

La Familia de Dios

Becoming Children of God

Open by asking: *"How is everyone doing?"*

Introduction: *"Today we're going to be talking about what it means have a relationship with God. There's a lot of different ideas out there about how to get closer to God, and the point of this discussion is to take a look at how the Bible says we can know God closely, like a friend."*

"Here's a question to get us started: What's the difference between knowing about somebody, and knowing somebody? Does anyone have an example from their own life?" **Be prepared to start off with an example of your own.**

Transition to the Scriptures: *"The same thing is true in our relationship with God. There's knowing about God, and then there's **knowing** God."*

Have people in the group read the following verses: John 17:3, Romans 8:14-17, and Matthew 28:20

Questions for discussion:

- *From these verses, what can a relationship with God be like?*
- *Has there been a time in your life when you felt like you related to God this way?*
- *What prevents us from knowing God like this?*

Have people in the group read the following verses: Romans 3:23 and Romans 6:23.

- *How would you define "sin"?*

After you discuss that question, say this: *"The Bible says that people were created to have a close relationship with God, but because of our stubborn self-will, we chose to go our own independent way and that relationship was broken. This attitude can be either active rebellion against what God wants, or more like a passive indifference to what He says. Either way, this is what the Bible calls sin."*

- *Was there ever a time in your life that you felt like you could really identify with the Bible's idea of sin?*

Have people in the group read the following verses: Romans 5:8, 2 Corinthians 5:20-21, and John 14:6.

- *What is the main thing these verses are saying?*
- *John 14:6 says that Jesus is the only way to overcome the sin that separates us from God. But there are other things people try to do to please God. What are some ways besides Jesus that people try to bridge that separation? If someone relies on one of these other things to bring them closer to God instead of Jesus, what do you think God thinks of that?*

Have people in the group read the following verses: John 1:12 and Ephesians 2:8-9

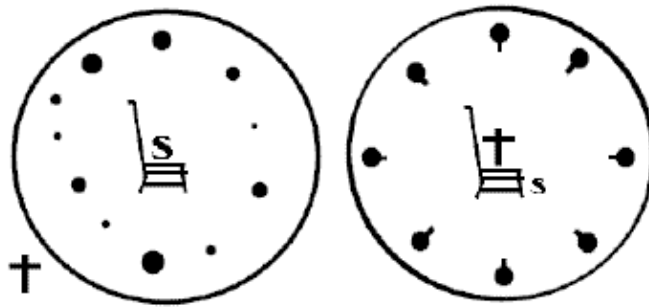
- *What is the main thing these verses are saying?*
- *How does someone become a child of God?*

After you discuss these questions, say this: *"Believing Jesus, or having faith in him, involves turning to God from that attitude of self-will or sin. It means trusting Christ to come into our lives to forgive us of our sins and to make us what He designed us to be. Just to agree intellectually that Jesus Christ is the Son of*

God and that He died on the cross for our sins isn't enough. Nor is it enough to have an emotional experience. We receive Jesus Christ by faith, as an act of the will to decide to put our trust in Him.

Apply it to Life:

- "There are two kinds of people...people who trust Jesus Christ with their lives, and people who trust their own ideas of how to live their lives." **On the back of this paper, draw out this diagram to illustrate this point:** These two circles represent these two lives: A life without Christ...self is in the center and on the throne and Christ is outside; and a life entrusted to Christ...Christ is on the throne and the self yields to Him.



- How do you think a person goes from the circle on the left to the one on the right? (Hint: Look back at Ephesians 2:8-9)
- If a person is like the circle on the right, is there anything separating them from God? (Hint: Romans 5:8)
- Which of these best describes your life? Which would you like to describe your life?

If someone in the group wants to place their faith in Christ, you can explain it like this and close in prayer:

"You can receive Christ right now by faith! God is concerned with your heart, not with your words. But talking to God through prayer is a great way to tell God you want to put your trust in Him. If you want to do this, you can pray along with me something like this:

Lord Jesus, I want to know you personally. Thank you for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life and receive you as my savior and Lord. Thank you for forgiving me of my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of the throne of my life. Make me the kind of person you want me to be."

[keep praying to wrap up your time together]... *"God, thank you for this time we've had together, and for speaking to us through your Word (etc....)"*

If someone in the group said they wanted to receive Christ, that's awesome!! Be sure to get together with them this next week! Get to know them better, help them understand what happened when they placed their faith in Christ, and help them start growing in Him!