

Connection Equipping Academy exists to equip followers of Jesus to do God's work in the World

Connection Equipping Academy

Growing In Knowing God

Topic // *The Church*

OVERVIEW

As we seek to grow in knowing God, we have explored His attributes as an essential foundation. We want to expound on the practical ways this knowledge of God strengthens us in daily life. For our next sessions, we will see the distinct roles of discipleship and evangelism, Scripture, prayer, the local church, and family all deepen our knowledge of God and breathe life into the purposes God has planned for our lives and His kingdom.

INTRODUCTION

The power of God is most revealed when His Body, the Church, is unified. Despite the battles the Church has faced throughout each age, He has been faithful to His mission to reach the ends of the Earth with His love, grace, and salvation for all who will receive Him. Today we will listen to different perspectives of members, elders, staff, and those who serve and how being a part of the local church strengthens their relationship with God.

Use the following page to take note of anything that stands out to you to meditate and pray about.

In the following pages, choose one application at a time to pray about and explore with God as you seek to deepen your love and relationship with Him and with others. Work your way through the list over time and don't try to "accomplish" the list at once.

Application 1 - Observe your participation in the local church. Are you experiencing joy or dissatisfaction? Battling a compulsion to perform for acceptance (God's or other's)? Spend time in honest conversation with God to ask Him to reveal any areas where your relationship with Him and other believers could be healed. Challenge yourself to accept honest reproof and believe God for how He wants to extend grace to you.

Application 2 - How has an encounter with God and His Word caused your own “limp”, causing permanent change? Press into God to ask for more growth and to continue using that encounter and more to come to grow in your relationship with Him and the church.

Application 3 - What misconceptions might you have of a church “staff” role? Is there anyone you can encourage who functions in a ministry role (Eph. 4:11,12)? What perspective and growth of your own could you share to bless or challenge them?

Application 4 - Fellowship in the church is friendly association with people who share a belief and passion for the Gospel and a relationship with God. How do you understand diversity under the unity in Christ? Ask the Lord for personal growth and His grace to be a part of the unity and joy of your church.

Application 5 - How would the ministry of the Body change if we valued and respected the diversity God has created? How does Scripture reveal how to live as individuals within the greater unity of being of one Body?

Application 6 - How do you see God moving in the church? Where is your church struggling? Where is it thriving? Take time to pray for your church as a part of it and ask the Lord to pour out His love in your heart for His Body, of which you are a part!