesh?

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What are the three persons of the Trinity that make up the Godhead? What is one passage that shows all three persons?

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Because we are made in the image of God, what are the three aspects of our being? What verse in the Bible references all three?

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Give two of the attributes of God mentioned in the lesson and the corresponding verse.

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What entity did God choose to preserve His Word in the New Testament?

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What is one example of how the Word of God speaks to us today?

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