



growthtrack

— 02 —

KNOWING GOD

Welcome to Growth Track II

Knowing God.

This book and material has been crafted intentionally in a format to help you and your Disciplex walk through a deepening of your faith journey and relationship with God.

Each Session:

1. Begin by taking a time of reflection - look back on what was walked out the prior week(s) so that we can continue to build on what the Lord has been speaking to you week after week. This is an important time, and we don't want to rush through it. Our goal is not to simply "finish a study," we want to focus on what the Lord is saying so that we are able to draw closer to God.
2. Next we'll watch that week's video and discuss it. While watching note what stood out to you. Maybe it was a particular verse, or maybe an overall concept. Discuss with your Disciplex what the Lord was prompting in your heart. Take time to discuss the personal specifics, seeking how to apply it to your personal life/walk with God.
3. At the end of each session, we will take the things that have been discussed and talk about some clear "action steps". Our walk with God does not have to be ambiguous - He is a very personal God and will make clear the steps we need to take to go deeper in our walk with Him.

Our truest desire is to help you grow closer and stronger with God - to know His voice and to experience the reality of His presence. We know this will come with some contention, but as we push through the barriers and walk together through this journey, our belief is that your relationship with God will be able to move to a whole new level.

REFLECT

On a scale from 1 to 10, how well are you actively and consistently connecting with God?
Why?

As we go through these sessions which are focused on a deeper relationship and connection with God, what are you most hopeful to receive?

INTRODUCTION

Have you ever wondered why your passion or focus on God is inconsistent? That even when you know the “right things” to do, you just can’t seem to consistently carry them out. This first session is focused on the MAIN THING - the foundation to our entire Christian faith. We will look at what Jesus calls the GREATEST and how we can actively stay connected to God.



Watch Session 1 Video- The Main Thing

Discussion Questions

In your own words, what does it look like to have an intimate relationship with God?

How is a relationship with God different than just gaining knowledge of God or just following a list of ‘dos and don’ts’?

John 15:5 says, “*I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing...*”. **Why does Jesus say we can do “nothing” apart from Him? What could it look like to stay continuously connected to God?**

What is the biggest thing that you can see that is keeping you from experiencing the fullness of the connection that God wants to have with you? How can you begin to make your relationship with God a priority for your life?

ACTION POINTS

Over the next week or two, until we meet again, set time aside to spend with God every single day. Read for 20 minutes a day and **write down everything that you feel God was pulling out of those Scriptures as a way to reveal Himself to you**. We will discuss some of those revelations next time we meet. (If you are looking for a place to start reading, we recommend starting in the book of John and reading straight through the rest of the New Testament).

REFLECT

In the previous week(s), were you able to spend consistent time with God? How did that go?

What are some things that you were noticing as you were reading Scripture?

INTRODUCTION

Since our love relationship with God is at the very foundation of our faith, it is important for us to know how we can cultivate and develop a heart that truly loves God. When we love something or someone, it is not hard to speak highly about that, to sacrifice for it, or to spend time participating in things that keep that passion burning. The same goes with our love relationship with God. There are ways that we can spend our time and focus our energy so that praise naturally flows from the overflow of our heart and mind.



Watch Session 2 Video- Knowing God by Seeking Him

Discussion Questions

Pr Mark mentioned that seeking God is when we pursue God with priority and draw near to Him. What things can be done to draw near to God?

Read Hebrews 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

What do you think it means when it says that God rewards those who seek Him?

When the Bible says we should “know God,” it is using a word that is referring to an intimate knowledge of someone. **What does it look like to know God in your life?**

ACTION POINTS

Is God the priority of your life based on your time, energy and efforts? What can you do to seek God more as the top priority in your life? Of the things you listed that can be done to draw near to God – what is one thing that you can add into your day starting now?

As you spend time with God, continue to read for 20 minutes, write down what God is saying to you and ask God relational questions. Below are some examples of personal relational questions you can ask Him.

- **What is something you love about me?**
- **Where is an area I can trust You more?**
- **Is there anything in the way of my heart being fully yours? How can I give more of myself to You in my daily life?**

REFLECT

As you asked God personal questions, what were some things that He began to show you?

INTRODUCTION

As we continue to build in the depth of our relationship with God, we have already covered that we have to approach God, to draw near to Him, to seek Him. But that is easier said than done. There are hindrances that keep us from approaching God with confidence so we can often shrink back and be timid or even defeated in our seeking of God. But God tells us to approach Him with boldness and confidence. (Ephesians 3:12)

Today we are going to explore those hindrances that keep us from coming boldly before God and see how to approach God with confidence and assurance.



Watch Session 3 Video- Approaching God with Confidence

Discussion Questions

One of the enemy's main tactics is to take our attention off of God and put it on ourselves. How does this keep us from approaching God with confidence?

Hebrews 4:16 tells us: Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. **What is it that gives us the right and the confidence to approach God with confidence?**

Of the three hindrances mentioned (God's holiness, our guilty conscience and Satan's accusations), which one do you see is used against you the most to keep you from seeking God with confidence?

ACTION POINTS

How can you begin to combat the lies and accusations of the enemy that want to make you timid in your seeking of God?

As you spend time with God, continue to read for 20 minutes, **write down what God is saying to you.** Before you begin each time, take 5 minutes or so to begin by focusing on Jesus and taking your eyes off of you. Below is a sample prayer, but we encourage you to make it your own.

Father, no matter what is going on in my life today, I am choosing to worship you. You are a good God, a faithful God. You have never failed me and I know you won't start now. God, I put my eyes on you. There is nothing too big for you, too powerful for you. You are the One who was, who is and is to come. You are the GREAT I AM. You reign on high. You are worthy of all of my praise, honor and glory. You are worthy of my time and my trust. You are worthy of my full surrender. And so God I lay down every right I have today. I give up total control of my life and I pursue you. You are the Way, the Truth and the Life. Open my eyes that I may see and open my ears to hear your Word with a fresh perspective. In Jesus Name, amen.

REFLECT

As you spent time worshiping God before your time with Him, what was your experience? Was there any challenge to this? How did it impact the rest of your time with God?

INTRODUCTION

We've been exploring how we can approach God with confidence and boldness, knowing that we are received by God with arms wide open. But many of us have experienced times where it feels like just a discipline or a duty to spend time with God. Of course, that is not the heart with which we want to seek God— we want to do it because we love God and we want to be with Him.

Our relationship with God is incredibly unique. The very Holy Spirit that dwells inside of us thrives through the connection with the Spirit of God. Today we will explore how we can connect with God - not just do the discipline of a time with God.



Watch Session 4 Video- Drawing God's Presence

Discussion Questions

How is our personal Prayer Altar a gateway between the physical realm and the spiritual realm?

What does it look like to saturate in the Word of God instead of just reading the Bible for some spiritual nuggets of information?

How have you seen that your times with God have created a positive atmosphere for the Presence of God?

ACTION POINTS

Do you have a specific time and place set for your time with God that is consistent and without distractions? If yes, when and where? If not, when can you set that time and place?

This next week or two, as you spend time with God, **continue to take note of what God shows you in the Scriptures.** After your time of reading, take time to worship the God that is being revealed to you in those passages.

REFLECT

How consistently have you been able to spend time with God?

How impactful have your times been with God each day?

What are you seeing coming against your time with the Lord?

INTRODUCTION

The past few weeks, we have looked at various ways to truly connect with God. Today we are going to do something a bit different - we are going to put all that we have talked about into practice together.

Because we are seeking to encounter the spiritual realm, there is a spiritual battle that each of us faces when it comes to a vibrant relationship with God. This week we hope to address those challenges so we can press through the barriers that each of us faces.



Watch Session 5 Video- Spend Time with God

Putting It Into Practice

Take a moment right now to read John 1-3 together. As you read, write down anything that God is showing you about His character, His nature, how He responds, who He is, etc.

Take a few minutes to discuss those things together.

Now, spend 20 minutes worshipping and praying together. Remember to start your prayer time by putting your eyes on God - how great He is, how powerful He is, how faithful He is, etc. Let this be the main focus of your prayer time.

As your faith increases, begin to cast your cares, burdens and battles over to Him.

ACTION POINTS

Take time this week to read through the entire book of John. **Make a note of anything getting in the way.** Next week we will talk about what hindrances you had, some areas where you might be getting stuck, etc. so we can see the fullness of His presence in our times with Him.

We also encourage you to find at least one day or time where you can have an extended, uninterrupted time with God - potentially 1-2 hours where you can read, pray and worship with no time constraints.

REFLECT

Look back on your notes, as you read through the book of John and spent time worshiping and praying, did you find that there were any hindrances to your time?

Were you able to experience the Presence of God? If yes, how was that experience?

What did God speak to you or show you during these times with Him?

INTRODUCTION

Through the past several weeks, we pray that you have been able to see the value of a vibrant love relationship with God. It is so much more than just disciplines to carry out but rather walking with our Heavenly Father. You likely faced times where things were smooth and other times where you struggled - but that's okay. When our relationship with our Heavenly Father is at the centerpiece of our Christianity, we simply come back to Him.

In this final session, we will continue to focus on how we can continue to know God through our experiences with Him.



Watch Session 6 Video- Knowing God by Experience

Discussion Questions

Why is it important for us to understand that our role is to simply just obey what God says and His job is to bring the breakthrough and revelation that is needed along the way?

Read John 14:15 & 24

15 If you love me, you will obey what I command.

24 He who does not love me will not obey my teaching.

Explain how obedience is a love problem and not just a will-power problem.

Why is disobedience costly for our lives and our calling?

What is the last thing that you know God spoke to you? Are you in full obedience with that word?

ACTION POINTS

We all try to “commit” to things with the very best intentions - but in ourselves, we will fail. This is why it is important to know what the Lord is speaking to us because once He speaks it, (makes it known to us), we know that we will have the overcoming power, faith, endurance, and perseverance to see it all the way through!

Congratulations!

You have finished Growth Track II - Knowing God. It is our prayer and desire that you have come to know God more intimately and personally. As we discovered, our relationship with Him is the very centerpiece of our Christian faith.

Without doubt, you will face ups and downs in your walk with God. There will be days and seasons where you feel full of faith. And there will be days and seasons where you might struggle with your focus on God and your faith in God.

The blessing that we have is that God did not call us to walk a road of perfection but rather to walk a road where we seek Him – and if we seek Him, we will find Him. The more we get to know Him, the more in love with God we become.

This walk of faith is not a sprint, it is a marathon. And so we pray this is the beginning or the reconnection needed for your life to be fully on fire for God.

Continue to take the teachings that Pr Mark has laid out and apply them to your life. Spend time reading, praying, and worshiping Him.

We are here to walk this road together - so please, when you face obstacles, challenges, and battles, talk to your Disciple and Group Leader! We definitely need one another to make it all the way through! Keep fighting the fight of faith, friends!

