

# Study 4

**Topic: Made to know**

**Sub-theme: Made for relationship (2)**

**Sunday date: May 19**

Key ideas: Relational, knowing God

Key texts: Gen 2-3, Prov 17:17, 27:6; Ps 139

Further reading/resources:

- [http://biblicalstudies.org.uk/pdf/eq/2005-4\\_343.pdf](http://biblicalstudies.org.uk/pdf/eq/2005-4_343.pdf)
  - <https://strangetriumph.wordpress.com/2011/02/01/the-syntax-of-salvation-being-known-by-god/>
  - Rosner, *Known by God: A biblical theology of human identity*
  - Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*
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"But who is Aslan? Do you know him?" [asked Eustace.]

"Well - he knows me," said Edmund. "He is the great Lion, the son of the Emperor-beyond-the-Sea, who saved me and saved Narnia."

Justin Thacker, in his article "A Biblical Account of Christian Knowing," writes: 'in the dominant modern view of knowledge today, derived from the Enlightenment, knowledge is seen as objective and detached from the knower. It is possible to "know" something without being in any way engaged or committed to it. The model here is scientific knowledge.'

Read John 14:1-10. How can we know God?

Do you have people in your life who really know you? How can these close relationships be as source of comfort in both good and bad times?

How does this differ from the kind of knowing described in Genesis 4:1, Isaiah 47:8, Isaiah 53:3, and Jeremiah 16:21?

Read Psalm 139. How does God's knowledge of the psalmist compare to his knowledge of God? Of himself?

What explanations are offered for this?

What different kinds of 'knowing' are described in the psalm?

What is special about the way that God's knowing is described in Genesis 18:19, Exodus 33:11-12 & 2 Samuel 7:20-22?

Read Amos 3:2 and Matthew 7:23 & 25:12. Does God know everyone in this way?

Read Num 16:1-7. When the apostle Paul quotes from here, in 2 Tim 2:19, he uses the Greek translation of Numbers, which replaces 'the Lord *will show* who belongs to him' with 'God *knows* who belongs to him.' Being known by God is therefore the same as \_\_\_\_\_ to God and being \_\_\_\_\_ by God.

Read John 10:11-18. What does it mean to be known by Jesus? What does this mean for you?

John Calvin wrote in his commentary on 1 Corinthians that "to be known by God simply means to be counted among His sons." JI Packer writes, "What matters supremely is not.... That I know God, but the larger fact that he knows me." How can being known by God as his child foster a healthy sense of significance and a secure state of mind?

All the letters to the churches in Asia Minor (Revelation 2-3) include the phrase 'I know.' If Jesus were to write you a similar letter stating 'I know,' what might he write about you? How do you feel about the fact that Jesus knows you intimately and personally?

Have you ever consider that the way we are known by Jesus is modeled on the extraordinary closeness between the Father and the Son? How does this idea of "mutual knowing" help us to work out who we are?