

Handout 2

knowing god 2 — your secret life with god

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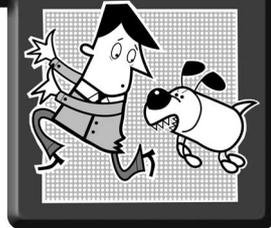
God wants us to get to know him! This is the great adventure of the Christian life.



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Life Path

- What are the most significant events in your life so far?
- What things have been important in your journey towards God?
- Can you think of a time when you have been aware of God in your life?



mega byte

Father and Son

Jesus told a story about a father with two sons. One son took his half of his father's wealth and went away to a far country. There he wasted the money until he was broke and hungry. After a spell feeding someone else's pigs he decided to go home and beg for a job as one of his father's paid workers. He must have feared his father's anger as he turned for home. But the father was so glad to see his lost son returning that he ran to him and hugged him tight. Welcoming his son back home, the father threw a huge party to celebrate his return.

Read the story again in Luke 15.11-24.
What is the father in the story like?

Jesus told this story to show us what God is like.

Imagine yourself as the son. Which stage in the story do you feel you have reached?

Tick the statement that best describes where you are in relation to God now, at this moment.

- Running away
- Having a good time in the far-off land
- Feeling empty and lost in the far-off land
- Turning round to come back
- On your way home
- In the arms of the father
- Back in the heart of the family



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Spot the difference

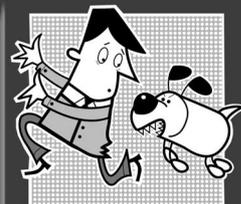
Christians have described the difference that God makes to their lives in a number of ways.

The 'God-shaped hole'. Some people have described not knowing God as like having a gap in their lives. It feels as if something is missing. You try to fill the hole with all sorts of good (and bad) things but in the end nothing will satisfy you except God.

Glorious technicolour. Others have described discovering God as like the difference between black-and-white TV and colour. The picture is the same in black and white but everything is richer and more interesting in colour. Life with God is (in many ways) the same as before but now it is enriched and enhanced.

Darkness and light. The Bible often speaks of people being in darkness without God. Getting to know him is like switching on the light – or like the breaking of the dawn.

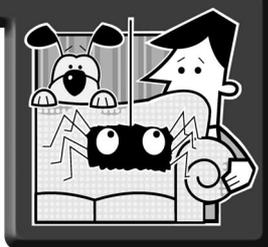
Which of these ideas makes the most sense to you?



interfacing

Thank God that, like the father in the story, he opens his arms to welcome you.

Ask God to make himself known to you more and more.



processing

What are the things that help you to 'see' God?



do something about it

Ask an older person in your church what difference knowing God makes to them?



coming soon

Next week: The life and ministry of Jesus.

