



## 1 • KNOWING GOD

The firm foundation of a personal, intimate relationship with Christ. (Jeremiah 9:23-24)

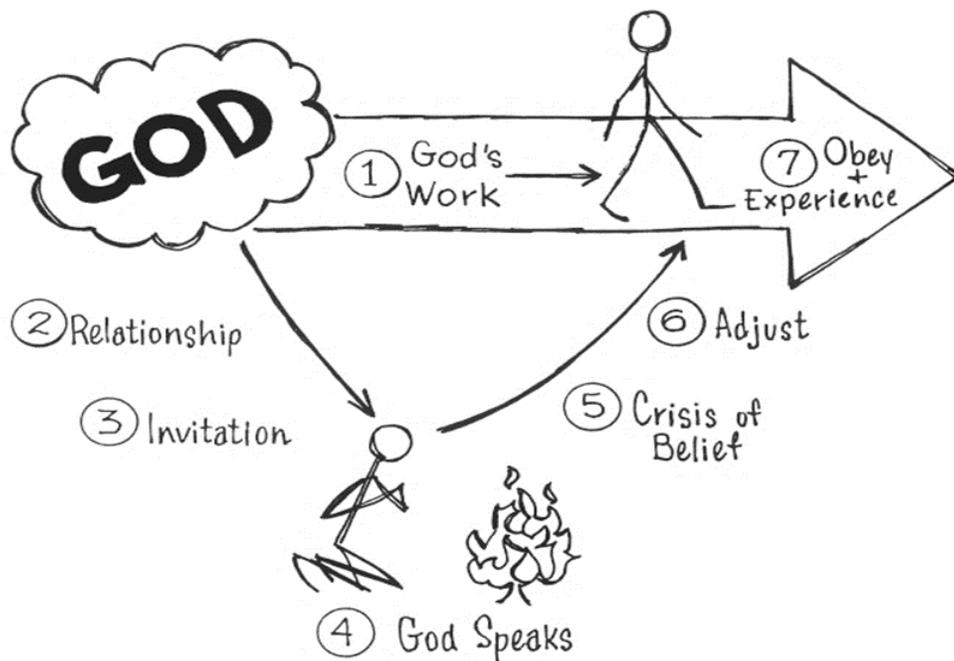
1. **Foundational Scriptures** — Philippians 3:1-16; Exodus 33:7-23; Jeremiah 9:23-24
2. Pages 3-5 — **The Names of God**. To the Greeks, to know something meant you understood it in your mind. It was an academic process. In contrast, for a Hebrew person to know something meant that he or she experienced it through obedience. Many of the Names of God were based upon an experience with God. Can you name them?
3. Pages 5-7 — **Jesus our Savior**, our Holy Spirit Baptizer, our Healer, and our Soon Coming King.
4. **Seven Realities for Knowing God** (This handout) — What are your thoughts about points 5 and 6?

### 5. Next Week

- A. Scan the QR Code and click lesson 2, **The Discipleship Decision**. Be sure to check out the accompanying links.
- B. Read Matthew 5, 6, 7 (The Sermon on the Mount). This will be the main discussion.
- C. Memory verse: Matthew 7:13-14 or Galatians 2:20.
- D. Use the Weekly Time Sheet to track your activities. Use it to journal what God is speaking to you. Be sure to keep it brief.
- E. Meet with your accountability group.



*Do the best you can and we'll see you next week. Pastors Jack and Jane*



### SEVEN REALITIES FOR KNOWING GOD

*Adapted from Experiencing God by Henry T. Blackaby, Claude V. King*

Go through the following points and answer the questions.

#### 1. God is always at work around you.

- Philippians 2:13 *...for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.* (John 5:17)
- Look to see what God says and how He works in the lives of people in Scripture. Make your decisions and evaluate your experiences based on Biblical truths.
- Do you believe God is at work around you right now? If so, what do you sense He is presently doing?

#### 2. God pursues a continuing relationship with you that is real and personal.

- Jeremiah 31:3 *The Lord appeared to me (Israel) from ages past, saying, "I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you and continued My faithfulness to you."* (Hosea 11:4; John 3:16)
- Adam's sin caused him to hide from God. But even then, God pursued him and asked, "Adam, where are you?" (Genesis 4:9) What does Psalm 139:1-12 reveal about God's passion and love towards us?
- What has God done lately that provided you an opportunity to come to know Him more personally than you had before?

**3. God invites you to become involved with Him in His work.**

- John 5:17, 19-20 *But Jesus answered them, "My Father has been working until now, and I have been working." ...Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner. For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these,..."* (John 14:21)
- Is God inviting you to join Him in His activity? If so, what is He asking you to do?

**4. God speaks by the Holy Spirit through the Bible, prayer, circumstances, and the church to reveal Himself, His purposes, and His ways.**

- John 16:13 *However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.*
- Learn to hear and identify His voice. 1 Kings 19:11-12 *...and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.*
- Have you heard God speak to you recently? If so, what did He say? What have you done in response?

**5. God's invitation for you to work with Him always leads you to a crisis of belief that requires faith and action.**

- Hebrews 11:6 *But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.* (James 2:17-26)
- An encounter with God requires faith because they are God sized. What you do in response to God's invitation reveals what you believe about God. True faith requires action!
- Read Mark 9:21-24. Notice the father's response when Jesus said to him, *"If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."* Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, *"Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"*
- Are you presently experiencing a crisis of belief? If so, why?

**6. You must make major adjustments in your life to join God in what He is doing.**

- You cannot stay where you are and go with God at the same time. Jim Eliot, missionary to Quichua tribe in South America, said, *"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."*

- Everyone in the Bible who was used of God, faced great adjustments: Moses and the burning bush, Elisha and his calling, Hannah, the mother of Samuel, Matthew and all the disciples, Paul and all who teamed with him, to name only a few!
- Genesis 12:1-5 *Now the Lord had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing..."* (Luke 14:33)
- What adjustments is God asking you to make in your life?

**7. You come to know God by experience as you obey Him, and He accomplishes His work through you.**

- Jesus told a parable in Matthew 21:28-30, *"But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, 'Son, go, work today in my vineyard.' He answered and said, 'I will not,' but afterward he regretted it and went. Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go."* The obvious question is, who obeyed the father's request?
- John 14:23 *Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him."* (John 1:50)
- To the Greeks, to know something meant you understood it in your mind. It was an academic process. In contrast, for a Hebrew person to know something meant that he or she experienced it. We, too, can experience Him through our obedience.
- How have you come to know God more personally as a result of obeying what He told you to do? Share specific examples.



Jeremiah 9:23-24 *This is what the LORD says: "...let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,..."*

Philippians 3:1-16 *...that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection,...*