

Introduction

For the last two weeks, we've explored what it means to **know Jesus**. Last week, Jeff challenged us to think of knowledge as more than *knowing about* someone. On Sunday, Ryan took the definition of knowledge to a deeper level, defining it as an *interactive relationship*.

This week, we will continue our journey to know Jesus in a new way.

Getting to Know Each Other *(Suggested time: 30 min)*

Begin your group time by learning more about each other. Open up and have some fun!

→ If you could spend time with anyone, living or dead, who would it be? What would you want to talk about? What would you like to do together?

→ What do you know a lot about (hobbies, subjects, etc.)? What did it take to gain that knowledge?

Getting Started

Begin to transition into group discussion.

- 1) Invite someone to open the group in prayer. Here are a few potential prayer items:
 - a. For God to reveal His truth and love for the group
 - b. For openness to each other and God's voice
 - c. For friendships to deepen and grow
- 2) This week read the passages as you cover the corresponding question.

Study Questions *(Suggested time: 40 min)*

Please complete these questions before your group meets.

- 1) As you reflect on the message, what's something that stood out to you?

- 2) **Read Matthew 7:21-23 and Matthew 9:18-19.** Having an interactive relationship with Jesus is more than going through the motions or checking things off a list. It's not enough to know Jesus; He must also know you — it's a relationship of mutual knowledge and interaction. As we've seen with the synagogue official, there were areas of his life he couldn't fix on his own.
 - a. What areas of your life do you invite Jesus into (relationships with others, career decisions, hopes/dreams, pain, disappointment, etc.)? What impact has His presence played in those areas?

 - b. What areas of your life are you struggling to manage yourself? What might it look like to invite Jesus into those areas?

- 3) **Read Matthew 7:7-8 and Matthew 9:20-22**
 - a. What character traits do you see in the actions of the woman in this story? (pro tip: look at Matthew 7:7-8 again)

 - b. Sometimes, we forget the Father longs to be found and yearns to give. In what ways could you demonstrate faith and courage like the woman in Matthew 9:20-22?

- 4) Over the last couple weeks, we've learned there is a difference between familiarity with Jesus and an interactive relationship with Him.
 - a. Where are you with Jesus, familiarity or interactive relationship? If you're willing, briefly describe.

- b. If you don't know Jesus as well as you would like, how could you begin to know Him more?

- c. If you're already experiencing an interactive relationship with Jesus, He always has more to offer. What could you do to deepen your knowledge and relationship?

Prayer *(Suggested time: 10 min)*

Take a few moments to prepare a prayer request. What did the discussion cause you to notice about your own relationship with Jesus?

A significant part of "coming together" is being open and honest with our lives. Sitting in a group of people for prayer may be new or it may be familiar to you. Whether or not you choose to verbalize your prayer, everyone is a participant in sharing this time before God together.