

Potential Discussion Questions

Message: Why Know God? (1-21-18)

1. What does it mean to you to be really known? Who, besides your spouse, really knows you? Why is it vulnerable and even scary to be fully known?
2. What do you feel you know about God? What would you like to know? What excites you about this series?
3. Do you agree that the Father is the most neglected member of the trinity? Why or why not?
4. If someone asked you, "Why does it really matter that you know God?" how would you answer?
5. In the message, a number of quotes were shared. Several are printed below for your reference. Read them and share your thoughts, observations, questions, etc. Which one strikes you most powerfully?
6. The message gave three biblical reasons why we must know God. Interact on these. Read the Scripture noted on the outline and share your insights.
7. Read Jeremiah 9:23-24 together. What strikes you in this verse? How have you been thinking about it since Sunday (or before) in its application and motivation in your life?

Why do you think God, through the prophet, speaks to Mind (wisdom), Might and Money (riches) as major substitutes for boasting in knowing God? Do you, have you wrestled with these false suitors? How? What is necessary to keep God in His rightful place?

8. What does God really mean by *boasting* in understanding and knowing Him? Why the specifics (*lovingkindness, justice and righteousness*)?
9. What about God do you delight in most? Besides what Jeremiah states, what delights God? How do you feed your delight in what delights God?
10. What would you like to discuss in this passage that hasn't already been addressed?
11. How has this study encouraged you? challenged you? convicted you?
12. What is your best take-away from this study? How would you like others to pray for you in regard to this text?

Quotes for reflection and discussion:

"What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us." (A W Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy*)

"The history of mankind will probably show that no people has ever risen above its religion, and man's spiritual history will positively demonstrate that no religion has ever been greater than its idea of God. Worship is pure or base as the worshiper entertains high or low thoughts of God." (A W Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy*)

"Christian minds have been conformed to the modern (now we would say post-modern) spirit, that is, that spawns great thoughts of man and leaves room for only small thoughts of God. The modern way with God is to set him at a distance, if not to deny him altogether." (John Stott, *Knowing God*)

"... the gravest question before the Church is always God Himself, and the most portentous fact about any man is not what he at a given time may say or do, but what he in his deep heart conceives God to be like. We tend by a secret law of the soul to move toward our mental image of God." (A W Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy*)

"The most revealing thing about the Church is her idea of God, just as her most significant message is what she says about Him or leaves unsaid, for her silence is often more eloquent than her speech. She can never escape the self-disclosure of her witness concerning God." (A W Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy*)

"Perverted notions about God soon rot the religion in which they appear. ... The first step down for any church is taken when it surrenders its high opinion of God. ... When viewed from the perspective of eternity, the most critical need of this hour may well be that the Church should be brought back from her long Babylonian captivity, and the name of God be glorified in her again as of old." (A W Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy*)

"We simply kid ourselves that we are Christians if we use the glorious gospel of Christ to get what we love more than Christ. The "good news" will not prove good to any for whom God is not the chief good. ... It is a biblical absurdity to think we want eternal life and not want to know God. (John Piper, *Pierced by the Word*)