

Key Scripture:

**Matthew 11:27 (NLT)**

*27 "My Father has entrusted everything to me. No one truly knows the Son except the Father, and no one truly knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."*

**Psalms 145:3 (NLT)**

*3 Great is the LORD! He is most worthy of praise!*

*No one can measure his greatness.*

**Job 26:14 (NLT)**

*14 These are just the beginning of all that he does,*

*merely a whisper of his power.*

*Who, then, can comprehend the thunder of his power?"*

**Colossians 1:15 (NLT)**

*15 Christ is the visible image of the invisible God.*

*He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation,*

**1 John 5:20 (NLT)**

*20 And we know that the Son of God has come, and he has given us understanding so that we can know the true God. And now we live in fellowship with the true God because we live in fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ. He is the only true God, and he is eternal life.*

**Jeremiah 9:23–24 (NLT)**

*23 This is what the LORD says:*

*"Don't let the wise boast in their wisdom, or the powerful boast in their power, or the rich boast in their riches.*

*24 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!*

Start **talking**. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- What are some ways that you try to get to know someone better?

Start **sharing**. These questions are to help get your group thinking and to create openness.

- What was it like when you met God for the first time? What are some challenges or joys that you face in knowing God more?
- **Read Matthew 11:27.** How does Jesus reveal the Father to us? What does this mean for us as Christians?
- Even though we can't see God, how do we know what He looks like? **Read Colossians 1:15** for a hint. How can you imitate Jesus in your daily life and relationships?
- **Read Psalm 145:3 & Job 26:14.** How big is God? Is our inability to know Him completely a source of frustration or fascination for you? What do you really want to know about God?
- How do you balance the desire to know more about God with the humility of accepting His incomprehensibility?
- **Read 1 John 5:20.** How does God give us understanding to know Him? How does knowing Jesus as the true God and eternal life affect your view of yourself, others, and the world?
- **Read Jeremiah 9:23–24.** How do we boast in knowing and understanding God? How do you avoid the temptation of boasting in your achievements or possessions?
- In your life, how do you demonstrate the importance of knowing God?

Start **doing**. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Choose one attribute of God that you want to know more about and study it in the Bible. Write down what you learn and how it affects your view of God and yourself.

Start **praying**. Be bold and pray with power.

- Praise God for who He is and that He chose to reveal Himself and to be knowable. Give thanks that because of this, we can have a relationship and we can choose to accept Him as our Savior and Lord.

Question: "What is the key to truly knowing God?"

Answer: Within all of us there exists a strong desire to be known and to know others. The most important Person to know is our Creator. In fact, Jesus taught that eternal life is not just a span of time; it is a relationship: "Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent" (John 17:3).

The key to truly knowing God is found in what God has revealed about Himself in the Bible. He wants to be known (see Acts 17:27). The problem is our sinfulness. We are all sinful (Romans 3), and we fall short of the standard of holiness required to commune with God. We have "exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles" (Romans 1:23). So, in order to truly know God, we must first acknowledge our sin and repent of it (see Acts 3:19).

In turning from sin, we must turn to Jesus Christ, the only Savior from sin. In Jesus alone is salvation (Acts 4:12). We receive Jesus by faith: "As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name" (John 1:12, NKJV). Jesus' death and resurrection provided for the forgiveness of our sin, and He alone is the way to a personal knowledge of God: "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through Me" (John 14:6, NKJV).

Jesus revealed to us who God is, so in knowing God we must look to Jesus: "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. . . . Believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me" (John 14:9–10; cf. John 17:6). Every work that Jesus did was in obedience to the Father in heaven (John 5:19). Every word Jesus spoke was straight from the Father (John 12:49). To know God, we must know Jesus.

Another key ingredient in truly knowing God is reading the Bible, God's Word. In the Bible we have God's revelation of His character, His promises, and His will. It is through the Bible that we know that God is "a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness" (Psalm 86:15). It is through the Bible that we know that God is "mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes" (Deuteronomy 10:17). It is through the Bible that we know that God is "the King eternal, immortal, invisible," worthy of "honor and glory for ever and ever" (1 Timothy 1:17).

Truly knowing God also comes through our commitment to obey what we read in the Scriptures. We were saved unto good works (Ephesians 2:10), and, as we obey the Lord, we become part of God's plan of continuing to reveal Himself to the world. We are salt and light on this earth (Matthew 5:13–14), designed to bring God's flavor to the world and to serve as a shining light in the midst of darkness. Jesus Himself placed the greatest importance on loving God with all we are and loving our neighbor as ourselves (Matthew 22:37–40).

These are the keys to truly knowing God. Of course, those who know God will also be committed to prayer, fellowship with other believers, sincere worship, and walking in the Spirit. Jesus taught His disciples about the Holy Spirit, contrasting the world's ignorance of Him with the disciples' knowledge: "The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you" (John 14:17). It is through the Spirit of God that we have "adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, 'Abba, Father.' The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children" (Romans 8:15–16). Through Christ and the indwelling Holy Spirit, our lives can be filled with God, and we can experience the joy of truly knowing Him.