

Unit 28: Jesus Is Alive

Unit Description: Jesus' resurrection was no secret. For 40 days, Jesus appeared to His disciples and hundreds of others so that they would know He is alive forevermore. Jesus wants everyone to know Him, trust Him, and live for Him.

Big Picture Question: How do we know that God wants us to know Him? We can know that God wants us to know Him because He has revealed Himself through His Word.



SESSION 1: Jesus Appeared to the Disciples Luke 24



SESSION 2: Jesus Appeared to Thomas John 20



SESSION 3: Jesus Forgave Peter John 21



SESSION 4: God Wants Us to Know Him Matthew 28



UNIT 28 | SESSION 4

GOD WANTS US TO KNOW HIM

MATTHEW 28

KEY PASSAGE:

Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. John 17:3 NIV

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

How do we know that God wants us to know Him? We can know that God wants us to know Him because He has revealed Himself through His Word.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

Jesus came to earth as a baby, lived a perfect life, and died on the cross for our sins. He rose from the dead and invites us into God's family forever. God wants us to know Him and to tell others about Him, too.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION



LEADER Bible Study

Today's passage from Matthew 28 is referred to as "The Great Commission." We see here that the resurrected Jesus purposely brought His eleven disciples together to receive the invitation and instruction they would need to fulfill the Father's will. God's overall plan for His creation has always been that they would know Him and lead others to know Him, too.

What was the significance of Christ drawing near to them in this passage? Why does the Lord promise to be with them as He commissions them to teach the good news to others?

Verse 18 tells us that, despite the disciples' fear and doubt, the Lord chose to draw near to them. His words offered the encouragement and direction they needed to hear. The Word made flesh—Immanuel—draws near to His people, even amid their unworthiness. This is the essence of the gospel message, and it is the good news that sustained the church then and still does today.

Jesus also knew the trials and persecution His disciples would face in the days to come. This is why He promised to never leave or forsake them, even when their situations seemed hopeless, disheartening, or dangerous. No matter what, until the end

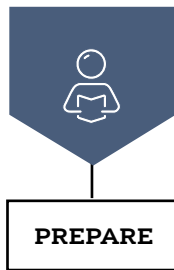
of the age, the Lord continues to remain near to His people.

Consider how the Great Commission began with Jesus declaring that all authority belongs to Him because He has perfectly completed the Father's plan for salvation, accomplishing what we cannot. Then, reflect on the reality that Christ continues the call to create new disciples: to inform others of how they, too, may respond to this invitation to know Jesus for themselves. Christ—our perfect example, our God-made-flesh—has invited us into His story of redemption so we would guide others to Him as well.

Explain to kids that despite our fear and doubt, Christ extends the Great Commission to us and has given us the authority and power to share the good news with those around us. Our call to know Jesus was never meant to end with us, but to be extended to others.

DOCTRINE TO KNOW

God is immanent: God is personable and relatable to those made in His image, while remaining completely distinct and unique from all of His creation.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



WELCOME

Activity Page

- ☐ "What's Different?" activity page

Session Starter (Option 2)

- ☐ dry erase board
- ☐ dry erase marker



LEARN

Introduce the Session

- ☐ countdown video

Big Picture Question

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

Review the Timeline

- ☐ Giant Timeline

Tell the Bible Story

- ☐ "God Wants Us to Know Him" video
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster
- ☐ dry erase board and marker (optional)

Questions from Kids

- ☐ "Unit 28, Session 4" questions from kids video

Missions Moment

- ☐ "Dubale Family Photo" printable

Key Passage Activity

- ☐ Key Passage Poster
- ☐ "This Is Eternal Life (John 17:3)" song
- ☐ worship song of your choice (optional)
- ☐ non-slip rubber bases or welcome mats, 4



LOVE

Review & Bible skills

- ☐ Small Group Timeline and Map Set
- ☐ world map



LIVE

Activity Choice (Option 1)

- ☐ "Map It" printable, 1 per kid

Activity Choice (Option 2)

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster
- ☐ index cards, 1 per kid

Journal and Prayer

- ☐ Journal Page
- ☐ "Crossword Review" activity page



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY “Who do you know really well? How did you get to know them so well? How are you still trying to know them better?”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “What’s Different?” on the activity page.

SAY “Today, we will learn how Jesus gave His disciples an important mission before it was almost time for Him to go back to heaven.”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: CAPTAIN'S ORDERS



Direct kids to gather in the center of the room. Explain that they will need to listen to words you call out such as “bow” or “stern.” Tell kids that each of the words will have a specific action they will need to do. Share the following commands with the kids:

- Bow: walk to the front of the room
- Stern: walk to the back of the room.
- Three-in-a-boat: form a group of three and pretend to row a boat
- Scrub the deck: drop to your knees and pretend to scrub the floor
- Aye, aye captain: salute the captain

Begin saying a command one at a time. Kids who do not perform the correct action are out. Play as time allows.

SAY “In this game you had to listen closely to the commands and follow them. Did you know that Jesus has given us commands, too? His Word commands us, as His followers, to share the gospel with others. Let’s get ready to hear from His Word.”

☐ OPTION 2: WHAT DO YOU ALREADY KNOW?

Invite kids to tell you what they know about God. Lead kids to raise their hand and share something they have learned about God at church, from reading the Bible, from their parents, or even from creation. Write their responses on a dry erase board. Challenge kids to tell you as many things as they can think of. Consider sharing an example of your own as well.

SAY “We could spend all day sharing what we know about God. In fact, those saved by faith will spend forever getting to know and worship God more and more. God is eternal and there is always more we can know about Him. He made us to know Him and to make Him known to others. Best of all, knowing God through Jesus is how we experience true joy and everlasting life. Let’s get ready to learn about Jesus’ command to tell others about the only way to be saved.”





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY “Hi, I’m [your name]. I’m so excited you are here! Who brought their Bible to church today? If you did, please open your Bible to the book of Matthew. **[Distribute Bibles to kids who need one.]**

The Gospel of Matthew begins with a genealogy. Do you know what a genealogy is? **[Allow responses.]** A genealogy is a list of names that show a family’s generations from a common ancestor, like your grandparent, great-grandparent, great-great-grandparent, and so on. The genealogy in Matthew begins with Abraham and traces each ancestor until Jesus was born. This genealogy helps us understand that God’s plan was to send Jesus through the promise He gave to Abraham. Today, we will learn that through faith in Jesus, we can know God and become part of His family. ”

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

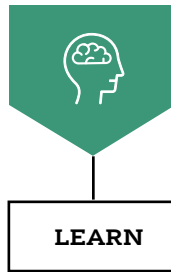
SAY “This is our last week learning this big picture question and answer. Let’s see if you can all say the big picture question. **[Allow responses.]** **How do we know that God wants us to know Him?** What is the answer we have been learning? **[Allow responses.]** **We can know that God wants us to know Him because He has revealed Himself through His Word.**

John 1:1 teaches us that Jesus is the Word. He was born as a man to both show us what God is like and bring us to know God by faith in Him. Even though Jesus no longer walks on earth, God has given us His Word, the Bible, so that we can continue to know Him and teach others about Him. God’s Word—Jesus and the Bible—is how God has chosen to reveal Himself to us. ”

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY “Over the past several weeks, we have learned how Jesus appeared to His followers to prove He is alive. Jesus appeared to over 500 people, including Mary Magdalene, the two men on the Emmaus road, His disciples, and many more. Jesus not only showed His disciples His resurrected body, but He continued to teach them the Scriptures. Jesus explained how the Bible points to Him and God’s plan to save people from sin. Today, we will learn how Jesus gave His disciples a specific mission so that more and more people can know Him. ”



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Matthew 28. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “God Wants Us to Know Him.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

GOD WANTS US TO KNOW HIM

“After Jesus had been raised from the dead, He met with His disciples over the next 40 days. During that time, Jesus told them even more about God’s kingdom. Jesus told His eleven disciples to go to a mountain in Galilee, so they did. They saw Jesus there, and they worshiped Him. But some of the disciples still doubted. Was this really Jesus? Yes!

Jesus went up to them and said, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.” Jesus is God the Son; He always had authority. But after Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead, God gave Him all authority in heaven and on earth. Jesus is the King over all creation, and He rules over God’s kingdom.

Jesus gave the disciples—and everyone who follows Him—a job to do. He said, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel. Make disciples of people from every nation.” A disciple is a follower. Jesus wants His followers to tell people all over the world how to be rescued from sin and death by trusting in Jesus’ death and resurrection. Then those people who believe become disciples of Jesus, too.

Jesus also said, “Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” New disciples are cleansed from sin by Jesus’ blood. When believers are baptized, they show the world that they have turned away from sin and trusted in Jesus as their Savior.

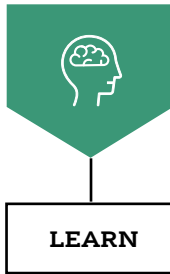
Jesus continued, “Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you.” Disciples who love Jesus will want to obey Him. Then Jesus said, “Remember this: I am always with you, until the very end of the age.”

Christ Connection: Jesus came to earth as a baby, lived a perfect life, and died on the cross for our sins. He rose from the dead and invites us into God’s family forever. God wants us to know Him and to tell others about Him, too. ”

STORYTELLING TIPS

Make a list: Using a dry erase board, make a list of the commands of the Great Commission.

Change locations: If the weather permits, consider teaching this story outside.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “God wants us to know Him. He doesn’t hide or leave us without a way to be saved. He gave His one and only Son, Jesus, and He gave us the Bible. Even after Jesus was raised from the dead, He didn’t go straight back to heaven. Jesus appeared to people for 40 days to prove He is alive. He also met with the disciples and gave them a command so people from all over the world could know Jesus and be saved.

What command did Jesus give the disciples? Look at Matthew 28:19-20. **[Choose a volunteer to read aloud Matthew 28:19-20.]** Jesus commanded that His disciples go into all the world and share the gospel. He said that His disciples are to baptize people who believe in Him and teach them to obey His words.

Why was Jesus able to give His disciples this command? Look at Matthew 28:18 **[Choose a volunteer to read Matthew 28:18.]** Jesus said that all authority had been given to Him. As the Son of God, Jesus holds all authority. And because He defeated sin and death, He reigns forever as King.

What words of encouragement did Jesus say to His disciples? Look at Matthew 28:20. **[Choose a volunteer to read Matthew 28:20.]** Jesus told His disciples that He will always be with them. Even when He commanded them to go to the uttermost parts of the world, He would be there. Even when they would face arrest or trials, He would be with them. We can trust that Jesus is with us too as we share the gospel with others. His presence with us is another way we know He wants us to know God.”

3 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY “Jesus came to earth as a baby, lived a perfect life, and died on the cross for our sins. He rose from the dead and invites us into God’s family forever. God wants us to know Him and to tell others about Him, too.”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 28, Session 4” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. What can we do now to tell people about Christ?
2. How are you obeying Jesus’ command to tell others about Him?

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

Display the “Dubale Family Photo” as you share about the church planters.

SAY “Alayu (ah LAY oo) Dubale (doo BAH lay), his wife Yegile (yih JHAHL), and their five kids live in Denver, Colorado. The husband-and-wife team have been planting churches for 24 years.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

Currently, they serve as church planters in Denver, Colorado. Their kids actively participate in church services by playing musical instruments. Alayu preaches, teaches, and trains while his wife and kids help by leading prayers, worship, and evangelism. ”

Tell kids that the Dubale family has helped train thousands of leaders and church planters in the United States and in other countries. Share how they are passionate about planting churches in Denver, Ethiopia, and other communities around the globe. Pray for the Dubale family and other missionaries helping start churches in Denver, Colorado, and around the world. Pray that many more people can hear about Jesus through these church plants.

6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud John 17:3 together.

SAY “ Jesus came to earth so we could know God and have eternal life. This is good news we need to share with everyone! We can run our race of faith well by telling others about Jesus. God wants all people to know Him and be saved. ”

Use paper, non-slip rubber bases, or welcome mats to serve as baseball bases. Be sure to also include a home plate. Lead kids to line up behind home plate. On your start, direct the first kid to run the bases and reach home before the rest of the kids say the key passage aloud. If she doesn't reach home by the time they finish, she is out. Continue until all kids have had a turn.

Lead kids to sing “This Is Eternal Life (John 17:3).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

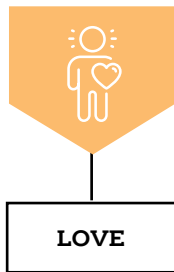
7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

SAY “ Dear God, help us follow Your command to share the gospel. Open our eyes to know You through the pages of Scripture. Help others hear and believe in Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen. ”

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the New Testament Israel Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Matthew 28. Explain that Jesus directed His disciples to a mountain in Galilee (C5) so that He could meet with them and give them His command to share the gospel. Remind kids that Jesus often taught from mountaintops in Scripture.

Consider comparing the New Testament Israel Map to a modern-day map to help kids understand where these stories took place. (Tip: Locate the areas in and around modern-day Galilee.) Choose a volunteer to read aloud Matthew 28:19-20.

SAY “ Jesus commanded that disciples be made in all nations. God wants all people to know Him. Many missionaries have gone out into all parts of the world and obeyed Jesus’ command. But we don’t have to go to another country to tell people about Jesus. If we are Jesus’ disciple, we can obey His command to make other disciples right where we live. God loves all people and made every person to know Him through faith in Jesus. We can obey Jesus’ command and tell people how they can be saved from sin and given eternal life. ”

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY “ How do we make disciples? ”

Discuss how Jesus laid out the plan for how to make disciples by telling us to go, baptize, and teach. Explain that go means that wherever we are going, we can share the good news in hopes that people will believe. Discuss how those who then repent and believe are baptized to publicly show their faith in Jesus. Then share how we continue to teach new believers Jesus’ commands so they will obey Him.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Mark 16:15-16.)

SAY “ Is there anything that is keeping you from sharing the gospel? Why? ”

Answers will vary. Remind kids that we can all face times when we are hesitant or fearful of sharing the gospel. Encourage kids to ask the Holy Spirit for help and to be bold in the faith as they obey Jesus.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Eph. 6:19.)

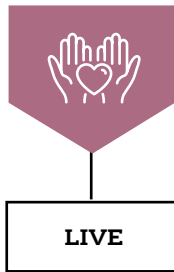
SAY “ Does it encourage you to know that Jesus promised to always be with us? Why? ”

Prompt kids to think about how being a disciple of Jesus is not always easy. Discuss how the world is against God and His followers. Tell kids that it can also be hard to always obey God. Encourage kids to remember that Jesus gave us His Spirit to guide us in truth, strengthen us, and help us when we face hard times. Remind kids that we were made to always live in the presence of God and that through Jesus we can.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Deut. 7:9.)

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

☐ **OPTION 1: MAP IT**



Provide each kid with a copy of the “Map It” printable and blue, orange, purple, and yellow markers. Tell kids that the world map displays the places the Dubale family has planted churches. Tell kids that since 1996, the Dubale family has planted churches in Ethiopia, South Sudan, Uganda, and Denver, Colorado.

Direct kids to follow the instructions on the “Map It” printable to color in these countries. Assist kids in finding the country or state they live in and direct them to mark it with an X. Discuss how kids can participate in the Great Commission right where they live.

SAY “ The Dubale family has been obedient to go to many places in the world to tell others about Jesus. God has used their faithful obedience to help others trust in Jesus and start churches. Like the Dubale family, we can be faithful to follow Jesus’ commands and tell others about Him no matter where we live in the world.”

☐ **OPTION 2: DISCIPLE CHARADES**



Create charade cards by writing down different actions or scenarios from the Bible story on index cards. Make enough for each kid. Consider including parts such as worshiping Jesus on the mountain, going into the world, baptizing, teaching Jesus’ commands, sharing the gospel, and so on.

Invite kids one at a time to draw a card and act it out for the group. Allow kids 30–40 seconds to act out their scenario while the group tries to guess. Continue until all kids have had a turn. Consider forming teams to make the activity more competitive.

SAY “ Matthew 28:19-20 is often referred to as the Great Commission. It was the command Jesus gave to all of His disciples, including us, so that people from all over the world can know Him. Sharing the gospel is the only way for people to be saved. Jesus’ command reminds us that God wants us to know Him and invites us to be a part of His plan to tell others the good news. ”

2 JOURNAL AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page. As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas.

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God’s glory and my good?
- Are there promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

Review the gospel and encourage kids to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions. Then pray, asking God to help us share the gospel so others can know and believe in Jesus. As time allows, lead kids to complete “Crossword Review” on the activity page.



JOURNAL PAGE

1. What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
2. What does this story teach me about myself?
3. Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
4. Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
5. How does this story help me to live on mission better?



Unit 28 • Session 4

GOD WANTS US TO KNOW HIM

Matthew 28

**HOW DO WE KNOW THAT GOD WANTS US TO KNOW HIM?
WE CAN KNOW THAT GOD WANTS US TO KNOW HIM BECAUSE HE HAS
REVEALED HIMSELF THROUGH HIS WORD.**

After Jesus had been raised from the dead, He met with His disciples over the next 40 days. During that time, Jesus told them even more about God's kingdom. Jesus told His eleven disciples to go to a mountain in Galilee, so they did. They saw Jesus there, and they worshiped Him.

Jesus went up to them and said, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth." Jesus is the King over all creation, and He rules over God's kingdom.

Jesus gave the disciples—and everyone who follows Him—a job to do. He said, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel. Make disciples of people from every nation."

Jesus also said, "Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

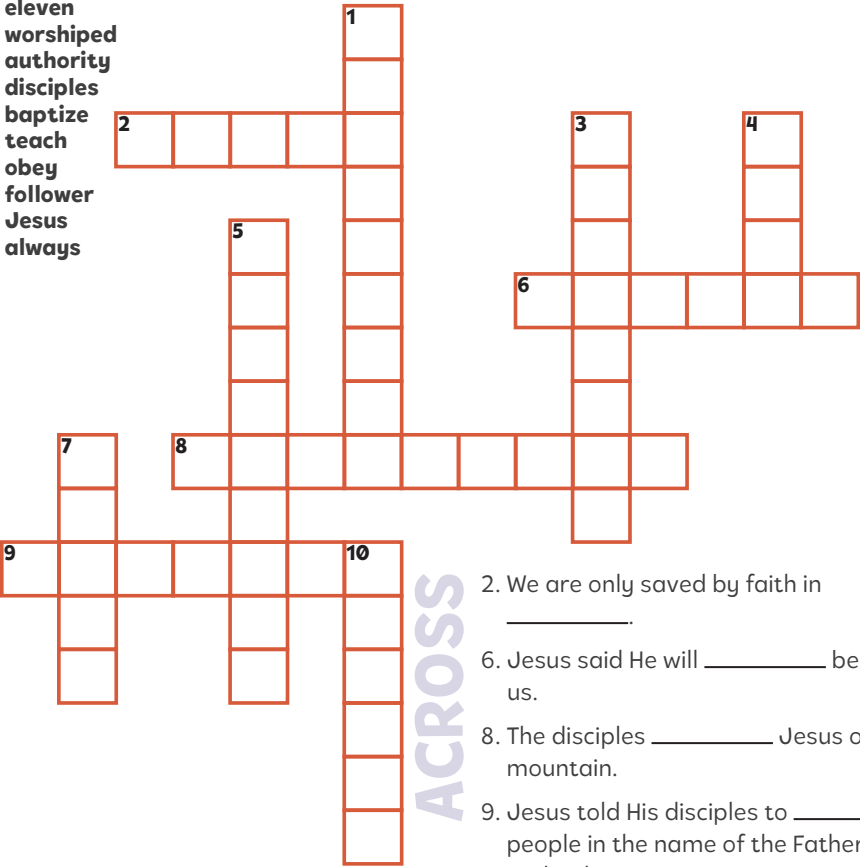
Jesus continued, "Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you." Then Jesus said, "Remember this: I am always with you, until the very end of the age."

Christ Connection: Jesus came to earth as a baby, lived a perfect life, and died on the cross for our sins. He rose from the dead and invites us into God's family forever. God wants us to know Him and to tell others about Him, too.

Crossword Review | Complete the crossword by using the clues. Use the word bank to help you.

WORD BANK

eleven
worshiped
authority
disciples
baptize
teach
obey
follower
Jesus
always



ACROSS

2. We are only saved by faith in _____.
6. Jesus said He will _____ be with us.
8. The disciples _____ Jesus on a mountain.
9. Jesus told His disciples to _____ people in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

DOWN

1. Jesus said to go and make _____ of all nations.
3. A disciple is a _____ of Jesus.
4. Jesus told His disciples to _____ everything He commanded them.
5. Jesus said all _____ in heaven and on earth has been given to Him.
7. Jesus told His disciples to _____ others what He commanded them.
10. The _____ disciples met Jesus on a mountain.



What's Different? | Find and circle the 10 differences between the two pictures.

NAME: _____



the **GOSPEL** PROJECT

God Wants Us to Know Him

BIBLE STORY SUMMARY:

- After Jesus rose from the dead, He took His disciples to a mountain and told them that all authority had been given to Him.
- Jesus said His followers are to go into all the world and make disciples, baptize them, and teach them all He had commanded them.
- Jesus promised He would always be with His followers.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

Jesus came to earth as a baby, lived a perfect life, and died on the cross for our sins. He rose from the dead and invites us into God's family forever. God wants us to know Him and to tell others about Him, too.

KEY PASSAGE: John 17:3

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

How do we know that God wants us to know Him? We can know that God wants us to know Him because He has revealed Himself through His Word.

