

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

KINGDOM COME - WHO IS GOD?

Genesis 1:1

Pastor Miles McPherson – February 23, 2014

MEMORY VERSE

“Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord” (Jeremiah 9:23-24, ESV).

DISCUSSION STARTERS

What part of a personality is most important to you in looking for a friend? Why?
What do you think it means that God is “personal?”
What traits do you usually think of if you think of God’s personality?

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

God is Knowable

Read Jeremiah 9:23-24.

- What is the difference between knowing about God, and knowing God? Why does God want us to truly know Him?
- What kinds of things in our lives keep us from truly knowing God?

The word translated “know” in this passage is a very intimate one; it goes well beyond just knowing facts about God. Rather, this is a personal relationship with the God of the universe. The first and greatest barrier to having this kind of relationship with God is sin. Because of our sin, all of us are separated from God. But because of His great love for us, God has made a way for us to truly know and be in relationship with Him through Jesus Christ.

Once we are forgiven and accepted through Jesus, though, we still might not prioritize knowing God. We live in a crowded culture where things are constantly shifting our attention from the greatest goal in the universe, which is to know God. If we want to know this God who is knowable, we must push past the noise and intentionally seek to know Him better through the Bible and prayer. The Holy Spirit will use these things as a means to deepen our relationship with Him.



God is approachable

Read Hebrews 4:14-16.

- Why is it important that Jesus is sympathetic to what we need and feel? What does that mean about God's approachability?
- How does knowing that God is approachable change the way you pray?

Jesus has faced and conquered every temptation and pain that we will face. That means for us, as Christians, there is always someone who understands exactly what we are going through. God relates to us not as someone who doesn't know about our struggles, but as one who has experienced them. So when we pray, we can know that because of Jesus we can always approach God's throne confidently and honestly, knowing that He is ready and willing to not only listen but also help.

God is creative

Read Genesis 1:1-5.

- How is the way God creates different than the way humans create?
- What does God's creativity influence the way that we view Him and His activity in our lives?

God speaks things into existence. He doesn't have to rely on what currently is; He makes something come from nothing. Just as He did at the very creation of the universe, so God can create in our lives. When we relate to God, we can know that He is more powerful than we can possibly imagine. That means there is nothing too big or too small to talk to Him about.

God is forgiving

Read 1 John 1:8-9.

- Have you ever struggled to believe that God fully and completely forgives you? Why or why not?
- How does it affect our relationship with God if we don't truly believe in His forgiveness?

The forgiveness of God doesn't come without cost; in order to fully and completely forgive us, God fully and completely placed the punishment for our sin on Jesus at the cross. But the incredible news for us is that because He did, the price for our sin has already been paid. We can now know for sure, because of the death of Jesus, that God has forgiven us. Until we accept His forgiveness in full, our relationship with Him will be limited.

God is honest

Read Jeremiah 17:9.

- When is a time when your own heart lied to you?
- If the human heart is deceitful, why is it such good news that God is honest?

God is the very essence of truth. Everything He says about Himself is absolutely accurate, and because God never changes, we can know that what He says about Himself in the Bible can be counted on. But God is not only honest about Himself; He's honest about us, too. Because we have the tendency to fool ourselves about who we are, we can know that God will always tell us the truth. When He shows us



something about ourselves, even if we don't like what He shows us, we can believe Him rather than our hearts.

God is capable

Read Romans 11:34-36.

- Have you ever prayed for something and then have that situation turn out different than you wanted it to? When?
- What did you learn about God and yourself through that experience?

In this passage, Paul reminds us about the great capability of God. There is nothing too much for Him. He is capable of working in any situation no matter how hopeless it might seem. What's more, because God always does what is right when it is right, we can trust in His decision to act in any circumstance even when it might not seem like the best thing for us at a given moment.

This is who God tells us He is. Because God never changes, we can know these things are true about Him. The question for us, then, is just how well we want to get to know this personal God. Will we reorder our lives around knowing Him, or will we settle for just scratching the surface?

GROUP ACTIVITY

In order to put our Life Group into action, challenge your group to do the following this week.

One of the primary ways God has given us to know Him better is through His Word. In fact, our commitment to know God is measured by our commitment to reading and meditating on His Word. Sign up for our church's daily Bible reading plan at <http://www.sdrock.com/bible/>. Commit to reading through the Scriptures every day this week and writing a few notes about what God is teaching you about Himself. Then bring your notes with you to Life Group next week so we can share them together.

Notes:

