



EXPLORE GOD
STUDY GUIDE
WEEK 4



MAIN SCRIPTURE:
Ephesians 2:8-9

MAIN POINT & JESUS CONNECTION:
Jesus made a way for us to have a personal relationship with God.

@HopeHSM

1. READ
The Bible

Yessss! We are glad you are here because taking time on your own to study God's word is an amazing way to grow in your relationship with Him. Life with Jesus is the best life! Take a moment to pray and ask God to lead you as you study this Scripture; then read the Scripture (*from your Bible or it's on the back*).

2. OBSERVE

The Straight Facts

Who: _____

What: _____

Where: _____

Why: _____

How: _____

What is Repetitive?

Highlight it

What is Contrast?

Underline it

3. INTERPRET

What Does the Text Mean?

Research answers using trusted sources like a Study Bible, BibleProject.com, BlueLetterBible.org, and/or Bible.org

What is the historical and/or cultural context of this Scripture?

What else do I know about the author, audience, or context of this passage?

What do key words mean in their original language?

What other Scripture might help me interpret this text?

What is this text's clearest meaning?

4. APPLY

Getting Personal

How do you relate to any of the characters, events, or words in this Scripture?

What truth(s) from this Scripture can you apply to your life right now?

What is God saying to you through this Scripture?



EXPLORE GOD
TEACHING GUIDE
— WEEK 4 —



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**THIS GUIDE IS FORMATTED TO HELP YOU INTRODUCE
AND REFLECT ON THE TEACHING VIDEOS.**

INTRODUCTION:

- **Series Overview:** We've all had questions about life and God: Is there a God? How can we know Him? Why does God allow pain and suffering? The answers to these questions really drive the purpose and direction of our lives, yet sometimes it's hard to know how to get these answers. Don't be intimidated if you don't have the answers - that's what we want to explore together!
- **Tonight's question** is a controversial one: "Can I Know God Personally?"
- We are going to watch a video and discuss it together. I really encourage you all to pay attention and feel free to be real and share your thoughts as we process the video together after.

[WATCH THE VIDEO \(12 MIN\)](#)

WRAP IT UP

- We are going to process this video together in small groups. Before we do, I just want to say that there might be some of us who will disagree with others – and that is fine. We want this to be an honest, safe space for each of us to be real and expression our opinions.
- Our main point today is: Jesus made a way for us to have a personal relationship with God
- But we want to talk about this more, so I'm going to pray for us and we are going to transition into small group discussion time.
- Close in prayer: God, please be with us as we talk about and wrestle with tough and controversial questions. We love you, thank you for loving us and being with us. Amen.



EXPLORE GOD DISCUSSION GUIDE — WEEK 4 —



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LEADER CORNER

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

For students to know that Jesus loves them and made a way for them to have a personal relationship with God.

THINK ABOUT THIS

This is the most important question of all! **Review the 5 points of the Gospel before you lead your discussion.** If someone says they want to be in a personal relationship with God but they aren't sure if they have accepted them in their heart, review this guide with them and if they are ready to accept – walk them through the prayer!

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the questions and activities as needed, and don't feel like you need to do, or ask, everything you see here. Let the students and the Holy Spirit guide the conversation, too.

CONVERSATION GUIDE

GET THEM TALKING

What did you connect with in the video?
What stories stood out to you? Why?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do you think the dad meant by his quote: "My kids didn't do anything to earn my love, they couldn't do anything to lose it." Why did he bring this up when talking about a relationship with God?"
2. What do you think about the quote: "No amount of us mustering up good acts will ever outweigh the bad acts we do. The problem is this: it's not that we're bad. Scripture says that we are dead. And how loud does an alarm clock have to be awake a dead man."
3. How is this different from what some people think?

READ EPHESIANS 2:8-9 and answer the following questions:

4. Many people try to be "good enough" to go to heaven, but what is the way these verses say our relationship with God was earned?
5. How does someone know if they are in a personal relationship with God?
6. How does someone begin a personal relationship with God?
7. How can you be there for friends who aren't in a personal relationship with God yet?

NEXT STEP

We might be in different places on our beliefs, but we can all take a next step closer to Jesus this week.

IF YOU HAVEN'T ACCEPTED JESUS AS YOUR SAVIOR – take time on your own this week to PRAY, to consider what is holding you back and bring that to God.

IF YOU ALREADY ARE IN A RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS – pray for someone in your life who isn't. And as a double dog dare challenge – share about the hope you have in Jesus with them.

PRAYER GUIDE

Ask your students to share their prayer requests and close your time together in prayer.

MAIN SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV)

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.”

BONUS LEADER RESOURCE

WEEKLY TEXT IDEA:

“Hey! Hope your week is going well! We are continuing to explore God together and tonight we are talking about if it is really possible for us to have a relationship with the One who made the stars? Can’t wait to hear your thoughts!”