

KNOWING GOD

Lesson 1

Understanding the Character of God

Related Scriptures about God's character

His Goodness: God is good, all the time.

"The Lord is good to everyone. He showers compassion on all his creation." (Psalm 145:9 NLT)

His Sovereignty: God knows everything and is in complete control.

"He (God) existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together." (Colossians 1:17 NLT)

His Holiness: God is set apart from His creation, perfect and independent.

"LORD, the God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below." (1 Kings 8:23 NIV)

His Wisdom: God's perfect knowledge always leads to the best decisions.

"Oh, how great are God's riches and wisdom and knowledge! How impossible it is for us to understand his decisions and his ways!" (Romans 11:33 NLT)

His Justice: Life is not always fair; God is.

"Then let the heavens proclaim his justice, for God himself will be the judge." (Psalm 50:6 NLT)

His Love: God's love will always find us.

"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." (Luke 19:10 NIV)

His Faithfulness: God never breaks His promises.

"For the word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does." (Psalm 33:4 NIV)



The big takeaway:

GOD LONGS FOR US TO SEE
HIM – AS HE REALLY IS

Many people see God as a celestial vending machine that will give them whatever they want. The honest truth is, God loves us too much to give us what we want; He will always give us what we need.



Main Verse:

John 17:3 (NLT)

And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you sent

Talk About the Video

Pick a few questions to best help you, your friends or family to talk about the video

- What did you like most about the video?
- What did it teach about God?
- Although the first two kids got what they wanted from the vending machine, they ended up being very frustrated. Why do you think this happened?

Please Read the Big Idea and Key Verse.

- Whom do you imagine God is? Pick five words that you think best describe God and write them down. What do they mean and why have you picked them?
- If God loves to give us good things, why isn't He like a vending machine?
- If God is always there for us, why does it sometimes feel like He's far away?
- The narrator ends the story by saying, "Maybe it's better if we let God tell us who He And base our picture of Him on what He says about Himself." In your opinion, how can we let this happen?
- What do other people think is true about you? Why does that matter to your relationship with them?
- The narrator said, "What you think about God is the most important thing about you." Why do you think this is true? Why did he say this?

(This may be a tough question especially for kids. Please take a moment to let it "sink" in and then share your response. The truth is, what we think about God influences every attitude, thought, and action we take. If we believe God is loving, then we won't let our guilt keep us from Him. If we believe God doesn't care about us, we'll live according to our own standard.)

Action

What you, your family and friends can do to further understand God's character for the rest of the week

- Memorise the key Scripture

<p>KNOWING GOD God longs for you to see Him as He really is.</p>	<p><i>"And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ home you have sent"</i> <i>(Jeremiah 29:13 NLT)</i></p>
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- Question you can ask yourself in the morning on way to school or work:
 - If you could have anything from God, what would it be? How would you feel if you never got it?
 - God knows the difference between our needs and our wants ... what is one thing you absolutely need from God today?

- Questions for the evening on the way home from school/work or at dinner time:
- The narrator said, *“What if God had a purpose for you that was bigger than things?”* What do you think that purpose might be?

- Which of the following phrases best describes your spiritual journey right now? Why?

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- (a) I feel close to God.
 - (b) I don't think about God unless I want something.
 - (c) I wonder if God loves me just as I am.
 - (d) I feel like I'm growing.
 - (e) I feel like I'm struggling.
 - (f) I love God, but I want to know more about Him.

- Think through some of the views you had about God and share a couple of these with your family and friends this week. Be vulnerable, as this will encourage your kids and others. Here are a few prompts to get you thinking: *What do you love most about your relationship with God? What is your favourite “thing” that you experience as a child of God? Did you ever have a false and maybe funny view of God that was later corrected?*

- Here are a few suggestions for what to meditate on during the week
- God longs for me to see Him—as He really is.
 - *“If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me.” Jeremiah 29:13 (NLT)*
 - God isn't a vending machine that gives me what I want; God gives me what we need.
 - God is always there for me, and He loves to give good things.