

Knowing God

John 17:1-5



(One-sided) Relationships

Discipleship pathway

Goal / Contexts / Content / Practices

Key practice: Love people closer to Jesus

Goal

With life from God
in the Gospel

we love (up, in, out)

and join His works (creation, redemption, renewal)

Notes from John 17:1-5

God's Purpose

Jeremiah 31:34; Habakkuk 2:14

Our Thirst

Psalm 63:1; 42:1-2

Jesus' Purpose

John 10:14-15

The Big Idea

Jesus temporarily left His glory as God and took on our disaster as sinners
so that we could grow a genuine relationship with God

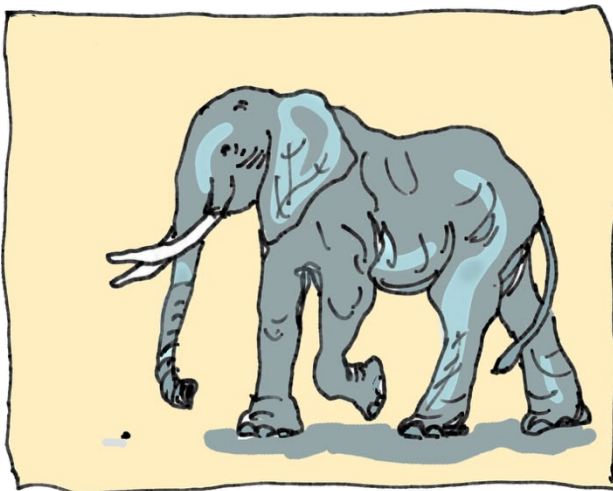
The gaps between us and God (see drawings)

Jesus = God taking on a human nature

"Image of the invisible God"

Bridging all the gaps

So we can know God



Playing Catch with God

From God to us	From us to God
➤ Natural world (blessings & needs) ➤ Bible: God's actual words... ➤ The Spirit's work and witness in us ➤ Teachers and witnesses of God's work ➤ God's intervention in our lives ➤ Stories of God's work in others' lives	➤ Prayer: Thanksgiving, Lament, Praise, Confession, Intercession, ... ➤ Worship ➤ Obedience ➤ Sacrifice ➤ Giving ➤ Loving, even our enemies ➤ Witness
Head: truth	Head: truth
Heart: emotion, relationship	Heart: emotion, relationship
Hands: action, physical world	Hands: action, physical world

Our response to what comes our way

“Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.” James 5:13-16

What you experience, return it back to God in praise, thanksgiving, confession, obedience, sacrifice, ...

“Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.” John 14:21

Reflection Questions for later today or this week...

1. Read Jeremiah 31:34, Habakkuk 2:14, and John 10:14-15 again. What do we learn about God’s purposes? What does that tell us about God?
2. What does it mean to have a genuine relationship with God? What is mysterious about that idea?
3. How has God been communicating with you this week? (For ideas, see “From God to us”)
4. How have you been responding back God as a response to His communication this week? (For ideas, see “From us to God”)
5. What is your reaction to the idea that, when we respond to God, He will eagerly respond back to us based on our response to Him?
6. What are steps we could take to deepen our two-way communication and relationship with God this week?
7. Read John 14:21 again. What is your reaction to this promise of the love of the Father and Son for each of us personally? What is your reaction to Jesus’ promise to show Himself to those who love Him?

Conversation starters

What comes to mind when you think about having a relationship with God?

What might that mean?

Do you experience it?