

Track I • Know Christ Deeply

HIS WORKS

HIGH QUEST

MEN ON A MISSION

HIGH QUEST

MEN ON A MISSION

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HIGHQUEST I - His Works

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The Quest

A “quest” could be defined as a “journey with adventure.” Following Christ is the ultimate quest; it is more than just a trip. In a trip, like a vacation, we leave from point A, travel to point B, and return back to point A. Along the way, we take pictures, buy souvenirs, and share experiences. A trip creates memories but not changed lives.

A quest involves leaving point A and heading to point B without making plans to return. A quest results in life change. We never recover from a quest. Following Christ is a journey that involves both leaving what is behind and pressing on to what is ahead.

***Can Real Men
Walk With a Real God
in a Real World?***

Our journey of faith in Christ does more than make memories; it involves adventure. It is a journey with drama. There is nothing boring about following Christ in His kingdom. Adventure, drama, beauty, excitement, and hardship are part of the high quest of following Christ for a lifetime. You are invited to take your next step in this exciting journey.

In light of all this, here's what I want you to do... I want you to get out there and walk—better yet, run!—on the road God called you to travel. I don't want any of you sitting around on your hands. I don't want anyone strolling off, down some path that goes nowhere. And mark that you do this with humility and discipline—not in fits and starts, but steadily, pouring yourselves out for each other in acts of love ,...

Ephesians 4:1-2 [MSG]

The Mission of HighQuest

The mission is to equip men to:

- Know Christ deeply
- Reflect Christ authentically
- Reproduce Christ intentionally

• Equipping Men

Equipping means “to prepare by training or instruction.” It is different than teaching. While teaching is important, equipping is essential. While teaching provides information, equipping provides skills.

In order for men to follow Christ for a lifetime, they need to be trained to face the challenges that lie ahead in the journey. Learning and practicing core skill sets (or spiritual disciplines) are essential, if a man is to walk effectively and authentically with Christ over the course of his life.

Becoming equipped consists of acquiring the proper skills and tools in order to face an ever-changing landscape with confidence. A lack of proper training and equipment results in fear and frustration. Being properly equipped means having the right concepts, principles, tools, and skills to walk with a real God in a real world.

• Know Christ Deeply

Most men find their identity in their accomplishments, titles or positions. Our lives are spent trying to prove our competence while living in constant fear that we will someday be found out and exposed. But what if our lives were based not on **what** we did but on **who** we know? Jesus said in John 17:3, “Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”

The Bible’s perspective is that knowing Christ is both our greatest privilege and our greatest challenge. God has put within the heart of every man the desire to know Him. The desire may be masked by the callousness of indifference, the cloud of sin, or the compulsion of busyness, but it is there.

Paul fanned the spark by letting go of the fickle facade of status and achievement to focus on knowing Christ.

What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose

sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ...I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death. (Philippians 3:8,10)

Knowing Christ is the heart of our journey of faith. Everything flows from this one relationship which consists of more than believing facts about Christ. It is the personal, progressive process of walking with Christ through all of life's situations. Knowing Him demands honest and consistent dialogue through the shared experiences of normal everyday living.

Knowing Christ is the incredible privilege of a personal friendship with the living God. In John 15:15, Jesus told his disciples, "I no longer call you servants ...instead I have called you friends." Friendship with God is not a relationship of equals. It is, however, the awesome opportunity for children to relate to their heavenly Father. As we learn, believe, and obey the will of God, he reveals more of his heart to us through his Spirit.

• **Reflect Christ Authentically**

Historically church leaders have agreed that the primary purpose of our lives is to glorify God. But glorifying God is not in its essence, the common practice of singing worship songs or thinking mystical thoughts. We glorify God as we reflect his revealed nature through our everyday, ordinary lives. Paul said in 2 Corinthians 3:18:

And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

We reflect Christ as we are transformed in character, values, beliefs, and behavior. This inside-out transformation shapes our new identity in Christ and makes us authentic. We are becoming who we really are.

As the moon reflects the light (glory) of the sun, so we are to reflect the light (glory) of God. We, like the moon, are dependent on an external source for light. As we grow to know him and our lives change to conform to his image, we become lights to those around us. “You are the light of the world,” Jesus said. God wants to display his nature to the world by transforming the lives of men of faith.

Reflecting Christ requires a partnership in which God’s Spirit works in us as we cooperate with him. Our response to God’s Word is one of faith and obedience. The result is we are transformed to be more and more like Christ. We value what he values. We make our ways his ways. We make his truth our beliefs.

• **Reproduce Christ intentionally**

God’s plan is to reach people through people. We are like links in a chain. Each spiritual generation is a link to the next. Jesus said to His disciples during his final hours on earth,

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. (John 15:16)

He made a similar statement in Matt. 4:19 when he said, “Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men,” (NASB). Following Christ naturally leads to fishing for men. “Fishing for men” (spiritually investing in others) is our part in adding new links to the spiritual chain.

God’s strategy for reaching people with the good news of his love is through people. When Jesus gathered his disciples together after the resurrection, he gave them this mission:

“As you are going, make disciples!”

These few, ordinary men turned their world upside down. They launched a world-changing movement without the aid of technology, political clout or social status. They did it one person at a time.

The Components of HighQuest

Each HighQuest unit has two components: life skills and life issues. The life skills are developed around life issues.

- **Life Skills**

Each HighQuest unit helps develop core skills or disciplines that a man needs to walk with God for a lifetime. Each skill is an historical spiritual discipline that has been used by believers of all ages and cultures for the purpose of developing spiritual maturity.

In any area of life, skilled habits can make us more effective. Those who have developed the skill of a smooth golf swing have greater freedom on the golf course. Men who have developed the skill sets of an effective conditioning program have greater freedom to engage in various physical activities. A doctor who has developed surgery skills has greater freedom in the operating room. The skills themselves are not the goal but the means to something greater.

Spiritual habits are avenues of God's grace that allow us to tap into His power. They result in increased freedom to experience Christ. New skills, however, do require time and practice to become habits. At first they even seem mechanical and awkward, but with persistence, the new skills will become a natural part of your lifestyle. Then you will be free to focus on your relationship with Christ rather than the discipline.

Paul knew that spiritual disciplines were important. He told Timothy, "Do not waste time arguing over godless ideas and old wives' tales. Spend your time and energy in training yourself for spiritual fitness. Physical exercise has some value,

but spiritual exercise is much more important, for it promises a reward in both this life and the next," 1 Timothy 4:7-10 (NLT). He also reminded the young believers in Corinth of his own commitment to discipline and why it was important to him.

Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. And everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; but I buffet my body and make it my slave, lest possibly, after I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 (NASB)

Spiritual training -- developing the habit of spiritual disciplines -- is absolutely necessary for our journey with Christ.

The following life skills are developed in the HighQuest series:

- HighQuest I:** Meeting with God
- HighQuest II:** Gripping the Scripture
- HighQuest III:** Investing your life

• Life Issues

Each HighQuest unit will look at a key life issue. These life issues are foundational concepts on which you will need to build your life. HighQuest will only give you an introduction to these important topics, but with the skills you learn, you can continue to explore and develop these and other life issues on your own or with a few other men in a HighQuest Forum.

It is important to realize that understanding and wisdom come as we depend on the Holy Spirit and dig into the Scripture as if looking for buried treasure. The Bible is not

written as a text book or an encyclopedia. Topics are not neatly arranged and conveniently located. The Bible speaks to every issue we will face in life but in the context of the stories of real people; people who have traveled their own high quest.

The Scripture is both an autobiography of God as he reveals himself through history and a life application manual. God reveals principles and truths that teach us how to live life effectively. His principles are timeless. His truth is always true. The story line of the Bible is set in a particular culture at a particular time in history, but the teaching is ageless. Jesus said that, "Heaven and earth will pass away. But my words will never pass away," (Matt. 24:35).

Learning to go to the Bible for answers to life's questions is a mark of a disciple of Christ. Knowing that God has spoken and will speak to you is a mark of faith. As you search the Scripture, depend on the Holy Spirit as your guide and instructor. He will not just speak to your mind but to your heart as well.

His Works

HIGHQUEST I

SET UP SESSIONS

The focus of Session 1 is to get acquainted and understand what HighQuest is all about.

1. Begin by getting acquainted with the men in your group. Each man should share his contact information on page 11 so the others can record it.

2. Each man should take turns sharing his Personal Profile with the other forum members so they can record it on pages 12-15.

3. Read and discuss the Mission and Components of the HighQuest series on pages 2-8.

Emphasize the three parts of the Mission:

To know Christ deeply

To reflect Christ authentically

To reproduce Christ intentionally

Emphasize the two Components of each HighQuest unit:

Life skills

Life issues

4. Read about the HighQuest Forum on pages 16-20. Note that each time your Forum meets you will be covering the four critical questions.

Show the group that at the end of each session there is a discussion page to use during the Forum. The page lets you take notes on what others have shared.

Explain that each week in the Forum, you will be sharing from your Appointment With God journal. More about that next week.

5. Assign each man to fill out his personal Time Line on page 21. Set up a special time (1-2 hours) to meet and share them together. You may choose instead to add another Forum session to just focus on sharing your Time Lines.

Name

Address

Phone

Email

Forum Essentials

The HighQuest forum is an environment in which 3-4 men meet for perspective, encouragement, and accountability.

Most men tend to live lives that are:

- *isolated rather than connected*
- *compartmentalized rather than integrated*
- *disengaged rather than engaged*

In order to deal with these issues, the HighQuest Forum creates a consistent place where men can be listened to, taken seriously, and understood.

There are four essentials of a HighQuest Forum: Connection, Exploration, Application, and Intercession. Each one is a vital part of the Forum experience.

• **Connection**

The operative question for the beginning of each HQ Forum is ***“Because we care, what do we need to know?”***

Most men are asking the question, “Who knows and who cares?” The HighQuest Forum creates a safe environment in which men can relate with one another on a deeper level than news, weather, and sports. It is safe because each man is given the opportunity to honestly discuss real and relevant issues in his life and still be accepted and respected by the other men. It is also safe because nothing is shared outside the HighQuest Forum without permission.

There are additional reasons why the HighQuest Forum is ideal for 3-4 men.

1. It allows time for everyone to participate in a 60-90 minute format.

HIGHQUEST FORUM

2. It gives greater flexibility for meeting locations, e.g. in a home, office, or restaurant.

• Exploration

The operative question is *“Because God’s Word is true, what are you discovering?”*

Every man needs to learn how to feed himself from the Word of God. Passivity is devastating for men on a quest with God. Most men learn best when they are involved in the process of discovery. Passively listening to the truth of God’s Word as it is taught by others, is like a man in a canoe with no paddle. His ability to navigate the river is extremely limited. But when you give him the skills to discover truth for himself, you equip him to travel the waterways of truth for the rest of his life.

Most men lack confidence to personally go to the Bible and gain insight for their lives. In HighQuest men develop the skills needed to explore and gain understanding from God’s Word. In addition, the HighQuest Forum gives an opportunity to share personal insights as well as learn from others.

• Application

The operative question is *“Because God’s Word is relevant, what is He telling you to do?”*

In order to follow Christ on this journey, men need more than insight. They need application. Application takes the truths of the Bible and integrates them into the fabric of life. We mature as we apply God’s truth to our personal, family, and professional life.

Spiritual truth must not be isolated to a spiritual compartment of life while most of our thoughts and energy go into the business of everyday living. God’s plan is to integrate his

truth into our everyday, ordinary lives. There is no isolated spiritual compartment -- just spiritual men living real life in a real world.

The HighQuest Forum is an environment where men are loved and accepted yet challenged to change. Men need a "band of brothers" who will stand up for them and to them: men who will challenge them to do what is right and celebrate when they do it.

- **Intercession**

The operative question is ***"Because God cares, how can we support you in prayer?"***

The HighQuest Forum includes personal prayer for and with each other. Holding up each other in prayer is a critical force for encouragement and power. Sharing needs and victories together in the context of prayer, builds a connection and puts the focus on God's work in our lives.

Praying together is often the most difficult part of the HighQuest Forum. It is important not only for men to pray for each other during the week but also during the HighQuest Forum. Not everyone will be comfortable praying in a group. The leader will need to be flexible and responsive to the backgrounds of the members. However, as the group develops a greater level of honesty and transparency, prayer usually becomes a less formal and more relaxed part of the HighQuest Forum experience.

Using a conversational style of prayer allows member to participate at their own comfort level. The leader will need to guard this prayer time as it can easily become absorbed by the other parts of the HighQuest Forum.

HIGHQUEST FORUM**Forum Format**

A forum is like a rope that is woven together from separate strands. Each component is a strand that gives strength to the whole. It is important that you use the whole rope during each forum.



A forum will not be effective if strands are missing. The forum facilitator will need to govern when to move to the next component.

The best way to keep moving is simply to ask the next operative question. Avoid letting one part dominate. This doesn't mean you have to spend the same amount of time on each question. For example, some weeks critical issues raised in the group may cause you to spend more time on intercession. Allow the Holy Spirit freedom to lead the group but maintain cohesion and direction.

A typical HighQuest Forum meets for 60 minutes. The hour can be divided into the following strands:

- **Connection: 15 minutes**
- **Exploration: 25 minutes**
- **Application: 10 minutes**
- **Intercession: 10 minutes**

(If you have 90 minutes, simply expand each strand by 50%)

Forum Ground Rules

It is important to establish some simple yet critical guidelines for your forum. These basic ground rules will create the security and trust that men need if they are to become honest, vulnerable, and transparent.

- Commit to the group; make attendance to the weekly meeting a priority.

- I will be willing to be transparent and encourage other members of the group to do likewise.
- I will complete the assignment for the week and be ready to share with the group.
- I will hold (in confidence) the personal matters shared in the group.

Signed: _____

Forum Discussion Notes

As you meet each week in your HighQuest Forum, you will be covering: Connection, Exploration, Application and Intercession.

At the end of each weekly journaling session, there is a page for taking notes during your forum. This page allows you to record thoughts and ideas that others share during the discussion.

CONNECTION <i>"Because we care, what do we need to know?"</i>		FORUM DISCUSSION
EXPLORATION <i>"Because God's Word is true, what are you discovering?"</i>	APPLICATION <i>"Because God's Word is relevant, what is He telling you to do?"</i>	
INTERCESSION <i>"Because God cares, how can we support you in prayer?"</i>		

Sample page (see page 43)

SPIRITUAL JOURNEY TIMELINE

+

-

_____ You were born

You are here _____

Leader's Guide

1. Read together about the life skill of an Appointment With God (AWG). on pages 23-28. Discuss the four parts to an AWG. Encourage each man to determine when and where he will have his AWG each day. See sample on page 28.

2. There are 5 days for an AWG and one day for a summary called Check the Map. Read pages 29-30. Emphasize the importance of applying what they hear from God each week by using the acronym SPECK.

During each Forum, you will use your Check the Map page to share with the others what you felt was important from your journaling.

3. Read about the Life Issues on pages 31-33 This explains the topics that you will be looking at during HighQuest I: His Works . The content is arranged in pairs. The first week is on a role of God. The second week is on his work for us that is tied to his role. His work in us is the foundation for our identity in Christ.

4. Look at the Session 3 to see how each week is laid out. There is a short article to read on the first day along with your AWG journaling.

If you have time, you can work through the first AWG passage together during your Forum (see page 37).

The assignment for the next 10 weeks will be the same. Read the article and have an AWG for five days. The sixth day summarize with Check the Map. The seventh day meet in your Forum.

Appointment with God (AWG)

The Appointment With God life skill is a spiritual habit or discipline that will equip you for a lifetime of walking with Christ. Once you learn how to use it, you can adapt it to fit your quest for knowing Christ no matter where you are along your spiritual journey.

Meeting regularly with Christ is like using a compass. A compass has been standard equipment for travelers for centuries. A compass is especially critical for anyone climbing in the mountains because it gives a reliable point of reference. It allows a climber to keep on track no matter what the conditions are around him. Likewise, your AWG will allow you to check your spiritual position, get your bearings and chart your course as you keep your eyes and heart on Christ.



An AWG is a regular, daily time when you relate with Christ through his Word and prayer. This spiritual discipline has been called by many names, but it has consistently proven essential throughout Christian history in every age and culture.

We are accustomed to making appointments for just about everything. Appointments insure that intentions get carried out. Making an appointment helps us commit to a particular course of action. We often intend to get time alone with God but fail to pull it off. We think it's a good idea and even have it on our "do list". But until we get it on our appointment calendar, it remains just a good intention.

Establishing the habit of meeting with God on a regular basis is foundational to developing a deeper relationship with Christ. Friendships develop with dialogue and shared experiences over time. Meeting in corporate worship is no substitute for individual interaction with God. Periodic time with God is not as effective as consistent time with him.

Imagine your frustration if a friend says he wants to meet with you but never shows up. The Bible presents God as intensely eager to meet with us. He waits, hopes, even calls to see if we are coming. It's time we kept the appointment. The prophet Isaiah said, "Seek the Lord while you can find him. Call on him now while he is near."

HighQuest I will teach you the basic elements of this important life skill. But it will take practice, discipline, and perseverance to make it a habit in your life.

Learning a new skill or habit is awkward initially. It usually takes a number of tries and a few falls to learn to ride a bike. At first we don't even care where we are going. Our goal is to stay vertical! But once we master the skill, we no longer think about balance or steering. We are free to keep our heads up, experience what's around us, and enjoy the journey. In the same way, mastering new spiritual skills gives us greater freedom and joy as we develop our relationship with God.

Initially you may find that 10 to 15 minutes a day is adequate for your AWG. But as you develop your relationship with Christ, your desire to spend time in his presence will increase. On the other hand, some days you will find it tough to get even 10 to 15 minutes. Don't make the mistake of measuring your relationship with Christ based on the performance of the discipline. Disciplines are necessary, but they are not a merit system with God.

Keep your eyes and heart on Christ and let the disciplines and skills become like the sails on a ship. In the same way the sails catch the wind and power the ship, so also the spiritual disciplines catch the wind of the Spirit of God. He is the power behind our quest to follow Christ.

Strategy

In order to establish a consistent AWG, you need to establish a realistic time, place and plan.

LIFE SKILLS

• Time

Identify a consistent time during the day when you can get alone with God. It is best to build the AWG habit around the same time each day. There is no time that is right or wrong but there is a time that will work best for you. It needs to be a time when you are alert, which may be the first thing in the day for some or at the end of the day for others. The best time for you may be over lunch or before work. Discover what works best for you and stick with it.

The length of time spent each day in an AWG is not as critical as the habit of doing it consistently. Begin with 15 minutes until it becomes a habit. Once you have developed the habit, it is easy to expand it as needed.

• Place

You need to identify a place where you can meet with God privately, regularly and free from distractions. It may be a special room or a favorite chair in your home or office. You will need to be flexible because the best place will often change as circumstances change.

• Plan

It is important to develop a simple plan that will allow an effective dialogue with Christ and promote consistency. You can enhance and modify your plan as you gain confidence. HighQuest I introduces you to a plan that has been used throughout Christian history by men and women of all ages and every culture. It is simple and can be easily adapted to changing lifestyles.

Step 1: Read

Begin your AWG by reading a passage of Scripture. It can be a few verses or a whole chapter. Usually it is best to limit the reading to a few verses in order to have time to reflect over them. The purpose of an AWG is to meet with God not

to gain a lot of information. We suggest using an inexpensive Bible for your AWG. As you read over the passage several times, mark words and ideas that stand out to you.

Each week in HighQuest I, you will read five passages with a common theme. The goal is to be consistent in your AWG for at least 5 out of 7 days. Once you finish HighQuest, you can continue with your AWG using your own reading selections.

Remember the passages given are not to limit you but to start you. You may read more than suggested or not as much. The AWG is designed for you to stop and dialogue with God as he speaks through his Word. It is not designed to be a comprehensive Bible study. Rather it is designed to help you connect with Christ on a regular and personal basis – to sit at his feet and listen to his words.

Step 2: Record

Once you have read the passage over a few times, note the verse or phrase that God seems to emphasize. It may be a complete verse, a statement or a phrase. Write this out, word for word, in your AWG journal page. Recording this Biblical statement will help you focus your thoughts and listen to God. Selecting one verse or phrase helps to corral a wandering mind and sharpen your focus.

Step 3: Reflect

Stop and think about what God is saying to you from what you have recorded. Ask questions to gain insight and understanding into God's truth. For example ask "what, why, how or when" type questions. You are looking not only for what the passage says but what it means. You first record the facts (what does it say?) and then reflect to understand the implications (what does it say to me?). Remember you are putting your heart in a position to listen to God. Don't be afraid to be silent and tune in to the quiet voice of the Holy Spirit.

As you reflect, write down your ideas and thoughts on the

LIFE SKILLS

journal page. Often God will give you something specific that you need to apply to your life. When He does, write it down as well.

Journaling has many advantages. It helps you clarify and formulate concisely what you are hearing from God in Scripture. Thoughts take on shape and stick in your mind as you write them down. Keeping this kind of a journal becomes a way to log your journey with God. Journaling allows you to remember patterns and major lessons God is working out in your life.

Thoughts tend to disentangle themselves as they pass over the lips and through the finger tips.

Step 4: Respond

Once you have reflected on God's Word, it is important to pray over what you have just read and thought about. Write out a short 1-2 sentence prayer that expresses back to God what you have heard him say. Allow what you've read to guide your prayer time. You will also want to pray over issues and people who will be part of your day's agenda.



SAMPLE



"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5

Jesus is like a vine and the source of nutrients. I am like a branch that needs to be connected continually to that divine source of spiritual life.

Fruit, spiritual fruit, can only come if I remain in Christ. What does "remain" mean in practical terms?



Jesus is leaving no options...it seems it is either fruit or nothing. I cannot bear fruit on my own. My will power or good intentions will not produce the fruit that Jesus is talking about. Remaining in the vine is something that I am to do. It must involve keeping my heart and mind listening and sensitive to what God says.



Father, I can easily get my heart wrapped around other things and lose my focus on You. I want to remain in you today not just at the beginning but all day long. Help me see you in the routine events of my day.

LIFE SKILLS

Check the Map

HighQuest I is laid out in a six-day sequence with journal pages for five days and a sixth day to “check the map.” A map gives us a picture of where we have been, where we are today, and where we are headed. In the same way, the Check the Map page is a time to review the past week and highlight what God has been teaching you.

A suggested way to review is to take key ideas from the week and list them on the Check the Map page. Once you have all ideas written down, summarize by stating the central theme or big idea. You may also review by focusing on one specific day that stood out to you. Write down summary thoughts from that day looking for one big idea that brings focus to the week.

God speaks to us through the Scripture in a variety of ways. You will notice an acronym on the Check the Map page that will guide your review and application. These questions will help you put into practice what God is saying.

As you listen to God speak through his Word during the past week, is there a . . .

S in to avoid?

Promise to claim?

Example to follow?

Command to obey?

Knowledge about God to believe?

You do not need to answer all of these questions each week but simply use them as a way to listen to God. When something stands out, act on it!

Writing out an application is a way to move from the conceptual to the practical. Make your application a way to act on what you have heard God say. Make it **specific, short term** and **measurable**. Remember, the most profound application is often a very simple one.

You will use the Check the Map page in your HighQuest Forum for the “Exploration” time.



SAMPLE

This week I sense God has been encouraging me to become more intentional in my journey to follow Him. The word "abide" stands out as my part in growing up spiritually. Abiding may be taking action or sometimes in letting go. I have been passively waiting for God to change me. I know He is the only one that can produce real spiritual fruit in my life but I must cooperate and do my part. Abiding in Him is not a single event but a lifestyle of renewing my mind...of keeping it focused.

LIFE APPLICATION

The command I hear God saying to me is "Abide." One way I can intentionally abide in Him this week is to spend more time praying over current concerns in my family. I will use the drive to work this week to pray over my prayer list. Rather than listening to the

IS THERE A...

S IN TO AVOID?

P ROMISE TO CLAIM?

E XAMPLE TO FOLLOW?

C OMMAND TO OBEY?

K NOWLEDGE TO BELIEVE?

local talk show during my commute, I will use the time to pray.

“Nothing is more important about a man than what comes to his mind when he thinks of God.”

AW Tozer

His Works

Knowing him is our profound privilege. To say, “I know him” would be an arrogant claim were it not that:

- God desires to be known by us.
- God has placed the desire to know him in our hearts.
- God has revealed himself in Christ.

Since God is self-existent and not caused, he stands outside our understanding. He is not “like” anything we know. Yet he has chosen to enter our world and reveal himself to us. What we can know about God is not comprehensive but sufficient.

Knowing God is like a child reaching out to touch the stars. They are beyond his reach, but in the reaching he begins to learn. On a clear night when you get away from the city lights and gaze into the sky, only dominant stars are visible. But as you focus, a greater number of stars will seem to magically appear. They were there all along but your vision was not prepared to see them.

As you gaze at the myriad of solar bodies, you realize that, although what you see is awesome, there is much more you can’t see. With the aid of a telescope you could penetrate further into the vast universe always knowing there is more.

Knowing God requires that we leave the lights of the city and all that would blur and cloud our vision, to focus our gaze on the awesome glory of God. As we gaze, that which was dim becomes clearer and that which was hidden becomes visible.

The Scripture becomes our spiritual telescope with which we can look deeper into the nature of God. The Bible is not written as a text on theology but rather an unfolding story of the infinite, creator God helping people on their quest to know him. Since Jesus is the fullest revelation of God,

knowing him is how we know God.

“Long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets. But now in these final days, he has spoken to us through his Son...” Hebrews 1:1-2 (NLT).

Knowing him involves understanding what God has revealed as true about himself as well as what he has revealed is true about who we are in Christ. In HighQuest I you will be looking at five key truths about God’s work on our behalf (God is my.....) and five corresponding truths about our identity in Christ (In Christ I am...).

These 10 topics are designed to launch you into a lifelong quest of discovering the awesome reality of God. All of life is a school and every event a course for knowing God. As we know him more deeply, our everyday, routine, ordinary lives take on an eternal dynamic. Life becomes integrated rather than compartmentalized; connected rather than isolated; engaged rather than disengaged.

God is my...

God reveals himself through the work that he does. Through a variety of roles he reveals his character and nature. The Bible reveals these truths so that we can understand and relate to God as he truly is -- not as we would like him to be. It is important that we develop a complete picture of God if we are to understand his purposes and plans. We often come to erroneous conclusions when we fail to see all that God is and does.

In this unit of HighQuest I, we will look at God in five key roles or positions that describe His Works. These five are core to understanding who God is and how we can relate to him. Each one has huge implications for us as believers and followers.

In Christ I am.....

Who we are in Christ is the basis for our new identity. Who we are in Christ is not a matter of how we feel about ourselves but about who God says we are. Satan loves to keep us confused not only about who God is but who we are. Confusion about our identity in Christ will result in anemic and powerless lives. Understanding (and believing) our identity in Christ is foundational to an effective journey with Christ.

As you understand more about who you are in Christ, your ability to relate to him will be strengthened and enhanced. You will find new boldness and passion. You will find your heart responding to new insight that creates an even greater thirst to know him more deeply.

HighQuest I: His Works**Sessions****God is my...**

3. Creator
5. Judge
7. Ruler
9. Provider
11. Father

In Christ I am...

4. New creation
6. Holy
8. Secure
10. Complete
12. Significant

As you read through the selected passages each day, look for what they reveal either about God or about you. Some passages will be obvious and others will require more effort. Each passage is fairly short to allow you time to reflect and meditate. Don't be in a hurry. Allow God's Spirit to illuminate your heart as well as your mind.

<i>God is ...</i>	<i>In Christ I am...</i>
3. My Creator	4. A New Creation
Genesis 1:26-31	II Corinthians 5:16-21
Psalms 139:1-18	Ephesians 2:1-10
Psalms 33:6-22	Romans 6:1-14
Isaiah 45:8-13	Ephesians 4:17-24
Colossians 1:15-20	Colossians 3:1-11
5. My Judge	6. Holy
Genesis 3:1-19	Colossians 2:13-19
Isaiah 6:1-8	Ephesians 1:3-10
Matthew 25:14-29	Psalms 32
Psalms 96	I Peter 2:4-10
Romans 14:5-13	I John 1:5-2:2
7. My Ruler	8. Secure
Psalms 24	Psalms 16
Hebrews 1:1-14	Psalms 18:1-19
Jeremiah 10:6-16	John 10:22-30
Matthew 28:16-20	John 17:6-19
I Timothy 6:6-16	Ephesians 6:10-19
9. My Provider	10. Complete
I Chronicles 29:10-14	Matthew 6:25-34
John 10:7-18	Isaiah 40:25-31
Psalms 34:1-14	John 15:1-8
Romans 8:31-39	Colossians 2:1-12
Philippians 4:10-14	Philippians 4:15-20
11. My Father	12. Significant
Deuteronomy 32:1-6	Romans 8:12-17
Luke 15:11-32	Galatians 3:26-4:7
II Thessalonians 2:13-17	John 17:20-26
Ephesians 3:14-19	I John 2:28-3:3
Psalms 103:8-18	Hebrews 12:1-12

His Works

HIGHQUEST I

APPOINTMENT WITH GOD SESSIONS

God is revealed in Scripture as the uncreated Creator. God has no source or origin...he simply is. This is foreign to our natural world as everything we know has an origin. The little child who asks, "If God created everything, then who created God?" is simply thinking naturally.

God as the uncreated, self existing Creator, implies power. God created out of nothing. He spoke and worlds came into being. The creative power of God is one of the basic truths any person can recognize by observing nature. It is a truth that is intended to draw us into a deeper understanding of the nature and character of God.

God as Creator not only implies power but ownership. This implication has caused many to eliminate the divine source of creation from their world view. They prefer to accept human theories to explain world origins without God and, therefore, without obligation to God.

God is not only the Creator but he is my Creator. Considering God's unique act of creating man in his own image leaves the humble heart in awe and amazement. God as my Creator is deeply personal. Rather than my life being a random act of chance, it takes on meaning and significance. Everyone is an individual who has unique importance to God.

Sin has marred the original image of God given to us by our Creator, but it can never separate us from God's love. His incredible love for the people he created, regardless of their condition, is the theme of the entire Bible. People are described as broken, dysfunctional, blind, prisoners, and rebellious; still God desires a personal relationship with each one. Each of the passages for the next five days reveals God as our Creator. As you reflect on this truth, ask yourself the question, **"If this is true, then what difference should it make for me?"**

RESPOND REFLECT RECORD READ



GENESIS 1:26-31

DATE

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RESPOND REFLECT RECORD READ



PSALMS 139:1-18

DATE

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RESPOND REFLECT RECORD READ



PSALMS 33:6-22

DATE

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RESPOND REFLECT RECORD READ



ISAIAH 45:8-13

DATE

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RESPOND REFLECT RECORD READ



COLOSSIANS 1:15-20

DATE

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CONNECTION

*“ Because we care,
what do we need to know?”*

EXPLORATION

*“ Because God’s Word is true,
what are you discovering?”*

APPLICATION

*“ Because God’s Word is relevant,
what is He telling you to do?”*

INTERCESSION

*“ Because God cares,
how can we support you in prayer?”*