

Faith and Purpose Clubs Leaders Discussion Guide 3: Knowing God

Overview: God invites us to know Him and to be known by Him—an extraordinary gift worthy of our understanding. Over the next few weeks, we will explore what it means to know God through personal experience. We will also discuss how fellowship with Him and other believers is made possible by the Holy Spirit.

Discussion Guide 3, Week 1: Knowing God

The Hebrew word *yada* means to know, perceive, recognize, understand, experience, or know personally and deeply. This week, we will talk about what it means to be known by God and to know God personally.

1. **Psalm 139:1-2,13** reads: *Lord, you have examined, investigated, and searched me and know all about me. You know when I sit down and when I get up. You know and understand my thoughts before I think them. You formed my inward parts, you knit me together in my mother's womb.*

Question: In what ways does God fully know us?

Answer: He created us. God examines, investigates, and searches our hearts and minds, which means He fully knows and understands us.

2. In **Jeremiah 31:34a** God tells us: *Each man will no longer teach his neighbor and his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they will all know Me through personal experience, and Psalm 46:10 says: Be still and know [recognize, understand] that I am God.*

Question: According to these verses, how can we know God?

Answer: We can know God through personal experience and by recognizing and understanding who He is as the one true God.

3. In **Hosea 6:3** we read: *Yes, let us know, recognize, be acquainted with, and understand Him; let us be zealous to know the Lord and to appreciate, give heed to, and cherish Him.*

Question: Why is it necessary for us to understand and know the Lord in order to appreciate and cherish Him?

Answer: We cannot fully cherish and love someone we do not understand or truly know. As we come to know God and understand His character, we grow in our ability to love, trust, and cherish Him.

4. In **Galatians 4:9** we read: *Now, however, since you have come to know the true God through personal experience, or rather to be known by God, how is it that you are turning back again to the weak and worthless elemental principles [of religions and philosophies], to which you want to be enslaved all over again?*

Question: How does personal experience with God help us live in the freedom provided by Christ?

Answer: Through personal experience with God, we learn to know and trust Him and choose to follow His ways rather than returning to the things that once held us captive.

Let's Talk About It:

- How does knowing and being known by God fulfill our greatest need—to be fully known, understood, and loved by our creator?
- Why is personal experience with God important, and how does it impact our faith and trust in Him?
- When was the last time you felt known and understood by God? How did that experience make you feel?

Challenge: Spend the remainder of today's meeting praying for each other, your friends, family, and community.

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Discussion Guide 3, Week 2: Glorify – To Make Known

We have been talking about the gift of being known by God. This week, we will discuss what it means to glorify God and why glorifying Him is an extension of knowing Him.

Note: In the Bible, “glorify” means more than simply praising someone. It carries the idea of revealing, displaying, acknowledging, or honoring someone’s true worth.

1. In **Matthew 10:32**, Jesus says: *I will acknowledge in front of my Father in heaven that person who acknowledges me in front of others.* And **1 Chronicles 16:24** reads: *Tell about His glory among the nations, about His marvelous deeds among all peoples.*

Question: How is telling others about the goodness of Jesus an act of acknowledgment?

Answer: By telling others about the life and testimony of Jesus, we acknowledge that He is God’s Son and the Savior of humanity.

2. In **Proverbs 3:5–6**, we read: *Lean on, trust in, and be confident in the Lord with all your heart and mind and do not rely on your own insight or understanding. In all your ways know, recognize, and acknowledge Him, and He will direct and make straight and plain your paths.*

Question: In what ways are we to acknowledge the Lord, and why is this important?

Answer: We are to acknowledge and trust the Lord in all areas of our lives. As we do, He will guide us in our decisions and direct our paths.

3. In **Psalms 86:12**, we read: *Lord, my God, I will praise and thank you with all my heart, and I will honor and glorify your name forever.*

Question: What is one way we can bring honor to God and reveal to others that He is important to us?

Answer: We can share with others how God has loved us, provided for us, and worked in our lives through our testimonies.

4. In **1 Peter 3:15**, we read: *In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect...*

Question: According to this verse, what is another way we can honor God through our faith in Jesus?

Answer: We honor God by recognizing Christ as holy, being prepared to explain why we believe in Jesus as Savior and sharing our faith with gentleness and respect.

Let’s Talk About It:

- Why do you think the way we talk about Jesus—with gentleness, love, and respect—is just as important as what we say?
- What are some practical ways you can make God’s goodness known to others in your everyday life?
- Think about something God has done in your life. How could you share that experience with someone else in a way that brings honor to God?

Challenge: Invite new people to your youth group this week.

Discussion Guide 3, Week 3: Fellowship with God

We have talked about what it means to be known by God and to know Him both personally and by bringing Him glory. This week, we will talk about the importance of fellowship with God and other believers and how we experience that connection through the Holy Spirit.

Note: In the New Testament, the Greek word for fellowship is *koinonia*, which conveys the idea of sharing, participation, communion, and close association. It describes a mutual relationship in which a bond is formed through shared life and experience.

1. In **John 14:16**, Jesus describes the role of the Holy Spirit: *I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, who is also Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor, Counselor, Strengtheners, to be with you forever—*

Question: According to this verse, how is the Holy Spirit like a faithful companion?

Answer: The Holy Spirit is present with us to help, comfort, counsel, and strengthen us. Unlike a human companion, however, the Holy Spirit is God's presence with us and remains with us forever.

2. In **1 John 1:7** we read: *God is in the light. We should live in the light too. If we live in the light, we share fellowship with each other. And when we live in the light, the blood of the death of Jesus, God's Son, is making us clean from every sin.*

Question: According to this verse, what is the key to sharing in fellowship with one another?

Answer: By living in the light of God, we share fellowship with one another through Jesus, whose sacrifice cleanses us from sin and makes us right with God.

3. **Philippians 2:1** reads: *Is there any such thing as Christians cheering each other up? Do you love me enough to want to help me? Does it mean anything to you that we are brothers in the Lord, sharing the same Spirit? Are your hearts tender and sympathetic at all?*

Question: What does this verse say about those who are brothers and sisters in the Lord, and why does this matter?

Answer: As Christians, we share in the same Holy Spirit, who helps us care for, encourage, and show compassion toward one another.

4. **Ecclesiastes 4:10** tells us: *For if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion*. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and does not have another to lift him up.*

Question: What is the role of a companion, and how can shared experiences strengthen a relationship?

Answer: A companion helps, supports, and lifts us up during difficult times. Walking through experiences together can create deeper connection, trust, and stronger bonds.

5. In **2 Corinthians 13:14** we read: *May you have loving-favor from our Lord Jesus Christ. May you have the love of God. May you be joined together by the Holy Spirit.*

Question: According to this verse, how does the Holy Spirit help us have fellowship with God and others?

Answer: The Spirit of God brings us into fellowship with God and Jesus and joins us together with other believers.

***Note:** The Hebrew word "companion" is from the root word *chaber*.

Let's Talk About It:

- Does the Holy Spirit help us to know God and love others well?
- Why is authentic connection with others important?
- What is the true meaning and value of a faithful companion?

Challenge: Invite 3–4 new people to the INSPIRE Meeting next week.

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Discussion Guide 3, Week 4: INSPIRE Week

Read the following to your group:

Welcome to our Faith & Purpose Club! We are so glad you are here [Introduce your leadership team].

We meet each week to talk about God, explore the Bible, and discuss real-life topics that matter. Although we are a student-led Christian group, everyone is welcome. This is a safe, supportive place to build friendships, learn about faith, and feel connected.

For the last few weeks, we have been discussing the Triune God of the Bible, who exists as one God in three distinct persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Understanding the Trinity and how each operates is foundational to the Christian faith.

This week, we will hear faith stories and the gospel invitation. The **core verse** that frames today's meeting is "*The Lord is looking down from heaven. He looks at the people of the world, to see if there are any wise people among them. He looks to see if anyone wants to know God.*" (**Psalms 14:2**)

A student leader shares their faith story NOW

Prayer and invitation:

We will now take a minute to talk to God through prayer. In the quiet of your heart and mind, I invite anyone here who wants to begin a relationship with God through faith in Jesus, to agree in your heart and mind with what I am saying because God hears our private thoughts. I will pray out loud and I invite you to pray this in your head:

Dear Heavenly Father,

I come to you with an open heart. I acknowledge that my self focus has separated me from you. Thank you for promising to hear and answer my prayer, and for showing me that Jesus is the way back to you. I want to place my trust in Him to guard and guide me. Help me to turn from doing things my way and release my life over to you.

In Jesus' Name, I pray, Amen.

If you have turned your heart and mind to Jesus today, please know that He sees and welcomes you.

Pass out Response Cards NOW (download from the yclprograms.org or YCL phone app)

Challenge: Remember to invite visitors to next week's group meeting and to tell them about your youth group/church.