

Small Group Guide: "Now You See": Life in Progress Week 2



Summary:

In this exploration of John 14:1-14, we're challenged to move beyond simply knowing about God to truly knowing Him personally. The sermon emphasizes that our faith should be relational, not just informational. Jesus' words 'I am the way, the truth, and the life' aren't just a nice saying, but a profound invitation to intimacy with God. We're reminded that spending dedicated time with God, like we do in meaningful relationships, is crucial for spiritual growth. The message beautifully illustrates how knowing Christ intimately leads to genuine understanding and transformation in our thoughts, feelings, and actions. As we reflect on this, let's ask ourselves: How can we deepen our relationship with God today? Are we treating our faith as a checklist, or as a living, breathing relationship with our Creator?

Key Takeaways:

1. Our faith should be relational, not just informational.
2. Intimate knowing of Christ leads to legitimate understanding and growth.
3. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life - our entire reason for living.
4. Mature faith focuses on who you're with (Jesus), not where you're going.
5. True knowledge of God leads to changes in thinking, feeling, and acting.

Discussion Questions:

1. The pastor mentioned that sometimes we treat our faith like a checklist. Have you ever found yourself doing this? How can we shift from an informational faith to a relational one?

2. Reflect on the statement: "When we forget the person of Christ, our faith that should be relational becomes informational." How have you experienced this in your own spiritual journey?

3. The sermon emphasized the importance of spending dedicated time with God. What are some practical ways we can create space for this in our busy lives?

4. How does understanding Jesus as "the way, the truth, and the life" impact your daily decisions and priorities?

5. The pastor said, "Mature faith is knowing that it's not about where you're going, it's about who you're with." How might this perspective change the way we approach our spiritual growth and life challenges?

6. Discuss the three areas of change when we truly know God: intellectual, emotional, and purposeful. Which area do you feel you've experienced the most growth in recently?

Practical Applications:

1. Commit to spending dedicated time with God this week. Start with 5-10 minutes of uninterrupted time in prayer or Bible reading.
2. Choose a passage from the Gospel of John to read this week. Approach it as a conversation with God, asking Him to reveal Himself to you through the text.
3. Reflect on your current relationship with Jesus. Is it more informational or relational? Write down one step you can take to deepen your personal connection with Him.
4. Practice viewing your daily activities through the lens of "Jesus is the life." How does this change your approach to work, family, or personal goals?
5. Share with the group next week how applying these insights has impacted your walk with God.

Closing Prayer

5-day Bible reading plan and devotional guide:



Day 1: Knowing God Personally

Reading: John 14:1-7

Devotional: Jesus tells us, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." Today, reflect on what it means to truly know God, not just know about Him. Our faith is meant to be relational, not merely informational. How can you move beyond surface-level knowledge to a deeper, more intimate relationship with Christ? Consider setting aside dedicated time today to simply be in God's presence, opening your heart to Him and listening for His voice.

Day 2: Living in Freedom

Reading: Galatians 5:1-6

Devotional: Christ has set us free, yet often we continue to live as though we're still bound by our past sins and mistakes. Remember that "Just because you didn't suffer the punishment doesn't mean the payment wasn't made." How might your life look different if you fully embraced the freedom Christ died to give you? Identify one area where you've been holding yourself back, and prayerfully surrender it to God, accepting His grace and forgiveness.

Day 3: Seeing the Father in Jesus

Reading: John 14:8-14

Devotional: Philip asked Jesus to show them the Father, not realizing that in seeing Jesus, he had already seen the Father. Sometimes we too can miss God's presence right in front of us. Today, look for glimpses of God's character in the world around you - in nature, in acts of kindness, in moments of beauty. How does seeing Jesus help you understand the Father's heart better? Ask God to open your spiritual eyes to recognize His presence in your daily life.

Day 4: Bearing Fruit Through Relationship

Reading: John 15:1-8

Devotional: Jesus teaches that when we abide in Him, we will bear much fruit. Our good works should flow naturally from our relationship with Christ, not be a means to earn His love. Examine your motivations - are you striving to earn God's favor, or are your actions a natural outpouring of your love for Him? Spend time today "abiding" in Christ's presence, allowing His love to fill you and overflow into your interactions with others.

Day 5: Trusting God's Guidance

Reading: Proverbs 3:5-6

Devotional: When facing uncertainty, we often ask, "Where am I going?" But perhaps the better question is, "Who am I with?" Today's passage reminds us to trust in the Lord with all our heart, acknowledging Him in all our ways. Rather than fixating on your destination, focus on walking closely with God in each moment. What would it look like to trust God's guidance fully in your current circumstances? Ask Him for the faith to follow wherever He leads, knowing that His presence is more important than the path.