

Day 1: Knowing God Through His Attributes

Opening Scripture

"The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin." - Exodus 34:6-7a

When Moses asked to see God's glory on Mount Sinai, God responded by describing His attributes. This moment teaches us that part of knowing God is understanding who He is in His very essence.

Think of how you introduce yourself to someone new. You might share your name, your work, your hobbies, the things that define you. In Scripture, God introduces Himself through His attributes, revealing the unchanging aspects of His character that define who He has always been and always will be.

God's Love: The Heart of His Character

A godly parent's love for their child doesn't depend on the child's behavior, achievements, or failures. Even when disciplining or correcting, that love remains constant. God's love for us operates on this same principle, but infinitely deeper and more perfect.

God's love isn't an emotion that comes and goes. It's His very nature. *"God is love"* (1 John 4:8). This means His love for you isn't based on your performance, your past, or your potential. It's rooted in who He is.

God's Holiness: His Perfect Purity

But God isn't just love, He is also holy. What does it mean to be holy? Imagine standing next to a brilliant light source. The closer you get, the more aware you become of any dirt or stains on your clothing. That's similar to God. His holiness is the standard of perfection and purity. That's not just who He is, but something He desires us to be. But our brokenness and sin keep us from experiencing His holiness.

God's Forgiveness: His Unwavering Grace

But God makes a way through Jesus, that anyone who trusts in Him will not only have eternal life, but now be made right with the Father. And this offer of forgiveness is for everyone. He invites us to experience His love and be transformed into His likeness.

Reflection Questions

1. Which of God's attributes do you find most comforting right now in your current circumstances? Why?
2. Is there an attribute of God that you struggle to accept or understand? What questions do you have about it?
3. How might understanding God's unchanging character affect the way you approach challenges, relationships, or decisions this week?
4. Take a moment to consider God's love, holiness, and faithfulness. How do these attributes inspire you to worship Him today?
5. Where in your life do you need to rely more fully on God's character rather than your own understanding or ability?

Prayer Focus

Loving Father, thank You for revealing who You are through Your attributes. Help me to know You not just intellectually, but personally and intimately. When I'm tempted to doubt Your love, remind me of Your unchanging character. When I'm aware of my shortcomings, draw me closer to Your holiness. When I'm uncertain about the future, anchor me in Your faithfulness. Let my understanding of who You are transform how I live, love, and trust. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Today's Challenge

Choose one attribute of God to meditate on throughout the day. Look for ways this attribute is displayed in your circumstances, relationships, and experiences. Before you sleep tonight, journal about how you saw God's character revealed in your day.

Tomorrow's Preview

Tomorrow we'll explore how God's Word serves as a primary way He reveals Himself to us, building upon today's foundation of His character.

Day 2: Knowing God Through His Word

Opening Scripture

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." - 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Imagine receiving a handwritten letter from someone you deeply care about who lives far away. You wouldn't just glance at the letter quickly. You would read every word carefully, perhaps multiple times. You would treasure every word because it reveals insights into their heart, their thoughts, and their love for you. Scripture is God's letter to humanity. It is His chosen way of revealing His heart, His plans, and His deep love for us.

Yesterday we explored knowing God through His attributes. Today we discover how God's Word serves as the primary lens through which we come to know Him personally and intimately. Scripture isn't just a collection of ancient stories or moral guidelines. It's God's ongoing conversation with His people.

Scripture as God's Voice

Think of a musical score. To the untrained eye, it might look like dots and lines on a page. But to a musician, those marks represent the composer's heart, vision, and artistic expression brought to life through sound. Similarly, Scripture may appear as words on a page, but through the Holy Spirit, it becomes God's living voice speaking directly to our hearts.

When we read God's Word with expectant hearts, we're not just learning about God, we're hearing from God. His voice comes through the narratives, the psalms, the prophecies, and the teachings, revealing His character in action throughout history.

Scripture as Our Mirror

But God's word doesn't just reveal who He is, it also reveals to us who we are, just like a mirror. It reflects back to us both our true spiritual condition and God's provision for our transformation.

God's Word has a unique ability to *"penetrate even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart"* (Hebrews 4:12). It reveals areas where we need growth while simultaneously providing the truth that transforms us.

Scripture as Our Guide

In that way, God's Word doesn't just tell us what to believe, but it shows us how to live. It provides wisdom for relationships, guidance for decisions, comfort in suffering, and direction for our lives.

Reflection Questions

1. How has your approach to reading Scripture changed over time? What draws you to God's Word, and what sometimes keeps you away from it?
2. Can you think of a specific time when a particular verse or passage spoke directly to a situation you were facing? How did God's Word provide guidance or comfort?
3. What aspect of your life do you sense God might be addressing through His Word right now? Where do you feel Him calling you to grow or change?
4. When you read Scripture, do you primarily seek information about God, or do you approach it expecting to hear from God personally? How might your reading change if you came with greater expectancy?
5. How can you better integrate what you learn from God's Word into your daily decisions, conversations, and relationships?

Prayer Focus

Heavenly Father, thank You for the gift of Your Word. Thank You for choosing to reveal Yourself through Scripture, making it possible for me to know You personally. Open my eyes to see wonderful truths in Your Word. Help me to approach it not just as a book to study, but as Your voice speaking to me today. When Your Word challenges me, give me the courage to change. When it comforts me, help me to rest in Your promises. Let Your truth take root in my heart and bear fruit in my life. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Today's Challenge

Choose a passage of Scripture to read slowly and meditate on. Perhaps a psalm, a chapter from one of the Gospels, or a section that has been meaningful to you before. As you read, ask God: "What are You saying to me through these words?" Write down any thoughts, impressions, or applications that come to mind. End by thanking God for speaking to you through His Word.

Tomorrow's Preview

Tomorrow we'll explore how prayer serves as a two-way conversation with God, building on what we've learned about His character and His Word as we discover the intimate communication He desires with us.

Day 3: Knowing God Through Prayer

Opening Scripture

"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked for." - 1 John 5:14-15

Think about your closest friendship. What makes it special isn't just what you know about that person, but the conversations you share; the laughter, the deep talks, the comfortable silences, and the way they truly listen to you and you to them. Prayer is God's invitation into this kind of intimate conversation with Him.

Over the past two days, we've explored knowing God through His attributes and His Word. Now we discover how prayer serves as the bridge between knowing about God and knowing God personally. Prayer isn't just about asking God for things. Rather it's entering into a relationship with the Creator of the universe who desires to commune with you.

Prayer as Honest Conversation

Imagine trying to maintain a friendship where you only spoke in formal language, never shared your real thoughts, and only asked for favors. That friendship would feel shallow and distant. Yet sometimes we approach prayer this way. We can be overly formal, guarded, and only focused on what we need. God invites us into an authentic dialogue where we can share our joys, fears, doubts, and dreams.

David demonstrates this beautifully in the Psalms. He doesn't sanitize his prayers. Instead we see him pour out his frustration, celebrate his victories, confess his failures, and wrestle with doubt. Through it all, he draws closer to God's heart. *"Trust in him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge"* (Psalm 62:8).

Prayer as Listening Practice

Prayer is also not only about speaking but about listening. Imagine a conversation where one person talks nonstop without pausing to hear the other's response. That's not really a conversation. Many of us may be praying this way, speaking to God without creating space to hear from Him. Prayer includes both speaking and listening.

God desires to respond to our prayers, sometimes through His Word, sometimes through circumstances, sometimes through a gentle impression on our hearts, and sometimes through His peaceful presence. But we need to be prepared to listen.

Prayer as Alignment with God's Heart

Finally, as we spend time with God in prayer, our hearts gradually align with His, and we begin to desire what He desires. Jesus demonstrated this perfectly: *"Yet not my will, but yours be done"* (Luke 22:42). This is the kind of deep trust that comes from knowing God's character so well that we can surrender our plans to His perfect wisdom and love.

Reflection Questions

1. How would you describe your current prayer life? Do you find yourself mostly talking to God, or do you also create space to listen? What might need to change?
2. What holds you back from being completely honest with God in prayer? What fears, doubts, or struggles do you hesitate to bring before Him?
3. Can you recall a time when you sensed God responding to your prayers, maybe through a verse of Scripture, a conversation, or changed circumstances? How did that experience deepen your relationship with Him?
4. In what areas of your life do you sense tension between what you want and what God might want? How might prayer help you navigate this tension?
5. If prayer is fundamentally about a relationship with God, what would it look like for your prayer life to become more conversational and less transactional?

Prayer Focus

Gracious God, thank You for the incredible privilege of prayer. I am amazed that You, the Creator of all things, desire a conversation with me. Forgive me for times when I've treated prayer as a duty rather than a delight, or when I've focused more on my agenda than on knowing Your heart. Teach me to be honest with You about my fears, my hopes, and my struggles. Help me to listen as much as I speak, and to trust that Your responses come in Your perfect timing and ways. Align my heart with Yours, that I might love what You love and desire what brings You glory. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Today's Challenge

Set aside time today for a conversation with God. Begin by honestly sharing what's on your heart. You can share your concerns, thanksgiving, questions, or struggles. Then spend equal time in silence, simply listening for God's voice through His peace, His Word, or gentle impressions on your heart. Don't worry about whether you're "hearing correctly." Just focus on creating space for God to respond. Reflect on what you might have sensed from God.

Tomorrow's Preview

Tomorrow we'll explore how God reveals Himself through the beauty and wonder of His creation, discovering how the natural world around us reflects His character and invites us into deeper knowledge of Him.

Day 4: Knowing God Through Creation

Opening Scripture

"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world." - Psalm 19:1-4

Walk into an art gallery and you immediately begin to learn about the artists whose work fills the walls. Their choice of colors reveals their mood, their technique shows their skill, and their subject matter unveils what captures their heart. You don't need a personal conversation with the artist to glimpse their character. Their artwork speaks for them.

In the same way, God's creation is His artwork. Every sunrise, every mountain peak, every flower, and the vast oceans declare something about who He is. Creation serves as God's first and most universal revelation, speaking to every person in every culture throughout all of history. It requires no translation, no education, and no special access. Creation simply declares God's glory to anyone willing to observe.

Creation Reveals God's Power and Majesty

Stand at the top of a mountain or gaze up at the stars on a clear night. The sheer scale and grandeur overwhelm our senses and remind us how small we are in comparison. These moments don't diminish us, but instead they elevate our understanding of the God who spoke such wonders into existence.

Paul writes that God's *"eternal power and divine nature have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made"* (Romans 1:20). When we witness the force of a thunderstorm, the power of ocean waves, or the explosive beauty of a sunset, we're glimpsing the unlimited power of our Creator who holds all things together by His word.

Creation Displays God's Creativity and Attention to Detail

God didn't create a bland, uniform world. Creation reveals a God who is endlessly creative and who pays attention to the smallest details. There are hundreds of varieties of flowers, each with unique colors, shapes, and fragrances. No two snowflakes are identical just as no two fingerprints are the same. This God who delights in variety, beauty and intricate details, God knows every detail about you and delights in you.

Creation Demonstrates God's Provision and Care

Jesus said, *"Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?"* (Matthew 6:26).

Creation reveals a God who provides, who sustains, and who cares for every living thing on earth. How much more does God love those made in His image?

Reflection Questions

1. What aspect of creation most powerfully speaks to you of God's character? Is it the majesty of mountains or the intricacies of small details or is it something else?
2. How often do you notice God's creation in your everyday environment? What keeps you from paying attention to the natural world around you?
3. When you observe nature, what specific attributes of God become more real to you? His power, creativity, beauty, order, provision, or care?
4. How does creation inspire you to worship God? What emotions or thoughts arise when you observe creation with God in mind?
5. If God demonstrates such careful attention to the needs of plants and animals, how should this affect your trust in His care for your own needs and circumstances?

Prayer Focus

Creator God, thank You for filling the world with glimpses of Your glory. Open my eyes to see You more clearly in the world around me. Help me to slow down and notice Your handiwork, not just rushing past Your creation but pausing to let it speak to my heart about who You are. Let every sunset remind me of Your beauty, every star of Your faithfulness, and every new day of Your mercies that are new every morning. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Today's Challenge

Spend at least 15 minutes today intentionally observing some aspect of God's creation. This might be a walk outside (in the early morning or late evening), sitting by a window watching clouds, examining a houseplant closely, or simply looking up at the sky. As you observe, ask yourself: "What is this telling me about God's character?" Pay attention to details you might normally overlook. Write down or mentally note what you discover about God through what you observe.

Tomorrow's Preview

Tomorrow we'll explore how God reveals Himself through community and relationships with other believers, discovering how we encounter Him through the body of Christ and shared faith experiences.

Day 5: Knowing God Through Community

Opening Scripture

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." - Hebrews 10:24-25

When a band plays together, something beautiful happens that no individual could create alone. The guitarist provides the rhythmic strumming, the bassist the steady base line, while the drummer provides the beat, and the vocalists carry the melody. Each member brings their skills and personality to create music that's far greater than what any of them could produce solo.

God designed His people to function similarly. While we can know God individually through His attributes, His Word, prayer, and creation, there's a dimension of knowing Him that only emerges when we gather as His body. In community, we encounter aspects of God's character that we might miss when we are alone.

Community Reveals God's Diversity and Unity

Think of a beautiful mosaic made from thousands of different colored pieces. From a distance, you see the complete picture, but up close, you see how each unique piece contributes to the whole. No single piece could create the full image, but together they form something magnificent.

Paul writes, *"Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ"* (1 Corinthians 12:12). In community, we discover that God values both unity and diversity. He brings together people of different backgrounds, personalities, gifts, and perspectives to reveal the fullness of His character. What one person understands about God's justice, another knows about His mercy. What one experiences of His strength, another knows of His gentleness.

Community Provides God's Comfort and Encouragement

God also often chooses to reveal His comfort, encouragement, and love through His people. When a person is grieving, one of the greatest comforts is the presence of a friend who sits beside them in silence or offers a timely hug. Comfort becomes real when it has hands and feet, when it speaks with a familiar voice, and when it shows up at the right moment. *"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God"* (2 Corinthians 1:3-4). Through community, we become the tangible expression of God's care for one another.

Community Offers God's Correction and Growth

We also need Christian community to help us see spiritual blind spots and grow in areas we might not notice on our own. In healthy Christian community, we encounter God's refining love through gentle correction, wise counsel, and accountability. Others can speak truth into our lives with love, helping us grow in ways we might resist if it came only through personal conviction.

Reflection Questions

1. How has being part of the Fellowship community deepened your understanding of God? What aspects of His character have you discovered through relationships with other believers?
2. Can you think of a time when God's comfort, encouragement, or provision came to you through another person? How did that experience affect your understanding of how God works?
3. What are some ways that you bring comfort and encouragement to your community?
4. Is there someone in your faith community whose wisdom or perspective has challenged you to grow spiritually? How do you respond when others offer loving correction or different viewpoints?
5. What draws you toward isolation in your faith journey? What fears or past hurts might keep you from fully engaging with Christian community?

Prayer Focus

Heavenly Father, thank You for the gift of community and for revealing Yourself through Your people. I confess that sometimes I try to know You only individually, missing the fullness of who You are that's revealed when we gather together. Use me to bring Your comfort to those who are hurting, Your encouragement to those who are discouraged, and Your truth to those who need guidance. Show me how to both give and receive in community, always pointing each other back to You. Guard Fellowship from division, selfishness, and judgment, and help us to love one another as You have loved us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Today's Challenge

Reach out intentionally to someone in your faith community today. This might be a phone call to check on someone who's been struggling, a text to encourage someone you've been thinking about, or simply having a deeper conversation with someone you usually only greet casually. See if this interaction reveals something new about God's character or deepens your understanding of His work in the world.

Tomorrow's Preview

Tomorrow we'll conclude our journey by exploring how God reveals Himself through our life experiences, both the good and bad. And we will discover how He uses every season and circumstance to draw us into deeper knowledge of who He is.

Day 6: Knowing God Through Life Experiences

Opening Scripture

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." - Romans 8:28

Sometimes, life is like reading a book written in a language you're still learning. At first, individual words and sentences seem disconnected or confusing. But as you gain more understanding of the language, you start to recognize certain themes. You see how earlier chapters connect to later ones and even come to understand that the difficult passages serve a purpose in the larger story.

Our life experiences, both the joyful and painful experiences, serve as ways of knowing Him more deeply. Through the seasons of blessing and struggle, triumph and defeat, clarity and confusion, we discover aspects of God's character that we might never learn any other way.

God Reveals His Faithfulness Through Difficult Seasons

Picture a lighthouse standing firm on a rocky coast during a fierce storm. The waves crash violently against its foundation, winds howl around its structure, and the darkness seems overwhelming. But it's precisely during this storm that the lighthouse's true purpose becomes most evident. Its light cuts through the darkness, providing guidance and hope to ships struggling in the storm.

When we walk through valleys, we often discover God's faithfulness in ways we never knew in easier times. David wrote from experience: *"Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me"* (Psalm 23:4). It's often in our darkest moments that God's presence becomes most real.

God Demonstrates His Goodness Through Seasons of Blessing

But it's not just in difficult times that God reveals who he is. God reveals His generous heart through the good things He brings into our lives. *"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father"* (James 1:17). These blessings aren't random; they're expressions of a loving Father who delights in His children's joy and wants us to know His generous character.

God Shows His Sovereignty Through Unexpected Turns

But one thing we know about life is that it rarely unfolds as we plan or expect. Career changes, unexpected moves, surprising opportunities, or relationships we never imagined all reveal God's sovereign hand guiding our story. Through life's unexpected turns, we learn that God sees the bigger picture and can use every circumstance for His purpose.

Reflection Questions

1. As you reflect on your life experiences, where have you most clearly seen God's faithfulness during difficult times? How did those seasons change your understanding of who He is?
2. What blessings or good experiences in your life have most revealed God's character to you? How have these gifts deepened your relationship with Him?
3. Are you currently in a season that's difficult to understand or accept? How might God be using this experience to teach you something new about Himself?
4. Can you identify ways that seemingly unrelated experiences in your life have worked together to shape your faith or prepare you for something God had planned?
5. How can you become more aware of God's presence and work in your current, everyday experiences rather than only recognizing Him in hindsight?

Prayer Focus

Sovereign Lord, thank You for being present in every season of my life. I confess that sometimes I struggle to see You in difficult circumstances or to trust Your purposes when life doesn't make sense. Help me to recognize Your hand at work even when I can't understand Your ways. Thank You for the blessings You've given me. Help me never to take them for granted but to see them as expressions of Your love. Use every experience in my life to draw me closer to You and to reveal more of Your character. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Today's Challenge

Take time today to reflect on a few significant experiences from your life, both joyful experiences and challenging ones. For each experience, ask yourself: "How did this reveal something about God's character to me?" and "What did I learn about God that I might not have learned any other way?" Look for patterns of God's faithfulness, provision, guidance, or love throughout your story. End by thanking God for how He has used your experiences to help you know Him more deeply.

Series Conclusion

Over these six days, we've explored six different ways of knowing God: through His attributes, His Word, prayer, creation, community, and life experiences. Each pathway offers unique insights into who God is, but together they provide a fuller picture of the One who loves us deeply and desires to be known by us. As you continue your journey of faith, remember that knowing God is not a destination but a lifelong adventure of discovery, relationship, and growth.