Relationship Goals “It’s Just You and Me God”

Bible Study

4 lessons covering what it means to have a relationship with God and the depth behind it.

Answering the question…what is it like to have a relationship with God?

Opening statement and Verse: **From here on…**

Section 1: **God and Me. The Equation for Salvation. Highlight = what’s covered**

• Who is God? a.)

• Who am I to God? b.)

• Relationship goals/path to salvation. c.)

Section 2: **The way I walk.**

• Building blocks. a.)

• God’s inspiration. b.)

• The Spirit vs the Flesh. c.)

Section 3: **Stay With It!**

• Endurance. c.)

• Perseverance. b.)

• Grit . c.)

Section 4: **Faith.**

• Power. a.)

• Confidence. b.)

• Dependence. c.)

• Vulnerability. d.)

Closing statement: **Journey!**

**Section 1:** God and Me… The Equation for Salvation

**Lesson 1c.) Relationship goals/Path to salvation.**

What is our primary Goal?

**Do you know where to find Freedom?**

2 Corinthians 3:17-18 (KJV)

17Now the Lord is that Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. 18But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

God is the source of all freedom by His Spirit.

**Have you ever wanted nothing more than peace?**

Well…

Philippians 4:7 (KJV)

7And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

1 Peter 5:7 (KJV)

7Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

Isaiah 26:3 (KJV)

3Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

John 14:27 (KJV)

27Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

**God is the bringer of all lasting peace. His peace is not found in a momentary high but is consistent even in life’s lows. His peace is sustaining, liberating and reassuring. His peace is a reminder that he is always with us. It comes from him.**

**He commands us in his word 365 times to not be afraid. To refrain from fear, why? Because he is with us. If we allow his hand to guide us into peace we will find that what we’re worried and anxious about is just our imagination and oftentimes the enemy playing tricks on us.**

**The enemy wants us to be skeptical because it keeps us oblivious or blind to what God is trying to give us.**

**Have you ever felt the absence of Joy and wondered, where it is?**

Romans 15:13 (KJV)

13Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

• Joy is in Jesus.

• Joy is in His Presence

Psalm 16:11 (KJV)

11Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

John 15:11 (KJV)

11These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

John 16:24 (KJV)

24Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

God doesn’t hide his gifts from us. If we’re willing he is willing. Remember **RELATIONSHIPS ARE NOT ONES SIDED.**

**How about Love?**

There is no greater love than Christ’s. (Read: John 15:13)

Love is the one experience we are all seeking in one way or fashion.

We have a longing for something more.

This is normal….you are not strange for wanting to experience love.

The question goes from do you want to be loved? to where are you seeking it and from who. (Read 1 John 4:16)

There is no mistaking the fact that real love requires sacrifice.

• In marriages.

• In friendships.

• In families.

• With our dreams and goals.

• With ourselves.

Who is the best example of “loving” sacrifice?

Jesus.

If you want true untampered love there’s only one place to find it.

• In Jesus.

John 3:16 (KJV)

16For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life.

1 John 4:16 (KJV)

16And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. **God is love**; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

God’s love reaches even to the darkness. You are not unseen. (Read: Romans 5:8-9)

It’s for all of us. No one is left without the opportunity to pursue this kind of love. (Read: Romans 2:11-17 and 1 Timothy 2:3-6)

So, I ask you today...will you hear me?

**What do we know?**

We know that we are created by God. (Read: Genesis 2:7)

We know that He loves us. (Read: John 3:16)

• He bore our cross

• Endured our punishment for our sin

• Lived a perfect life for us to follow

• He was persecuted falsely for our sake

• He was abused and mocked publicly

• He was taunted by the very people he sought to save

• Betrayed by his closest friends

(For scriptural context see: Matthew 27-28, Mark 15-16 , Luke 23-24 , John 18-21) *the Gospels*)

***~Never once did he complain~***

***~All so that we could have a chance~***

We know that we aren’t invisible in His eyes. (Read: Proverbs 3:15)

We know that He came that we might have life and life more abundantly (Read: John 10:10)

We know that though we are born separate from Him because of sin, He wants us back.

(Read: Romans 5:19)

**There is only one God.** (Read: Ephesians 4:5-6, Deuteronomy 6:4, John 1:1, John 1:14,

Acts 4:12, Isaiah 42:8, Genesis 1:1, 1 John 5:7) (these aren’t even all of them)

**He has only one name.**

• That name is Jesus

Acts 4:12 (KJV)

12Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

We know that He gave us another chance. (Read: 2 Corinthians 5:15-21, Ephesians 1:7-8)

• He does not owe us another chance. (Romans 6:23) otherwise what he offers us would not be a gift.

**What must we do?**

There was a day and in that day we learned the plan of salvation.

• This day is known as the day of pentecost.

• 120 people including the Apostles (God’s closest followers/disciples at the time) gathered in a room called the Upper room

• That day the great commission was fulfilled and passed on to the church (Read: Matthew 28:19, Mark 16:15-17, Acts 2:38)

Acts 2:1-4 (KJV)

1And when the day of pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2And suddenly there came a sound as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.3And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.4And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 2:37-38 (KJV)

37Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, men and brethren, what shall we do? 38Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized **every one** of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

**We must Repent** = Turn away from our sin, surrender it to God. Refute (deny or contradict) our carnal nature. Seeking forgiveness for our sins. (Read: Psalm 51, Proverbs 28:13, 2 Chronicles 7:14)

Remember:

It’s not about rules, it's about relationship.

• Religion says sorry because I broke the rules .

• Relationship says sorry because I broke your heart.

**We must be Baptized in Jesus name** = Wash all of our sins away. Burying our old selves. Death to self. For the remission of sins (Read Romans 6:1-6, Mark 16:16-18)

Baptism is administered in water. Full immersion. (Acts 8:38)

Why Jesus name?

Matthew 28:19- The word name is singular indicating there is only one name. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are titles **NOT** names.

Acts 2:38- …be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins…

Acts 4:12- there is only one name whereby we must be saved.

Ephesians 4:5- One Lord, One faith, One baptism.

John 1:1,14- Jesus was fully God and fully man. He is our messiah (savior)

Deuteronomy 6:4- the Lord our God is one Lord

John 14:15-18 - he is the comforter

Galatians 3:26-29 - we are baptized into Christ meaning become one with him.

**We must receive the Holy Spirit** = A promise to all of us. (Acts 2:39)

The reason we need the Holy Ghost:

• The Holy Ghost gives us power (Acts 1:8)

• Teaches us and guides us (John 14:26)

• Gives us eternal life (Romans 8:11)

• Imparts the love of Christ (Romans 5:5)

• Gives us righteousness, peace, and joy (Romans 14:17)

**How do I know I got it?! =** Evidence

The initial evidence of receiving the Holy Ghost:

• All 120 people in the upper room spake in other tongues when they received the Spirit (Acts 2:1-4)

• The Gentiles all spoke in other tongues when they were filled as Peter preached (Acts 10:44-48)

• The disciples Paul encounters in Ephesus spoke in tongues (Acts 19:2-6)

• The Ethiopian Eunuch spoke in tongues (Acts 8:26-40)

Why tongues?

• Jesus tells us these would be the signs following new birth (Mark 16:17)

• The tongue is the most untamable part of the body (James 3:2-8)

Note: For every supernatural occurrence there must be a supernatural response.

**How can we trust that it's true?**

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (KJV)

16 All scripture is given by the inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction , for instruction in righteousness: 17That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

In these two verses alone do we see that…

• All scripture is given by the inspiration of God

• Meaning: God *gave* every word written.

• The bible was written by God for us that we might gain a greater understanding of

who He is.

Fun fact: The bible was written by 40 people over the course of 1500 years. Consider this. Each writer endured different times, cultures, backgrounds, and livelihoods. Here’s the wild part: 0% of the stories in the bible contradict.

• All scripture is profitable.

• Not just the ones that sound good but all.

• All scripture is good for reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness.

• Reproof = Rebuke = Express sharp disapproval

• Correction = A change that rectifies an error or inaccuracy.

• Righteousness = Right standing with God.

• The word of God is for our perfecting and furnishing.

**The bible does not contradict itself!**

Hebrews 13:8 (KJV)

8Jesus Christ the same yesterday ,and to day, and for ever.

Ephesians 4:4-6 (KJV)

4There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;5One Lord, one faith, one baptism,6one Fos and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

James 1:16-17 (KJV)

16Do not err, my beloved brethren.17Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

**If God doesn’t change, neither does his word.**

Consistency is one of the key characteristics of God.

Revelation 1:8 (KJV)

8I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the almighty.

• God is not afraid to tell/show us who he is. (Read: 1 Corinthians 14:33)

• We have to seek him. (Read: Matthew 7:7-8)

• We have to be willing to ask him. (Read: Matthew 7:7-8)

• We have to be willing to knock on the door that leads to him.(Read: Matthew 7:7-8, John 10:9)

• We have to trust that he will respond. (Matthew 7:11)

• We know the Word is written by God; this makes the word our primary access point for his direction. (there is something for everything in the Bible).

• We also have spiritual leaders. Who are established to help guide us and shepherd us toward God and a closer, more intimate relationship with Him. (i.e Pastors, ministers, and teachers.)

**It’s an act of Faith.**

Faith is belief backed by action.

If you don’t believe, how do you expect to receive?

Hebrews 11:1 (KJV)

1Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

• Substance = Essential nature.

• Evidence = The available body of facts or information indicating whether a belief or proposition is true or valid.

• Faith is a compelling force that draws action. Faith is the essential nature of things hoped for, the evidence of facts that remain unseen.

• It’s relevant because the God we serve is an invisible God but he exists and is real. This conclusion is only plausible through faith.

• Faith is much more than saying something, it’s the action we take on or according to what we say we believe.

Hebrews 11:6 (KJV)

6But without faith it is impossible to please him: or he that cometh to God must believe that he is. And that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

It is impossible to please God without faith. It is impossible to please him with just words. Anyone can say one thing and do another. But this is often not the case. There are many who profess and live the best life they can and still miss. Why? Because a lot of people will take a man’s word before they seek God’s. It requires no faith to say I believe. But to truly have faith is to take an action whether there is certainty or uncertainty and commit to it. *(Commitment looks like studying the word, reading the word, praying, seeking counsel from God, seeking spiritual leaders, attending church, doing everything you can while you can. Read James 4:7-10)*

Faith is a series of actions that makes and builds our relationship with God. the most significant are these…

• Repentance

• Water baptism in Jesus name

• The infilling of the Holy Ghost

These are the roots that birth a new nature within us. These are the steps that kill our old selves and make room for God to move in.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (KJV)

17Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

His Life tells the story. (See the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John)

This process of salvation is alluded to/paralleled multiple times in the bible.

• (Noah and the Ark: Found in Genesis 6)

• (Moses and the Israelites passing through the Red Sea: See 1 Corinthians 10:1-2, Exodus 14:10-31)

• (Joshua and the parting of the Jordan river. See Joshua 1-3:15)

• (Jonah and the big fish: See Jonah 1-3)

• (Jesus baptized by John: See Mark 10:39)

Romans 6:4-6 (KJV)

4Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.5For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his death, we sha;; be also in the likeness of his resurrection:6knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

• Like Noah’s ark, Jesus’ cross is a refuge for those who seek rest in him.

• Like moses’ staff Jesus would be lifted up, to deliver his people from death.

• Like the priests in the Jordan, Jesus inserted himself in the stream of God’s wrath.

• Like Jonah, Jesus gave himself to be swallowed in the earth, to rise again to save all the nations.

Each of these baptisms foreshadow Jesus’ cross with increasing intensity. In each case the suffering involved relates to the magnitude of God’s mercy. But when it finally reaches Jesus, since his sacrifice was his life and his own blood, his death had not just the power to forgive all people but to save them from the ever approaching flood of God’s wrath.

The Old Testament helps us see the detailed plan God enacted to reveal his son to us, that we might marvel at his wisdom and power. (read 1 John 1:1-9)

The book of Acts gives quantitative (numerical) records of the people saved through this. *(repentance, baptism in Jesus name, and infilling of the Holy Spirit.)*

• From 120 on the day of pentecost to the three thousand that immediately followed. (Acts 2:1-4, 38-47)

• The Ethiopian Eunuch after his encounter with Philip (Acts 8:26-40)

• The twelve disciples encountered by Paul in Ephesus (Acts 19:1-7)

Acts 5:14 (KJV)

14And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.

We can’t earn this gift.

We can’t pay for it. (Acts 8:14-25)

We have to make a decision. (Revelation 3:20)

Will we give ourselves to God for freedom?

Will we live and pursue a better understanding of him?

Will we learn to love him?

Will we reach with the intention of connecting with him?

Will we move in faith?

Even if you don’t see it now, would you be willing to see for yourself how significant God’s gift is?

**Will you take the time to look at how…**

• Jesus lived a flawless life teaching, building, and designing a roadmap for us to follow into righteousness and freedom. Leaving us wisdom and hope for brighter days.

• Suffered for an unjust cause in our place. Without ever complaining or defending his cause he bore our scars, took our lashes, carried the cross we deserve to be pinned to and wore the crown of our thorns. (Matthew 27:29, Isaiah 53:5, Matthew 27:22-23)

• Died an undeserving death (suffering while bearing the weight of our sin on his back while the cup of God’s wrath is being poured out on him). (1 Peter 2:24)

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• Jesus didn’t stay dead. He rose again!! Why? So that we could have access to eternal life through him! Jesus is the only way and he paved it just for us. (John 14:6)

Our relationship Goal with God is and will always be eternity, not to fit a religious circle. We want to be recognized on the day he returns for his people. (Read: Matthew 24:42-51)

• Our first objective is to get to know him.

• Meet him. (allowing him to meet us where we’re at.)

• Actively engage with him. (through prayer, studying his word, and community, etc.)

**You + Him = an eternal choice.**

**What will you do?**

(Acts 2:37)

Homework

Seeing as this is the last lesson, here’s a challenge…

• Reread the gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John.) study them together with your student/teacher. Go through 2 chapters at a time. Pray with each other at least once a week (more than likely when you meet to discuss notes from your gospel study.)

• Start a relationship goals journal. Where do you want to go with God? Think about your relationship with him…are there more things you’d like to learn? Are there things you want to apply and add to your daily walk? Keep a journal for at least 30 days with your student/teacher. Then join together and connect on these things.

• Study the book of Acts.

**• Study a Psalm a day.** Get to know the heart of a soul that truly loves and seeks God with everything. Get to know what it means to truly have an unfiltered relationship with God through the lens of the man labeled as the man after God’s own heart. Apply this mode to prayer and watch how it transforms your daily communication with God.