

GOD QUESTIONS??

Questions about God and faith that matter.

Is it possible to know God?

Series Overview

Does God really exist? If God is good, why is there suffering in the world? Can you trust what the Bible says? In this short series, we'll address these and similar questions so that we can have confidence in what we believe and be prepared to give an answer to those who are searching (1 Pet. 3:15).

Sermon Introduction

Blaise Pascal famously claimed that every person has an “infinite abyss can be filled only with an infinite and immutable object; in other words by God himself” (*Pensées*, 11.181). As humans, we have a longing, not just to know *about* God, whether he exists or what he's like, but to truly know him. But how do you get to a God who is “infinite and immutable”? How do you know a God like that? And, even if it was possible, would you want to?

Passage: John 14:6-7 (NIV)

John 14:6 Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 14:7 If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

Personal Reflection and Group Discussion Questions

1. Read the passage. What stood out to you? Was there anything that you found surprising or confusing?
2. What does knowing God mean to you? What are different ways people try to reach God or connect with him (e.g., meditation, rituals, etc.)? What are the benefits and dangers of these sorts of religious practices?
3. In these verses, Jesus says the only way to have a relationship with God is through him. Why isn't going to church (or any other religious service), or reading Scripture, or prayer the way to God?

4. Scripture teaches that we are unable to access God because of sin that separates us from him (cf. Romans 3:21-25; 6:23). How is Jesus “the way and the truth and the life” that we need?
5. What was Jesus saying about himself when he said that anyone who knows him knows the Father, and anyone who’s seen him has seen the Father (v. 7)? Do you think it’s possible to truly know God apart from knowing Jesus? Why or why not?
6. The religious experts of Jesus’ day knew a great deal about what the scriptures said about God. Why isn’t knowing *about* God enough to satisfy the deepest longings of our hearts?
7. Based on this passage, if someone you knew wanted to meet God, what would you tell them?

Prayer

Often a position of submission helps us physically connect with the spiritual reality of meeting God. A posture of kneeling with open hands can demonstrate our willingness to submit to God’s power.

- Praise God that, while he is “infinite and immutable,” he makes himself known to us through Jesus.
- Confess any ways that you’ve tried to fill your “infinite abyss” with something other than God himself.
- Thank God that he knows you and that Jesus gave his life to rescue you from life without him and bring you into the eternal life you were made for.
- Commit to growing deeper in your relationship with God through reading scripture and prayer throughout your week.