

CHAPTER 3

Getting To Know God

“How To Know The Lord As Your Best Friend”

A. WHAT IS GOD LIKE?

When you become a Christian you begin a personal relationship with God. He is a Person – **not a force, or vapor, or power, or an invisible eye.** He wants to talk to you, and He wants you to talk to Him. God loves you and He wants to be your very best friend. Think about your friends. When you meet new friends, it takes many hours of talking, playing and hanging out to really get to know them, doesn't it? God has become your friend, and He is the most interesting and loving person you will ever know. Now it's going to take time, the rest of your life, to get to know and enjoy your very own personal relationship with God - Your Heavenly Father, Jesus your Lord, and the Holy Spirit your Helper.

Did you know the deep heart desire of every person is to know God? Every person has a built-in spiritual hunger that only God can satisfy. The primary ways to get to know God are spending time talking to Him in prayer (which we will look at in our next lesson), and spending time letting Him talk to you from His Word, the Bible (which we will look at in a future lesson.)

Let's take a few moments to see what your new friend is like. He has revealed Himself in the Bible. How do the following verses describe God?

1. Who Is God?

Matthew 28:19

There is only one God, but He reveals Himself in three persons. That makes our brains go “tilt”, doesn't it? Let's look at which three persons make up the Godhead (or Trinity).

God the _____

God the _____

God the _____

2. What do these verses tell us about God as our Father?

a. Matthew 7:11

God the Father is the giver of _____

b. John 4:24

God is a _____

c. James 1:17

Whatever is good and perfect comes from God above.

He never _____

3. What do these verses tell us about Jesus our Lord?

a. John 8:12

Jesus is _____

b. John 10:14

Jesus is a good _____

c. Hebrews 13:8

Jesus is the same _____, _____ and _____

4. What do these verses tell us about the Holy Spirit?

a. 1 Corinthians 3:16

The Holy Spirit lives where? _____

b. John 14:26

The Holy Spirit will _____ me all things

The Holy Spirit will _____ me of all things Jesus has told me

c. John 16:13, 14

The Holy Spirit _____ me into all the truth

He _____ me things that will happen in the future

d. Romans 8:14

The children of God are _____ by the Holy Spirit

e. Romans 8:16

The Holy Spirit speaks to our hearts and tell us what? _____

B. WHO ARE WE?

God made us! We were created in the image and likeness of God. God is a three-part being – Father, Son and Holy Spirit - and He has made us to be a three-part person.

1 Thessalonians 5:23

What three things, that make up the three parts of a human being, does God want to be kept blameless?

_____, _____ and _____

Our **spirit** is also called the heart, the inner man or the hidden man of the heart. Our spirit is the real, deep down inside person we are! The person who lives behind your eyes, the real you, is a spirit. **Your spirit or heart is the part of you that only you and God know!** Our spirit is the part of us that really connects with God – it's the part of us that God talks to and lives in.

Our **soul** is our personality and includes our mind, our will and our emotions. Our soul is the part of us that thinks mental thoughts and expresses our emotions of joy or tears, and our will is the part of us that makes decisions to do things or to not do things. Our soul is the part of us that learns and studies and is filled with knowledge.

Our **body** is what you look at in the mirror! It's like the "house" our spirit and soul live in. Our body is our "earth suit". Our body is the part of us that has the five physical senses of sight, hearing, taste, touch and smell that help us live in the natural world.

God wants us to be led by our spirits, but sometimes have you noticed that your soul (mind, emotions and will) and your body fight your spirit? In other words, in your heart or spirit you know the right things to do, but your mind may try to convince you to do wrong things; or your feelings may not want to do the right thing, or your body may want to pull you in another direction. You have to choose with your will to allow your spirit to win!



APOLOGIZING: For example, have you ever been mean to someone, maybe to your brother or sister? Did your heart or spirit tell you that you should apologize to them? Did you feel like apologizing? Did you want to apologize? Now you have a choice to make. You can let your feelings dominate you, or you can let your spirit or heart dominate you. If you choose to let your spirit lead you, you will apologize and you will have peace in your heart. If you choose to let your soul or body win out, you will feel unrest in your heart, and maybe even anger. It's always best to obey and follow your heart or spirit.

It's helpful to understand that we are a three-part person, isn't it? God wants us to grow strong in our spirits by knowing Him and His Word. He wants us to fill our souls with His Word, too, so that our thoughts and emotions and will are balanced, healthy and at peace. He wants our bodies to be strong and healthy too, so that he can bless our whole life.

C. HOW DO I GET TO KNOW GOD BETTER?

1. Be Like Enoch

Did you know that Enoch was a friend of God? God liked Enoch a lot. The name Enoch means "dedicated". Enoch was dedicated to God. Let's look at his life.

a. Genesis 5:23-24

How long did Enoch live? _____

Can you imagine that?

What type of relationship did he have with God? _____

God loved Enoch so much that Enoch didn't even die! In the Old Testament, God just lifted Enoch off planet Earth and took him to heaven!

b. Hebrews 11:5

What did God think about Enoch? _____

2. Put God First In Your Life

Matthew 6:33

What does God want you to put first in your life? _____

What will God do for you, if you put Him and His kingdom first? _____

3. Love God With Your Whole Heart

Have you ever felt loved by your parents or family or friends? Did it make you feel good to know that someone loved you from their heart? Did you know that God likes it when we love Him with our whole heart? In fact, God's eyes are searching the whole earth to find people with hearts totally in love with Him. Will His eyes find you?

a. 2 Chronicles 16:9

What are God's eyes doing? _____

Who is He looking for? _____

What will He do for those who are fully committed to Him? _____

b. Psalm 119:2

Describe the people who seek after God with their whole heart? _____

c. Jeremiah 29:11-13

What kind of plans does He have for you? _____

If you seek God earnestly, or with your whole heart, what will you find? _____

d. Hebrews 11:6

What does God do for those who sincerely seek Him? _____

C. JUST DO IT – TAKE ACTION



Now it's time to just do it! Let's take action on what we have studied. Did you know that you are never too young to seek the Lord? God has a mighty plan for your life and if you will put Him first and spend time getting to know Him, you can be just like the young kids of the Bible who knew God. No matter how old you are, you can know God deeply! God will cause you to be a leader among your friends if you will put Him first. Let's look at several examples of young people that sought God!

1 Luke 2:41-52

How old was Jesus in this story? _____

What was Jesus discussing with the older religious teachers? (verse 46) _____

What do you think Jesus meant in verse 49? _____

How did Jesus respond to his parents in verse 51? _____

How did Jesus grow according to verse 52? _____

2. Luke 1:26-38

Mary was a single, engaged young girl when God chose her to be the mother of His Son! What an honor! What if Mary had been a rebellious, backslidden teenager? Mary was an obedient, sweet-spirited young lady.

What did the angel Gabriel say to Mary in verse 28? _____

What did Mary say in verse 38? _____

3. 1 Timothy 4:12

Is this verse talking about an old person or a young person? _____

Even though you are young, God is instructing you to be an example.

In what areas are you to be an example?

4. Genesis 37:1-7

God gave a young man a dream that described God's plan for his life.

How old was Joseph when God gave him a special dream? _____

5. 2 Kings 11:21; 12:2

How old was Jehoash when he became a king? _____

What did the Lord think of Jehoash? _____

6. 2 Kings 15:1-3

How old was Azariah when he became a king? _____

What did the Lord think of Azariah? _____

7. 2 Kings 21:1-2

How old was Manasseh when he became a king? _____

What did the Lord think of Manasseh? _____

8. 2 Kings 22:1-2

How old was Josiah when he became a king? _____

What did the Lord think of Josiah? _____

9. 2 Kings 24:8-9

How old was Jehoiachin when he became a king? _____

What did the Lord think of Jehoiachin? _____

10. 2 Chronicles 26:1-5

How old was Uzziah when he became a king? _____

What did the Lord think of Uzziah? _____

As long as Uzziah sought the Lord, what did God do for him? _____

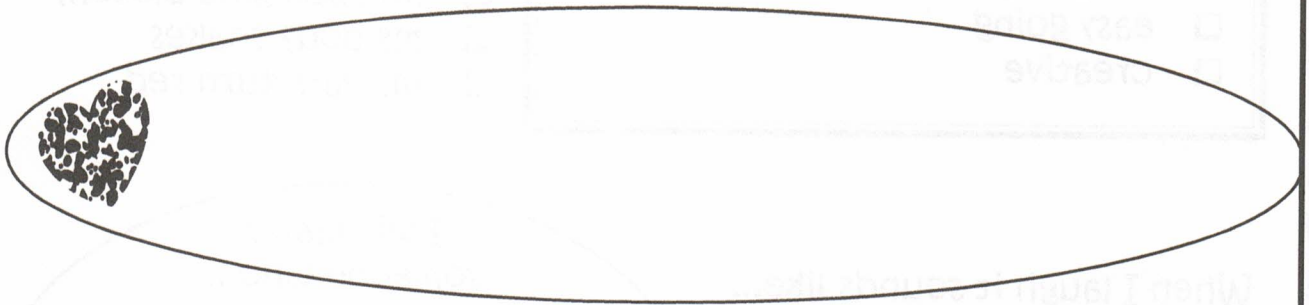
MY PERSONAL WALK WITH GOD

Pages You Can Personalize!

I Am A Spirit, I Have A Soul, I Live In A Body

My Spirit or Heart:

Draw all the things you love in your heart:



I really sense the Lord's Presence when...

My favorite Bible verse(s) are:



When I think about my parents, or my family it makes me feel...

I am most at peace when...

If I had to describe how I feel in my heart about the Lord in one sentence, here's what I'd say:

My Soul - My Mind, Emotions and Will:
 Answer these questions that describe your soul...

My personality is best described as:

- a leader
- outgoing
- easy going
- Creative

When I cry....

- my nose runs
- my face gets blotchy
- my body shakes
- my ears turn red



When I laugh it sounds like...

- a pig snorting
- a bird chirping
- a duck quacking
- a cow mooing

I will marry someone who...

- loves the Lord
- is pretty or handsome
- likes to brush their teeth
- listens to Christian music
- all of the above

My definition of a warm, fuzzy is:



I like to learn by...

- doing
- reading
- listening
- seeing
- all of the above

My favorite sports or activities are...circle all the ones you like:

- | | | | |
|--------------|------------|-----------|---------------|
| soccer | basketball | football | baseball |
| ballet | skiing | computers | skateboarding |
| singing | dance | painting | drawing |
| scuba diving | swimming | acting | riding bikes |
| video games | surfing | checkers | snowboarding |

My Body

Answer these questions that describe your body...

When I sneeze...

- I close my eyes
- I sneeze 3 times in a row
- I say "achoo"

I can wiggle my...

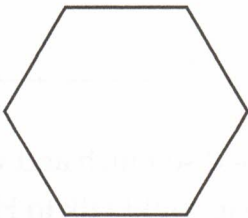
- ears
- eyebrows
- nose
- toes

What color...

- are your eyes? _____
- is your hair? _____
- is your skin? _____



I counted all my freckles and I have this many:



This is my self-portrait:



If I could change anything on my body it would be: