

Knowledge

Lesson 02 of the series: "Training Camp"

"Physical training is good, but training for godliness is much better, promising benefits in this life and in the life to come." -1 Timothy 4:8 (NLT)

I. God wants us to live godly, productive lives.

"By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence. And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires. In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God's promises. Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence (goodness), and moral excellence with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love for everyone."

-2 Peter 1:3-7 (NLT)

a. God knows everything.

"Great is our Lord, and abundant in strength; His understanding is infinite." -Psalm 147:5 (NASB77)

"Only I can tell you the future before it even happens. Everything I plan will come to pass, for I do whatever I wish." -Isaiah 46:10 (NLT)

"O LORD, you have examined my heart and know everything about me." -Psalm 139:1 (NLT)

b. God has promised us the Holy Spirit so we can understand spiritual truth and understand Him.

"But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you." -John 14:26 (NIV)

"For his Spirit searches out everything and shows us God's deep secrets. No one can know a person's thoughts except that person's own spirit, and no one can know God's thoughts except God's own Spirit. And we have received God's Spirit (not the world's spirit), so we can know the wonderful things God has freely given us... But people who aren't spiritual can't receive these truths from God's Spirit. It all sounds foolish to them and they can't understand it, for only those who are spiritual can understand what the Spirit means... we understand these things, for we have the mind of Christ." -1 Corinthians 2:10-16 (NLT)

God wants us to know: His character, His will, His ways, and His Word.

c. God has promised to train and guide us through His Word.

"My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says the LORD. "And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts. The rain and snow come down from the heavens and stay on the ground to water the earth. They cause the grain to grow, producing seed for the farmer and bread for the hungry. It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it." -Isaiah 55:8-11 (NLT)

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

-2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV)

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." -Psalm 119:105 (NIV)

God wants us to know: Our purpose, our giftings, our calling, and the best plan for our lives.

Note: God does NOT promise to tell us everything about everything.

"The LORD our God has secrets known to no one. We are not accountable for them, but we and our children are accountable forever for all that he has revealed to us, so that we may obey all the terms of these instructions." -Deuteronomy 29:29 (NLT)

II. More knowledge makes us more useful.

“The more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But those who fail to develop in this way are shortsighted or blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their old sins.” -2 Peter 1:3-9 (NLT)

a. God wants and expects us to learn. (We need to know.)

“Tune your ears to wisdom, and concentrate on understanding. Cry out for insight, and ask for understanding. Search for them as you would for silver; seek them like hidden treasures. Then you will understand what it means to fear the LORD, and you will gain knowledge of God. For the LORD grants wisdom! From his mouth come knowledge and understanding. He grants a treasure of common sense to the honest. He is a shield to those who walk with integrity. He guards the paths of the just and protects those who are faithful to him. Then you will understand what is right, just, and fair, and you will find the right way to go. For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will fill you with joy.”

-Proverbs 2:1-10 (NLT)

“Intelligent people are always ready to learn. Their ears are open for knowledge.” -Proverbs 18:15 (NLT)

“Whoever loves instruction loves knowledge, But he who hates correction *is* stupid.”

-Proverbs 12:1 (NKJV)

Warning! Knowledge can lead to pride. “Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.”

-1 Corinthians 8:1 (NIV)

“If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God’s secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn’t love others, I would be nothing.”

-1 Corinthians 13:2 (NLT)

Note: We must choose our friends carefully. “He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm.” -Proverbs 13:20 (NIV)

b. God wants and expects us to apply what we learn. (We need to grow.)

“Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, ‘The teachers of religious law and the Pharisees are the official interpreters of the law of Moses. So practice and obey whatever they tell you, but don’t follow their example. For they don’t practice what they teach.’” -Matthew 23:1-3 (NLT)

“Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.” -John 13:17 (NIV)

“Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it.” -James 4:17 (NLT)

“You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others.”

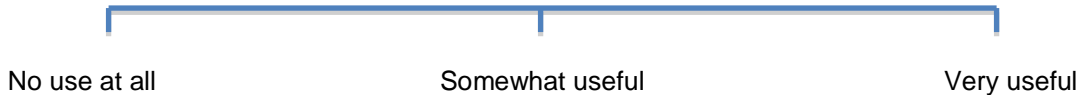
-2 Timothy 2:2 (NLT)

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Connect Group Questions

To prepare for this week's meeting, take some time to focus on the following questions and write out a few brief answers. Be prepared to share them with your group.

1. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching on "Knowledge", was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?
2. Read 2 Peter 1:3-9. Peter urged his readers to live productive and useful lives. On the following scale how would you rate your usefulness to God right now?



What needs to change in your life to increase your usefulness?

3. In his message this week, John reminded us of the following promises God makes to us in order to help us live godly lives:
 - God has promised us the Holy Spirit so we can understand spiritual truth and understand Him. (John 14:26, 1 Corinthians 2:10-16)
 - God has promised to train and guide us through His Word. (2 Timothy 3:16-17, Isaiah 55:8-11, Psalm 119:105)

Discuss these promises and their supporting Scripture references. How do these promises make you feel? How should these promises impact the way we live?

4. What do the following proverbs teach us about learning and gaining knowledge?
 - Proverbs 2:1-10
 - Proverbs 12:1
 - Proverbs 13:20
 - Proverbs 18:15

Would you describe yourself as a learner? Why? Why not? When should we stop learning?

5. Spend some time as a group discussing what God has been teaching you lately through His Word, others, circumstances and experiences. Pray for each other asking God to give you wisdom and insight as well as courage to follow through on what He has shown you.