

The Way of the Cross

Worship

God wants us to truly *know* Him, not just know about Him (Exodus 3:13-17; Matthew 1:21-23). When we know God and walk in relationship with Him, we experience life transformation and step more into all that He has for us. It is in knowing God that we begin to more fully grasp that He is I AM, the fulfillment and embodiment of all the covenants we see and read about in the Bible (e.g., Noahic, Abrahamic, Mosaic, Davidic covenants). Through Jesus – through what He accomplished on the cross – we can enter a *new covenant* with God where we can personally know Him as I AM. And just as Jesus' journey to the cross began with worship, our response to the nature and heart of God revealed in the cross should also be extravagant worship (Matthew 26:30).

VISION FOR THIS WEEK

To grasp more of the magnitude of what God accomplished for us through the cross and worship Him.

GET THINGS STARTED

What do you think are the key differences between knowing God and knowing about God? Why do so many people struggle to have an active, transformative relationship with God? What are the primary indicators that someone has a rich, personal relationship with God?

GO DEEPER WITH SCRIPTURE

1. Why is the name of God, revealed in Exodus 3:13-17 as I AM (Yahweh), so important to knowing God and the significance of Jesus going to the cross?
2. How does knowing and understanding the various covenants in the Bible help us grasp the heart and nature of God? How is Jesus the fulfillment of these covenants, particularly the Davidic and Mosaic covenants (Isaiah 118; Matthew 5:17)? What is the *new covenant* we have with God through Jesus?
3. According to Matthew 26:30, how does Jesus begin His journey to the cross?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. What is your personal relationship with God like? Can you say with confidence that you know Him, not just know about Him? Why or why not?
2. How would you describe your understanding of the name(s) of God, the various covenants of the Bible, and how Jesus fulfills the law and the covenants? Are these familiar or foreign to you? How easy or intimidating are these facets of Scripture to you?
3. Do you consider yourself a worshiper? How free or encumbered is your worship, and why? What might it look like for you to take a step further into more open, extravagant worship? What possibly keeps you from being that kind of worshiper?

PRAYER AS A GROUP

As a group, take time together in prayer to worship God as I AM. Thank God verbally for being a covenant-keeping God, and for establishing a *new covenant* through Jesus by which we have access to God and can be transformed in His presence. Ask God to help you have a greater understanding of the covenants of the Bible and how Jesus relates to them. And ask God to give you a deeper and richer understanding of what Jesus accomplished on the cross.