

Parkview Leadership Track

Session 1 - God and Leadership

Head: Who is God? Knowing God

Jeremiah 9:23-23: *"This is what the Lord says: 'Let not the wise man boast of His wisdom or the strong man boast of His strength or the rich man boast of His riches, but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight' declares the Lord."*

The greatest pursuit: Knowing God!

A. W. Tozer: "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us."

If we were left to our own condition...if it was only up to us...God is unknowable: He is great, and we are sinful. But, because God moves to us, because God wants to be known, He is knowable to us.

I. God is knowable

A. God reveals Himself to us

1. General revelation

- Creation (Romans 1:18-20; Psalm 19:1-6)
- Conscience (Romans 2:14-15)

2. Specific revelation

- Jesus (John 1:14, 18; Hebrews 1:1-2)
- The Bible (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

B. God longs for us to know Him

II. Who God is

A. Attributes of Greatness

Infinite (Job 11:7-8)

Immutable (Ps 33:10-11; Heb 13:8; James 1:17)

Omniscient (Heb 4:13; 1 John 3:20)

Omnipresent (Jer 23:23-24; Psalm 139:7-10)

Omnipotent (Jer 32:17; Matt 19:26)

Eternal (Psalm 90:2; 1 Tim 1:17)

B. Attributes of Goodness

Holiness (Is 6:1-4)

Integrity (1 Sam 15:29; Ps 30:5)

Love (1 John 4:16)

Mercy (Micah 7:18-19)

Grace (1 Pet 5:10-11)

Justice (Deut 32:4)

Wrath (2 Thess 1:5-10)

Jealousy (Isaiah 48:9-11)

III. People who know their God

"It is those who have sought the Lord Jesus till they have found him--for the promise is that when we seek him with all our hearts, we shall surely find him--who can stand before the world to testify that they have known God." -

One can know a great deal about God without much knowledge of him.

One can know a great deal about godliness without much knowledge of God.

J.I. Packer: 4 Qualities of Those Who Know God

➤ Those who know God have great energy for God

"the people that know their God shall be strong, and do exploits" Daniel 11:32

Knowing God should translate into having a passion for God and doing whatever it takes to walk in obedience to His Word. Those who know God take joy in Him, which results in them being strengthened, which then results in their ability to perform great works in His Name.

➤ Those who know God have great thoughts of God

Packer points out that our thoughts of God are often expressed through our prayer life, which he writes is "always the best evidence for a man's view of God". People who know God carry a high regard for Him and esteem Him continuously within their mind. God is their treasure. Daniel displayed this all throughout his life, in his prayer, praise, devotion and witness of God before all who were around him, Jew and Gentile alike.

➤ Those who know God show great boldness for God

"Neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy." - Acts 20:24 (Paul speaking) Showing determination, being unashamed of God, walking with a fear of God and not man, and taking risks for His Name's sake are all evidences that one knows the LORD. Daniel showed this in praying to the LORD openly by a window 3 times a day despite a decree stating that any man that prayed to anything other than a specific golden idol which was set up by Nebuchadnezzar would be put to death.

➤ Those who know God have great contentment in God

Those that know God have peace with God no matter what situation they find themselves in. Daniel and the 3 Hebrew boys showed this in one of my favorite passages of scripture, Daniel 3:13-17.

Heart: Awe of God

Read: Exodus 33:12-34:10

- What evidences do we see in this passage that Moses had a healthy awe of God?
- How did a healthy awe of God impact Moses' leadership of God's people?

Awe of God:

- Tripp article: Read, pp. 44-46 (middle to middle), then 1st paragraph top of 48.

Practical Ministry Fruit from the Awe of God (Paul Tripp)

1. **Humility:** nothing will put you in your place or correct your distorted view of yourself, nothing that will yank you out of your functional arrogance, or take the winds out of your self righteous like standing before the awesome glory of God.
2. **Tenderness:** the humility that awe of God is alone able to produce in my heart...an awareness of my sin and desperate need for grace—then produces pastoral tenderness toward the people around me, who give empirical evidences that they are in need of the same grace. No one gives grace better than a person who is deeply persuaded that he needs it himself and is being given it in Christ.
3. **Passion:** No matter what is or isn't working in my ministry, no matter what difficulties or battles I am facing, the expansive glory of God gives me reason to get up in the morning and do what I have been gifted and called to do with enthusiasm, courage, and confidence. My joy isn't handcuffed to the surrounding circumstances or relationships; I don't have to have

my heart yanked wherever they go. My passion for ministry is not about how I am being received, it flows out of the reality that I have been received by Him.

4. **Confidence:** He is my confidence and ability. He will not call me to a task without enabling me to do it. He has more zeal for the health of his church than I ever will.
5. **Discipline:** It is the awesome glory of God's existence character, plan, presence, promises, and grace that gives me reason to work hard and not give up, no matter whether we are in a good season or one that is stormy.
6. **Rest:** As I face my own weaknesses and the messiness of the local church, what gives me rest is glory. It is the knowledge that there is nothing too hard for the God whom I serve.

"The remarkable thing about God is that when you fear God, you will fear nothing else, whereas if you do not fear God, you fear everything else." -Oswald Chambers

Reflection questions:

Are you living with a healthy awe of God?

How does your ministry reflect these six principles of ministry fruit that result from an awe of God?

How can fears in your life and ministry be addressed with a healthy awe of God?

Hands: Stewardship of God's Gifts

Why talk about stewardship?

In our leadership study, we will focus on head level—intellectual knowledge, and heart level understanding (in this section, expressed as "awe" of God). We also want to focus on some practical, every day life level application of the material we study. Today, our focus is on "stewardship"—the basic belief that God owns everything. A practical outflow of knowing who God is, and responding to Him with awe, is that we will be leaders who live with reality that God owns everything. If He owns everything, then we are His stewards—which will be reflected in how we spend our time, our money, and with how we use our gifts and abilities.

Application: Take a fresh look at your life in relation to stewardship and God's priorities. Are there any changes or new goals you would like to make regarding your time, money, or use of abilities?

Growth Projects for March: God and Leadership

Work on these from Feb 26 to Apr 2 (until our next meeting)

equipthepeople.com/leadership-track

ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

- ✓ **Read Scripture** – Exodus 33:12-34:10; Psalm 19 and 145; **memorize** Jeremiah 9:23-24.
- ✓ **Read** – David Platt’s outline on “The Greatness and Goodness of God” from *Secret Church* “Who is God” You can also watch the youtube clip teaching, “Who is God? Part 3”
- ✓ **Read** – Wayne Grudem, *Bible Doctrine* chapter 4 and 5 on God’s Attributes.
- ✓ **Write** – a prayer of praise to God, weaving in the attributes that stand out to you.

AWE OF GOD

- ✓ **Read** – J.I. Packer article on “The People Who Know Their God”
- ✓ **Read** – Paul Tripp, *Awe* chapter 3 “Ministry”
- ✓ **Write** – Answers to the questions we asked at the end of the “awe of God” section of our notes.

STEWARDSHIP OF GOD’S GIFTS: PRODUCTIVITY

- ✓ **Read** – C.J. Mahaney article “Biblical Productivity”
- ✓ **Review** – our session notes on stewardship of time, money, and productivity.
- ✓ **Answer** – the application question in the stewardship section of our notes.

MEET WITH YOUR COHORT

Why are we doing cohorts? Simply put, God uses community in powerful ways! These cohorts will help you process and apply the leadership track material with like-minded leaders and mentors. Cohort leaders will help guide the group toward greater understanding of what you are learning as well as help you apply the important principles of each session and reading assignments to your life and ministry. Your cohort is designed to meet one time for each large group meeting we have. There are six large group meetings, so your aim as a cohort is to meet after each large group meeting. For this first round, you should try to meet sometime in the last two weeks of March, but definitely before the April 2nd large group time.

Cohort leaders—you will be given some more specific instructions by Andrew Hancock next Sunday, Mar. 5th.

DISCUSSION IDEAS FOR COHORT TIME

1. Share your prayer of praise on God’s attributes.
2. Discuss key thoughts from the readings from Platt or Grudem.
3. Share your answers to the awe of God questions. Share ideas on how to apply the principles in the Packer and Tripp articles. What needs to change in our lives and ministries?
4. Discuss applications reflecting on the Mahaney article. Share practical ideas on how the people in the cohort remain productive while focusing on God’s priorities. Also share any ways that you have been challenged to apply the material presented by Jeff Disterhoft (time management) and Brandon Sieben (financial management).
5. Pray through Psalm 145 together.

For Further Study (optional)

- *Introducing Christian Doctrine* by Millard Erickson pages 85-105.
- Bruce Ware’s teaching on the Attributes of God at biblicaltraining.org, systematic theology course, lecture on the attributes of God.
- *Managing God’s Money* by Randy Alcorn
- *Getting things Done* by David Allen. Also great podcast through *EntreLeadership* #184