



COMMUNICATOR GUIDE

Know God / Week 1

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

BOTTOM LINE

Creation points to the Creator.

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students understand that they can connect with God any time, in any place.

SCRIPTURE

The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display his craftsmanship. Day after day they continue to speak; night after night they make him known. They speak without a sound or word; their voice is never heard. Yet their message has gone throughout the earth, and their words to all the world (Psalm 19:1-4 NLT).

“Look at the birds. They don’t plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren’t you far more valuable to him than they are?” (Matthew 6:26 NLT).

For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can

clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God (Romans 1:20 NLT).

CONTEXT OF SCRIPTURE

Each of these passages reference God’s creation in some way. And although they’re all referencing creation for a different reason—to praise God, urge us not to worry, and reveal God’s divine nature—what we learn is that observing creation can be helpful in a growing relationship with God.

TEACHING OUTLINE

INTRODUCTION

Let’s start with a question. Who do you know best in the world?

And if you’ve been around church for a while, maybe you’ve heard people talk about the idea of “knowing God.”

TENSION

But what does it mean for us to “know God better”?

If we were 100% honest, we’d admit that it’s not exactly something we *want* to do.

And there are lots of reasons why we may think this:

- 1) It doesn’t even feel like it *works*.
- 2) It feels complicated.
- 3) There’s no time.

What if He never intended for our relationship with Him to be like a homework assignment, a requirement, or another commitment to make your life even busier?



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TEACHING OUTLINE

It's about developing things that God and you can experience together.

TRUTH

David is the most well-known king of Israel, but before David was a king, he was a shepherd. He had a lot of time to kill so he wrote songs and played music.

In fact, many of the songs and poems in the book of *Psalms* in the Old Testament were written by David, including *Psalms* 19.

It's one of the most beautiful psalms we have, but it wasn't because David was going through a new devotional and writing in a journal.

He was experiencing creation and the glory of the sky around him, with God. And according to this psalm, creation is one of the things that makes God known to us!

In *Matthew 6*, we find Jesus giving His most famous sermon, *The Sermon on the Mount*.

He said, "Open your eyes! See how carefully God takes care of His creation. He'll do the same for you!"

Paul is making a point: Even people who haven't heard of Jesus yet, still see evidence of God. How? By looking around at the world outside!

Creation points to the Creator.

APPLICATION

I want you to think about enjoying Him through the world and the people He has created.

Getting into a habit of connecting creation to its Creator will, over time, help you know God better.

God wants you to be more closely connected to Him.

And when you and I realize that we're surrounded by things that point to Him, we'll see that He's closer than we have ever imagined.

LANDING

When you go outside, look around. Take in the beauty of what He has made. And remember that God is always looking for ways to connect with us at any given moment.



TEACHING SCRIPT

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CREATION POINTS TO THE CREATOR.

INTRODUCTION

1 MINUTE

Let's start with a question. Who do you know best in the world? Your sister? Your best friend? Your grandpa? Your boyfriend or girlfriend? Chances are there is *somebody* in the world that you know really well. You know what kind of music they like, their favorite movies, their hobbies, their dreams for the future, and what makes them aggravated beyond belief. You just get them. And that's a good thing.

And if you've been around church for a while, maybe you've heard people talk about the idea of "knowing God." And when you think about it, it seems a little weird. I mean, it's difficult enough to get to know people you can physically see and audibly hear. God, however, doesn't answer text messages, go to Taco Bell with you, or comment on your Instagram posts. And beyond that, God seems too big, mystical, and far-off for *us* to get to know Him.

And yet, that's exactly what we're going to focus on in this series: **some practical steps you can take to know a big, powerful God better.**

TENSION

4 MINUTES

But what does it mean for us to "know God better"? What does it look like? If you've ever heard someone say, "I spent some time with God today," and you were confused by what they meant by that, you're not alone.

Growing up, when I was in a bad mood, my mom would tell me, "You need to go spend some time with God!" It sounded like punishment. Like I was in time out with Jesus!

TEACHING SCRIPT



For many of you, it's been explained to you as something you do early in the morning. You pray, read the Bible, maybe write in a journal or devotional. Or it's a "quiet time" that you do at some point in the day (which, oddly enough, also kind of sounds like time out!).

And while most of us would agree that these things are a good idea, if we were 100% honest and not afraid we'd get struck by lightning in church, **we'd admit that it's not exactly something we want to do.**

And there are lots of reasons why we may think this.

- 1. It doesn't even feel like it works.** If you've spent time praying and reading the Bible in the past, it's not like your life all of a sudden became problem-free, right? Maybe your little sister still drove you crazy. Maybe you and your stepmom got in a fight one hour later. Maybe you were still just as lonely, anxious about school, and frustrated with yourself. It made you wonder, *If getting to know God is supposed to help my life, I must be doing it wrong!*
- 2. It feels complicated.** We need to get up early, read the Bible and pray, write down something we learned, then remember it throughout the day? Wait, this feels like a homework assignment—and not even an easy one!
- 3. There's no time.** Life is busy. Your schedule is already full of things you *have* to do and places you *have* to be: school, practice, work, homework, rehearsal, family events, and on and on. You may be a part of clubs, organizations, or programs that already take up a lot of your time. Plus, you probably want some time with your friends. Is it really worth the effort to add one more thing to the list?

All those things together make us think, "Get to know God? No thanks."

But what if that isn't even what God wants?

What if He never intended for our relationship with Him to be like a homework assignment, a requirement, or another commitment to make your life even busier?

Now, I'm not saying God *doesn't* want you to read your Bible or pray. But what if those things weren't meant to be boring, complicated, or formulaic?

Think about the people you know best.

No, really. Think about them.

How did you get to know them so well?

Chances are you were a part of something together: on a team together, in a class together, in the Spring musical together, in a band together, or in a family together. This list could go on for days. But essentially, the people you know best all have one thing in common: There's some part of life that you shared together.

When it comes to knowing God, it's about developing things that God and you can experience together. It's bigger than going through a devotional or praying on the way to school (although both of those things are great).

If you can think about getting to know God *differently*, you might be surprised at what you discover!

TRUTH

4 MINUTES

If you've gone to church for a while, it's possible you've heard of a guy named David. David is the most well-known king of Israel, and we are given more details about his life from childhood to death than we are about anyone else in the entire Bible.

But before David was a king, he was a shepherd. He was the youngest in his family, and his job was to take care of sheep and fight off predators who tried to attack them. And while predator attacks *did* happen, they weren't frequent. So David had a lot of time to kill. So he wrote songs and played music.

In fact, many of the songs and poems in the book of *Psalms* in the Old Testament were written by David, including Psalm 19, which opens with this:

The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display his craftsmanship. Day after day they continue to speak; night after night they make him known. They speak without a sound or word; their voice is never heard. Yet their message has gone throughout the earth, and their words to all the world (Psalm 19:1-4 NLT).

You can almost imagine a young David sitting on a hill at night, surrounded by his sheep, writing this song. Sheep are probably a great audience to try out a new melody!

It's one of the most beautiful psalms we have, but it wasn't because David was going through a new devotional and writing in a journal. David wasn't in his closet praying when he wrote it. No, he was *outside*. He was experiencing creation and the glory of the sky around him, with God. **And according to this psalm, creation is one of the things that makes God known to us!**

In *Matthew 6*, we find Jesus giving His most famous sermon, *The Sermon on the Mount*. He was teaching from the side of a hill, overlooking the Sea of Galilee, to a crowd of people. He said this:

"Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to him than they are?" (Matthew 6:26 NLT).

Jesus Himself says, "Look around!" He didn't say, "When you start to worry, close your eyes and pray." He said, "Open your eyes! See how carefully God takes care of His creation. He'll do the same for you!"

Without Jesus' teaching, the crowd would have likely paid zero attention to the birds. After all, they're just *birds*! But not to Jesus, they weren't. They taught us something that helped us know God better!



TEACHING SCRIPT

The apostle Paul, who wrote most of the New Testament and made it his life mission to travel as much as he could to tell the world about Jesus, wrote this to the church in Rome:

For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God (Romans 1:20 NLT).

Paul is making a point: Even people who haven't heard of Jesus yet, still see evidence of God. How? By looking around at the world outside! **When we take note of the world around us we can connect with our Heavenly Father.**

See, devotionals are great, but there is far more possibility, mystery, and adventure in the ways we can know God. There's a whole world that points to Him! It isn't about a checklist or time requirement. **Knowing God can happen anytime and anywhere because evidence of Him is all around us.**

Simply put,

Creation points to the Creator.

APPLICATION

3 MINUTES

Obviously, this *doesn't* mean we throw out the Bible or prayer. But do you really think knowing God is limited to a few minutes in the morning or before we fall asleep? I mean, come on, He's God! There is so much more to knowing Him and spending time with Him than we could imagine!

In the next few weeks, we'll talk about how to bring prayer and Bible-reading to life. But for today, I want you to **think about enjoying Him through the world and the people He has created.**

- When you walk outside to your car to go to school and you hear birds chirping, let them be a reminder that God has taken care of them, and He will take care of you, too.
- When your mom is late to pick you up after practice, instead of putting in your ear buds and scrolling through Instagram, look up and look around. You'd be surprised by how much you'll appreciate God by seeing the work of His hands—His creation.
- When you randomly spot something beautiful in creation—something that only God could've invented—thank Him for it.

Getting into a habit of connecting creation to its Creator will, over time, help you know God better. It will give you a sense of awe and a sense of wonder about Him. It will remind you that He's big, strong, and kind.

And when it comes to knowing God, that's a good place to start!

TEACHING SCRIPT

Think about your friends. Is there a formula to how you got to know them? Was it on your checklist? Did you get to know them so that you wouldn't feel guilty?

No, you were just around them. And you experienced life *with* them.

Every day, you and I pass by, through, and under beautiful things that the Creator has made. And we ignore them. But they represent an opportunity for us to know how creative, thoughtful, and personal He is. They represent a chance for us to connect with the God who created us!

When we experience those things *with* God, we'll get to know Him better. Why? Because **creation points to the Creator**. If you remember that, even the random transitional moments of life will represent an opportunity for you.

For those of you who think this sounds too simple, for those of you who think this isn't "deep" enough, let me say this:

God's plan for you isn't just to go deeper. It's to get closer.

God wants you to be more closely connected to Him. Think about it: The literal *first* thing He did, in the beginning, was create. **And when you and I realize that we're surrounded by things that point to Him, we'll see that He's closer than we have ever imagined.** When we slow down and pay attention, that's when start to see what's already true—that He's close to us always.

Look around. Go outside. Say thanks to God for the things He made. And look for ways to know Him better through that shared experience.

LANDING

1 MINUTE

As you head out today, think about this: God loves you so much that He sent Jesus to Earth. Jesus died and came back to life to remove any obstacle to you knowing God.

Would all of that happen just so that getting to know God would become a time burden on our checklist? No, He wants to be close to us all the time!

So when you go outside, look around. Take in the beauty of what He has made. And remember that God is always looking for ways to connect with us at any given moment.



TRANSITION INTO SMALL GROUPS
