

TEMPLATE FOR SERMON OUTLINES

0 Example

Below is a sample sermon template. As you'll see, it's a brief outline that establishes interest in the topic, identifies with your audience, provides a biblical perspective, and applies it to life. Use this resource at your discretion, and feel free to contextualize each message based on your community and preaching style. For example, some communities will reference all of the biblical citations and more. Others might dive deep into theological and/or apologetic themes. Still others might prefer a less structured format. Whatever your preferred style, we hope these tools are beneficial.

Me: This is where I explain who I am and what I'm all about.²

- Introduce yourself in the context of the main idea and answer the question, "Where does this truth or tension reveal itself in my life?"
 - "I have experienced [this thing] in life, and it's been very [choose the emotion you've felt—hard, confusing, exciting, tempting, liberating, etc.]."
 - For example: "Often I've found myself at a loss for how my [wife, friend, significant other] and I can love each other so much, and yet be so at odds with one another."

We: Once I feel like my listeners know me a little and trust me, then I'm ready to engage them.³

- Once you've introduced the audience to the main idea as it relates to your life, you can introduce why this topic is important to all of us. Explain "why this truth or tension is so important for all of us to discuss."
 - For example: "I bet you've experienced this confusion in relationships, too. The fact is, we all have."

God: I take this emotional common ground I've established and introduce biblical truth into the discussion.⁴

- Now that you've engaged the listeners with the main idea in both Me and We, you can invite them to hear what God says about it, explaining "what the Bible has to say about this truth or tension."
 - For example: "Would you believe that God has lots to say about how husbands and wives are to treat one another? Seriously! Let's check it out!" [Open, read, and examine the text.]

You: I encourage short-term actions that lead to long-term discipleship.

- The call to action provides everyday responses to the question, "In light of what God says about this important topic, how will you respond?"
 - "Based on what we learned in the Scriptures, let's apply this principle to our lives, today, in practical and realistic ways."
 - For example: "Choose the person closest to you (emotionally, not physically), and commit to place their needs above yours for the next week."

We: This is a place to cast a common vision—a vision of what our lives, our church, and even our world would look like if only we would apply the truth of God’s Word.⁵

- This is for both believers and non-believers—encourage people to put this biblical principle into action.
 - For example: “Imagine if in our relationships we were each willing to put the needs of others above our own. What would happen in our schools, our workplaces, our families, our neighborhoods? Imagine if every person in our church committed to do this every day for the next week. What would happen?”

Bottom Line:

We’ve attempted to offer biblical materials that are flexible enough to be adapted to different speaking styles and traditions.

- Regardless of your strategy for communication, these summary statements may be used to help you communicate the main idea each week.
- This will also help facilitate conversations among people from different churches, unifying the effort among all participating churches.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

1. Based on Lane Jones and Andy Stanley, *Communicating for a Change: Seven Keys to Irresistible Communication*. (Sisters, OR: 2006).
2. Jones and Stanley, 47
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid.
5. Ibid., 49

1 Does Life Have a Purpose?

Me: Share a thought or experience or season of life when you've asked this question. Even better, share a time when you thought, or at least lived as if, there was *no* purpose to life. How did that feel? What did you think? What led you to that conclusion or way of living?

We: Most of us do not spend a lot of time thinking about our purpose, at least on a cosmic scale. But the times we do can be pretty troubling, especially if we suspect that there is no purpose. On the other hand, even for those who believe that our lives are heading somewhere—who believe there is an ultimate meaning—finding answers to life's simple, everyday questions can be difficult.

- Who should I spend time with? Where should I work? How should I spend my money?
- A few quotes about purpose:
 - “What is life for? To die? To kill myself? No, I’m afraid of death. To wait for death till it comes? I fear that even more. Then I must live. But what for, in order to die?” —Leo Tolstoy
 - Ernest Hemingway wrote, “Life is just a dirty trick, a short journey from nothingness to nothingness.”
 - “They give birth astride of a grave, the light gleams an instant, then it’s night once more.”
—Samuel Beckett
 - H.D. Thoreau said, “Most people live lives of quiet desperation.”

God: The first person to write, in detail, about this search for meaning was king over the ancient nation of Israel. King Solomon was more rich, powerful, and wise than any living person. He had it all, tried it all, and discovered some profound things as a result.

- Ecclesiastes 1:2: His introduction (and eventual conclusion) implies that riches, power, status, education, sex, adrenaline, knowledge, you name it, none of these things will give us meaning. They can temporarily distract us from the question, and even give us some temporary satisfaction. But they will not reveal to us our purpose.
- Additional passages: Ecclesiastes 1:16-18; 2:4-6; 2:8-11; 3:10-14; 5:10; 12:1, 7, 13
- Conclusion: Life is meaningless without God. But God gives everything meaning.

You: Invite people to consider how they live—as if there is a God, or as if there is no God. Possibly differentiate between *believing* God exists and *living* as if he exists. (One of the fastest growing religions in America is “practical atheism,” which is populated by those who claim to believe in God but live as if he doesn’t exist.) And invite them to consider how this God affects their sense of meaning and purpose.

- “The greatest single cause of atheism in the world today is Christians who acknowledge Jesus with their lips and walk out the door and deny Him by their lifestyle.” —Brennan Manning
- When you are taking your last breaths, will you be longing to have earned more money, achieved more status, or networked with the right people?
- Matthew 6:25-34: Jesus challenges people to seek first God’s kingdom, saying that then the rest of life will have meaning and purpose.

We: Invite your community to embrace Jesus' challenge to seek God's kingdom and discover their purpose in light of God's plan.

Bottom Line:

Every person on Earth was created to personally know and love God. Life is meaningless without God, but God gives everything meaning.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Ortberg, John. *The Life You've Always Wanted*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Pub. House, 1997.
- Warren, Richard. *The Purpose-driven Life: What on Earth Am I Here For?* Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2002.
- Search "Purpose" on <http://exploreGod.com>.
- Shores, Matt. "Does Life Have a Purpose?" *ExploreGod.com*. <http://www.exploreGod.com/does-life-have-a-purpose>.

2 Is There a God?

Me: Share a thought or experience or season of life when you or someone close to you has asked this question (especially if there was a time when you weren't sure of the answer).

We: Remind everyone that we all think about God from time to time, even if we conclude we do not believe. It's nearly impossible not to consider it occasionally. Possibly read some letters that children have written to God.

- Dear God, I read the Bible. What does "begat" mean? Nobody will tell me. Love, Alison
- God, I bet it's very hard for you to love all of everybody in the whole world. There are only four people in our family and I can never do it. —Frank
- Dear God, Are you really invisible, or is that just a trick? —Lucy
- Darla writes, "Did you really mean 'Do unto others as they do unto you'? Because if you did, then I'm going to fix my brother."
- God, it's okay that you made different religions, but don't you get mixed up sometimes? —Arnold
- Dear God, How come you did all those miracles in the old days, but don't do any now? —Seymour
- Dear God, I wish there was no such thing as sin. I wish there was no such thing as war. —Tim, age 9
- Dear God, Maybe Cain and Abel would not kill each other so much if they had their own rooms. It works with my brother. —Larry

The problem for some of us is, if God doesn't write back, eventually we wonder if he even exists. Have you been there before? Are you there now?

God: The good news is that God is not intimidated by our questions—and neither is [name of your church]. If you have questions about God, you're welcome here, because all of us do. We've all written letters to God. Even if it wasn't a literal letter, we've all tossed up prayers in the midst of struggles. And God welcomes those questions. Though he might not write his name in the sky, or respond to your letter with a handwritten note, he's given us lots of indications of his presence.

- Natural indicators such as creation and beauty.
 - Psalm 19:1-4
 - Romans 1:19-20
 - Consider showing a few pictures of the intricacy of God's creation.
 - Share a few principles of God's "fine-tuned universe."
 - Refer to the "Sermon Research Notes" document on ExploreGod.com for more details.
- Ethical indicators such as conscience and a sense of right and wrong.
 - Romans 2:14-15
 - "If God does not exist, everything is permitted" (Fyodor Dostoyevsky). In other words, the fact that we all have an innate sense of right and wrong is an indicator of a God who instilled morality in us.
 - Add any other indicators that you'd like, including the Scriptures, prophecy, etc.
 - "Creatures are not born with desires unless satisfaction for these desires exists. A baby feels hunger; well, there is such a thing as food. A duckling wants to swim; well, there is such a thing as water. Men feel sexual desire; well, there is such a thing as sex. If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world." —C.S. Lewis¹

You: Is the evidence convincing? Statistics show that 80–85 percent of people believe in God (even among those who do not consider themselves religious). Are you among them? Even more, are you living as if God exists?

- “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” —A.W. Tozer

We: If each person here were to truly live not only as if God exists, but like he cares for us and has a plan for us, what would change in our lives? In our families? In our schools and workplaces? In our neighborhoods? In our city? Imagine if we lived as if God were with us always. It would be enough to change the world.

Bottom Line:

The existence of God is an unavoidable fact. Evidence comes from creation, morality, intelligence, and love. Once we establish that there must be a God, we are ready to discover who God really is.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Kreeft, Peter J. and Ronald Tacelli. *Handbook of Christian Apologetics*. Crowborough, East Sussex, United Kingdom: Monarch, 1994.
- Wright, N. T. *Simply Christian: Why Christianity Makes Sense*. San Francisco, CA: Harper San Francisco, 2006.
- D'Souza, Dinesh. *What's So Great About Christianity?* Washington, DC: Regnery Publishing, 2007.
- Lewis, C.S. *Mere Christianity*. London: Fount, 1997.
- Collins, Francis S. *The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief*. New York: Free, 2006.
- Louie Giglio's "Indescribable" series.
- Search "God" on ExploreGod.com.

¹ C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*. (London: Fount, 1997).

3 Why Does God Allow Pain & Suffering?

Me: Share an experience when this question became important to you. It could be a personal experience with suffering or the suffering of a loved one. Show your listeners that this question is one you've asked.

We: Describe a variety of ways in which this topic becomes important to all of us. Why is this such an important topic to discuss today?

- Job, relationships, finances, family, school, etc.
- Here's what we're not going to do:
 - We're not going to solve the issue of pain and suffering.
 - We're not going to minimize pain and suffering and provide simple platitudes, like "All you need to do is pray."
 - We're not going to tell you that your situation will get better if you have enough faith, because that's not how God works.
 - Though we might not be able to figure it out enough to make perfect sense of it, we can be confident that God has a reason.
- Quotes related to pain and suffering
 - "God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world." —C. S. Lewis
 - "The most beautiful people are those who have known defeat, known suffering, known struggle, known loss, and have found their way out of the depths. These persons have an appreciation, a sensitivity, and an understanding of life that fills them with compassion, gentleness, and a deep loving concern. Beautiful people do not just happen." —Elisabeth Kübler-Ross
 - "In order to have great happiness you have to have great pain and unhappiness—otherwise how would you know when you're happy?" —Leslie Caron
 - "Our heavenly Father understands our disappointment, suffering, pain, fear, and doubt. He is always there to encourage our hearts and help us understand that He's sufficient for all of our needs. When I accepted this as an absolute truth in my life, I found that my worrying stopped." —Charles Stanley
 - "The world is full of suffering, it is also full of overcoming it." —Helen Keller

God: God's not uninterested in your circumstances. Like any good father, he desires good things for his children. Believe it or not, there's an entire book of the Bible that addresses issues like these.

- Background to the book of Job
 - Style: prose and poetry
 - Purpose: history and prophecy
 - Date: It might be the oldest book in the Bible. Either way, it's a few thousand years old.
 - Author: We know this person believed in God, but not much more info is given.
- Look at chapters 1 and 2.
- Job never asks, "Why me?" Instead we can almost hear him saying, "What now?"
- Other passages to consider: 2 Corinthians 4:8-10, Romans 8:18, 1 Peter 5:9-10, Romans 5:3-5

You: When things go bad for you, how will you respond?

- Will you lament or will you look forward?
- Will you ask “Why me?” or “What now?”
- Will you remain bitter or seek to be better?

We: Can you imagine if our entire community decided never to play the victim, and in light of our circumstances, decided, like Job, to ask not “Why me?” but “What now?”

Bottom Line:

Because God is greater than we are, we cannot fully understand or explain all of the problems we encounter. However, we can be certain of God’s perfect power, His perfect timing, His perfect purpose, and His perfect love.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Lewis, C. S. *The Problem of Pain*. New York: HarperOne, 2001.
- Yancey, Philip. *Where Is God When It Hurts?* Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Pub. House, 1977.
- Malec, Jason. “Why is there pain and suffering?” *ExploreGod.com*. <http://www.exploreGod.com/why-is-there-pain-and-suffering>.

4 *Is Christianity Too Narrow?*

Me: Tell a story about a time when you encountered another religion and found it strange, mysterious, or bizarre.

We: Acknowledge that when non-Christians look at Christianity, they probably have similar thoughts. But we all do that, don't we? We all look at other people's things and think, "Man, if only they knew my thing, they'd see the weirdness of their thing." And yet, our religion or world view is no less weird than theirs, is it?

- Suggest a few self-deprecating or unusual things about your faith (a few examples follow).
 - Prayer is unusual to someone who doesn't believe in the metaphysical world. We'd think it odd if someone said, "I talked to the Buddha this morning."
 - In the Christian faith, because of our eternal perspective, we actually celebrate a person's departure from our temporal world.
 - Don't write in your Bible (or put anything on top of it).
 - We close our eyes when we pray.
 - We use Christian jargon.
- To non-religious people, religion almost always includes some odd—and even narrow-minded things—such as:
 - Legalism
 - Judgment
 - Hypocrisy (in its worst incarnations)
- But when people attempt to bridge the gap between God and us, the seen and unseen, the temporal and eternal, by definition, it's bound to include some unusual things.
- The problem is when these things are human additions rather than genuine attempts at connecting with God.
 - Religion is humanity's attempt to reach God.
 - Christianity is God's attempt to reach humanity.

God: This is not new. In fact, the Bible speaks to the narrowness of religion and how to maintain faith in a culture of unfaith.

- Acts 17:16-31
 - Paul demonstrates how to maintain faith in Jesus among a people who are not comfortable with exclusive claims about God.
 - Paul asked the Athenians questions, complimented their search, and then, when asked, proclaimed the truth with gentleness and respect.
- When Paul preached about Jesus and the resurrection (v. 18), he began to contrast Christianity from other religions. Most religions can be described as humanity's attempt to reach God. But Christianity is God's attempt to reach humanity. Through the person of Jesus, God extends grace to everyone. His gift is broad, available to anyone who will receive it.

You: Does your lifestyle prompt others to ask why you live the way you do? If not, what needs to change?

- Are you satisfied with practicing religion and striving to reach God? Or will you accept God's free gift and reconciliation through Jesus Christ?

We: I pray that our church can be a community of people who are so winsome that the world cannot ignore it. I pray that we'll be bombarded with questions about why we do the things we do (or don't do), go the places we go, and hang out with the people we do. And then I hope we have the faith, the courage, the gentleness, and the respect to share our faith boldly and humbly.

- Imagine if we all were able to do that this week. Would the world accuse us of being narrow minded? I hope not. I hope people will say that we're the most welcoming, loving, and inclusive people they know.

Bottom Line:

God provided a way for anyone to have peace. This is profoundly inclusive—not exclusive. Following Jesus is different from every other faith on earth in that He sacrificed to get to us, rather than us sacrificing to get to Him. Most religions boil down to humanity trying to reach God, but Christianity is God reaching humanity.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Kinnaman, David and Gabe Lyons. *Unchristian: What a New Generation Really Thinks about Christianity—and Why It Matters*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2007.
- Niebuhr, H. Richard. *Christ and Culture*. San Francisco: Harper San Francisco, 2001.
- Herbst, Norton. "Is Christianity Too Narrow in Our Culture?" *ExploreGod.com*. <http://exploreGod.com/is-christianity-too-narrow-in-our-culture>.
- Stackhouse, John G. *Humble Apologetics: Defending the Faith Today*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002, 162–63.

5 *Is Jesus Really God?*

Me: Start by providing insight into your own journey to understanding Jesus. If you've considered other faiths or ever wondered about Jesus' identity, offer insight into your thoughts (without getting too far ahead on what you concluded).

We: For all of us, there was a time when we didn't fully understand who Jesus was. And if we're honest, none of us knows for sure. That's the beauty and complexity (and, at times, the difficulty) of faith. It's having hope and confidence in unseen things that we cannot prove. And yet, billions of people over the course of the past two thousand years have reached the conclusion that there is something special about Jesus. That he was no ordinary man. How did they come to that conclusion? Well, let's take a look.

God: Jesus is God in the flesh, who came to restore our relationship with him. How do we know that?

- Prophecy
 - Psalm 2:1-8, written at least one thousand years before Jesus lived, predicts his life and reign.
 - Isaiah 53:5-6, written hundreds of years before Christ, predicts his suffering and the reconciliation it enabled.
- Teaching
 - Matthew 26:64-65: Jesus accepts the messianic title, Son of Man, claiming equality with God.
 - John 6:44-46, 10:30, 14:9, and Mark 2:7-11: Jesus claims godly power.
- Resurrection
 - John 2:19: Jesus metaphorically predicts his death and resurrection.
- History
 - Regarding the truth of Jesus' death, resurrection, and divinity, Peter Kreeft muses: "Why did thousands suffer torture and death for this lie if they knew it was a lie?" "What force sent Christians to the lions' den with hymns on their lips? What lie ever transformed the world like that?"
 - Aquinas argues, "If the Incarnation did not really happen, then an even more unbelievable miracle happened: the conversion of the world by the biggest lie in history and the moral transformation of lives into unselfishness, detachment from worldly pleasures and radically new heights of holiness by a mere myth."

You: What do you say about Jesus? Is he merely a good teacher, a prophet, or a wise man? Is he more than that?

- "I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to. Now it seems to me obvious that He was neither a lunatic nor a fiend: and consequently, however strange or terrifying or unlikely it may seem, I have to accept the view that He was and is God."¹

¹ Lewis, C. S., *Mere Christianity*, (London: Collins, 1952), 54-56.

We: If everyone of us—me included—decided to set our life's compass to Jesus' bearing, I believe we'd impact the entire world. Will you join me?

Bottom Line:

Because of His own testimony about Himself, Jesus is either God or a fraud. There is no logical middle ground. Jesus demonstrated His deity through prophecy, teaching, and the resurrection.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Strobel, Lee. *The Case for Christ: A Journalist's Personal Investigation of the Evidence for Jesus*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1998.
- C. S. Lewis. *Mere Christianity*. London: Fount, 1997.
- Kreeft, Peter J. and Ronald Tacelli. *Handbook of Christian Apologetics*. Crowborough, East Sussex, United Kingdom: Monarch, 1994, 157
- Herbst, Norton. "Is Jesus God?" ExploreGod.com. <http://www.exploregod.com/is-jesus-god>.

6 Is The Bible Reliable?

Me: Share an experience you've had with the Bible that's funny, awkward, or telling.

- Discuss the evolution of your beliefs about the Bible. Have you ever doubted its reliability, historicity, or integrity? If so, be honest with those thoughts.

We: Admit that all of us have a perspective on the Bible. Some are very familiar with it. For others, it's foreign or even frightening. If you've been reading the Bible for a long time, you can think back to those early days of trying to figure it out. And some of you are just now beginning. Wherever you are, this is a great message for you.

God: The Bible, though hard to understand at times, is a beautiful collection of books that tells the same consistent story throughout. And it's very, very reliable. Let's examine why that is.

- It's a collection of 66 different books, written from 1500 BC to 100 AD, by 40 different authors, in 3 different languages.
- The first 39 books make up the Old Testament and include the Law of Moses, the history of the Jewish people, and the foretelling of the Messiah.
 - It comprises the sacred Scriptures of Jewish and Christian people.
- The last 27 books make up the New Testament and were written by eyewitnesses of Jesus' life, documenting his ministry and explaining God's plan to bring about his kingdom. It also includes letters about how to live out the gospel.
- How can we be confident it's reliable?
 - Prophecy: Some 1,800 prophetic statements can be verified or refuted. None, to date, have ever been refuted.
 - Consider a few prophecies that have come to pass. (Refer to "Sermon Research Notes" for a few examples)
 - Textual evidence: We have more high-quality copies of the text than any other historical document.
 - Consider looking at some of the textual variants to demonstrate their insignificance in the grand scheme of the Bible.
 - Self-declaration: The text itself claims authority.
 - 1 Timothy 3:16
 - "Among the major religions of the world... only three religions claim to have a supernatural foundation to be found in a sacred scripture that purports to be a divine revelation. The three religions distinguished by this claim are Judaism, Christianity, and the religion of Islam. Among the other religions. Only some claim to have logical and factual truth, but the truth they claim to have is of human, not divine, origin." —Mortimer Adler, *Truth in Religion*
 - Corroboration: You don't hear people say they regret following the words of Scripture.
 - You don't hear: "Ten years ago I decided to read and follow Scripture, build my business, build my marriage, raise my kids, handle my money, treat my body, and many other things according to the wisdom of Scripture—and I completely regret it."
 - Universality and Invitation: No other sacred scriptures invite all people of all time.
 - In Genesis 12:3, God tells one man, "I will bless you and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

You: When you're wondering about the reliability of the Bible, consider these facts. But more than that, remember that the Bible is God's love letter to you. Open it, read it, and consider how God wants you to live out his kingdom calling.

We: If every one of us left here confident in the Bible's reliability and excited to live out its ways, imagine what our church would look like! Imagine your business, your family, your relationships!

Bottom Line:

The Bible is more than a book: it is God's love letter to humanity. We have more reason to trust its claims than any other book in history. We can trust the Bible because of prophecy, history, integrity, and what it's done in me.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Kreeft, Peter J. and Ronald Tacelli. *"The Bible: Myth or History?" Handbook of Christian Apologetics*. Crowborough, East Sussex, United Kingdom: Monarch, 1994.
- Blomberg, Craig. *The Historical Reliability of the Gospels*. Leicester, England: Inter-Varsity, 1987.
- Capes, David. "Is the Bible Reliable?" *ExploreGod.com*. <http://www.exploreGod.com/is-the-bible-reliable>.



Can I Know God Personally?

Me: Share about a time or season when God seemed very distant or even uninvolved in the world or your life.

We: Emphasize that we all feel that from time to time. And very often, we resort to religious deeds to try to get into God's graces, to try to please him. Take a hand survey. How many of us have:

- Tried to do really good things to get right or even make up with God? (Make sure to raise your own hand, to demonstrate that you're right there with everyone!)
- Tried to stop doing some things in order to make God happy?

We all have! But let me ask this: Did it work? Did you feel closer to God by jumping through those hoops?

God: The bad news is that none of these things help us measure up to God's standards. But the good news is that God's love is given to each of us freely.

- 1 Peter 3:18, Titus 3:5: We are not reconciled to God because of our actions.
- John 1:12: "Whoever believes in Jesus will know God personally."
- James 4:8a: "Come near to God and he will come near to you."
- Revelation 3:20: "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me."

You: Here's the truth about knowing God personally:

- John 3:16: God loved. God gave. We believe. We receive.¹
- God loved us so much that he sent his son to save us; if we believe in him, we will spend eternity in deep, personal relationship with him.

We: If we all trusted that simple, profound truth, it would change everything. Our friendships, our marriages, our work relationships, our work ethic, our contentment, our finances, everything.

Bottom Line:

The entire reason Jesus came to earth was so that everyone who trusts in Him can know God personally—the relationship we were born to enjoy.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Packer, J. I. *Knowing God*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1973.
- Layman, Auburn. "How Can I Know God?" *ExploreGod.com* <http://www.exploregod.com/how-can-i-know-god>.

¹ Summarized from Andy Stanley's sermon, "Go Fish, Part Five—Muddy Water."