

Basic Theology

How Can We Know God?

Intro:

Word of the day: Theology

Ask students what comes to mind when they hear the word “Theology”. There are different approaches to theology, or the study of God. 1) Biblical theology seeks to learn of God as he reveals himself progressively through the unfolding of the Bible story. 2) Systematic theology seeks to learn of God by focusing broadly on a subject area. 3) Catechisms explore theology through a question and answer format. This study uses a catechetical approach, asking basic questions and exploring the Bible’s teaching for answers.

Discussion A: Psalm 19:1-6

v.1: Where does David point our attention? *The heavens/the sky*

v.1: What message comes from this place? *The glory of God/his handiwork*

v.2: What is in this place by day? By night? *Speech/night*

v.2-3: How does David say that this message is communicated? *Without speech or words*

v.4-6: Where does David say that this message is communicated? *In all the earth/ends of the world*

How do these verses help us answer our main question?

We can know God through his creation.

Scripture with scripture: Romans 1:18-20

This passage similarly describes the creation as giving enough evidence for men to acknowledge God’s power in creation.

Discussion B: Psalm 19:7-11

v.7-9: Where does David point our attention? *God’s law*

v.7-9: What can we know from this source? *Wisdom, joy, fear of the Lord, life, enlightenment, truth*

v.11: What good things come to those who keep them? *Reward*

v.10-11: What differences are there between these two sources?

Creation – universal, available to everyone, reveals limited truth about who God is

Word – limited to those who have it, reveals specifics about God’s nature, affects the heart

v.12-13: What else can we know from this source? *We become aware of sin*

How do these verses help us answer our main question?

We can know God through his word.

Scripture with scripture: Isaiah 51:7; Romans 3:20

These passages confirm that the law reveals God's righteousness and man's sinfulness

Discussion C:

John 1:17-18

What do these verses teach about how we can know God? How we cannot know God?

We can know God through Jesus Christ, not through seeing him ourselves.

John 17:3

What two persons does Jesus speak about knowing in this verse?

The one true God/Jesus Christ

What does Jesus say that this knowledge is? Eternal life

2 Timothy 3:14-15

What two things did Timothy know before Paul wrote these verses to him?

He knew the scriptures, and he knew who had taught them to him.

When did he know it? From childhood.

What does Paul say is the good that comes from this knowledge?

Wisdom leading to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

How do these verses help us answer our main question?

We can know God through his Son.

Scripture with scripture: Colossians 1:15; 2 Corinthians 4:6

As the image of the invisible God, Jesus is the one who helps us know what God is like.

When we see Jesus for who he is, we know the glory of God.

Summary:

Based on our study, compose both a shorter and longer answer to "How can we know God?"

We can know God through his creation, his word, and his Son.

We can know God in his power and glory through his creation,
in his self-revelation through his word,
and in a saving relationship through his Son Jesus Christ.