

ECC Growth Groups – Term 4, 2014
Behold our God – Study 9: Review

Big Idea: To spend time reviewing the various ways in which God has used this series of studies to grow us in our love and knowledge of him.

Study Aim: That group members will have their knowledge consolidated and faith deepened as they review the ways in which God has grown them through this series.

Introduction

At the very beginning of this topical series of studies on who God is we read the following verse from the book of Deuteronomy:

“The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law” (Deuteronomy 29:29).

As we saw when we commenced the series, this verse reminds us of three important truths.

Firstly, there are some things about God that we will never fully know – *“the secret things belong to the LORD our God”*. As we acknowledge that God is so much bigger and greater, wiser and more wonderful, than we can ever think or imagine we are to grow in our humility before him. Hopefully this has been the case for each one of us throughout this term.

Secondly, this humility should not lead to despondency. Although we can never know all things about God we are able to know God and be known by him – *“the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever”*. God has graciously made himself known to us through his Word and through his Son and therefore we are able to think about the one true God and to make accurate statements about him.

Thirdly, and finally, considering who God is can be a dangerous activity if we are merely doing it for academic purposes; to grow in our knowledge of him simply for knowledge’s sake. As our verse concludes, this knowledge of God is revealed ... *“that we may follow all the words of this law”*. God reveals himself to us so that we might respond in repentance and faith, worship and obedience.

J. I. Packer captures these sentiments well in the following quote. *“We should never forget that theology is for doxology: the truest expression of trust in a great God will always be worship, and it will always be proper worship to praise God for being far greater than we can know”*. Each week we have sought to be true to this by including a song in our *‘Theology to Doxology’* section to conclude our time together.

Discussion Questions¹

1. In this series of studies, we have looked at the following aspects of God's character:

- God is three, God is one;
- God is glorious;
- God is holy;
- God is love;
- God is merciful in discipline;
- God is triumphant; and
- God is beyond compare.

Which study especially stretched you in your understanding of God?

2. What truths about God did you particularly need to hear at this point in your life?
3. For you personally, which study had the most impact on your faith?
4. What do you think are some of the potential dangers in what we have done in this series?
5. Why do you think doing a series of studies like this is important?
6. We ought to be aware of the dangers of 'studying God' and yet we also know that it is vitally important for us. How can we keep growing in our love and knowledge of God in a healthy way?
7. If you used the suggested songs each week, which ones stood out for you personally?

Pray

You can take suggestions for what song(s) to finish this series with.

Spend some time praying together: praising and thanking God for who he is and for making himself known to us, and asking him to continue to grow us in a knowledge and trust that is marked by humility.

¹ As leader you may like to be selective and pick out a few particular questions from the ones listed. There are similarities between many of them in that they are all seeking to help members to review what has been learnt and to further consolidate that knowledge and understanding.