

Values Matter Discovery Starters

We Want to Know God

1. KNOW GOD

YWAM is committed to know God, His nature, His character and His ways as revealed in the Bible, the inspired and authoritative Word of God. We seek to reflect who He is in every aspect of our lives and ministry. The automatic overflow of knowing and enjoying fellowship with God is a desire to share Him with others.

[2Ki 19:19](#); [Job 42:5](#); [Psa 46:10](#); [Psa 103:7-13](#); [Jer 9:23-24](#);
[Hos 6:3](#); [Joh 17:3](#); [Eph 1:16-17](#); [Php 3:7-11](#); [1Jo 2:4-6](#)

Value #1 – Know God: Our Driving Desire

Biblical Foundation:

This is what the LORD says: "Don't let the wise boast in their wisdom, or the powerful boast in their power, or the rich boast in their riches. But those who wish to boast should boast in this alone: that they truly know me and understand that I am the LORD who demonstrates unfailing love and who brings justice and righteousness to the earth, and that I delight in these things. I, the LORD, have spoken!" (Jer 9:23-24)

Discovery Starter:

Jeremiah began his ministry in 627 BC "during the thirteenth year of the reign of Josiah" (Jer 1:2). At that point Josiah would have been 21 years old (2Ki 22:1) and Jeremiah was likely only a few years younger (Jer 1:6). What a pair they must have been! Both of them starting life; each in their respective calling – eager to know and obey God. When Jeremiah spoke these words, the king had not yet ordered Hilkiah the high priest to repair the temple. These words were spoken before the discovery of "the Book" and the great spiritual awakening which followed.

These were formative years for the king, in which the foundations of his administration's future policies were being established. What legacy would he leave behind? Should he make wisdom his claim to fame? His thirteen-times great grandfather Solomon's wisdom was legendary. We are told that he "was wiser than anyone else" (1Ki 4:30-31). But even so, Solomon "turned away from the LORD" (1Ki 11:9). He pursued excessive military power and "built up a huge force of chariots and horses" (1Ki 10:26). He also pursued excessive taxation policies. The annual taxes he imposed on his subjects included 666 talents – or about 25 tons – of gold

(1Ki 10:14-21)! This unfettered greed was so grievous to his subjects that the number 666 became synonymous with everything that is contrary to the character and ways of God!

Wisdom. Power. Riches. Jeremiah's words served as a warning to the young king: "Don't build your legacy on these things. Don't boast about these things. Instead, pursue God. Get to know him and imitate him." History tells us that Josiah took these words to heart. We read that *"Never before had there been a king like Josiah, who turned to the LORD with all his heart and soul and strength, obeying all the laws of Moses. And there has never been a king like him since"* (2Ki 23:25). Like Josiah, we need to determine what is priority in our lives. What will be the legacy we leave behind? Jeremiah's words remind us that knowing God should be our driving desire.

Keep Going:

Read the "Law of the King" found in Deu 17:14-21. Note three things that the king is not supposed to do. Reflect then on what the king is exhorted to do. Then compare these instructions with the life of Solomon as told in 1Ki 10:14-11:13. Turn your observations into prayer and ask God to give you a heart to know him above all else.

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