



The Heart of Jesus
Week 1 – “A Prayer of Glorification”
Leader Guide

Main Objective: Help those in your group dive into a deeper understanding of the heart of God and his desire to be known.

KEEP IN MIND: The goal is NOT to try and get through all the questions but to have a meaningful discussion. Go through and think about which questions will land and spark the most conversation with those in your group.

INTERACTIVE:

- Have spouses/best friends sit back to back and raise their hand if a certain statement applies to them. Have fun and be creative on the questions! (ex. *Who does the laundry more? Who is more knowledgeable of the Bible? Who knows the budget the best? Who is more stubborn?*)

Ask This Question:

1. Whether you are married, or single, think back to when you were dating. What kinds of questions did you ask? What did you do to get to know the other person better?
2. In Hebrew, the word “*yada*” or “know”, carries a much stronger and more intimate meaning than what is often understood today. What do you think it means to truly know someone?
3. On a scale of 1-10, how well do you feel you know the heart of God and why?
4. Why do you believe God wants us to know Him more deeply? What qualities, or characteristics, separate a surface level relationship from an intimate one?
5. What does it look like in your everyday life to move from simply knowing about God to truly knowing Him?

READ JOHN 17:1-5

- What is the *context* behind the prayer that Jesus prays over his disciples in John 17?
Examples:
 - The disciples have been walking with Jesus for over 2 years now
 - Peter has acknowledged that Jesus is the Son of God.



-They have seen Jesus perform miracles, and they themselves were given power to also perform miracles.

-This is taking place in the Upper Room the night before Jesus' crucifixion.

- What parts of this opening to Jesus' prayer stick out to you? How would you describe the heart of Jesus in these few verses?
 - In J.I. Packer's book, "Knowing God", he says, "*Once you become aware that the main business that you are here for is to know God, most of life's problems fall into place of their own accord.*" Do you agree/disagree? Why, or why not? Do you have any example of this playing out in your own life spiritually or practically?
 - Listen to some of King David's final words to his son in 1 Chronicles 28:9. "As for you, my son Solomon, *know* the God of your father and serve him with a whole heart and a willing mind." How did you see David in Scripture being a man who sought to know the Lord?
 - What are things you do during the week to grow in your relationship with the Lord? What has been most helpful?
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NIGHT OF CELEBRATION

- Reflect on all Christ has done! Spend time as a group listing off the things Jesus has accomplished and the implications behind those.
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DIGGING DEEPER

TESTIMONY

- People can often wrestle with their faith and salvation because so often our testimonies revolve around us, and NOT what Christ did. Have people in your group prepare a short 3-5 minute written testimony (*do not need to go into the weeds for this – Before Christ/How they met Christ/What He is doing*). Encourage them to frame their testimony with as many "God statements" as possible to take the focus off self and on Jesus. Spend time reading these in your group time with whomever feels comfortable sharing. I would suggest kicking things off as the example and to break the ice.

CLOSING:

- Jesus is ultimately addressing the eternal life we have through him. Take time as the leader to remind those in your group that eternal life is only found in the life, burial, and resurrection of



Jesus. Let them know if anyone does not have the assurance of eternal life to stick and around afterward to talk and pray together.

a. Keys Verses in these Post-Group conversations:

-Romans 10:9; John 14:6; Romans 6:23

- Close with a time of prayer using these prayer prompts. Be ok with everyone silently praying to the Lord, but also open it for anyone to pray out loud.
 1. Ask the Lord to give you a hunger for His Word this week.
 2. Pray over your own heart that you will not be content with just information about God, but a deeper, intimate connection to Him.
 3. Pray over those in your life that you believe do not know the Lord.