



# January Development Guide

## SUBJECT: KNOWING GOD IN THE NEW YEAR



The Bible is about love. It's about a Father's love for us. We need to know His love, love Him back, and love others. Or, we could say we need to know God. We know His love by having a relationship with Him. We find freedom so we can walk out and discover our purpose, so we can then make an impact—which is loving people. That is the discipleship journey.

One of the most intriguing stories in the Bible of God's love in action is the story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well. Jesus offers her something far greater than what she came to the well for: the chance to know God personally.

### KNOWING GOD AT A DEEPER LEVEL

Our key passage of Scripture for this teaching is Colossians 3:15-17, *“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”*

Below are three examples of men in the Bible who knew God deeply because they routinely spent time with Him:

1. Paul
  - a. Paul consistently read and studied the Word of God.
  - b. Paul taught Timothy to also meditate on Scripture, not only read it. So, meditating on God's Word was a practice in Paul's life.
  - c. Paul also emphasized the importance of prayer in your time with the Lord. In his letters, he often talked about praying without ceasing or consistent time talking with God.
  - d. Paul's close relationship with the Lord resulted in most of the New Testament books of the Bible being written.
2. King David
  - a. The story in the Bible most attributed to David is the story of David killing the giant, Goliath, who was an enemy of Israel. David's strength to kill Goliath wasn't found primarily from his physical strength, but from the strong faith and conviction David had from his close relationship with the Lord.
  - b. David, just like Paul, spent time in God's Word. He would have had access to the Torah, which is the first five books of the Bible. David authored many





# January Development Guide

## SUBJECT: KNOWING GOD IN THE NEW YEAR



of the psalms, and in the psalms he frequently praises the wisdom and guidance of God's Word showing he spent time reading and studying it.

- c. David was also a huge fan of meditating on God's Word. In Psalm 119 he said, *"Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long."*
- d. David spent a lot of time in prayer to the Lord. This was also expressed in many of the Psalms. We read that he prayed for repentance, gave thanks, and prayed in times of trouble. In Psalms 55:17 David wrote, *"Evening, morning, and noon, I cry out in distress, and He (God) hears my voice."*
- e. This constant communion with God not only sustained him through challenges but also shaped him as "a man after God's own heart," which is how God described David.

### 3. Daniel

- a. The story most attributed to Daniel is Daniel and the lion's den. Daniel, like David, had a such a strong faith in God because he knew him through daily time with God. Daniel knew God through Scripture and spent time meditating on His Word.
- b. Daniel had a disciplined habit of praying three times a day.
- c. Daniel spent daily time with God in prayer, meditation, and study of the scriptures available to him.

### APPLICATION

These three men give us a strong pattern that we can apply to our lives and time with God in order to know Him. Below are three application steps. Each of these application steps is modeled after the lives of these three men.

1. The first step is to read and study God's Word. We recommend reading at least a chapter a day.
  - a. Listen to the Bible on your phone through the YouVersion Bible app. Start by listening to the chapter first, then read it. Listening and then reading will help you to retain more of what you covered.
  - b. As you read and listen to the Bible, ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand and gain revelation so that you know Him more deeply and the Word of God can be active and powerful in your life.

2. The second step is to meditate on God's Word. Psalm 1:2-3 says:

*But his delight is in the law of the Lord,*





# January Development Guide

## SUBJECT: KNOWING GOD IN THE NEW YEAR



*And on His law [His precepts and teachings] he [habitually] meditates day and night.*

*And he will be like a tree firmly planted [and fed] by streams of water,*

*Which yields its fruit in its season;*

*Its leaf does not wither;*

*And in whatever he does, he prospers [and comes to maturity].*

- a. Meditation is to think on something deeply. Think about our key passage of Scripture from Colossians. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. God's Word can only dwell in you richly if you meditate on it.
4. The third step is to pray out God's Word.
  - a. Confess God's Word over your life. Find a promise in the Bible and confess it.
  - b. God's Word is powerful and it can also be used as a weapon.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. What were your top two takeaways from this teaching?
2. What do you think you are already doing well from this teaching?
3. What are your next steps?

