

# Small Group Discussion Guide

For the week of July 10 - 16, 2022

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## Main Thought and Scriptures:

God created us to know Him and to fulfill a unique purpose on earth. None of us are accidents. To become all we were made to be, we need to grow in knowing God personally, continue to follow Him together with other believers, discover our purpose, and begin making a difference in the lives of others. When we don't know God personally, there will be negative consequences in our individual lives and in society at large. Therefore, the most important thing to do in life is to know God personally and to help others to know God personally.

*"I ask the God of our Master, Jesus Christ, the God of glory—to make you intelligent and discerning in knowing him personally, your eyes focused and clear, so that you can see exactly what it is he is calling you to do, grasp the immensity of this glorious way of life he has for his followers..."*  
(Ephesians 1:17-18 MSG)

- Our first and most important step in life is to truly know God personally.
- Sin separates us from God, but Jesus came to enable us to have a real relationship with Him.

*"Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God..."* (John 1:12 NIV)

- Religion teaches us that we need to earn or deserve this. The Gospel teaches that it is something that we receive by faith through the finished work of Jesus Christ on our behalf.

*"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. <sup>22</sup>Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' <sup>23</sup>Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never **knew** you. Away from me, you evildoers!'"* (Matthew 7:21-23 NIV)

- To “know” in this passage refers to the intimacy that a husband and wife have together.
- Our salvation is based on knowing Him intimately and continually, like in a healthy marriage.

*“As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup>‘Come, follow me,’ Jesus said, ‘and I will send you out to fish for people.’ <sup>18</sup>At once they left their nets and followed him.” (Mark 1:16-18 NIV)*

- Jesus’ first disciples were willing to leave everything to follow Him. Knowing God requires leaving things that will hinder our relationship with Him and by making knowing Him a priority.
- We do this through being consistent in spiritual practices such as being consistent in church, small group, personal devotions of reading the Word and prayer, and by seeking to honor God in the everyday moments of our lives.

### **Discussion Questions:**

- What stands out to you from the main thought and scriptures above? What is the Lord highlighting to you and why?
- How were your previous notions of what it means to “know God” challenged? How were they confirmed?
- What are some things that you had to “leave” in the past to better follow Jesus? Is there anything that God may be calling you to “leave” now to know God better?

### **Prayer:**

- Pray for one another to “leave” the things that hinder our relationship with God and to start doing the practices that build our relationship with God.
- Pray for one friend or loved one that God would give us an opportunity to share our testimonies with them this week.