



# LOVE GOD STUDY GOD

## **Spiritual Outcome Defined:**

Cultivates a true knowledge of God and God's teachings by gaining a solid biblical and theological foundation

## **Spiritual Outcome Described:**

There are two all-too-common errors when it comes to studying God and God's teachings. The first is to let one's relationship with God be overrun by study. This is the person whose so-called relationship with God becomes an academic exercise. The second error is the exact opposite. This is the person who is all heart and no head. Possibly out of

reaction to those who merely study God academically, these are those who fail to study God at all. Neither error is acceptable for the authentic follower of Christ. When giving the greatest commandment, Jesus made it clear that we are not only to love

*"Nothing will so enlarge the intellect, nothing so magnify the whole soul of man, as a devout, earnest, continued investigation of the great subject of the Deity."  
-- C.H. Spurgeon*

God with all our heart and all our soul, but we must love God with all our minds (Matthew 22:36-40). To neglect the study of God not only dishonors God but is also dangerous: "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." (Hosea 4:6). Life is hard and abounds with challenge. The person who has carefully considered God's sovereignty, grace, mercy, and providence will be the person whose roots go deep into the ground strengthening that person for life's inevitable storms. The person who neglects these thoughts of God may have great heart for God but will be dangerously vulnerable when winds blow hard against them. Put another way, knowledge of God leads to knowledge of life, and sadly, the flip is also true. When we ignore God we are ignoring the abounding life God will birth in us and through us. To authentically relate to God and trust God, we must know more of who this God truly is and what he is up to in this world. When we lack depth of understanding we will lack depth of conviction and depth of participation. When we have depth of understanding, we will have the depth of conviction that will bring about the kind of living for which we truly long.

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

- Can articulate, in one's own words and from Scripture, teachings on eight central topics: the Bible, God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, humanity, salvation, the church, and spiritual growth.
- Knows and can articulate the overarching story of Scripture.
- Knows how to discover holistic and balanced truths in Scripture by letting Scripture interpret itself.
- Can identify ways one's knowledge of God is currently impacting daily living.

## **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?

### **Deuteronomy 6:4-9**

Observations:

Discernment Question: How well are the teachings of Scripture integrated into your daily life and conversation? What appeals to you about integrating Scripture into your daily life and conversations? What resistance do you have to it?

### **Joshua 1:8**

Observations:

Discernment Question: How much of your thought life could be characterized by meditating on God's law and teaching? Why a lot? Why a little?



### **Psalm 1:1-3**

Observations:

Discernment Question: Do you drink deeply from Scripture as a tree would drink deeply from a nearby river? What motivates this in your life? What inhibits it?

### **Psalm 119:23-24**

Observations:

Discernment Question: To what extent do God's teachings "delight" you or bring you pleasure? Why or why not?



## **Proverbs 2:1-8**

Observations:

Discernment Question: Do you seek God's wisdom as you would seek a hidden treasure in a nearby field? Why or why not?

## **Hosea 4:6**

Observations:

Discernment Question: How have you seen destruction or hardship in your life due to lack of insight into God's teachings?



**Romans 12:2**

Observations:

Discernment Question: What most shapes your mind? In your current season, is the world “conforming” you or are God’s teachings transforming you?

**1 Timothy 4:16**

Observations:

Discernment Question: Do you take doctrine and biblical teaching seriously? Why or why not?



## 1 Timothy 6:3-5

Observations:

Discernment Question: How caught up have you been in peripheral teachings or arguments that promote disunity rather than unity around the essentials?

### Next Steps

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



### Memory Verses:

#### 2 Timothy 3:14 NIV

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

#### Hebrews 4:12 NIV

For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

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