

# KNOWING GOD DEEPLY



Knowing God and Knowing Myself

VOLUME 1

# Your Notes





## STOP

The early followers of Jesus were called 'people of the way'. This was long before the term 'Christian' was coined. Perhaps it came from Jesus' words '*I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life.* (John 14:6).

*People of Passion*\* will help you be a person on your way, following Jesus. However, it is important that you **work through the General Introduction** found on the Australian Navigators website ([navigators.org.au/lead-others/help-others-grow/people-of-passion/](https://navigators.org.au/lead-others/help-others-grow/people-of-passion/)) **before** you start on this program of readings with your companions. If you have not done so, please do so before continuing.

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# Knowing God Deeply



Knowing God is a profound privilege. In fact, to say we know God would be arrogant if it were not that:

- God wants us to know him
- God has placed a desire in our hearts to know him (a God-shaped space)
- God has revealed himself not just in creation but supremely in Jesus

*In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.* Hebrews 1:1-2

God has chosen to enter our world and reveal himself to us; not attributes like his timelessness but his character, full of grace and truth.

Knowing God is a bit like looking at the stars. At first only the bright stars and planets are seen, but as we move away from the city light and gaze, we become aware of the vast number of stars that appear. They were there all the time, but our vision could not take them in. Through a telescope we see so much more.

Knowing God deeply requires us to leave all that would blur our vision and focus our gaze on our awesome God. As we gaze, that which was dim becomes clear and that which was hidden becomes visible.

The Holy Spirit uses the scriptures to be our spiritual telescope with which we can look deeply into the nature of God. The bible is not a textbook with an index but rather a series of narratives disclosing the interactions between God and his people. It is for us to discern what was just for them and what the implications are for us, and then to listen to what is for us and how we should respond. While the scriptures were not written *to us*, they were certainly written *for us*.

*For everything written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.* Romans 15:4

# Knowing God Deeply



Week 12

I am a Person of Significance

Volume 1

We have seen that we are like little children having intimate access to our Father and having his Spirit as our guide. However, we soon find out he wants us to grow up, to become strong members of his forever family, and engage in the work he has already prepared for us to do. (Ephesians 2:10)

All parents want their children to mature. It is sad but not surprising that we all wander off the path and have to be rescued to return to the path and trained to stay on it. Having the right sort of independence means recognising just how dependent we are on our Father and on each other if we are to effectively serve in God's kingdom enterprise on planet earth. We then realise we are individually made to have our particular contribution to others and to society as a whole. We need to find out what that is, and grow into our relationships and role.

There is a warning *not to be conformed* to this present world's values and its culture but *to be transformed* by the Holy Spirit, renewing our minds from one degree of glory to another.

Day 1 1 John 2:28-3:3

Day 2 Galatians 3:26-4:7

Day 3 Psalm 139:13-19

Day 4 1 Timothy 6:6-16

Day 5 Hebrews 12:1-13

Day 6 Review and reflect on the week

Day 7 Gather together

# Knowing God Deeply



Week 11

God is My Father

Volume 1

'Father' can mean a lot of different things. It includes 'source' or 'origin'. He is our father, the God who gives life as Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 8:6, '*yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live.*' The devil is the source of deceit; he is the 'father of lies' (John 8.44).

As Father God is the *head* of his forever family and he takes the *responsibility* to care for all his children seriously. We see God providing for our needs, protecting us from danger and assuring us of his faithfulness and love. Although the Jews knew of God as 'Father', Jesus lived it out calling God 'father' regularly. He liked to use the intimate word of a child, 'abba'. ('daddy', 'papa')

Some may have had a dysfunctional experience of a father. None of us dads are without fault. But don't despair. As we experience more of God's fatherhood, our understanding will be changed. Spend plenty of time in these scriptures to know God as your everlasting Father and also your heavenly 'dad'. It will help change your view of people and of yourself as you press on to maturity.

Day 1 Deuteronomy 32:1-9

Day 2 Luke 15:11-32

Day 3 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17

Day 4 Ephesians 3:14-21

Day 5 Luke 11:1-13

Day 6 Review and reflect on the week

Day 7 Gather together

Gathering with other members of your group, fellow 'pilgrims on the journey', will also provide clarification on what God is saying to you individually, and perhaps the group as a whole.

This volume will introduce six aspects of God's character and six corresponding truths about who we are, in Christ. It will introduce you to a life of learning about who God is and how his He transforms your character to become more like Christ.

God is ...	In Christ ...
1 My creator	2 I am a new creation
3 My Saviour	4 I am rescued and redeemed
5 My Sovereign King	6 I am safe and secure
7 My Provider	8 I am complete and content
9 My Just Judge	10 I am to be Holy
11 My Father	12 I am a person of significance

As you read through the selected passages each day, look for what they reveal about God and about you. Some passages will be obvious and others will require more focused effort. Each passage is fairly short to allow you time to reflect and meditate. Don't be in a hurry; allow God's Spirit to illuminate your heart as well as your mind.

## Knowing God Deeply



Week 1

God is my Creator

Volume 1

The Bible makes it clear that God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit were involved in the creation of the universe. Genesis sums up making of stars, planetary systems, quasars, galaxies and the speed of light in ten words and then he quickly zooms in to the surface of the earth.

We read of the artist's broad brush strokes creating seas and mountains, plants and animals, assessing each stage as being 'good'. Finally, God created the man and the woman, made in his own likeness. He stepped back and reflected, "This is very good". (Genesis 1:31)

The narrative tells us that God did not leave the world and its people on their own (a Deism belief) but as a personal yet infinite being he very much engaged with the man and the woman. We are not just a collection of atoms as materialists believe; we are individuals, uniquely important to God and his purposes for the world. This includes you and me!

- Day 1 Genesis 1:26-31
- Day 2 Psalm 139:1-18
- Day 3 Colossians 1:9-20
- Day 4 Psalm 33:6-22
- Day 5 Isaiah 40:21-31
- Day 6 Review and reflect on the week
- Day 7 Gather together

## Knowing God Deeply



Week 10

I am to be Holy

Volume 1

Adam and Eve were made in the likeness of God. It was their role to reflect the beauty of God including his moral excellence - His holiness - to each other and to all the creation. They walked in fellowship with God as holy people and they were totally exposed to each other; physically, emotionally, relationally and spiritually. They were naked and there was nothing to be ashamed of.

When they declared their independence from God by taking something that was not theirs, they lost their holiness. They were now impure because of their disobedience and tried to hide from each other with leaves and from God in the garden. Both attempts were futile. They had now lost their relationship with God and with each other and were excluded from God's presence.

But God did not give up on them and began the journey with them to restore their relationship with him and re-make them holy. By Jesus' death God could credit holiness to them and then came the road of sanctification. They were to become holy in character, become like Christ.

- Day 1 Ephesians 1:3-10
- Day 2 1 Peter 2:4-10
- Day 3 Zechariah 3:1-11
- Day 4 Ephesians 5:1-12
- Day 5 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1
- Day 6 Review and reflect on the week
- Day 7 Gather together

## Knowing God Deeply



Week 9

God is My Just Judge

Volume 1

From the beginning we see God acts with fairness, righteousness and justice. He made a judgment on the first man and woman which is both punishment for their sin and protection from further harm. He expects us to do what is right and there are consequences for disobeying his laws. The story of the Old Testament illustrates this repeatedly.

The New Testament shows us the lengths to which God went, so our penalty could be paid and reconciliation accomplished. Although 'our righteousness is like filthy rags', by recognising our penalty is paid, we are reckoned by God to be right with Him and our sins forgiven. We are restored to be 'holy' which means set apart for God.

In Christ we are not only forgiven but also called to be his ambassadors. We are reflectors of his holiness. The more we know Christ and follow him, the better we can do this.

Day 1 Genesis 3:1-19

Day 2 Matthew 25:14-29

Day 3 Colossians 2:13-19

Day 4 1 John 1:5-2:2

Day 5 1 Peter 1:13-25

Day 6 Review and reflect on the week

Day 7 Gather together

## Knowing God Deeply



Week 2

In Christ I am a New Creation

Volume 1

We have already seen that humans are the high point of God's creative work. However, the man and the woman declared their independence to God by not obeying his orders in the garden they were to manage together. This disobedience caused a break in their friendship with God and each other and caused a rift in the whole creation. Read about it in Genesis chapter 3.

However, God didn't throw up his hands in despair but immediately began work on a plan to pay for their crime, restore their relationship and rescue the whole world. But it would be costly, requiring his perfect Son Jesus giving up his life for ours.

Now those who have received this gift of forgiveness also receive a new life through the indwelling Spirit of God. We were made in the image of God but now we are members of his forever family!

In the readings you will be able to consider all the amazing benefits of this life and how we appropriate them. Read on.

Day 1 Psalm 8:1-9

Day 2 Corinthians 5:16-6:2

Day 3 Ephesians 2:1-10

Day 4 Romans 6:1-14

Day 5 Colossians 3:1-11

Day 6 Review and reflect on the week

Day 7 Gather together

## Knowing God Deeply



Week 3

God is My Saviour

Volume 1

'Saviour' is not a word used much today but the work of 'saving' is seen everywhere. Life Savers patrol our beaches ready to rescue someone and Lifeguards are in attendance at public swimming pools. On the larger scale State Emergency Service teams will be there to rescue us from flood or fire.

God is pleased to be called a saviour and he says 'I, I am the Lord, and apart from me there is no saviour.' (Isaiah 43:11). He rescued his people from slavery to the dominant world power. His saving actions were often done through insignificant people such as Gideon or Esther.

However, God's greatest work as Saviour was in Jesus whose name means 'the one who saves'. But saved from what? The angel at his birth explained Jesus would save people from their sins. Everyone knows when a person has done something wrong a penalty results. In some sports incurring a penalty may lose the match. In life, it may lose the friendship, the marriage, the career or incur a death penalty. Jesus paid our penalty with his life so we can be reconciled to God and freed from sin and death.

Day 1 John 3:16-21

Day 2 Psalm 32:1-11

Day 3 Luke 15:1-7

Day 4 Luke 5:27-31

Day 5 Zephaniah 3:14-20

Day 6 Review and reflect on the week

Day 7 Gather together

## Knowing God Deeply



Week 8

God Cares: I am Complete and Content!

Volume 1

Our history is one of striving to get enough shelter to be protected, clothing to be warmed and food to survive. People have fought for land, homes and food for aeons. Part of the curse of sin is the hard work to get any return on our investment.

Yet God demonstrates he can meet our needs. He wants us to seek first the righteousness found in Christ and his kingdom work then we will find in him all we need.

This applies not only to food, clothing and housing but to fill our inner vacuum of identity and purpose. The believers in Colossae were falsely told they lacked deep spiritual insight because they only had Christ. But Paul said, '*Everything of God gets expressed in him...you don't need a telescope, a microscope or a horoscope to realise the fullness of Christ; Christ in you, the hope of glory!*' (Colossians 1:27)

Day 1 Psalm 36:5-12

Day 2 John 15:1-8

Day 3 Colossians 2:1-12

Day 4 Philippians 4:10-20

Day 5 Psalm 145:8-21

Day 6 Review and reflect on the week

Day 7 Gather together



## Knowing God Deeply



Week 7

God Cares! God is my Provider

Volume 1

Everything in our world depends on something else. Only God is totally free and independent. Being dependent is not a sign of weakness but of reality; we are interdependent on almost everything and everyone.

The Israelites were to learn this as God led them through the desert. The lesson of the manna, that God sent daily, was that God would provide their daily needs and that 'people do not live on bread alone but on every word that God speaks'.

God showed his provision in a special way to Abraham when he asked him to be willing to sacrifice his own son. Abraham believed God, thinking God would raise Isaac from the dead if necessary. God had actually provided a ram for the sacrifice and Abraham learned that God was *Jehovah Jireh*, 'The Lord is my provider.'

Listen for how God will provide for you this week.

Day 1 Matt 6:24-34

Day 2 Psalm 34:1-14

Day 3 Romans 8:31-39

Day 4 Psalm 91:1-16

Day 5 Philippians 1:1-11

Day 6 Review and reflect on the week

Day 7 Gather together

## Knowing God Deeply



Week 4

I am Rescued and Redeemed

Volume 1

'Salvation' is a word used for the gift God gives us in Christ. It means deliverance from harm, loss and ruin. It stops us perishing from being cut off from God, the source of life. All this is possible because Jesus bore our sins in his death. Our part is to take God at his word, believe and receive Him into our lives. And we find we get so much more:

The liberation of past sin and guilt

The forgiveness of present sins

We are born into God's forever family

God's Spirit of Holiness takes up residence with us

The Bible becomes a living word, telling us about life

We have a story to tell others in need

We have hope for the future

You will find more as you fellowship with God and his people.

Day 1 Psalm 103:1-12

Day 2 Luke 19:1-10

Day 3 Ephesians 1:7-12

Day 4 1 Peter 1:18-21

Day 5 Titus 3:3-7

Day 6 Review and reflect on the week

Day 7 Gather together

## Knowing God Deeply



Week 5

God is My Sovereign King

Volume 1

The thought of someone ruling over us is not popular; Most people have a negative attitude to that. We would rather focus on God's love and mercy and compassion. However, the Bible reveals God as a sovereign ruler.

Most people have no experience of a king or queen actively ruling, so our understanding comes from history or the media. However, both are poor sources to use when building our view of God as king, as is our experience of most current leaders. We need scripture to teach us what God is like as a king.

God has given us his laws that protect people from bad choices and their destructive consequences. In contrast, following God's ways generally brought peace and prosperity. We find that God's judgments express his holiness, justice and mercy. He is not going to be swayed but will especially look out for the vulnerable such as the poor, refugees, orphans and widows. His leadership is characterized by justice and reliability, grace and mercy, goodness and love.

Day 1 Psalm 24

Day 2 Hebrews 1:1-14

Day 3 Jeremiah 10:6-16

Day 4 Isaiah 45:8-13

Day 5 Daniel 4:34-35

Day 6 Review and reflect on the week

Day 7 Gather together

## Knowing God Deeply



Week 6

I am Safe and Secure

Volume 1

Insecurity is present everywhere, with uncertainty about the future of our jobs and businesses, our own health and international peace. This leads us to scramble for protection where we look to material resources or to leaders who promise security.

We have forgotten our Ruling King who has undertaken the protection and provision for his people. Our Living God as King of Creation extends his authority over the universe, making us safe and secure under his reign. Learning to live in the security of our sovereign and gracious King is part of our passion.

This does not come to us easily. We have tried to protect ourselves in the past. Ultimately it is trusting in our 'Rock that cannot be shaken' that gives us peace.

A young sailor survived shipwreck by holding onto a rocky outcrop in the sea off Cornwall. After his rescue he was asked about fear. He replied, "I shook all night from cold and fear of drowning, but the rock never shook, not even once."

Day 1 Psalm 27:1-14

Day 2 Psalm 16: 1-11

Day 3 John 10:22-30

Day 4 Psalm 18:1-19

Day 5 John 17:6-19

Day 6 Review and reflect on the week

Day 7 Gather together