

I AM WHO I AM - Introduction

How would you define God? Has it changed over the years? If yes, how so?

Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is His name?' Then what shall I tell them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" (Exod. 3:13-14)

☛ **Danger: reducing God to manageable terms – YOU ARE who I am** – "For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him...they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles." (Rom. 1:21a, 23) **What are some popular ideas about God within our culture that are not biblically true?**

- **God is not like us** – "God is spirit, and His worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth." (John 4:24)

Look up this verse in a good study bible, read what it says. Then, discuss what it means to practically worship God both in spirit and truth.

"To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One...Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. (Isaiah 40:25, 28a)

- **Your view of God will drive how you live** – "My people are fools; they do not know me. They are senseless children; they have no understanding. They are skilled in doing evil; they know not how to do good.'" (Jer. 4:22)

Go back to those popular ideas about God within our culture and discuss how they might result in the way people live.

J.I. Packer's four evidences of knowing God accurately...

- 1) You have great **energy** for God.
- 2) You have great **thoughts** of God.
- 3) You have great **boldness** for God.
- 4) You have great **contentment** in God.

On a scale of 1 to 5, rate each of four points above as they are present in your own life? Which one rates highest in your life and which of the four is the least high? Which of the four do you desire to elevate? How could you do that?

- **The invisible God made a personal appearance in Jesus Christ** – "You are not yet fifty years old,' the Jews said to Him, 'and you have seen Abraham!' 'I tell you the truth,' Jesus answered, 'before Abraham was born, I am!'" (John 8:57-58)

The point is not to know about God in facts, but to know God in love ...

"We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know Him who is true. And we are in Him who is true – even in His Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life." (1 John 5:20)

As a group discuss and then pray together using the following questions as a guide: How have I reduced God to a factual knowledge? In lieu of that, how can I begin/continue/build a relationship with him?