

INTERACTIVE WORKBOOK

THE POWER
OF
KNOWING
GOD

TONY EVANS



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MAKING THE MOST OF THIS INTERACTIVE WORKBOOK

This workbook is a tool to help your group combine the video and subsequent Bible study into a dynamic growth experience. If you are the leader or facilitator of your group, take some time in advance to consider the questions in the Video Group Discussion and Group Bible Exploration portions of this guide and prepare your own personal examples to encourage discussion. In order to ensure your group members get the most out of this study, make sure that each individual has their own Interactive Workbook. This will allow them to take notes during the group time as well as dig deeper on their own throughout the week.

Because every group session includes a video portion, think about the logistics in advance. Will everyone be able to see the screen clearly and hear the teaching? Make sure to position the chairs and set the audio at a comfortable level before the session. You don't want your group to miss anything.

With that in mind, let's preview the guide. Each lesson has six sections:

Video Teaching Notes

Several key points and quotes from the video are provided in this section, but there's also room to write down your own notes.

Video Group Discussion

People can forget the content unless they review it right away. Many of the discussion questions have to do with remembering what the group just viewed. But other questions try to connect the video to the viewers' emotions or experience. *How did you feel when Tony said that? Is that true in your life? Do you have the same issue?*

Group Bible Exploration

This is a Bible study, so each session is grounded in Scripture. Within your group, you may find different levels of faith. This is a time to open up the Bible and grow as a group or help others find their faith.

In Closing

The goal for every Bible study is to apply what you've learned. This section will highlight the main point of the lesson and challenge your group to spend some time in the coming week diving deeper into this week's theme.

On Your Own Between Sessions

This section includes additional study for individuals to keep the content they just learned fresh in their minds throughout the week and to put it into practice.

Recommended Reading

Your group time in this video Bible study will be enhanced if everyone takes the time to read the recommended chapters in *The Power of Knowing God* by Tony Evans. Tony's video teaching follows the book, but the book includes considerably more information and illustrations. If you are the leader, encourage your group to prepare ahead as well.

SESSION 1

DO YOU KNOW HIM?

While knowing God does involve your intellect, emotions, and actions, it also involves so much more. Because intellect, emotions, and actions on their own do not comprise the true meaning of knowing.

Consider a husband and wife who have been married for four or five decades. Of course, by then they intellectually know their spouse, they emotionally grasp how he or she makes them feel, and they have made adjustments in their actions in an effort to align with their spouse's desires. However, even with those three aspects of knowing, they may not truly know each other at all.

You've seen them. These couples can predict each other's next word, and they'll dutifully accompany each other to whatever appointment or experience is on the agenda, but something seems to be missing. Despite years together and shared memories, they are still not connected in the way that matters most.

Knowing someone—even knowing God—involves much more than simple knowledge. It involves a connection so authentic and real that it gives birth to a synchronicity and cadence established as a natural outgrowth of the relationship itself. Knowing someone often can't be defined in words or activities. It's that subtle savoring that occurs within two souls uniquely bonded in love.

Our foundational passage for understanding why we are to pursue knowing God intimately is Jeremiah 9:23-24, where we read,

Thus says the LORD, "Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me."

When a man sees a lady who captures his imagination, and he walks over to ask her, "What's your name?" he is after much more than information. While information is necessary, that's not his goal. His goal is a relationship. As this man and woman begin

to date and start talking on the phone, facts about each other transform into feelings. As these feelings deepen, he becomes moved to ask for her hand in marriage. When she says yes and the wedding occurs, they then spend their first night together on their honeymoon. When the feelings have culminated in a mutual love, they then initiate the full knowing of each other in their first time of intimacy together.

See, that's what the Bible says when we read in Genesis 4:1, "Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain" (ESV). When the Bible talks about people knowing each other in this biblical sense, it is referring to physical intimacy at its greatest level. This ushers in the ability to both know and be known—which involves much more than mere physical contact and is only attainable in an atmosphere of total and deserved trust.

The Power of Knowing God, pages 12–14

Video Teaching Notes

As you watch the video, use the space below to take notes. Some key points and quotes are provided here as reminders.

Main Idea

- We were created to know God, and we miss out on the fullness of life when we fail to do so. But knowing Him is about more than collecting information. It's about intimacy.
- Many Christians have the right tools (church, community, Bible study) but miss out on an intimate relationship with God.
- God desires that we boast in knowing Him (Jeremiah 9:23-24). There exists a vast difference between head knowledge and heart knowledge. To truly know God, He has to be your greatest desire.
- Moses provides us with an example of desiring to know God (Exodus 33:13-18).
 - » He asked to know God's ways (verse 13)
 - » He asked for God's presence (verse 15)
 - » He asked to see God's glory (verse 18)
- Personal Notes:

Application

Do you want God? Or merely His benefits? God created you to walk in intimacy with Him. Take an honest look at your life and surrender those desires that keep you from that intimacy.

Quotables

- When God says, “I want you to know Me,” He says, *I want us to get so close and so intimate that we have come to feel each other, to understand each other, to relate to one another.*
- Every time you bring up the name *God*, along with that name you should bring up the desire to find out more about Him.
- Jesus said this *is* eternal life—that you get to know Him. You get to experience His life pulsating and operating within your life.

Video Group Discussion

1. In the video, Tony touches on rituals people perform in order to know God. He mentioned attending church could be one of those rituals. What are some other activities people participate in that make them feel they are getting to know God when they may just be going through the motions?
2. Tony says in the opening of our study that “God wants to be known relationally, experientially, and intimately.” Why is it important to know God in each specific way?

What can we do to increase our ability to know Him in each of these three categories?

3. Take a look at a passage referenced in the video, Jeremiah 9:24 (NIV), and reflect on this Scripture in light of the three ways to know God just mentioned:

Relationally. Read Jeremiah 9:24a:

Let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know me, that I am the LORD...

How does this portion of the passage reflect knowing God relationally?

Experientially. Read Jeremiah 9:24b:

...who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth...

Can you share a time when you experienced God's kindness, justice, or righteousness made manifest in your life? What did that experience do to your faith?

Intimately. Read Jeremiah 9:24c:

...for in these I delight.

The word *delight* reflects emotion. Describe the emotions present in delight.

How does knowing that God is emotionally moved to carry out kindness, justice, and righteousness help you to connect more intimately to Him?

4. In the video, Tony says that knowing God means getting clarity on His character and the work He wants to do on earth. List three ways we can seek to gain clarity on God's character and His work.

a.

b.

c.

Once clarity on God's character and His work are revealed to us, what can result?

5. Read the following verses. Describe how each relates to our role in carrying out God's works and discuss why knowing God intimately is critical to doing that work well.

We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them (Ephesians 2:10).

I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me (John 6:38).

I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do (John 17:4).

Knowing God fully means His character will ultimately reflect through our own. Yet we cannot have God's character shine through us unless we know Him personally—relationally, experientially, and intimately. Share a specific way you can encourage yourself to pursue knowing God personally this week.

Group Bible Exploration

1. Read the following verses. Explore the *cause* in each passage which then leads to the *effect*—knowing God. Share how each verse describes knowing God as an effect.

The secret of the LORD is for those who fear Him, and He will make them know *[yada]* His covenant” (Psalm 25:14).

Cause:

Effect:

“You are My witnesses,” declares the LORD, “And My servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know *[yada]* and believe Me and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, and there will be none after Me” (Isaiah 43:10).

Cause:

Effect:

I will give you the treasures of darkness and hidden wealth of secret places, so that you may know *[yada]* that it is I, The LORD, the God of Israel, who calls you by your name” (Isaiah 45:3).

Cause:

Effect:

2. Exodus 33 tells about a time when Moses wanted God badly (see verses 13,15,18).

Moses had come to know God in a myriad of experiences and had become dissatisfied with a nibble here or there. He was hungry and wanted more.

Moses was a man who was famished for God. He asked Him repeatedly to remain in close proximity to him so that he could get to know Him. Moses asked God to reveal Himself to him. He practically begged God not to lead him anywhere where He would not also be.

When you are hungry for someone, you want to be near them. You want to close the distance and remain near them. No matter what the cost. Read the following verses and take notes on what they mean to you personally.

As the deer pants for the water brooks, so my soul pants for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God; when shall I come and appear before God? (Psalm 42:1-2).

Whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ...that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead (Philippians 3:7,10-11).

I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear; but now my eye sees You; therefore I retract, and I repent in dust and ashes (Job 42:5-6).

3. Hunger for God isn't only about blessings and having Him do things for you. Moses

(Exodus 33), David (Psalm 42:1-2), Paul (Philippians 3:7,10-11), and Job (Job 42:5-6) hungered to know God fully, even in the fellowship of His sufferings. Even if it meant repenting of their own self-will, pride, and previous thoughts. When people experience a shared suffering or mutual struggle, it will often draw them closer together. It creates a greater appreciation for one another on many levels, while developing a deeper intimacy.

I love those who love me; and those who diligently seek me will find me (Proverbs 8:17).

In what ways does knowing God intimately require participation from us?

How would you feel if someone said they wanted to get to know you but then took no effort to get to know you?

Do you think God ever feels that way about you, or about others in the body of Christ?

In Closing

As you end the study today, spend some time sharing prayer requests related to your pursuit of knowing God and your desire to cultivate your relationship with Him. Be specific about the areas you feel you need to grow in and develop the most. Ask the Holy Spirit to open your hearts throughout this study in order that each of you may come to know God as never before. Also ask that He guard and protect your priorities, time, and passions in order to enable each of you to finish this study in its entirety.

Before session two, complete the “On Your Own Between Sessions” section below. You might want to start the next session by asking people to share what they learned from the exercises on those pages.

On Your Own Between Sessions

1. In the book, Tony goes into greater detail on Moses’ pursuit of God and how knowing God was tied to knowing God’s character and His ways. He writes,

Moses made a very instructive statement when he said, “Let me know Your ways that I may know You.” To know God’s ways is to know God. To know His ways is to be synced up with what He is doing, aligned with His will and rule. It is to be on the same page with God. See, you can’t truly know someone if you don’t even know what they are up to. But even though that is true and a reality, many of us miss that. Instead, we make our prayers about us. We word our requests not so He will show us what He is up to and how we can join Him, but more so that we can have our own way. But to know God is to know His ways. Because Moses knew God intimately, God showed him His ways (page 29).

Read the following Scripture passages:

He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the sons of Israel (Psalm 103:7).

As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts (Isaiah 55:9).

God works in ways that are beyond our own understanding. Why is it important to ask God to show you His ways?

What are some distractions in your life that might keep you from coming to know God’s ways?

What can you do to lessen these distractions?

2. The word *yada* appears more than 1,000 times in Scripture. Tony describes the word this way:

- to know, learn to know
- to be made known, be revealed
- to make oneself known
- to cause to know
- to reveal oneself
- to know by experience

Draw from those descriptions to form your own definition of knowing God.

3. God desires your attention. How does it make you feel to know that He longs for your affection, focus, and time?

Spending your time, energy, and focus on distractions of the world affects your intimacy with God:

Do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: “He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us”? (James 4:4-5).

Pray and ask God to enlighten your heart in order to see more clearly any areas of focus that are distracting you from knowing God personally. Seek His heart and wisdom on how to retrain your focus to the pursuit of knowing Him.

4. Life Exercise: Getting Intimate with God.

Identify a time when you can spend concentrated and focused energy on pursuing your understanding and relationship with God each day.

Consider several ways to nurture your relationship with God during this time. It could be writing freely in a journal any thoughts you have toward Him or thanking Him for any of His attributes. Or it could mean looking up Scripture on the attributes of God and meditating on the Scripture for a few minutes each day.

Evaluate how your relationship deepens as you spend consistent time with God. Also evaluate how you are coming to know His various attributes more fully and seeing them shine through your own thoughts, words, and actions.

Repeat. After you've put this into practice this week, seek to repeat it in the weeks to come. You can incorporate the various aspects we are studying about the power of knowing God into your daily intimate time with Him.

Recommended Reading

In preparation for session two, read chapters 3–5 of *The Power of Knowing God*.