

Eight Grade- Why is knowing Him so important?

In a previous lesson you discussed how to know God, but an important follow up question exists. Why is knowing him so important? Why do I need to invest the time into the relationship when I can learn everything I need to from the bible? I can learn how to live a morally right life through it, I can avoid most unnecessary pain, it gives me a solid game plan for relationships, parenting, how to keep my integrity. It seems most things are covered just by a working knowledge of the facts and guidance of the Bible. You will hear classmates and peers talk about the Bible being a solid moral book, and that Jesus was just a moral teacher. Is trying to start a relationship with God even necessary? That's the topic for today. Remember the one who is talking is learning, so ask questions and engage in discussion.

Introducing the Topic

Use these questions to help gauge what students already know about the subject and help them begin to verbally process what may be misconceptions or partial understandings of the importance of knowing God.

To get discussion started let's ask some questions

- How do friendships start?
- Is it possible to be friends without a mutual care for each other, time spent together in some way, etc.?
- What are some of the values of a friendship?
- What feelings do your friendships evoke? (ex. belonging, cared for, known, important)

So then moving it a bit deeper

- Do you think its possible you could feel those same ways with your relationship with Jesus?
- In the same way you feel compelled to care for friends, find interest in each others interests, do you think you could feel that same desire to care about what God cares about?

Scripture Study

As you transition to the Scripture Study portion of this session, remind students that Scripture is where we turn for truth. We want to continually reiterate that we study Scripture not just for the "Christian take" on a matter, but God's revealed word, given to us out of love for our good.

(feel free to use any extra resources, or find different verses to make the point of this lesson. One resource is: https://www.blueletterbible.org/faq/don_stewart/don_stewart_1389.cfm)

Turn to John 17:1-3

- What does Jesus say is eternal life?
- Is knowing him important for our eternal life?
- Throwback to the previous lesson, what then does it mean to “know God”?

(Our eternal life depends on our relationship with Jesus.)

Now turn to Romans 11:33-36

- What sticks out to you in these verses? Why?
- These verses are Paul worshipping God. Does having a loving knowledge of God for greater worship?
- Do you think just knowing positive morals changes lives like the relationship Paul had with God?

(True worship can result from an accurate knowledge of the Lord)

Practical Application

We want students to be able to contextualize what Scripture teaches to their daily life. This portion of the conversation is centered around the practical application of the text and aimed at helping students actually integrate this spiritual truth into their walk with the Lord.

In conclusion, have a few students explain what they learned. Some questions to help get there...

- After looking at a few verses, do you think truly knowing God is important? Why?
- Is there anything confusing or is there anything you disagree with that was said today?
- Do you feel like you know how to grow in your knowledge and love for God? If not would you like to learn?
- Does anyone have any prayer requests for this week?