



# LOVE GOD

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## RELATE TO GOD

### **Spiritual Outcome Defined:**

Intentionally cultivates a genuine relationship with God by humbly walking through life with God, talking and listening to God, and intentionally seeking to personally know him.

### **Spiritual Outcome Described:**

In Scripture, God uses a surprising word to describe the relationship between himself and Abraham. He refers to Abraham as “my friend” (Isaiah 41:8). Similarly, toward the end of his earthly life, Jesus wants his closest followers to know how much he values their relationship when he says, “I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you” (John 15:15).

*“...one can know a great deal about God without much knowledge of Him...knowledge about God, and the capacity to think clearly and talk well on Christian themes, is not at all the same thing as knowing Him.”*  
-- J.I. Packer

To authentically follow Christ is the cultivation and experience of a genuine relationship with God. Yes, there is reverence, awe and worship of God, but there is also a daily walking and talking with God that overtime has its own unique intimacy. This relationship is cultivated with God through prayer and Scripture, and like any relationship, can grow cold without intentionality and effort. But when we engage the highly intentional practice of talking and listening to God, we then develop our own relationship with him that is ever-present throughout our daily lives.

### **Evidence of this Spiritual Outcome in a Person’s Life:**

- The passion and practice of engaging God daily through Scripture.
- The passion and practice of engaging God daily through conversational prayer.
- Seeking God for wisdom, insight, and direction in all aspects of one’s life.
- The daily bringing of both hardship and celebration to one’s relationship with God.

## **Guidance**

Read each passage multiple times. Then write your observations about the passage and any thoughts you have from the discernment question. What do you notice in the passage, and what does this reveal about your life?

### **Joshua 1:1-9**

Observations:

Discernment Question: Joshua was exhorted to meditate on God's word day and night. When your mind goes to neutral, what do you think about?

### **1 Samuel 3 (especially 3:19)**

Observations:

Discernment Question: Scripture tells us the Lord was with Samuel and that the Lord did not let any of Samuel's words "fall to the ground." How are your conversations with God? Do you talk with God? Do you believe he listens to you? Are your conversations intentional or haphazard, genuine or forced, thoughtful or flippant?



## **1 Kings 19:10-13**

Observations:

Discernment Question: Elijah did not hear God in the earthquake or the wind but in the quiet whisper. How disciplined are you about quieting yourself before God? Do you create enough space in your life to both seek and experience God's presence?

## **Proverbs 2:1-5**

Observations:

Discernment Question: Solomon describes a highly intentional effort to seek and know God. How intentional is your effort to seek God? How disciplined are you in engaging God through Scripture? How disciplined are you in engaging God through prayer?



## **John 10:27**

Observations:

Discernment Question: Jesus said, “My sheep hear my voice.” How do you hear God’s voice in your life? Do you listen through prayer? Do you listen through Scripture? Have you opened yourself for the possibility of God’s voice in your life?

## **John 17:3**

Observations:

Discernment Question: Life is described as “knowing” God. If there was a spectrum of knowing God with “strangers” on one end and “intimate friends” on the other, where would you fall on that spectrum? What are you doing in your life today to cultivate a friendship with God?



## **Philippians 3:7-11**

Observations:

Discernment Question: Paul considered all things loss that got in the way of his “knowing” Christ. What inhibits your relationship with God? What might you need to lose in order to gain Christ and more intentionally and authentically relate with him?

## **2 Timothy 3:16-17**

Observations:

Discernment Question: Paul teaches Scripture is “God-breathed.” Are you currently taking full advantage of the opportunity you have with Scripture?



### **1 John 1:3**

Observations:

Discernment Question: What could you do to increase “fellowship” with the “Father and with his son, Jesus Christ,” as this passage describes?

### **Revelation 3:20**

Observations:

Discernment Question: If Jesus is knocking at your door, are you letting him stand on the other side, opening the door but not letting him truly enter, or sharing a meal with him in the kitchen?



## Next Steps

What are practical next steps you will do from what you have discovered in this survey of Scripture on cultivating a relationship with God? Include insights offered from others in your Life Group that could be applied in your own life as well.



## Memorize Scripture:

Mark 12:30 NIV

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.

John 17:3 NIV

Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

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