

The offer of a relationship with God

Living in relationship with God- session 1

Colossians 1:21-23 (p. 1182)

The reason we care about relationships...

The Christian message: God offers us a relationship with himself (v21-22)

a. Before: Relationship totally ruined (v21)

b. After: Relationship perfectly restored (v22)

c. How: The cross of Christ (v22)

The Christian life: growing in and enjoying that relationship (v23)

"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better."

Ephesians. 1:15-16.

- a. Relationships take time and effort**

- b. Relationships grow gradually**

- c. Relationships require good communication**

- d. Relationship with God is supremely rewarding**

"I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord."

Philippians 3:8

"What makes life worth living is having a big enough objective, something which catches our imagination and lays hold of our allegiance; and this the Christian has, in a way that no other person has. For what higher, more exalted, more compelling goal can there be than to know God?"

Jim Packer, *Knowing God*

Small Groups - John 10:1-30

Taking it further

Memory Verse

This is what the LORD says: "Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches, but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me." **Jeremiah 9:23-24**

Further Bible-study

The psalms are a collection of songs which were written by different people over many years during the time of the Old Testament. They are 'songs of the heart', written by individuals in response to God, expressing the living relationship that God offers his people.

Here are some psalms that will help you think through what a relationship with God can be like. You'll see it can be deeply emotional! No need to read them all, but why not try to read a few this week, using it as an opportunity to thank God that because of Jesus you can enjoy this kind of relationship with him too.

- *Psalm 27*- The security a relationship with God offers
- *Psalm 42*- Leaning on God in hard times
- *Psalm 62*- The sufficiency of a relationship with God
- *Psalm 63*- Delighting in God
- *Psalm 84*- The wonder of God's presence with us
- *Psalm 116*- How to respond to God's love for us
- *Psalm 139*- The comfort of knowing God is always with his people

For the book-worms

Real Life Jesus	Mike Cain	A book all about what a relationship with Jesus is like. Chapter 9, 'Life to the full', will particularly help you to think more about Jesus the shepherd in John 10
Knowing God	Jim Packer	A more challenging read, but definitely worth it! Chapter 2, 'Knowing and being known', will help you think through how amazing it is to know God.