

Having a Real Relationship With God



Kay Arthur

4minute
BIBLE STUDIES

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PRECEPT MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL



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P R E S S

HAVING A REAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

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HAVING A REAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Have you ever wondered if it's possible to have a meaningful relationship with God? An authentic relationship that works in the day-in-and-day-out circumstances of life? Do you hunger for a genuine experience of community and of God?

This is an inductive study that will help you discover for yourself how such a relationship is possible. By *inductive* we mean you are going to go straight to the source—the Bible—to see what God has to say about the relationship He wants to have with you and about the community He wants to bring you into.


WEEK ONE

Leader: *Take a few minutes and discuss where our culture is and what people are seeking. What are some of the questions they are asking? How do they feel about life? about God? Do they have a religion that works? a belief—a relationship—that has changed their lives? One that they feel is authentic?*

OBSERVE

Have you ever wondered what we have to do, what we have to become in order to merit a relationship with God? Let's read what God has to say in the New Testament book of Romans.

Leader: *Read aloud Romans 5:6-11. Have the students circle the words **we** and **us** in the text. As the students mark each pronoun, have them say it aloud as you come to it in the text. That way everyone will be sure to mark every reference.*

*Ask the students to read through the same verses again on their own, and when they come to the word **love**, to mark it by drawing a heart over it, like this: *

ROMANS 5:6-11

⁶ For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

⁷ For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die.

8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.

10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

11 And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

INSIGHT

Sinners means people who basically run their own lives, doing things their own way rather than God's way. Therefore they fall short of God's standard and separate themselves from God.

DISCUSS

According to verse 8, when did God demonstrate His love to us and how?

What was our status when God demonstrated His love to us?

Look at the occurrences of the words *we* and *us* that you have marked and discuss what you learn about the state of mankind when Christ died for them.

Does this raise these questions in your mind:

Why are we helpless?

What is a sinner?


Whose enemy are we and why?


Those are good questions that will be answered next week.

OBSERVE

Now let's take a closer look at this passage and see what these verses tell us about God and Jesus Christ.

Read through the text again on pages 6-7, each one on your own, and mark every reference to **God** and to **Jesus Christ**.

Mark God like this: 

Mark Jesus Christ with a cross: 

ROMANS 5:6-11

6 For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

7 For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die.

8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.

10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God

List everything you have learned about God and about Jesus Christ in the sidebar column on page 7.

INSIGHT

Justified means to be acquitted, to be declared not guilty, to be made righteous, to be put in right standing.

Reconciled means to no longer be at enmity (or enemies) with one another. The dictionary definition is “to make friends again; to win over; to settle a quarrel, a disagreement; to make satisfied; to be no longer opposed.”

Reconciliation means to change from being at enmity (or separated) to becoming friends.

DISCUSS

What did you learn about God from these verses?

What did you learn about Jesus Christ from these verses?

In whose eyes do we need to be justified? Why?

How are we are justified?

According to verse 9, what do we need to be saved from? How will we be saved? What does this tell you about people who never have an authentic relationship with God?

through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

¹¹ And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

GOD

JESUS CHRIST

Discuss what it means to be reconciled so you make sure you understand what you read in the Insight Box. Then discuss how and when we are reconciled to God. What did Christ do that made that reconciliation possible? (You may have covered this already, but review is good—so go for it!)

INSIGHT

We didn't become sinners at enmity with God because God pulled away from mankind, abandoning us, leaving us on our own. Our relationship with God was damaged by man's own willfulness. At the beginning of creation, Adam and Eve, the first man and woman God created, made a choice to listen to someone else rather than to God. Like rebellious children, they walked away from the protection of being obedient to their Creator and Sustainer. Adam's decision to eat something God had forbidden him to eat broke his intimacy with God. Consequently we became ungodly sinners, enemies of God.

WRAP IT UP

Just think: If we are reconciled by Jesus' death on the cross, then verse 10 of Romans 5 says we shall be saved by His life! In other words, Jesus didn't stay dead. He rose from the dead. He lives and we will live too, saved by His life. We will look at this in greater depth later.

The question you need to ask yourself is this: Where do you stand in your relationship with God if the Bible is true? Are you a sinner, ungodly, and an enemy of God? According to what you have read, is there hope for you? Can you have an authentic relationship with God?

Have you received reconciliation and become God's friend—or does there seem to be something standing in your way? If it's the latter, do not despair. There is hope. Simply talk to God about it. Tell Him where you think you are and what your questions are. Then wait for Him to answer. He will, because He longs to have an intimate and meaningful relationship with you!

Next week we're going to take a good look at this issue of sin. What makes us sinners in God's eyes? What is sin? What form does it take, and where does it lead? It will be most enlightening.



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