

Know God by faith

INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN
FOUNDATIONS

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Connect with each other

Introduction:

In our studies so far we have seen:

1. God loves us and created us to know him.
2. We are separated from God by our sin, so we cannot know him or experience his love.
3. Jesus Christ is a historical person who proved he was God and man in the same person.
4. Jesus died in our place so we might turn from our sin and live for God.
5. Jesus was raised from the dead.

This study shows us how God wants us to respond to him to come into relationship with him and know him personally.

We will see that we need to repent of our sin, believe Jesus and receive him by faith. As we do this, God promises that we will receive his forgiveness and the gift of his Holy Spirit.

Hear God's Word and understand it

REPENT

Bible Passage: Acts 2: 36-41

Background: Peter, one of Jesus' closest disciples, is speaking to the people of Jerusalem. He tells them that the person whom they have crucified is actually the Son of God. They are horrified at this and they ask Peter what they should do now.

"Repent" means to decide to turn from living for ourselves to living for God.

Bible Discussion Questions:

1. What does Peter say will happen to them if they repent? (v38)
2. Who does this promise apply to? (v39)

BELIEVE

Bible Passage: John 3: 16-18

Background: Jesus is having a conversation with a Jewish leader. Jesus has told him that "no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again". In the passage above, Jesus explains how one can be "born again" (to have God come and live in him) and have eternal life.

Here "believe" means to commit one's life to Jesus and continue trusting him.

Bible Discussion Questions:

1. What does Jesus say will happen if we believe? (v16, 18)
2. What does Jesus say is the condition of those who do not believe? (v18)

Bible Passage: Luke 9: 23-26

Background: Here Jesus is telling his disciples what a person must do if he wants to follow him.

Bible Discussion Questions:

1. What must we do to follow Jesus? (v23)

2. If we try to save our life now, why will that cause us to lose it in the end? (v24-26)

RECEIVE

Bible Passage: John 1: 10-13

Background: John is speaking of the purpose of Jesus' life to bring us into relationship with God.

Bible Discussion Questions:

1. For a person to be born of God, what two things are described in v12?

Note that when we are "born again" of God, we have spiritual life from God. We become his child and enter into relationship with him.

BY FAITH, NOT BY EARNING IT

Bible Passage: Ephesians 2: 1-9

Background: Paul is writing to the Christians in Ephesus. He is describing to them the riches of God's grace.

Bible Discussion Question:

1. What do we learn about grace from v4, v5 and v8?
2. If a person is saved, is it because of his own doing? (v4-5, 8-9)

THE HOLY SPIRIT

Bible Passage: John 14: 15-17, 23-26

Background: Jesus is promising his disciples that he will send them the Holy Spirit if they choose to follow him.

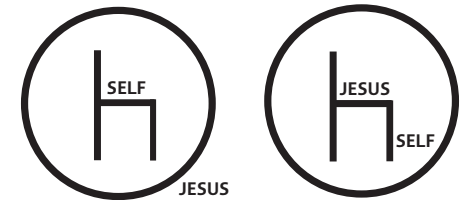
Bible Discussion Questions:

1. What will God do to enable us to live in relationship with him? (v16-17, 23, 26)

Apply God's Word

Act

The following circles describe two types of people.



SELF-DIRECTED PERSON JESUS-DIRECTED PERSON

The self-directed person trusts themselves to direct their life. They remain guilty and cut off from God by their sin. They do not know him or his love.

The Jesus-directed person repents of their sin, puts their trust in Jesus and submits themselves to him to direct their life. As a result, they know God and enjoy his forgiveness and love.

1. Which circle best describes you?
2. Which circle would you like to describe you?

You can enter into a personal relationship with God by telling him your desire in prayer.

Prayer is talking with God. This is not a formula. God is looking for a true expression of your heart to him.

If you want to enter into a personal relationship with him, you need to be able to say the following things from your heart:

"Lord God, I believe in you.

I am sorry for living my life my own way and sinning against you.

Please forgive me for all my sins.

I choose to turn from living my own way to follow Jesus as my Saviour and Lord.

Thank you for forgiving me. Thank you for giving me eternal life. Thank you for giving me your Holy Spirit to live in me forever.

In Jesus' name I pray."

Are you ready to make this decision?

If so, pray. God will hear and answer you immediately and give you a personal relationship with him.

If not, would you like more information to explain these things in more detail? Are there any barriers to you making this decision?