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## Do you Experience God?

Scott Merriner, October 3, 2021  
*Small Group Discussion Questions*

### Getting Started

Take some time to catch up and connect as a group. Pray before discussion.  
Expect God to move through your time together!

### Pacing Your Group

Move quickly through “observation” leaving enough time for “reflection”, “discussion”, and “surrender.”

### Scripture Reading

Re-read the scripture passages as needed when you discuss the questions.

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### Observation: *What does this scripture passage say?*

#### *Take some time to look up and read: John 5:19-20a*

*So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise. For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing.*

1. Describe Jesus’ relationship with God. How do they interact?
  2. How does Jesus know what to do?
  3. Jesus this message to his followers throughout the gospels. Why do you think he repeats this over and over?
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### Reflection and Discussion: *What are some first thoughts flowing from the scriptures?*

#### *Talk together about how the scriptures connect to everyday life.*

4. Where are you? Members of your group can be in many different places in their spiritual walk. Take some time to talk openly about where you are in your relationship and experience of God. Choose which descriptions below match your present relationship with God, and talk about why:

nonexistent  
plateaued  
in decline  
confused  
exciting

growing  
miraculous  
victorious  
discouraging  
powerful

bewildered  
defeated  
dynamic  
contagious  
hopeless

joyful  
sinful  
embarrassing  
deepening  
ashamed

Continue on the next page...

5. Merely **knowing** about God will leave you unsatisfied. God wants you to **experience** Him as He reveals Himself to you through His word and as you relate to Him. Below is a list of descriptions of God from the Bible. Which characteristics of God are undeniably true to you because you have experienced them? Share a story with your group. There is great encouragement in remembering the stories of God at work in your life.

|  |                                     |                                  |
|--|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| my witness (Job 16:19)                   | God who avenges me (Ps. 18:47)      | Lord of lords (1 Tim. 6:15)      |
| bread of life (John 6:35)                | God who saves me (Ps. 51:14)        | Lord of the harvest (Matt. 9:38) |
| Comforter in sorrow (Jer. 8:18)          | our guide (Ps. 48:14)               | mediator (1 Tim. 2:5)            |
| my hope (Ps. 71:5)                       | our head (2 Chron. 13:12)           | our peace (Eph. 2:14)            |
| Wonderful Counselor (Isa. 9:6)           | head of the church (Eph. 5:23)      | Prince of Peace (Isa. 9:6)       |
| defender of widows (Ps. 68:5)            | our help (Ps. 33:20)                | my Redeemer (Ps. 19:14)          |
| the strength of my salvation (Ps. 140:7) | my hiding place (Ps. 32:7)          | refuge and strength (Ps. 46:1)   |
| Faithful and True (Rev. 19:11)           | a great High Priest (Heb. 4:14)     | my salvation (Exod. 15:2)        |
| our Father (Isa. 64:8)                   | Holy One in your midst (Hosea 11:9) | my help (Ps. 42:5)               |
| a sure foundation (Isa. 28:16)           | righteous Judge (2 Tim. 4:8)        | the Good Shepherd (John 10:11)   |
| my friend (John 15:14)                   | King of kings (1 Tim. 6:15)         | Lord (Luke 2:29)                 |
| Almighty God (Gen. 17:1)                 | our life (Col. 3:4)                 | my stronghold (Ps. 18:2)         |
| God of all comfort (2 Cor. 1:3)          | light of life (John 8:12)           | my support (2 Sam. 22:19)        |
|  |                                     | Good Teacher (Mark 10:17)        |

6. Which description of God's nature would you like to experience more fully? Why does this aspect of God's nature stand out to you?
7. Experiencing God is strongly connected to these three realities:
1. God invites us to join His work.
  2. We must learn to hear God's invitation.
  3. Experiencing God unlocks the rewards of obedience.

Which of these three realities is easiest for you to embrace? Which reality is hardest to apply to your life? Talk about it.

**Surrender: Responding to God's voice.**

8. What is one thing God is saying to you through this study and discussion?

**\*\* Take some time to pray for one another in response to what has been discussed today \*\***

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Questions, discussion prompts, and small group challenges have been influenced and derived from *Experiencing God* (Blackaby, 2021) and related materials. We encourage your use of all Blackaby resources for deeper study. – Blackaby.org

**We're here!**

We would love to hear about how things are going in your small group! Reach out any time with questions, ideas, thoughts, or concerns. Contact Care & Community Pastor, Michael Warren, (907) 646-4830, [communitylife@changeportalaska.com](mailto:communitylife@changeportalaska.com)