



BELIEVE THE IMPOSSIBLE | Impossible Knowledge | Week 2 | Dec 7 & 8

Isaiah 11:9; Gen 2:8; 3:8; John 1:18; 14:7-9; 2 Cor 4:6; Col 1:10; 2 Peter 1:3; Rev 22:4-5

These study guides are designed for individual or group study but highly encouraged to be experienced in community with a small group or other friends on the journey with Jesus.

Opening: The season of Advent calls into question what we may think of as impossible. This world can't be fixed... I can never really know God... My failings define me... This longing I have will never be fulfilled... That relationship is broken forever... What are the changes you'd like to see but seriously doubt could ever happen because they seem impossible?

What do we live to control?: The certainty that we pursue through career, kid's success, happy relationships, control over our finances — these we can identify and seek to control. Pastor Dan posits a different certainty, "The thought that there might be a supremely intelligent and powerful Being who actually sees us... who genuinely cares about how the details and dramas of our lives work out... and, who moves to befriend us, wanting to help us flourish... this remains one of the deepest human longings amidst the growing secularism and loneliness of our tech-soaked age."

- What moves in your heart and mind upon reflecting on this reality?
- When and how does this idea come up with people around you at work? Home? Church?

The Knowledge of God: The scene in the Garden of Eden has Adam and Eve in an unbroken, intimate relationship with God. Pastor Dan reminded us, "There was no fear of tomorrow in Eden. No hiding lest I be found inadequate. No hunger or thirst, despair or death. On the contrary, knowing God and being known by him, our ancestors lived naked and unafraid."

- How well would you say God knows you? Maybe better put, how much do you hide from God? (Yes, yes we know God sees all, but the way we practically live and think may say otherwise.)

KNOWLEDGE: Pastor Dan paints a vivid picture of what it means to "know" in the biblical sense of the term. He says "it is a soul-shuddering, vulnerability exposing, relationship-altering, life-filling encounter."

- Where have you experienced this kind of knowing?
- What thoughts or feelings churn up in you when you think about this kind of knowing and your relationship with Jesus? Do you know Jesus in this way? What demonstrates this is true for you?

What Happened: Adam and Eve started to care more for knowing something God made — the knowledge of good and evil -- than they cared for knowing God himself (Gen. 3:6-7a)

- Where do misplaced priorities impact your relationships?
- Where do mis-ordered goals impact your relationship with Jesus? How do you know?



But God has not given up on us: Pastor Dan recites history, “ God persevered. He revealed himself again and again to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph. He issued to Moses an invitation to know him and go with him to set his people free. He appeared to the wayward children of Israel throughout their wilderness trek and gave them a life-enhancing law to guide them. God made his providence and power known by delivering them.”

- What stirs in your mind or heart when you are reminded of this history of God’s pursuit of people?
- What or who has God used to pursue you so you can know Jesus? Make note of this week’s Practice of the Week below, for a helpful resource to see God’s pursuit of you more clearly.

It seems IMPOSSIBLE: The God of the Universe wants to lead us into an intimate relationship with Him. “I’ve been ready to take you back since you said ‘hello.’” Pastor Dan encourages us to pursue that reality and knowing of Jesus.

- How do you respond to that invitation?
- What difference could it make in the everyday moments of your life?
- How can we pray as a group to pursue this relationship as reality in the coming week?

Practice of the Week: Spiritual Genealogy and Advent Devotionals

At the end of last week’s Advent Devotional we shared about creating a spiritual genealogy. Take a look at that devotional and this inspiring practice of a spiritual genealogy to really help you see who God used and how God pursued you to bring you to KNOW Jesus.

You can sign up to receive our weekly Advent devotionals by texting "ADVENT" to 630.206.3230 or visit Christchurch.us/advent.

We’d love to hear from you!

If you have thoughts, questions, comments, ideas on how to make these study guides more meaningful for you or your small group, please let us know.

We also enjoy hearing how God is using these study guides in your lives.

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