



Life Is Complicated. We Can Help.

Knowing God

#nplifeiscomplicated

Week 20

January 17, 2021

Bottom Line: Your intimacy with God will impact your influence for God.

Icebreaker: Who was an influential person in your life before age 18? Why? Who currently is an influencer? Why?

Key Verse: *Here I am. I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him and him with me.* Revelation 3:20 NIV

When it comes down to it, knowing God isn't just important, it's life or death. It gives a whole new meaning to, "It's not what you do, it's Who you know." Everything that is not coming from the place of knowing God is meaningless. So, what does it mean to genuinely know God? The Hebrew word used is "Yah Dah," which means "to know intimately." It's a relationship that is honest and true, open and vulnerable. God invites us to an incredible privilege and opportunity. But we must take time to understand the essential ingredients for this relationship with God. Every great relationship is marked by the amount of time we put into it. That means I must be patient and invest time. It requires humility. I must be broken. Neither brokenness nor humility come naturally. When you know God, you can't help but express your heart. This means **I must learn to worship God authentically**, which develops through openness. **I must trust and be transparent** and learn to listen and obey. **I must invest time in Bible Study and prayer.** Jesus equated obedience and friendship. He said, "If you love me, you will obey me." We don't love someone yet consistently do the opposite of what they are wanting. Christ calls us to obedient surrender, so I act on His requests. **I must desire to please God more than myself**, realizing it is a relationship of grace. **Also, I must desire to trust God more than myself.** I can never earn God's grace. This means **I must learn to let God love me.** In no relationship does intimacy happen automatically. This yearning, hunger, and passion for God is the most important factor in an intimate relationship with Him. **To have true intimacy, I must desire intimacy with God more than anything else.** It can never be a casual or sometime thing. Knowing Christ is the top priority in life. When all is said and done, we will be known by Who we know. Who we know transforms our perspective, purity, peace, and power. Peter and John are living and powerful examples. They knew Jesus, and their intimate knowledge of Him transformed their influence from that day through the centuries till now. The same is true for us. Our intimacy with God will impact our influence for God. It begins and continues with the quality and depth of our relationship with Him.

THINK IT OVER >>>

What was the most significant part of today's message to you?

What are the things we typically consider as evidence that someone knows God?

Jesus describes the privilege of knowing God as the deepest friendship: "*No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you*" (John 15:15). How do you experience friendship with Jesus?

He also describes the invitation to know God as a very intimate invitation in Jewish culture; an invitation into a home (Revelation 3:20). How is this picture reflective of knowing God in your experience? What could be better?

Theology is the study of God. But truly KNOWING God is much more important than knowing about God. How is knowing ABOUT God often a deterrent from truly knowing God?

LOOK IT OVER <<<

In order to have an intimate, knowing relationship, we must invest time. How are you doing in spending time with God? How do you do it?

Which of the "musts" are currently most satisfying and consistent in your life right now? Where do you see a lack that needs adjusted? How can you change your situation?

Grace is a significant core of an intimate relationship with God. What does grace look like in your experience?

We tend to have seasons when things are more natural and easier than others. What is your spiritual appetite like right now? Why do you think that is so?

If you could be recognized by others as having been with Jesus, and could impact your world as Peter and John did, what are the obstacles that tend to reappear in your life to mute your influence? How could you address them?

NEXT STEPS

1. Evaluate your current intimacy with God.
2. Consider one thing that could happen on your side of the relationship to raise the intimacy level.
3. Put that action into practice. Remember, love does what the other one asks.

EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: Your intimacy with God will impact your influence for God.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Monday: John 4:21-24

Tuesday: James 4:8

Wednesday: Psalm 119:33-40

Thursday: 1 John 4:18

Friday: John 5:39-40

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.

(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)