



# MAKE.IT.COUNT.

## First Importance

#npmakeitcount

# Week 1

## 1 of 4

August 5, 2018

**Bottom Line:** Knowing God leads to maturity and trust.

**Icebreaker:** Tell about seeing a celebrity, if you ever have. Who is the most “important” or famous person you have ever met?

**Key Verse:** *But those who wish to boast should boast in this alone: that they truly know me and understand that I am the LORD who demonstrates unfailing love and who brings justice and righteousness to the earth, and that I delight in these things. I, the LORD, have spoken!* Jeremiah 9:24 NLT

Though people tend to boast about and find their worth in many other areas, the most significant and only lasting thing is to know God. “To know God is to love Him. To love Him is to trust Him. To trust Him is to obey Him. And to obey Him is to be blessed.” That is a mouthful—and a life full of wisdom and direction. Blessing all begins with knowing God. That is why from the beginning of God’s interactions with the people He loved and created, His greatest desire has been to know and be known by them. To this very day, He invites us to intimate relationship with Him, and to invest our one and only lives in the all wise and loving personal plan He has designed for us. Fulfillment is His goal for us, and He commits all of His resources to anyone whose goal is to know God.

He not only invites us to know Him, He generously rewards anyone who seeks earnestly to know Him (Hebrews 11:6). Besides the sheer joy of knowing Him as Father, He fills our lives with . . .

- Stability—He is the anchor in the midst of life’s storms.
- Security—He is always with us, ready to help us in any situation or circumstance.
- Serenity—He gives us quietness and peace in our spirits, no matter what happens. We trust Him to guide.
- Strength—He enables us to do whatever is called for and necessary.
- Sensitivity—He will increase our spiritual understanding and awareness to the needs of others.

Knowing God is the path to real life. Life is short. Eternity is long. Lasting significance and satisfaction is in knowing Him.

## THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most from the weekend message?

Discuss: “The reason you don’t obey God is because you don’t love Him.” Agree or disagree?

What do you learn about God that enables you to obey when you trust Him?

Peter tells us to grow in God’s grace—what He has done for us. What has He done for you that is an area for growth?

He also says to grow in the knowledge of the Lord, or grow in who He is. What are some areas of who God is that you could afford to grow in your knowledge of Him? A popular song calls Him the Waymaker, Paintaker, prison-shaking Savior, and a Chainbreaker. Any of these ways you could know Him better? Discuss.

## LOOK IT OVER <<<

Discuss: “Once you become aware that the purpose of life is to know God, the rest of life’s issues fall into place.” – J. I. Packer

“Most people know about God, but that is far different from knowing God.” – Billy Graham. What did he mean?

“It’s impossible to truly know who you are until you know God.” Agree or disagree? Why?

Lead Pastor Dwight Mason shared that the key ways to know God and build trust are through **practical teaching, providential relationships, private disciplines, pivotal circumstances, and personal ministry**. Which of these has been most prominent in your life with God so far? Where do you believe you need to investigate how God might grow you? What could you do to open your heart and life to that possibility?

## NEXT STEPS

This week consider taking some next steps together as a group:

- 1) If you are not regularly attending a small group, join one. Each person tell someone outside your group how small group is helping you.
- 2) If you are on a ministry team, share the good it is doing for your growth. If you are not, join one.

## EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

**Bottom Line:** Knowing God leads to maturity and trust.

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](http://newpointe.org/daily):

Monday: James 1:22

Tuesday: Proverbs 13:20

Wednesday: 1 Timothy 4:7-8

Thursday: 2 Corinthians 1:9

Friday: John 14:12-14

***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)*