

Yesterday. Today. Forever.

Module: Loving The Story

Lesson 2: KNOW

Objectives

- Students will learn to discern the difference between knowledge and wisdom, and understand that both are crucial to our walk with God

Materials Needed

- ☐ Flipchart and markers
- ☐ Small prizes
- ☐ 1 perfectly assembled ice cream sundae (keep in freezer until Action)
- ☐ 1 spoon
- ☐ 1 copy of Appendix 1 for every 3-5 students
- ☐ optional: Ingredients to make sundaes (e.g. ice cream, whipped cream, chocolate chips, etc.) (**Leader's note:** Be aware of any food allergies such as peanuts.)
- ☐ optional: Two resources that could be useful in this activity
 - <http://www.sporcle.com/games/g/biblebooksold>
 - <http://www.sporcle.com/games/g/biblebooksnew>

Minds On

For the Bible knowledge test, divide students into three lines, forming three teams. Appoint one person to write down the answers on the flipchart. The persons at the front of the line will begin for their team. Each person will have 10 seconds to name one of the 66 books in the Bible. If they do it, they get 10 points; otherwise, they are not awarded any points. The person goes back to the beginning of the line and the host asks the next line. Continue until all 66 books are listed or six consecutive people (i.e. two from each line) aren't able to answer correctly. Answers cannot be repeated.

Take this time to congratulate the winning team in some way (ex prizes, trophy, pat on the back, etc.). Ask the students if they found the exercise to be easy or difficult.

Prompt: (In the last series, we learned about knowing God's story...some of the concrete facts about what it means to follow Jesus, the history and the stories of people's faith.) As we delve into this new series, we're going to begin to ask ourselves, "How does this apply to my life? What does all this mean for me?" Being Christian isn't just about knowing the books of the Bible back to front. Knowledge of the Bible is crucial, but it can't be everything.

Action

Leader's note: Some students will excel at the Minds On activity while others will struggle. The key point of this lesson is that, though the knowledge of our faith in God is crucial, it is only the first step in engaging in our lifelong relationship with God.

Have the students get into groups of 2-3. Each small group will define the words knowledge and wisdom including both similarities and differences between the words. Each group should be prepared to share their answer with the larger group. When each group shares, record some key words or phrases on the flipchart.

Prompt: These two concepts, while closely associated with each other, are, in fact, two different things. It is important for us to remember this, because we can fill our heads with facts upon facts about anything...but what good is it unless you make use of those facts in some way?

Have a student read aloud Proverbs 8:12. Have another student read aloud Ephesians 3:16-19. Ask a third student to read verse 19 again.

Prompt: God gave us the ability and the desire to learn about His word, so that we may understand...even if it's just in small portions...a part of who He is. But if we don't have the wisdom to allow it to inspire us, to change us from the inside out, then the knowledge that the Bible provides is meaningless.

Hold up the ice cream sundae and the spoon.

Optional: With the sundae ingredients out, give students 2 minutes to build their own sundae and instruct them NOT to eat it.

Prompt: Think of this sundae as God's infinite, provisional wisdom. It's there, just waiting to be consumed, right? The spoon is our Bible. It is our tool whose purpose is used to collect and consume God's wisdom (gesture towards sundae) for our benefit, just as the spoon is our tool used to collect and consume the deliciousness of this sundae. Knowledge is knowing what the spoon is, and what purpose it serves. But it means nothing if we don't use it to gain wisdom.

Take one bite of the sundae (optional: Have students take one bite of their sundae). Ask students to rate how delicious the sundae is with two thumbs up, one up and one down, or two down.

Prompt: God has given us the spoon. If we don't know how to use it, there are ways we can find out. His gift is wisdom (gesture towards sundae again)...and we need only ask if we wish to seek it out.

Consolidate/Debrief

Have students form groups of 3-5 and provide them with Appendix 1. Each group will provide a summary of their discussion to the larger group, especially with question 4.

When the groups have had enough time to work through the questions, call them back together. Invite them to share anything that came up in their discussions that would be helpful for the rest of the group to hear. Following this, conclude in prayer asking for God's knowledge AND wisdom!

Appendix 1

1. When have you found yourself in a situation where you didn't have the knowledge that you needed to move forward? What did you do about it?
2. How would you define the word wisdom? Do you believe that it is something that everyone can possess? Who are some wise people that you know?
3. Re-read Ephesians 3:16-19. How do you feel knowing that God's love surpasses all human understanding? Do you find this to be comforting or disturbing?
4. How do you proceed with your life knowing that God's love for us is limitless? Does it change anything?