

The God You Never Knew

Presentation Handout

Why is it important to have the correct view of God?

- A wrong view of God sabotages one's journey to embrace Him!
- How one views God is how they live—in relationship to God, others, or themselves.

Journey – the process of personal change or development

- We need to review or process our lives every 6-7 years to be healthy, to do well.
- "...a path to the God you never knew..." ~ How do you personally view God?



theJourney Seminar Map

- **LOVE:** Who is God?
- **BLESSING:** God shares His love with His creation.
- **EVIL:** why is there bad & suffering?
- **HOPE:** God is & has the answer to evil
- **LIVING:** God's hope lived out
- **SHARING:** Giving hope to others
- **FOREVER:** God's original plan is finally realized for eternity.

John 8:38-42

- God's people professed to know Him though they acted more like the devil.
- Their actions showed they had a skewed view of God—the God they "never knew."
- Despite all their professing to know God, they actually crucified Him when He showed up in the flesh.
- Our view of God is how we live out life relationships to Him, others, or ourselves.
- Israel's past history reveals the sad results of a warped view of God—promising God they would obey in their own power, idol worship, child sacrifice, eating their own children during the siege of Jerusalem, and crucifying God Himself.

Worldviews—How people view God & life

- Three basic categories
 - Naturalism – focus on the natural world—no divine
 - Pantheism – god in everything
 - Theism – focus on God—not necessarily the correct view of Him
- *No-God Worldview*
 - Life is a biological accident
 - Physical world all that exists
 - Scientific reason rules
 - No supernatural—no God involvement (no God)
 - I’m my own “moral” compass—“I decide the rules!”
 - Survival of the fittest

Living it out: Nazism, cruel dictatorship/governments, racism, hate toward others on social media, justification for personal actions—no right or wrong, etc.
- *Everything-is-God Worldview*
 - Nature itself is “god”—divine
 - “God is everything and everything is God”
 - No personal God distinct from nature
 - One finds oneself through good relationship with nature

Living it out: New Age, unhealthy environmentalism, etc.
- *Distant-God Worldview*
 - God created universe then left it to “tick” according to nature’s laws
 - God is distant, unconcerned, unknowable & untouchable.
 - Human reason is the means to solve societal problems

Living it out: Depression—“God doesn’t care, why should I?” or believing politics, education, social reforms by themselves will correct our societal problems.
- *Angry-Controlling-God Worldview*
 - God is controlling, demanding & never satisfied
 - Everything that happens is God’s sovereign will—good, bad & ugly
 - Humans are pawns with no say/choice in what happens

Living it out: Anger, oppression, God the Father is fearful & vindictive, salvation by works, discouragement, hopelessness, Old Testament not valid, etc.
- *Loving-Caring-God Worldview*
 - God loves & cares about us, wanting to connect with us
 - True love only “lives” in an environment of freedom
 - Freedom allows for wrong choices & suffering, which causes God & us pain

Living it out: God is loving & caring—giving His grace for my weaknesses & failures, God is concerned & cares, treat others as equals with compassion, etc.

Take Away...

- What worldview of God do you have? How has it affected your embracing God, others, or yourself?
- How would it make you feel knowing God is loving & caring towards you?