

WHAT YOU WERE
MADE FOR

HOW KNOWING GOD WILL TRANSFORM YOUR LIFE

Student Workbook
Frank Turek and Ted Wright

What You Were Made For: How Knowing God Will Transform Your Life
By Frank Turek and Ted Wright

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How to

Use This Workbook

Welcome to a study for which you were created: a study to know God! We pray it will be as fruitful to you as it has been for us.

There are two parts to each lesson in this workbook. The first half of each lesson is labeled “DVD Notes,” which contains a summary of points we made in the video portion of each lesson. Track along with these notes as you watch the DVD and add your own insights as you go.

After you’ve watched the DVD, you can answer the questions in the second half of the lesson labeled “Study Questions.” If you are doing this alone, this workbook is obviously self-paced. But if you are part of a group that meets regularly, the study questions should be filled in after you watch the DVD and before your next meeting. Your answers serve as excellent points of discussion with your group before moving on to the next lesson.

Chuck Swindoll wrote, “I know of no other single practice in the Christian life more rewarding, practically speaking, than memorizing Scripture . . . No other single exercise pays greater spiritual dividends! Your prayer life will be strengthened. Your witnessing will be sharper and much more effective. Your attitudes and outlook will begin to change. Your mind will become alert and observant. Your confidence and assurance will be enhanced. Your faith will be solidified”. (*Growing Strong in the Seasons of Life*, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994, p. 61) We couldn’t agree more so we’ve included a Memory Verse for each lesson.

We suggest you write out your memory verse each week. Stick them on your mirror, tape them to your dashboard or attach them to your refrigerator. Commit them to memory and maybe your efforts will encourage others who come across them to do the same!

Once you complete your study of *What You Were Made For* we know you’ll be hungry for more knowledge of God and His Word. Our books, CDs, TV shows, PowerPoint Presentations, and DVDs, as well as hundreds of those from other Christian apologists, can be found at the online store of www.ImpactApologetics.com. There are also several videos, podcasts and other resources at www.CrossExamined.org. When you’re there, don’t forget to download the free CrossExamined App, which has a “Quick Answers” section that will help you share the truth about Christ wherever you are.

Blessings to you,

Frank Turek & Ted Wright

Why Study God?

Question: Why study God?

Answer: Because knowing God is what you were made for.

This is eternal life: that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent – John 17:3

Everything has a purpose. When it comes to people, our purpose is to *know* God. Knowing our Creator and Redeemer is the greatest single thing a Christian can endeavor to do. Theologian A.W. Tozer once wrote, “*The most important thing about a person is what comes to your mind when you think about God.*” But in order to have thoughts of God we must know something *about* Him – to know His *nature* and His *attributes*. ‘*What You Were Made For*’ is a study of the nature and attributes of God – of what God is like. Knowing God is life changing!

Is Theology Practical?

The study of God is called *theology*. Reading theology can be like reading recipes to starving people. We intend this series to be the exception, where we feast on spiritual meat in getting to know God better.

We’re sure you’ve heard people say, “I’m not a theologian!” The truth is, *everyone is a theologian*. Everyone has some concept of God—it may be a wrong concept but it is a concept nonetheless. The question is whether our thoughts about God correspond to the true God or not. Every Christian needs to study theology because you can’t grow in the Christian life without it.

It is understandable why many people are “turned-off” to theology. It can seem dry, impersonal and impractical. In his classic book *Mere Christianity*, C.S. Lewis addresses this sentiment. He tells a story of once giving a theological talk to the R.A.F. (Royal Air Force) when a seasoned officer stood up and loudly protested that he didn’t need to study theology or doctrine. The officer stated that he had encountered God in the desert at night in the beauty of the stars, and to study God by doctrines, and formulas seemed petty and foolish. Lewis responds to this objection by citing a map, which someone in the RAF would use frequently.

Theology is like the map. Merely learning and thinking about the Christian doctrines, if you stop there, is less real and less exciting than the sort of thing my friend got in the desert. Doctrines are

not God: but they are only a kind of map. But the map is based on the experiences of hundreds of people who really were in touch with God – experiences compared with which any thrills or pious feelings you and I are likely to get on our own are very elementary and confused. And secondly, if you want to get any further, you must use the map. You see, what happened to that man in the desert may have been real, and was certainly exciting, but nothing comes of it. It leads nowhere. There is nothing to do about it. In fact, that is just why vague religion – all about feeling God in nature and so on – is so attractive. It is all thrills and no work; like watching waves on the beach. But you will not get to Newfoundland by studying the Atlantic that way, and you will not get eternal life by simply feeling the presence of God in flowers or music. Neither will you get anywhere by looking at maps and without going out to sea. Nor will you be very safe if you go to sea without a map. In other words, theology is practical: especially now. (Mere Christianity, p. 119-20)

Our purpose in this study is not to study doctrines about God, but to give you a kind of map to help you know who God really is and how you should live in light of who God is.

This is Just a Start

What You Were Made For is a study of the attributes of God, which is to be used with the accompanying nine-lesson video series. It is a beginner's study (or map) that's not intended to be exhaustive. No matter where you are on your journey to understand God it's good to remember that, in a sense, we are all beginners. In fact, God is the only perpetual novelty. You will never learn all there is to know about God because He is an infinite Being and the Creator and Sustainer of all that exists (including you!).

We should also remember that God (in Himself) is worth getting to know—even if you can't think of any practical application to knowing a particular attribute right now. God actually *desires* that we know Him. The problem of getting to know God is not found in Him – the problem is ours. James writes: *Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts you double-minded.* - James 4:8 (NASB)

In your efforts to more deeply know God, remember He sent His only begotten Son so that you might know Him in intimate fellowship. Christ who is the Logos or the "Word" of God (John 1) is the perfect revelation of God in human form. He is Emmanuel, "God with us."

We hope that this will help you fulfill the purpose of your life. ***May God richly bless you in your pursuit of Knowing Him!***

Frank Turek & Ted W. Wright

(If you would like to learn more about our backgrounds, schedules and the work we do, please visit www.CrossExamined.org)

What Is the Meaning of Life?

Our Mission

1. What is the Purpose of Life?
2. Why Study God?
3. Who is God? What is God like?

"Is life just a glorified Monopoly game—buy as much as you can but when you die it's all going to go back in the box?" - Frank Turek

WHAT IS THE MEANING OR PURPOSE OF LIFE?

- Hedonism? – pleasure
- Materialism? – money, stuff
- Socialism? – government led utopia
- Atheism? – no purpose

Ecclesiastes: The Purpose of Life?

"Meaningless! Meaningless!"

says the Teacher.

"Utterly meaningless!

Everything is meaningless."

*What does man gain from all his labor
at which he toils under the sun?*

*Generations come and generations go,
but the earth remains forever. - Ecclesiastes 1:2-4 (NIV)*

King Solomon tested the pleasures of wine, works, wealth, women and wisdom.

Ecclesiastes: Life is Meaningless . . .*So I hated life, because the work that is done under the sun was grievous to me. All of it is meaningless, a chasing after the wind. I hated all the things I had toiled for under the sun, because I must leave them to the one who comes after me... - Ecclesiastes 2:17-25 (NIV)*

Ecclesiastes: The Conclusion of the Matter - *Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil. - Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 (KJV)*

The Purpose of Life: Knowing God - *Thus says the LORD, "Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; ²⁴ but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things," declares the LORD.* - Jeremiah 9:23-24

*For I delight in loyalty rather than sacrifice,
And in the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.* - Hosea 6:6

This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. - John 17:3

...I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ. - Philippians 3:8 (NIV)

According to the theologian J.I. Packer

- *What were we made for?* - **KNOWING GOD**
- *What should our aim in life be?* - **KNOWING GOD**
- *What is the eternal life Christ gives?* - **KNOWING GOD**
- *What in us gives God the most pleasure?* - **KNOWING GOD**

WHY STUDY GOD?

What is your most important thought? - *The most important thing about you is what comes to your mind when you think about God" A.W. Tozer*

Why Knowing God is Important

We Can't truly Know Ourselves until we Know our Creator - *God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.* - Genesis 1:27

Being made in the image of God means that we are persons. A person has Mind, Emotion and Will

We Can't Be Like Him Unless We Know Him

But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy. - 1 Peter 1:15-16 (NIV)

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ...taking the form of a bondservant...He humbled Himself... - Phil. 2:5,7 (NKJV)

God sent his own son so that we might know him. Are you a servant like Christ?

We Must Know the True God so we can know the false ones - *God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.* – John 4:24

Pointers to God That We Make Substitutes for God - Relationships, Love, Sex, Beauty, Food & Drink, Cause or Purpose, Work, Intellect, Sports/Celebrities, Government, Pleasure, Moments of Awe

Sin is a shortcut to get what you want.

We don't know God directly right now, we know him by his effects.

If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that we were made for another world. — C.S. Lewis (Mere Christianity)

We Must Know the True God in order to find true contentment both in this life and in eternity.

Don't be Wrong about Eternity - *For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?... - Matthew 16:26*

WHO IS GOD? WHAT IS GOD LIKE?

God's Attributes

- An Attribute of GOD is SOMETHING that is TRUE about GOD
- Some Attributes GOD HAS ALONE
- Some Attributes GOD CAN SHARE

ATTRIBUTES GOD HAS ALONE

HE is ETERNAL
HE is ALL-POWERFUL
HE is ALL-KNOWING
HE is EVERYWHERE PRESENT
HE is UNCHANGABLE
HE is SELF-EXISTENT
HE is SIMPLE SPIRIT

ATTRIBUTES GOD CAN SHARE

HE is HOLY (Holiness)
HE is BEAUTY
HE is TRUTH
HE is JUST (Justice)
HE is LOVE
HE is MERCIFUL

Lesson 1/ Study Questions

What is the Meaning of Life?

Memory verse: *“Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent” – John 17:3*

Overview of Questions Covered in this Lesson

- What is the Purpose of Life?
- Why Study God?
- Who is God? What is God like?

WHAT IS THE MEANING OR PURPOSE OF LIFE?

Why are you here? Why do you exist? Where are you heading? What is your destiny? Is there any real purpose to life? In this presentation Frank Turek briefly reviewed some of the popular answers to that question, and then offered God’s answers.

1. What are some popular answers people give to the purpose/meaning of life?

King Solomon was the son of King David and Bathsheba. He was the third king to rule over all Israel and was the richest, wisest and most powerful man of his time. He could and did immerse himself in every luxury available. Yet in all his abundance he could not find contentment.

2. Read Ecclesiastes chapters 1 & 2. What conclusion does Solomon come to about the meaning of life based on worldly pleasures?

3. King Solomon tested the pleasures of wine, works, wealth, women and wisdom. Find verses in scripture that talk about each of these as a gift from god.

wine -

Works -

Wealth -

women-men-physical relations -

Wisdom -

4. Study 1 Timothy 6:6-19 and Matthew 5:19-33. When do blessings turn to destructive things?

If you have kids, you may experience the problems of idol worship when you ask them to shut off their video games. It's about all many kids want to do. They whine and complain when you tell them to shut it off, and then can't imagine doing anything else (like actually going outside to play with other kids!). It consumes them and keeps them from growing up and becoming responsible adults. Now, there is nothing wrong with enjoying a game. But when the game becomes more important than real life—than God, people and their other responsibilities—you are not amusing a child, you're creating a problem adult. Moreover, the game will never ultimately satisfy. Lasting contentment only comes from knowing God. What idols consume you as an adult?

Solomon had more wealth, glory, recognition and honor than any of us have. Still, he succumbed to all that is in the world: *"For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever"* (1 John 2:16-17). God has given us what we need to live *WITH*. But what will we live *FOR*?

5. What difference do you notice in Solomon's outlook on the meaning of life in Chapter 12?

"Humans have always wondered about the meaning of life...life has no higher purpose than to perpetuate the survival of DNA...life has no design, no purpose, no evil and no good, nothing but blind pitiless indifference" – Atheist - Dr. Richard Dawkins (atheist)

6. Why would you think Solomon's conclusion is true and Dawkins' is not? In other words, what evidence do you have to say that Solomon's conclusion is true?

7. How does pop-culture contradict what Christ teaches in the Gospels on the meaning of life? Give scripture references to support your position.

8. Read Ecclesiastes 1: 9-10. Why is Solomon's life experience and conclusion about the meaning of life still relevant in today's culture?

Any idol will ALWAYS over promise and under-deliver. If we think a relationship, a job, a person, a hobby, popularity, money, an experience, or anything but God, will satisfy our deepest longing, we will be disappointed. Not only that, if we make a person an idol, we will crush him or her with our expectations. Many marriages fail because the wrong person is getting worshipped: either the spouse or him or herself instead of Christ.

After New England Patriot Quarterback Tom Brady won three Super Bowls, he lamented the fact that it wasn't satisfying. He said, "there is still something else out there for me." Even the behavior of kids implies that nothing temporal satisfies. Consider Christmas. When you give a child the toy they wanted most, they love it initially. But a few days or weeks later they're bored with it and are asking for something else. Without God we will never be ultimately satisfied. As Augustine said, our hearts are restless until we find our rest in God.

What Is The Purpose Of Life According To Jesus?

In John 17, right before He goes to Jerusalem to be crucified and die on a Roman cross, Jesus prays to the Father on behalf of His followers.

9. According to John 17:3 what is “eternal life?”

10. Why do most Christians not know God like they should? Where does the problem lie?

WHY STUDY GOD?

God created us in his image (Gen 1:26). That’s doesn’t mean that we look like God (because God is not a physical being), but it means that we have personal attributes like God. We are persons in the sense that each us has a mind, emotions and a will (we reason, feel and desire). If you want to know how something is supposed to work, you should ask the person who created it. For example, your car has a manual that has insights from the designing engineers on how to properly operate it. Since God created us, then we ought to learn about Him and His Word to see how we should live.

Here’s another way of looking at this: We need to seek God because God’s image on us has been distorted by sin. Think of one of those warped mirrors in a fun house. Your image is retained but it’s been distorted. If we are going to live a productive life in this fallen world, we need to come to know God by transforming our minds (Rom. 12:1), abiding in Christ (John 15), and becoming sanctified by His Word (John 17:17).

There will be practical and tremendous consequences if we make it a priority to KNOW GOD because:

We can’t truly know ourselves until we know our Creator.

We can’t be like Him unless we know Him.

We must know the true God so we can know the false ones.

We must know the true God in order to find true contentment both in this life & in eternity.

11. Can you think of any other consequences or benefits to knowing God?

12. What are some good things that are pointers to God that you see others putting ahead of God?

13. What tempts you to spend your time, money and talents? Ask God to convict you of changes to make so that your priorities more closely reflect His priorities!

"If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that we were made for another world. If none of my earthly pleasures satisfy it, that does not prove that the universe is a fraud. Probably earthly pleasures were never meant to satisfy it, but only to arouse it, to suggest the real thing. If that is so, I must take care, on the one hand, never to despise, or be unthankful for, these earthly blessings, and on the other, never to mistake them for the something else of which they are only a kind of copy, or echo, or mirage. I must keep alive in myself the desire for my true country, which I shall not find till after death..." - C.S. Lewis (Mere Christianity)

WHO IS GOD? WHAT IS GOD LIKE?

As we begin to study God and Who He is, we learned that God has something called **ATTRIBUTES** (*an attribute of God is something that is true about God*).

There are two major types of attributes listed here. Take a look at these and try to think of others that are not listed.

TWO TYPES OF ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

God's Attributes He Has Alone

1. He is ETERNAL
2. He is ALL-POWERFUL
3. He is ALL-KNOWING
4. He is EVERYWHERE PRESENT
5. He is UNCHANGABLE
6. He is SELF-EXISTENT
7. He is SIMPLE SPIRIT

God's Attributes He Can Share

1. He is HOLY (Holiness)
2. He is LOVE (Love)
3. He is JUST (Justice)
4. He is TRUTH (Truth)
5. He is RIGHTEOUS
6. He is MERCIFUL
7. He is BEAUTY

In each future Lesson, we will investigate one or more of these attributes and encourage you to live your life in light of them.

14. Which of these attributes do people who say they believe in God tend to deny and why?

15. Give several biblical examples of sins committed by Godly men in the Bible.

16. Just because the Bible records it, does that mean God approves it? Explain your answer.

17. Review what you've learned in this lesson:

- **What is the Purpose of Life?**

- **Why Study God?**

- **Who is God? What is God like?**

Boast in only one thing: Knowing God

Some people get frustrated when the Bible or a sermon doesn't appear to be relevant to them. But not every scripture or sermon has an obvious personal application for your life today. Not everything appears to be "relevant" immediately. However, since knowing God is our ultimate goal in life, nothing could be more relevant than understanding all of His revelation. Knowing God *IS* eternal life!

