

EXPERIENCING GOD: UNIT 4 BIBLE STUDY

“Love and God’s Invitation”

Presented by
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Memory verse John 14:21

*“The one who has My
commandments and keeps them is the
one who loves Me; and the one who
loves Me will be loved by My Father,
and I will love him and will reveal
Myself to him.”*

I. *Day One “Know God”*

A. Knowing God by Experience

1. We will never be satisfied merely to know about God.
2. When Moses was at the burning bush, he asked God, *“If I go to the Israelites and say to them, “the God of your ancestors has sent me to you,” and they ask me, “What is his name?” What should I tell them (exodus 3:13)*
3. For the next forty years, Moses came to know God as everything He and Israel needed...;
4. In fact, your list may be longer than Moses’ list tonight....

B. God took the Initiative to Reveal Himself to people by experience.

1. Frequently, when God revealed Himself to individuals, He

disclosed a **new name** to them or described himself in a fresh way;

2. **For example**, Joshua and the Israelites were fighting the Amalekites. Moses was overseeing the battle from a nearby mountain. While he held his hands up to God, the Israelites were victorious. When he became tired and his hands lowered, they began to lose. His defeated the Amalekites through Israel that Day. Moses built an altar and gave it the name "*The Lord is My Banner.*"; (Exodus 17)
3. But he was also indicating that the banner belonged to the Lord!

II. *Day Two* "Worship God"

A. We come to know God by experience and His divine initiative.

1. A name in Hebrew described the persons character or nature.
2. David wrote about the majesty of God's name in Psalm 8:1:
3. Psalm 8 is cited early in Hebrews (Hebrews 2:5–9) **to defend the idea that God would send a human Savior...only the majestic could do that!**
4. That's why when David records Psalm 23:1, he begins with who the Lord is to him with imagery he experienced personally.

B. Seeing God's names in scripture can inspire you and me to worship Him.

1. To worship God is to reverence and honor God, to acknowledge Him as worthy of your praise!
2. The Psalms is rich in their instructions to direct your worship toward God through his many names.

III. *Day Three "Love God"*

A. God takes the initiative to pursue a love relationship with you.

1. This love relationship should not be a one-sided affair.
2. **John 14:21** says, *"The one who has my commands and keeps*

*them is the one who loves me.
And the one who loves me will be
loved by my father. I will also love
him and will reveal myself to him”*

;

3. How does the Father respond to the one who loves him?
4. What **two** things will Jesus do for the one who loves Him?

B. How can you demonstrate your love for God?

1. A love relationship with God requires that you demonstrate your love by obedience.
2. To love him by obeying his commands means to follow the spirit of the command as well.

3. We are called to focus on loving God so much that you are willing to obey everything He says.

C. God's Nature

1. God's nature is love!
2. But His discipline is always based on His perfect Love!;
3. Two verses describe God's love towards us: (John 3:16) & (1 John 3:16) *"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us."*

D. God's Commands

1. God's commands are expressions of His love!
2. In **Deuteronomy 10:12-13** God declares that His commands are

for our Good: *“What does the Lord your God ask of you except to fear the Lord your God by walking in all your ways, to love him, and to worship the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul? Keep the Lord’s commands and statutes I am giving you today, for your own good.”*;

3. **1 John 5:3** says, *“This is what love for God is: to keep his commands. And his commands are not a burden.”* ;

4. When you trust God, you will obey him.

5. Therefore, when God gives a command, he is not restricting you, he is **freeing** you;

IV. *Day Four* “God Invites You to Join Him”

A. God works Through People

1. The Bible reveals that God has always been working in the world.
2. Throughout scripture, God had worked through people to accomplish his purposes.
3. And you and I are no different! God has and will use you to accomplish his purposes as well.

B. God’s Revelation is Your Invitation

1. John 5:17; 19-20 reminds us that God has been at work in our world from the beginning and He is still working;

2. **John 5:17**, *But He answered them, “My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working.”;*
3. **John 5:19-20**, *“19 Therefore Jesus answered and was saying to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in the same way. 20 For the Father loves the Son and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing; and the Father will show Him greater works than these, so that you will be amazed.”;*
4. As God’s child, you are in a loving relationship with Him.

5. The key word in John 5, is the word "**sees.**"
6. When you see the Father at work around you, that's your invitation to adjust your life to him and join him in his work.