

Teaching outline for session 4: To know God we must do His Work.

Primary Texts: Matthew 5:16; 1 Corinthians 3:9; Ephesians 2:8-10; James 2:26

Primary goals for this session: Here we consider how doing the Lord's Work is essential to knowing God more. There is a lot of scripture that talks about the importance of not just knowing the Word or talking a lot but backing it up with action. But here we want to focus on the fact that when we do the Lord's work *for the Lord* that helps us grow closer to Him. How can we do the Lord's work – not just in acts of service but in our everyday lives, in our everyday places – for His glory and by doing so get to know His heart.

Once again, there are questions and facts here – feel free to use it as you see fit.

Teaching outline:

Opening illustration: Share an activity you do with someone you care about that helps grow closer to them. I.e. – I draw with my son, go hunting with a friend, read and discuss with a sibling.

Read Matthew 5:16: emphasize that Jesus says here we shine our light with good deeds. Note also that the effect our good deeds should have is praise to the Father.

For discussion:

- What is a good deed?
- How can good deeds be done in a way that would cause people to praise God?
- Has a good deed ever caused you to praise God?

Read 1 Corinthians 3:9: Point out that this entire letter was written in response to division amongst the Corinthians Christians. Point out that while we still work for God this text shows us that He works by our side.

For discussion:

- What does it mean to be a “fellow worker” with the Lord?
- How would this teaching help battle division in the church?
- How does this show us that doing the Lord's work for the Lord can help us grow closer to Him?

Read Ephesians 2:8-10: Point out what this text says we are created or saved *for*. It is stating that we are saved by grace, through faith, for good works.

For discussion:

- What does this tell us about good works in relation to our purpose?
- What does it mean to you to think that the Lord has good works for you "prepared beforehand"?
- Read James 2:26 – how does this work with Ephesians 2:10?

- How can we do the Lord's work in other ways than acts of service – while at work or in our neighborhood or in our homes?

Brainstorm ways your class can do the Lord's work together.

Close with prayer.