

LIVING IN THE YES! LEADER'S GUIDE – CHAPTER 2:

WHAT IS GOD REALLY LIKE?

RECAP: ✓ WEEK 1- Understanding God's amazing invitation- *to more, better life*

WEEK 2: People say all sort of things about GOD. Some folks will tell you that God is bitter, angry, and judgmental. And YES, he hates sin, because it poisons everyone it touches. But he is good, and he loves sinners amazingly. *Knowing God* does NOT mean having a theoretical discussion about what we think he should be like. It means entering a space where we know him intimately, where we encounter his goodness, his presence, and his glory. That kind of "knowing" changes everything.

PLAN to break people up into smaller discussion groups of 3-6 each.

How many PEOPLE? _____

How many GROUPS? _____

PRINT : HANDOUT – 1 per PERSON (Reprinted from the Encounter Guide)
 WHAT IS GOD REALLY LIKE? (1 per GROUP)

GET : PENS for everyone

ASK : Ask a couple of people to share –
a) a time when YOU experienced GOD's faithfulness, goodness, kindness, or love;
b) the testimony of a friend;
c) Jo Moody's story from the book; - OR –
d) a favorite encounter you've read about in the Bible.

LIVING IN THE YES! AGENDA – CHAPTER 2: WHAT IS GOD REALLY LIKE?

Welcome everyone. Offer drinks and snacks. (15 minutes)

Start the general group meeting. (20 minutes)

Play the “Gossip” game: One person thinks up a short sentence or phrase. They whisper it to the next person. That person whispers what they heard to the next person, and so on around the circle. When you finish, find out what the last person heard ... and what the first person actually said. (15 minutes)

THEN ASK: Is church life like that? Can we hear well-intentioned explanations about GOD that might not be true? (Can you think of examples?)

Like the “Gossip” game ... how do we go back to the source?

The BIBLE reveals the nature of GOD. Each scripture is best understood in the context of the Bible as a whole.

Break into groups of 3-6 for discussion. (30 minutes)

Pass out the HANDOUTS (1 per PERSON) and WHAT IS GOD REALLY LIKE? (1 per GROUP)

Work through the handout together and talk about the questions.

Gather together for general discussion & recap. (15 minutes)

Recap: What stood out to you?

Ask a few people to share their story.

Connect. (15 minutes)

Put on some quiet instrumental music and ask: *Choose one Name (or attribute) of God that you want to know better for yourself. Tell God about it. Ask him to come and comfort, strengthen, speak to, or encourage you.*

End by praying for each other..

People say all sort of things about GOD. Some folks will tell you that he is bitter, angry, and judgmental. And YES, God hates sin, because it poisons everyone it touches. But he is good, and he loves sinners amazingly. *Knowing God* does NOT mean having a theoretical discussion about what we think he should be like. It means entering a space where we know him intimately, where we encounter his goodness, his presence, and his glory. That kind of “knowing” changes everything. We want to invite people into the wonder of knowing God more intimately for themselves.