

KNOWING JESUS

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INTRODUCTION

At Austin Ridge Bible Church, we believe to be a Christian is to be in relationship with God. We want to know Him and be known by Him. Therefore, one of the most important decisions of our lives is the decision to be in relationship with Him through His Son, Jesus Christ.

The following study is an exploration of what it means to be in relationship with God. The next few pages will guide you through bible verses to help you understand:

1. Who God is
2. What Jesus has done for us
3. Who we are in Christ

Read the verses within each section and respond to the questions. At the end of the final section, take the self-assessment to see if you are at a place where you know, trust, and believe who God is, what Jesus has done for you, and who you are in Christ.

To begin, think about and answer the following questions:

PRE-STUDY ASSESSMENT

1. How confident are that you have a personal relationship with Jesus?
0% --- 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 - 9 - 10 --- 100%
2. How confident are you that you are going to heaven?
0% --- 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 - 9 - 10 --- 100%
3. If you are not confident in your faith in Jesus and you are not sure if you are going to heaven, briefly explain why you are not sure.

4. If you are confident in your faith in Jesus and are sure you are going to heaven, please explain why/how you are confident.

SUMMARY

The questions above are to help you identify if you believe you have a personal relationship with Jesus, and if you are confident that you will spend eternity with God in heaven. We believe that God's greatest desire is for you to know Him and be confident in your salvation and eternal security. If you are not confident in these things, what follows will help you understand how you can be sure. If you are confident, we hope you will be encouraged with the reminders found throughout this study.

1. WHO GOD IS

INTRODUCTION

In order to fully understand what it means to have a relationship with God, we need to know who He is. When we understand that God is a holy, just, loving, forgiving, and sacrificial Father – we can see why He desires to be in relationship with us and how we can be in relationship with Him.

Respond to the following questions based on the truths found in these verses.

A. CHARACTERISTICS

1. What stands out to you most about the following attributes of God?

Psalm 7:11 – God is a righteous judge.

1 John 4:8b – God is love.

Psalm 145:8 – The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love.

B. ACTIONS

2. What was God's greatest demonstration of "Who He Is?"

John 3:16 – *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."*

1 John 1:9 – *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

SUMMARY

God is a just, loving, forgiving Father who sacrificed His Son for the world so that we may be in relationship with Him. It is important to know that Christianity is unlike any other religion for a few reasons, and one of them is that our God desires relationship over "rules."

All religion is based on the individual keeping a bunch of rules, laws, and regulations. Even though God is a just and Holy God, His loving and fatherly heart desires all people to be in relationship with Him. He knew that we could not keep all the rules, laws, and regulations in our own power; we needed a Savior. This is why God sent His Son, Jesus.

2. WHAT JESUS DID FOR US

INTRODUCTION

We just learned that God is a just, loving, forgiving father who sacrificed His son so that we can be in relationship with Him. But, why was this sacrifice necessary? What was the sacrifice? What do we do in response to this sacrifice? Respond to the following questions based on the truths found in the verses.

A. OUR SIN

1. Sin is any disobedience to God. What are the effects of sin?

Ephesians 2:1-2 – “And you were dead in the trespasses and sins...”

Isaiah 59:2 – “But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.”

B. JESUS' WORK

2. What did Jesus do?

1 Peter 3:18 – “For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God.”

Romans 5:8 – “But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

C. OUR RESPONSE

3. How do we respond to Jesus' work? What happens if we respond the way we're encouraged to in Romans 10:9-10?

Romans 10:9-10 – “Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.”

SUMMARY

God desires a relationship with us, but He knew we could not live a holy, just life without His help. We are a sinful people who cannot save ourselves. We needed Jesus to die for our sins so that we may be forgiven for our sins. This sacrifice by Jesus is called “The Gospel,” or “The Good News.” When we believe in this Good News, we are saved. Ever since Adam and Eve's sin in the garden, mankind has been hindered and held back by sin. Each of us need to get to a place where we recognize we are helpless and hopeless without the Gospel. Once we do that, we open our hearts and minds to faith in Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. By trusting in this with our lives, we become children of God experiencing the restored relationship with the loving, gracious, forgiving Father.

3. WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST

INTRODUCTION

Once a person acknowledges their sin, believes that Jesus died and rose again for them, and trusts in Him as their Lord and Savior – their life in Christ begins. Many things take place, but these verses capture the main highlights of who we are in Christ.

A. FORGIVEN AND A NEW CREATION

1. What stands out to you most about these verses?

1 John 1:9 – *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins...”*

2 Corinthians 5:17 – *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation...”*

Galatians 2:20 – *“I have been crucified with Christ and no longer live, but Christ lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”*

B. AT PEACE WITH GOD AND FREE FROM CONDEMNATION

2. What do these verses say about what we have as a result of Christ’s work?

Romans 5:1 – *“Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

Romans 8:1 – *“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”*

C. SUSTAINED AND EMPOWERED

3. What do these verses say about the Holy Spirit and the role He plays once we believe?

John 14:26 – *“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.”*

Acts 1:8 – *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*

SUMMARY

When you trust in Jesus, a new life awaits. By God’s grace and through the power of His Holy Spirit, we can live a life that has meaning and purpose. Before Christ, we were helpless within a cycle of selfishness and sin. But for those who believe the Gospel, they have the opportunity to live a free life that is marked by love, grace, and peace. This does not mean your life will be perfect, but it does mean that you will experience power, grace, and strength throughout your life; living with a renewed purpose.

4. POST-STUDY REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT

STUDY REVIEW

- God is a just, loving, forgiving Father who sacrificed His Son for us.
- The sacrifice was necessary because we have all sinned.
- Jesus died for our sins so that whoever believes in him has eternal life.
- When we believe in Jesus, we are forgiven, a new creation, at peace with God, and free from guilt and shame, then sustained and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

1. Have you put your faith in Jesus for your salvation? Yes No
2. If you responded “no,” do you want to put your faith in Jesus? Yes No
3. If you desire to put your faith in Jesus, think and pray through the following:

RESPOND

- Acknowledge that you are a sinner.
- Believe that Jesus died as your substitute.
- Confess Him as your Lord and Savior.
- Decide to follow Him.

PRAY SOMETHING LIKE THIS . . .

“Dear God, I know that I am a sinner, and yet I also know that you love me. I believe that your son, Jesus, died on the cross as a substitute for my sins. I ask Jesus to be my Lord and Savior. I invite you into my life, God, and I want to follow your son. Amen.”

4. If you aren't sure you want to put your faith in Jesus, would you be willing to have a pastor contact you? Yes No

CONTACT US

We'd love to help you in your next steps of faith. If that means answering questions about this study, or helping you get plugged into our church, we would love to speak with you. Please feel free to contact Austin Ridge Bible Church at **512.263.7011**, to speak with a pastor.

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Best time to call: _____