



Lesson Two: An Introduction To God

Our first G is Gather. It is the very first and simplest of steps. Gather represents an introduction. As we gather together, we want to introduce you to our church, to key people that we think would be helpful to know, and to information that is necessary for you to take your next step. Over the next few weeks, we will complete this introduction and encourage you to take your next step in your relationship with God, and with others.

An Introduction

As a pastor, I meet a lot of people. When I meet people for the very first time, I start with the most basic of information, their name. I start by telling them my name, and then I ask what their name is. That is the most basic of information that we can get about someone. Then I continue to try to find out more about the person. Where do you work? Are you married? Do you have children? Hobbies? Likes? Dislikes? It's a gathering of information. Why? Because until you really know someone you can't have much of a relationship with them.

The level of friendship is directly correlated to the level of information that you have and share with someone. For instance, there are people that just know my name, and I know theirs. What kind of friendship do I have with those people? Really none at all. There are people that know some things about me, but don't really know the personal things in my life. It's a shallow relationship.

Then there are people that I share pretty much everything with. They don't need to tell me they are coming over. They don't need to knock to come in. They have keys to my house and are welcome wherever I am without having to ask permission.

But as close as those type of friends are, they are nothing when compared to the bond that I have with Lysandra, my wife. We share absolutely everything with each other. There are no secrets. We share 100% of what we know and who we are with each other. But we didn't start that way. It started with an introduction. It started by learning her name, and we built a relationship from there.

The Importance Of Relationships

We were designed for relationships. All the way back in Genesis as God is creating everything, He says in Genesis 1:31, "And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day." He saw everything that He had made, and, behold, it was _____.

But then He sees man alone and He says something different. Look at Genesis 2:18, "And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him." God said, It is _____.

You need strong relationships in your life! I need them in mine! Friendships are important, but there is one relationship that is the most important for us to have. Unfortunately, many people don't have a relationship with the One person that they were designed to be in a relationship with. The One person that they need more

than anyone else. God. Without this relationship with God, we will always have something missing from our lives. Do you have a personal relationship with God? _____

God Is

Hebrews 11:6 gives us some insight into this relationship with God, and how we can begin to know Him. "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." If you are going to have a relationship with God, you first have to know Him. "He that cometh to God must believe that _____..."

The Bible begins with the existence of God. God simply is and always has been. Genesis 1:1, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." Moses simply states, In the beginning _____.

You may ask how is that possible. But that is because we are only thinking in terms of time. We are bound by time, so it is almost impossible for us to think outside of those limits that have been placed upon us. But time is a physical created property. Created by God.

God created all things. As creator of everything, He has the right to dictate how things are to operate in His own creation. That includes the way that you and I are to live (We will cover more on this in the next lesson). As well as how we are to come to Him.

There are things that are hard for us to understand about God. That is because we live in 3 spatial dimensions, and a fourth dimension of time. But God is greater than that. One of these things that are important for us to know, and yet hard to understand is that God is One and yet three persons. This is often referred to as the Triune God or the Trinity, three co-equal and co-eternal persons in the Godhead. We see this in a number of places in Scripture, we will look at one. I chose this one because it most clearly shows how we refer to each person of the godhead. Matthew 28:19 "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:"

The three persons of the Godhead are God the _____, God the _____, and God the _____. We will meet God the Son and God the Holy Spirit in the weeks to come, but today we want to focus on God the Father. When we talk about God, we are often referring to the person of God the Father.

God Our Father

All throughout the Scripture, God refers to Himself as Father. Paul refers to Him this way in Ephesians 4:6, "One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." God wants to know you as Father, and He tells us how we can have that relationship with Him. John 1:12 "But as many as received him, (Jesus) to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his (Jesus) name:" According to this verse, how can we have this Father/child relationship with God? _____

Through identifying to us as a Father, we can learn a lot about God and who He is. My Father dictated the rules of our home, and he taught me consequences for breaking those rules. As a father, I am to demonstrate the love that God has for us. John 3:16 talks about His love for us, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

We also learn that God the Father is faithful, kind, just, provider, protector, and much, much more! What has your relationship with your father/father figure taught you about who God is? _____

Conclusion

Do you have a right relationship with God? _____

Remember Hebrews 11:6, "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." He is a _____ of them that diligently _____ Him. Have you diligently sought out a relationship with Him this week? _____ What can you do to better seek out a relationship with God this week? _____
