



“I Don’t Need the Bible or Worship to Have a Relationship With God”

Prayer

Introductory Activity

Focus: You often hear people talk about having a personal relationship with Jesus. However, though individuals have personal faith, the Bible speaks of our life with Jesus as communal. Christianity is about the church’s relationship with Christ. Just add up all the “one another” passages in the New Testament! We are baptized into the body of Christ. So when we address having a relationship with God, we need also to address our relationship with God’s people.

Activity:

In Another World. Imagine you live in a world exactly like our own but with one exception: the Bible doesn’t exist. Armed only with the natural knowledge of God, discuss what you could know about the following questions in such a world.

- How does God view me?
- What do I know about God?
- How do I get closer to God?



- What does God want me to do with my life?

- How do I get to heaven?

God's Word and God's People

1. The natural knowledge of God is not enough to give a person a relationship with God. As you read the following passages, identify what we learn from the natural knowledge of God.

Psalm 19:1—"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands."

Romans 1:20—"For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse."

Matthew 5:45—"He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous."

Romans 2:14,15—"Indeed when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts sometimes accusing them and at other times even defending them."

Acts 17:27—“God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us.”

2. Agree/Disagree: All people know that God exists.

3. To have a relationship with God, a person needs the Bible! God says, “So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith” (Galatians 3:26). God brings us into that relationship through faith! God works faith through the Bible. God says, “Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ” (Romans 10:17). In fact, God’s Word is our life! “Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4). Jesus said, “If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing” (John 15:5). We remain in Jesus when we listen to his Word!

Read Hebrews 1:1,2.

- Imagine if your spouse or boyfriend/girlfriend only talked to you once a week, or month, or year. What would that do to you emotionally? How does that relate to the topic of reading the Bible?

Read Psalm 1:1-3.

- What does *meditate* mean?

- In metaphorical terms, this Scripture describes the benefits of daily reading the Bible. Explain the metaphors. What is meant by “yields its fruit in season” and “whose leaf does not wither”?

- List what you feel are the keys for a healthy relationship. How does believing this lie line up with fulfilling those keys?

- Read Hebrews 3:12-14. What do each of these terms or phrases teach us about reading the Bible or worshiping together?

“... daily”

“... so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness”

“... hold ... firmly”

- Read 1 Corinthians 12:3 and Romans 1:16. Come up with an analogy that will help answer this lie.

Closing Activity

Tabloid Headline. You are writing a headline to explain the blessings or need of God’s Word and worship.