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1. How many of you know God?

2. How did you come to know him?

(John 14:21) Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my father, and I too will love them and show myself *(Reveal)* to them.

- We know God more intimately as he reveals himself to us through our experiences with him.

KNOW GOD

- Through this study of experiencing God, we have been focusing on our love relationship with God.
- The call to a relationship is also a call for us to be on mission with him.

- If you want to know God's will, you must respond to his invitation to love him wholeheartedly.
- God works through those he loves in order to carry out his Kingdom purposes in the world.

KNOWING GOD BY EXPERIENCE

3. Are you satisfied to knowing about God?

- You will never be satisfied, just to know about God.
- You come to know God through experience as He reveals Himself to you and you respond to what He says.

4. How did Moses come to know God?

When Moses was at the burning bush, he asked God, "If I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what should I tell them?" (Ex. 3:13).

God responded, "I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I am has sent me to you' (Ex. 3:14). When God said, "I am who I am," He meant "I am the eternal One. I will be what I will be." He was saying, "I am everything you will need." Just fill in the blank for your particular situation: "I am ...". During the next forty years Moses came to know God experientially as Jehovah or God, the great I AM.

5. How did God reveal himself to people in the Bible.

- In the Bible, God took the initiative to reveal himself to people by experience.
- Many times, when God revealed himself to people, he disclosed a new name to them or described Himself in a fresh way.
- To a Hebrew, a person's name represented his character and described his nature.
- This is why in the Bible we see new names or titles for God following an event in which someone experienced God in a fresh way.
- To know God by name required a personal experience of His presence.

6. What's the purpose of Biblical names and titles in the Bible?

- Biblical names, titles, and descriptions of God identify ways Bible characters personally came to know God.
- The Scriptures are a record of God's revelation of Himself to people.

- Each name for God is a part of that revelation.

For example, Joshua and the Israelites were fighting the Amalekites. Moses was overseeing the battle from a nearby mountain. While he held his hands up to God, the Israelites were victorious. When he wearily lowered his hands, they began to lose. God defeated the Amalekites through Israel that day. Moses built an altar and gave it the name **“The Lord Is My Banner.”** A banner is the standard that goes in front of an army to indicate whom it represents. “The Lord Is My Banner” says we are God’s people; He is our God. Moses’ uplifted hands gave constant glory to God, indicating the battle was His and Israel belonged to Him. Israel came to know God in a deeper way as they realized, “We are God’s people; the Lord is our Banner.” (Ex. 17:8-15.)

For another example, read Genesis 22:1-18 and answer the following.

(Genesis 22:1–18)

Abraham Tested

22 Sometime later God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!”

“Here I am,” he replied.

² Then God said, “Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you.”

³ Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. ⁴ On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. ⁵ He said to his servants, “Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you.”

⁶ Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, ⁷ Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, “Father?”

“Yes, my son?” Abraham replied.

“The fire and wood are here,” Isaac said, “but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?”

⁸ Abraham answered, “God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” And the two of them went on together.

⁹ When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood.

¹⁰ Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. ¹¹ But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!"

"Here I am," he replied.

¹² "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son."

¹³ Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided."

¹⁵ The angel of the Lord called to Abraham from heaven a second time ¹⁶ and said, "I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, ¹⁸ and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

a. What did God ask Abraham to do (v. 2)?

b. What do you think verse 8 indicates about Abraham?

c. What did God do for Abraham (v. 13)?

d. What name did Abraham give the place (v. 14)?

e. Why did God promise to bless Abraham (vv. 15-18)?

- God was in the process of developing Abraham's character to be the father of a nation.
- He put Abraham's faith and obedience to the test, bringing Abraham to a crisis of belief.
- Abraham had faith that the Lord would provide (v. 8).
- He adjusted his life to act on his belief that God was Provider. He obeyed God.
- When God provided a ram, Abraham came to an intimate knowledge of God by experiencing God as his Provider.

7. Describe an event through which you know you experienced God at work in your life.

8. What name could you use to describe the God you experienced?

9. Read the following list of names, titles, and descriptions of God. Check those that describe God in ways you have personally experienced Him.

☐ **My Advocate** (Job 16:19)

☐ **Comforter in sorrow** (Jer. 8:18)

☐ **Wonderful Counselor** (Isa. 9:6)

☐ **My strong Deliverer** (Ps. 140:7)

☐ **Our Father** (Isa. 64:8)

☐ **A sure Foundation** (Isa. 28:16)

☐ **God Almighty** (Gen. 17:1)

☐ **God who avenges me** (Ps. 18:47)

☐ **Our Guide** (Ps. 48:14)

☐ **Our Help** (Ps. 33:20)

☐ **Great High Priest** (Heb. 4:14)

☐ **My Hope** (Ps. 71:5)

☐ **Righteous Judge** (2 Tim. 4:8)

☐ **Our Leader** (2 Chron. 13:12)

☐ **Light of life** (John 8:12)

☐ **Lord of the harvest** (Matt. 9:38)

☐ **The Most Holy** (Dan. 9:24)

☐ **Prince of Peace** (Isa. 9:6)

☐ **Refuge and Strength** (Ps. 46:1)

☐ **My Savior** (Ps. 42:5)

☐ **Sovereign Lord** (Luke 2:29)

☐ **My Support** (2 Sam. 22:19)

☐ **Bread of life** (John 6:35)

☐ **My Confidence** (Ps. 71:5)

☐ **Defender of widows** (Ps. 68:5)

☐ **Faithful and True** (Rev. 19:11)

☐ **A consuming Fire** (Deut. 4:24)

☐ **My Friend** (Job 16:20)

☐ **God of all comfort** (2 Cor. 1:3)

☐ **God who saves me** (Ps. 51:14)

☐ **Head of the church** (Eph. 5:23)

☐ **My Hiding Place** (Ps. 32:7)

☐ **Holy One among you** (Hos. 11:9)

☐ **Jealous** (Ex. 34:14)

☐ **King of kings** (1 Tim. 6:15)

☐ **Your Life** (Col. 3:4)

☐ **Lord of lords** (1 Tim. 6:15)

☐ **Mediator** (1 Tim. 2:5)

☐ **Our Peace** (Eph. 2:14)

☐ **My Redeemer** (Ps. 19:14)

☐ **My Salvation** (Ex. 15:2)

☐ **The Good Shepherd** (John 10:11)

☐ **My Stronghold** (Ps. 18:2)

☐ **Good Teacher** (Mark 10:17)

10. Did you see that you have come to know God through experience?

11. Could you check any of the names and not think of an experience in which God acted that way in your life?

- For instance, you could not have known God as Comforter in sorrow unless you had experienced His comfort during a time of sorrow.
- You come to know God when He reveals Himself to you.
- You come to know Him as you experience Him.
- That is why I'm teaching the church about **Experiencing God**.

- You come to know God more intimately as He reveals Himself to you through your experiences with Him.

SUMMARY STATEMENTS

- ❖ Knowing God comes only through experience as He reveals Himself to me.
- ❖ We know God more intimately as He reveals Himself to us through our experiences with Him.