

SESSION 1

KNOWING GOD INTIMATELY (A)

Lesson Plan

RECOMMENDED READING

Chapter 1 “Can Anyone *Really* Know God?” and Chapter 2 “We Can Know God Intimately!”

INTRODUCTION (5 MINUTES)

What we believe about people affects the way we treat them, how we act around them, and even whether or not we want a relationship with them. To have a growing relationship with God, we must have a realistic picture of who He is. What we believe to be true about God’s character is a foundation to the way we live our Christian life. No convictions are more important to victorious living than our view of God.

- ❓ As we begin to consider the different attributes of God, what are some of the adjectives you would use to describe Him?
- ❓ How does what we believe about God affect how we relate to Him?

People often feel like they can’t really *know* God. That’s what this course is all about: knowing our great God and understanding who He is. Our great Creator makes it possible for us to know Him intimately, but this special relationship requires a response from us. The only way we can have a relationship with God is through His Son, Jesus Christ. Many of you have already received Jesus as your Savior and Lord. However, if you haven’t taken this important step in your life, and would like to receive Him, or simply have questions about that relationship, please see me after our class ends.

Be prepared with a gospel presentation or tract.

Let’s ask the Holy Spirit to give us greater insight into God’s nature so we can know Him better and live our life based on the truth of what He is like.

Lead the group in prayer.

VIDEO TEACHING SEGMENT:

KNOWING GOD INTIMATELY (18 MINUTES)

You’ll find a Video Outline provided on page 6 in your Study Guide. As Bill Bright introduces us to this study, refer to the “God Is” diagram on page 7, which he will be explaining in detail.

GROUP DISCUSSION (17 MINUTES)

- ❓ This is a lot of material to process at one time! What one idea did Dr. Bright present that impressed you most? What challenged you most?
- ❓ Which attribute are you most comfortable with? Which attribute do you need to understand better?
- ❓ How do you feel about God’s invitation to have a relationship with you?
- ❓ What do you think it means to have an intimate relationship with God?

GOD: DISCOVER THE BENEFITS OF HIS ATTRIBUTES (4 MINUTES)

Please turn to “GOD: Discover the Benefits of His Attributes” on page 8 in your Study Guide. These “because” statements accompany the diagram, and will help us apply the truths of each of God’s attributes to our lives. For each (A) video segment, a corresponding “because” statement will appear at the bottom of the Video Outline.

Read the entire page together: in unison, taking turns with each attribute, or simply one person reading out loud while the rest of the group follows along.

CLOSING PRAYER (1 MINUTE)

Lead the group in a closing prayer.

SESSION 1

KNOWING GOD INTIMATELY (A)

Video Outline



Our view of God determines our lifestyle. There are no convictions in life that are more important to victorious living than what we believe to be true about God.

“Friendship with God is reserved for those who reverence Him” (Psalm 25:14, TLB).

The Holy Trinity

- God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are co-equal members of the Trinity.

God is Gloriously Incomprehensible

- God is infinite; He has no limits.
- God is self-existent; He was not created.
- God is eternal; He is not bound by time.
- God is self-sufficient; He has no needs.

The Attributes of God

- Our Great Creator is all-powerful, ever-present, all-knowing, and sovereign.
- Our Perfect Judge is holy, truthful, righteous, and just.
- Our Gracious Savior is loving, merciful, faithful, and unchanging.

“I will meditate on Your majestic, glorious splendor and Your wonderful miracles” (Psalm 145:5).

*Because God is a personal Spirit,
I will seek intimate fellowship with Him.*

RECOMMENDED READING

For a deeper understanding of this material, you may find it helpful to read portions of Bill Bright’s book *GOD: Discover His Character*. Each session will suggest chapters of the book that pertain to the corresponding video segments. For this session, read Chapter 1 “Can Anyone *Really* Know God?” and Chapter 2 “We Can Know God Intimately!”

“GOD IS” DIAGRAM

This diagram shows how the attributes of ability, integrity, and relationship fit into the whole picture of God’s character.



GOD

DISCOVER THE BENEFITS OF HIS ATTRIBUTES

Because God is a personal Spirit...

I will seek intimate fellowship with Him.

Because God is all-powerful...

He can help me with anything.

Because God is ever-present...

He is always with me.

Because God knows everything...

I will go to Him with all my questions and concerns.

Because God is sovereign...

I will joyfully submit to His will.

Because God is holy...

I will devote myself to Him in purity, worship, and service.

Because God is absolute truth...

I will believe what He says and live accordingly.

Because God is righteous...

I will live by His standards.

Because God is just...

He will always treat me fairly.

Because God is love...

He is unconditionally committed to my well-being.

Because God is merciful...

He forgives me of my sins when I sincerely confess them.

Because God is faithful...

I will trust Him to always keep His promises.

Because God never changes...

My future is secure and eternal.

SESSION 2

KNOWING GOD INTIMATELY (B)

Lesson Plan



RECOMMENDED READING

Chapter 3 “Our Awe-Inspiring God”

REVIEW (5 MINUTES)

Lead the group in prayer.

Today’s session is a continuation of our study on knowing God intimately. In the first session of each attribute, Bill Bright will teach us biblical truths about God’s character. In the second session, we will consider each attribute in light of how it affects our daily lives.

- ❑ Did anyone have an opportunity to do any of the recommended reading? What additional insights did you gain from the book?
- ❑ What do you think it takes to build a strong relationship with someone?

BIBLE STUDY (20 MINUTES)

In the second session of each attribute, we’ll take time to examine additional Bible passages about God’s attributes. Please turn to page 9 in your Study Guide. Today we are going to consider several Bible characters whose lives were greatly changed through their relationship with God.

VIDEO ILLUSTRATION SEGMENT:

INTIMACY WITH GOD (13 MINUTES)

As we view this second video segment about knowing God intimately, I want to encourage you to think about applying this material to your own life. We won’t have an outline to follow in these (B) sessions, but we will discuss our impressions, reactions, and thoughts concerning the material presented. In this video we’ll be examining what intimacy with God looks like.

LIFE APPLICATION (6 MINUTES)

- ❑ What one idea or concept really impressed you in this segment?

To help us process the material for each attribute, you’ll find two pages in your Study Guide entitled “Life Application.” For this session they are found on pages 11 and 12. These six sections contain action points to help us apply God’s attributes to our lives. Depending on the amount of time we have each week, we’ll highlight different sections and discuss some of the questions.

Today I want to highlight two sections. Let’s begin by taking a look at the first one, “Write It on Your Heart.” This section recommends that we commit to memory the related phrase from “GOD: Discover the Benefits of His Attributes” on page 8, as well as several verses. I want to strongly encourage you to work at this throughout the week!

I would also like to encourage you to read the Life Application sections that we don’t cover in class and to take the time to answer the reflective questions. This will really help your life to be transformed by God’s attributes.

The second section I want us to briefly look at today is “Obey God” on page 12.

Read the question from that page.

- ❑ Let’s take it out of the intensely personal realm for just a moment. What are some of the other areas in which “people” need to trust God more?

CLOSING PRAYER (1 MINUTE)

Lead the group in a closing prayer by reading the prayer from the Life Application section “Exalt Your God.”

SESSION 2

KNOWING GOD INTIMATELY (B)

Bible Study



1. Moses and God

Read Exodus 33:7–23.

- a. Do you have a special place to meet with God? (vv. 7,8) Where?
- b. Why is it sometimes difficult to speak with God as a friend? (vv. 9–11)
- c. How can you make sure you are listening to what *God* wants you to do? (vv. 12,13)
- d. In what ways can the knowledge that God is always with you change your daily life? (vv. 14–17)
- e. How would a deep sense of God's magnificence affect your lifestyle? (vv. 18–23)

Read Exodus 34:29–35.

- f. In what ways do others see the glory of God reflected in you?
- g. How can you better reflect God's glory?

2. David and God

Read Acts 13:22.

- a. What does it mean to be a person after God's own heart?
- b. In what ways are you a person after God's own heart?
- c. In what ways are you not?

Read Psalm 27:4; 42:1,2.

- d. On your life priority list, where is your desire to be with God?

Read Psalm 73:23–28.

- e. What are some specific ways we can make God the focus of our lives?

3. Paul and God

Read Philippians 3:7–14.

- a. What does this passage tell us about our relationship with God?
- b. What motivated Paul to serve Christ so faithfully?
- c. What value should we place on our relationship with God?

SESSION 2

KNOWING GOD INTIMATELY (B)

Life Application

WRITE IT ON YOUR HEART

As a way of opening up your heart to knowing God more intimately, memorize the following statement and verses:

- Because God is a personal Spirit, I will seek intimate fellowship with Him.
- Psalm 25:14 (TLB)—“Friendship with God is reserved for those who reverence Him.”
- Psalm 145:5—“I will meditate on Your majestic, glorious splendor and Your wonderful miracles.”
- Jeremiah 29:13 (NIV)—“You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart.”

EXALT YOUR GOD

Take a few moments to meditate on each of the qualities mentioned in the lesson. Pray the following as an act of worship to our awe-inspiring God:

I praise You, Lord, for being *infinite*. You alone have no limits. Even Your love, mercy, and forgiveness know no bounds.

I worship You for being *self-existent*. You alone are uncreated and have always existed. You are secure, a place of safety in the midst of change and uncertainty.

I exalt You for being *eternal*. You alone are beyond time. Your thoughts are never outdated, and Your decrees prove true forever.

I praise You, Lord, for being *self-sufficient*. You alone need nothing outside of Yourself. Your sufficiency is a storehouse for all who love You. We need only draw upon your limitless resources.

REFLECT HIS IMAGE

How can you better reflect God’s image at home? In your workplace? Among your friends?

List ways you can be more like Jesus and ask God to help you display these qualities in all of your life’s situations.

Life Application (continued)

COUNT ON GOD

Make a list of those you trust.

Where does God fit on your list? Is He at the top your list? Why or why not?

God has the ability to be trusted, because He is capable of meeting any need and solving any problem you may have. He also has the integrity to be trusted. He is morally perfect, so He will always do the *right* thing. He is totally committed in His relationship to us, so He always does what is best for us.

OBEY GOD

Obedience involves trust. In which areas of your life do you need to trust God more?

Proverbs 3:5 says, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will direct your paths.” Meditate on this verse to help you trust God in a deeper way today.

SHARE HIS MAJESTY

Is there something from this lesson that especially excites you about God? Think of someone with whom you can share this new insight. Invite this person to join you in your quest to know God’s character. If this individual is not a believer, use a booklet such as *Would You Like to Know God Personally?* to introduce him or her to our magnificent God. (You can find this booklet at your local Christian bookstore or call *NewLife* Publications to order at 800-235-7255.)

RECOMMENDED READING

GOD: Discover His Character, Chapter 3 “Our Awe-Inspiring God”

If you would like to download the entire GOD: Discover His Character Bible Study (which covers all the attributes) for free. You'll find it by visiting our Resources section:

<http://DiscoverGod.com/resources>

