

STUDY QUESTIONS FOR *Coming Home, Part 5: Knowing God*

Introduction

1. List the people who know you best and whom you know best. Why do you think they are?
2. How do you think it would impact you to be separated from all of them, such as by imprisonment or lost at sea (think *Castaway* film with Tom Hanks)?
3. How likely would you be to seek to build a deep relationship with someone new if you were cut off from everyone who knows you (imagine if Tom Hanks discovered a lady or man living on the other side of his island)? BONUS Q: What is the meaning of Wilson?
4. How do you think it will be for 1 Corinthians 13:12 to come to pass in your life?

John 14:20, 22-23

1. What are the indispensable requirements for anyone to come home to God? Why are these the requirements?
2. How often do people try to associate themselves with Christ but not fulfill the requirements? In what state does such a decision leave them?
3. How would you explain verse 20 to a new Christian? What are the implications?
4. How do we experience the reality that the persons of the Trinity make their "abode" (home) with us?

John 14:21

1. How commonly, in your opinion, are people willing to tell others who they really are? What does such a commitment require? Why doesn't everyone do it as a way of life?
2. What does it mean for God to "disclose" (manifest, show) himself to believers? How do you know when it is happening (experientially)?
3. Read John 18:20-21 and Hebrews 1:3. If God is not hiding from people, why do so few people seem to know what he is really like?
4. Do you think it is possible for God to be completely open with a believer and yet that person not be completely open with God? It is not possible to conceal anything from God, but is it possible for a believer to fail to enter the experience of knowing and being known?

John 14:24-26

1. What happens to relationships when people stop communicating with one another? Share an example you have seen or experienced.
2. Why do you think so many professed Christians choose not to avail themselves of the truth of God on a regular basis (according to surveys by George Barna, Mormons are more likely to read the Bible regularly than professed evangelicals)? What impact does this have?
3. List some devotional books which have helped you learn the truth about God and his works.
4. Describe a method of Bible study which has helped you know God better.
5. Reread verse 26. Describe ways that the Holy Spirit (without necessarily inspiring new Scripture) teaches us directly. Can you think of any Bible verses which display that activity?
6. How do you know such teaching is from God and not a bad burrito or evil spirit? How should you treat such teaching differently from the word of God in the Bible?