

Go and Equip
Episode 201
Just the Facts, Ma'am Or Is There More to Knowing God?

Chandalee

Welcome back to season two of Go and Equip. We are very excited that you are here and we're excited to be back with you.

Jenn

Yes, we have missed you guys. I hope you've missed us, too. And we are really looking forward to this next season and just diving in more and learning more about these themes that we started last season. And can you go through some of those for us and are all five of them just let's talk about them.

Chandalee

So we started out with the themes of da'at Elohim, which is knowledge of God, being talmidim, which are learners or disciples of Christ, ahavah, which is love in action, besorah or euangelion, which is the Good News, and then apologia, which is defending our faith.

Jenn

Mm hmm. Yes. And all of those. In our last season, we were able to talk with many people who were doing each of these things. Well. Yes. And what a joy that was, was I learned so much. I think that's one reason I'm so excited to get back to it, because I learned so many things from our guests that we had last season.

Jenn

And so I'm looking forward to growing again and in that way and learning from them.

Chandalee

Absolutely.

Jenn

Yeah. We just we enjoy learning about the Bible and talking about Jesus. That's what we enjoy the most.

Chandalee

So it's always a good day when we can sit down and talk about what we're learning in the Word.

Jenn

Yes, absolutely. It sharpens me and encourages me and also challenges me. And that's what I need. That's what we need as believers.

Chandalee

It is. Well, the structure of the podcast is this season we are going to do some conversations just with Jen and I about some passages out of Scripture that illustrate for us. One of the themes. And then we will be interviewing someone, an individual, a ministry about that theme. So each session, each conversation again will be broken up into two.

Chandalee

So you'll have a little bit shorter podcast. We're going to talk about a couple of places in Scripture where we see this Hosea specifically what we're going to talk about. Before we can get there, though, we need to set some background, some history. If you guys have heard me teach anywhere, you know that I am a nerd and you know that I love biblical history.

Chandalee

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I love how all the pieces fit together. And I love painting that picture so that we see where we are in the time period of history. And it isn't just we're plucking a story out and we're not understanding fully what's going on around it. So we're going to spend this first episode talking about knowledge, what it means from a western and Eastern perspective.

Chandalee

And then we're going to do some introduction to the book of Josiah. And then on our next conversation, we're going to get into the book of Josiah and what we learn about knowing God through his words.

Jenn

That's awesome. Yeah, context is huge and, and in understanding and setting the stage just helps us be able to see where where something is going so we can have a clear picture, an understanding of what God is talking about, in his words. So, yeah, context is important. Yes, it's important to get that background.

Chandalee

So put your nerd hats on and join us for the next few minutes. So what is knowledge? There's a story that I read about a proud young man who came to Socrates, the philosopher and asked for knowledge. He walked up to the muscular philosopher and said, Oh, great, Socrates, I come to you for knowledge. Socrates, recognizing that this pompous numskull who wanted to just have knowledge, had knowledge.

So he led the young man through the streets, to the sea and into the water about chest deep. And then he said, What do you want? Knowledge. Why? Socrates said, the young man with a smile. Socrates put his strong hands on him, and he dunked him under the water. 30 seconds. He led him up. What do you want?

He asked again. Wisdom, the young man sputtered. So he pushed him back under the water again. 30 seconds, 35, 40 seconds, and he led him up. The man was gasping at this point. What do you want, young man? Socrates said between heaving breaths. He seized knowledge wise and wonderful. Socrates pushed him under again, left him under there for 40, 50 seconds, put him up and said, What do you want?

And the man choked out air. I need air. When we want knowledge, all we really need is air. And when you want knowledge as bad as you want air, then you'll have knowledge. I think that that little story illustrates for us the Western view of what knowledge is. In the West, we have a tendency to look at knowledge from a noun perspective.

It's having facts, having information, studying something and having a knowledge about a particular subject, a familiarity with it. It could be through experience, it could be through reading, it could be through hearing. But it's we're taking in all of this knowledge, taking in all of this information. Having information about someone is also part of that. In 1979, there was a study done that said knowledge was exploding at such a rate that even Einstein couldn't keep up. 2000 pages a minute. Okay. That that's. That's 33 years ago.

Jenn

Yeah. 30, 43.

Chandalee

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33, 43. I'm missing a decade, 43 years ago. And in fact, at that point, if you were to read for 24 hours a day between the ages of 71 and 70, and you retained all of that that you read, I forget about half of what I read.

Jenn
Yeah.

Chandalee
It's just we just read them, actually. Forget it. But if you retained all of it, you would be one and a half million years behind.

Jenn
Wow.

Chandalee
What had been created? When you finish, there's no way to keep up with the amount of knowledge that we were inundated with in 1979. Wow. Okay, fast forward to today. Mm hmm. There are an estimated 8.5 billion searches. Yes, 8.5 billion with a B done every day using Google.

Jenn
I feel like I've been about a billion of those.

Chandalee
I feel like I have to. At least a million.

Jenn
Yeah.

Chandalee
Yeah, at least that's just an astounding number to think. How many Google searches people are looking for information and knowledge about something. Right. There was a study that showed that there was 40 times more data present in the digital realm at the beginning of 2020 than all of the observable stars in the sky.

Jenn
Wow. Let's just mind on to even consider.

Chandalee
Because we know we can see how many stars I mean, kids see how many stars are you know, there's a count, you can't count them. But to know that there's 40 times that amount of data that exist in the digital realm is mind blowing. I could hardly wrap my head around that much information. Mm hmm. Which is kind of ironic that we're talking about information and knowledge that we can't, can't, can't wrap our.

Jenn
Head around it.

Chandalee
Yeah, we can't know it all. Every day people are inundated with about 35 gigabytes of information.

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Jenn
Wow.

Chandalee
How big is your phone data?

Jenn
I don't even know.

Chandalee
Mine's about 128.

Jenn
Wow.

Chandalee
My computer is around 500 gigabytes.

Jenn
So your whole phone can hold 120.

Chandalee
I can hold 128.

Jenn
Okay.

Chandalee
This was in 2018 and 19.

Jenn
Okay.

Chandalee
So that's it's gone up even more now than it was three or four years ago. But at that 34 gigabytes a day, my computer would be completely. Could you try again at that 34 gigabytes of information a day? My computer at 500 gigabytes would be overwhelmed and considerably slower after a week.

Jenn
Oh, yeah. Yeah, a week.

Chandalee
Of just that. And we're putting that into our brains, through our eyes, through our ears. What we're hearing, what we're seeing, what we're sensing by feeling every single day.

Jenn
Maybe that explains why I feel slower. Slower these days. I can't keep.

Chandalee
Up. I know. I feel like I'm moving much slower these days. It's like I just kind of like you're slogging through things.

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Jenn
Yeah.

Chandalee
It's processing.

Jenn
Processing, going on because there's so much to process. It's harder to put things in categories and take them. Take them one thing at a time. She's she's interrupting our conversation.

Chandalee
Is Siri on my watch is talking to us and we're not sure why.

So it is much like a computer. Our brain functions like a computer. And it just as my 500 gigabyte computer would be slowed down after a week of that much input, our brains are slowing down with this much information. We have to be selective. We have to be intentional about what we're pursuing, who we're pursuing, and what we're putting in instead of just accumulating all the knowledge that we can.

Right. What's the primary knowledge that we should be pursuing?

Jenn
Mm hmm.

Chandalee
There are also it's also estimated that every single day between phones online entertainment like Netflix or Hulu, the Internet, electronic mail, TV, radio, books we read, newspapers, social media, podcasts every day. We take in about 140,000 words. Hmm. That's the one word is a lot. Mm hmm. I probably speak that much in a day, maybe more than that some days.

Chandalee
But that's 23 words per second in half a day. Hmm. 23 words. And we're just taking it and take it in and taking it in.

00;10;07;28 - 00;10;09;06
Jenn
Per second, per second.

Chandalee
Per second. We take them in by what we're experiencing. It could be the radio. It could be a podcast. It could be things that we're just maybe mindlessly writing down the road. Mm hmm. What are we pursuing? What knowledge? What relation ship are we pursuing by that?

Jenn
What things are we thinking on?

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Chandalee

What are we thinking on?

Jenn

It makes me think of the story in Genesis about the Tower of Babel, where they were pursuing they were pursuing fame, basically what they wanted to be famous. They wanted to be greater than God. Yeah. And so they decided to build this tower and it took all of their focus away from the one thing they were supposed to be focused on, which was God. And we know how that turned out.

Chandalee

But then in the West we do that. We're still doing that today. We are still equating knowledge with more exposure, more information, and more things to know. Mm hmm. We want to take it and take it and take it and take it. Well, in an Eastern culture, specifically throughout scripture, they have a different viewpoint of what knowledge is.

They look at it from the verb form, yada. Mm hmm. The art is knowledge of yada means to know. So an Eastern perspective of knowledge is a relationship with somebody all the way through scripture. We see that Hebrew is a verb language. Mm hmm. We are showing faith by doing.

We are showing love by doing. We are showing knowledge by doing. It isn't just let me take it all away and take it all and take it all in. So I have more and more and more. But it's what are we doing with those things? How are we loving God? How are we pursuing God? And it's living out the word.

Reversing our language of curbing our. Our faith. Instead of just existing.

Jenn

It's the application of our faith. Really?

Chandalee

Absolutely. So in the West, just to recap here, which is a great base thinking and rationale. Many times we open the Bible, we open up a Google search about a passage. We might read a commentary, we listen to a podcast on the Bible, and we want to prove God's existence and develop a theology about him and his nature.

And we call that knowledge of God, where in the East that's having a relationship with him. True spiritual wisdom is to know the Lord's will and live it out. More information in doesn't necessarily equate to knowing God better that proud young man in the story that approached Socrates wanting information. But what he needed, though, was air. Air to breathe.

The air we breathe and are saturated in is the living god.

Jenn

That's right. You know, it makes me think of God's name even your way. I talk about how that's almost like even when you breathe in, that's like air in a way, and, like, breathing out. It's the very breath of God. And that's what we need. And that we need him. We need the Lord. We need. Yeah.

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Chandalee

Absolutely. One more point of explanation here with this word, the art in the Navy, we read Isaiah 11 to this way, "the spirit of the Lord will rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the spirit of counsel and of power, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord." But in the Jewish Tanakh, which is our Old Testament, it's the Torah, the Nevi'im and the Ketuvim. It reads, "the spirit of the Lord shall a light upon Him, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and valor, a spirit of devotion and reverence for the Lord." In this verse, in the original language, the Odyssey translated as devotion, not knowledge, which we when I think of knowledge like we've talked about, it's all the information that we take in knowing something about something.

00;14;16;07 - 00;14;19;24

Chandalee

But here, it's a devotion. It's a it's an intimacy with God.

Jenn

Yes.

Chandalee

It's a relationship with him. Knowing him, knowing him as a son, as a father or a husband or wife knows their spouse. When we evangelize people, when we talk to people about Jesus, we have to ask, are we trying to fill people's heads with facts? Are we just wanting to give them the information? Just give me the facts, man.

Or are we pointing people to knowing God in an intimate relationship because that changes how we talk to people?

Jenn

It does. It makes me think of even like social media, where you're you have all these friends, quote unquote, on Facebook and you may really, truly know, have a relationship with a fraction of them, but they're your friends. But you may you may talk to them differently on Facebook. You may just present the best part of who you are on Facebook.

Jenn

The actual relationship is is lacking. And therefore, the intimacy is lacking because it's it's between you and a screen, mostly not you and a person like in the person of Christ. When there's intimacy there, when we have a relationship with him, it looks totally different than just, you know, a cold screen or cold wood. There's no interaction and no relationship.

Chandalee

That leads us back to intentionality again. That leads us to having to be intentional about our pursuit of the word, about our pursuit in prayer. It just doesn't happen if we weren't intentional about it. We get up in the morning and we are running 90 to nothing from the minute our feet hit the floor most. Yeah, and if we don't make this a priority of being intentionally in a relationship with God, it's not going to happen. And we just float through life.

Jenn

Right? And it's so easy to set up idols, really, to set up other things as priorities. It's much easier to do that than to let that happen then to be intentional and set time apart. I know

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even in our Bible studies that we do at church, that's one of the things we really try to encourage the women is to make, you know, have a schedule if you need one.

If that's what's going to help you spend time with the Lord, go ahead and put it in your daily schedule. Write it in. If you need to.

Chandalee
And it can be the best time for you. It doesn't.

Jenn
Exactly.

Chandalee
Be 5:00 in the morning. My dad is an early bird. He is up at 5:00 every morning. If not before, on his own. He doesn't need an alarm clock. He's done that my entire life.

Jenn
Right?

Chandalee
Still does. And my mom is a night owl. So they they read and they study at different times because they fit into their life what works best.

Jenn
Right. Right. Yes. If I'm up at 5 a.m. reading, I'm probably going to be asleep about my face.

Chandalee
Is going to be in the page.

Jenn
Yeah. On the couch, you know, face down. Exactly. Yeah. So.

Chandalee
So you have to find the time that works for you and it might take a bit of time to play with those and figure out, oh, lunchtime works better or. 8:00 after I get the kids down or it might be 7:00 if I don't have to be at work till nine. You know, there's there's just so many different hours and so many different personalities that God is amazing that he has made each of us so different and that he relates to us in ways that speaks to how he designed us since.

Jenn
Right.

Chandalee
So speaking of idolatry, we're going to go back to the Old Testament. We're going to talk a little bit about the nation of Israel. We're going to talk about their history. We're going to talk about what led them to the book of Josiah that we're going to talk about next week. So the word art is a feminine noun.

Chandalee

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That means knowledge, knowing, learning, insight, notion. And it's used over a hundred times in the Old Testament. 40 of those are used in the wisdom or they're describing wisdom and they're it's been talked about wisdom. There's some specific things in Exodus and Psalms, God gave very specific technical information and wisdom to Bezalel to construct the Tabernacle. It also describes in Isaiah 55, 13 and Josiah for six, where the Israelites lacked the proper knowledge of how to please God.

God holds pagans and Israelites responsible to knowing him. But that's in Deuteronomy and Joshua. The word can come by a sense of knowing or experience, relationship or an encounter. Balaam received knowledge from the most high through a vision in numbers. Isaiah was considered the suffering servant, and he gained knowledge through that suffering. To know the Holy God in Proverbs nine shows that it leads to real understanding.

In Psalm 119, God gives us insight and discernment, knowledge, and Job is considered empty and useless, and knowledge affects our behavior or for persons who control their speech, have true knowledge in Proverbs 17. So lots of different ways that we can see knowledge pictured throughout the Old Testament. Hosea is specifically it's using the art and Yoda in the same chapter within just a few verses.

So we see that it's to know God, but it's knowledge of God. So anxious next week to talk about that. So the historical setting of Israel, this is where I'm really going to nerd out. I love history of the Bible and love being able to just see the timelines and paint those pictures. So the nation of Israel had kings.

They wanted a king to be like everyone else around them. So they had Saul and then David and they kind of peaked out with David. Then they hit their pinnacle and then it was all downhill from there. Solomon took over. He was wealthy, he expanded the kingdom, but he brought in other women wives from other nations who brought their pagan idols with them.

And because of that, that brought a huge amount of idolatry into the nation, not what they didn't struggle with it before. All right. But this just exponentially increased.

Jenn

It pulled their leader was struggling with it. Yes. I mean, terribly. They completely turned his heart.

Chandalee

He did. They turned his heart from the true living God. And so when he died, the ten northern tribes refused to accept his son, rebel as the king, and they chose another Jeroboam as their king. So the nation divided Israel in the north and Judah in the south as they go through the next few hundred years. They ended up Israel in the north was conquered by the Assyrians in 722 and Judah was conquered by the Babylonians in 586.

So neither neither kingdom survived, but they learned some things along the way. In that time, God rose up prophets to proclaim his message of judgment that was coming if they refused to turn back to him, he was still pursuing them. We see in the very beginning when the fall happened in Genesis, when when the first two humans ate that fruit, God didn't just shut him out and say, you're on your own now.

He kept pursuing them. And we see that through Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph and every character along the way that God was still pursuing a relationship with those individuals and with his nation. So throughout this 400 years, 16 different prophets rose up. This was about

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550 years after they came into the land of promise, the Kanan. Kanan, after they came out of Egypt, as they wandered around in the wilderness for 40 years.

And when they came in fast forward 550 years, this was a very, very dark period in the nation's history. Their sins as a nation, their confusions, their defeats, their exiles all give an illustration of God's redemption and restoration that he was making available to them, but that he was ultimately going to fulfill in the person of Jesus with his death, burial and resurrection, their prophecy brought about a larger anticipation of judgment after death.

I guess they really didn't think about it much before then, that it was like, We're just going to go do we want to do? Because we see all the way through the Old Testament cycles of obedience and disobedience, obedience and disobedience, and they just kept turning from the living God and embracing the idols of the pagan nations around them.

So the prophets that rose up were 16 of them. There are four major prophets and 12 minor prophet.

Jenn

So can you give us a quick reason for why they would be called a major prophet or a minor prophet? I mean, is one more important than the other?

Chandalee

They were just taller.

Jenn

Oh. I'd be a minor prophet.

Chandalee

Just kidding.

Chandalee

I'd be a very minor prophet.

Jenn

Both would be micro prophet.

Chandalee

Yes. No, seriously, they they were just longer winded.

Jenn

They wrote longer more information in there. But in there they wrote.

Chandalee

Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel are longer books in the Bible. And so they're considered major prophets. The minor prophets are considered minor simply because they have less chapters in them, not that they're less significant because God revealed some very important messages through the minor prophets.

Jenn

Yes.

Chandalee

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And he's still revealing.

Jenn

They were packed with information and. Yes, important. Yes. Biblical truth.

Chandalee

So in the prophets, there are said they're broken up. Some were leading into the conquering of Israel. Some were leading from the time after Israel was conquered. Then you've got the time of captivity that they were in Babylon, that they were prophesying and writing. And then you've got some that are writing when they come back to the nation.

So there are three prophets that write during that time period. So just a variety of things that God is addressing to call his people back to himself for redemption and restoration.

Jenn

And that's one thing I recognize here that is just really the compassion of God is that he always provided someone to speak for him like there was always someone calling his people back to him. And in trying to get them to to turn and remember him and over and over again. Yeah, yeah.

Chandalee

It's just beautiful. The way that God uses the micro stories of the Bible to illustrate the macro story of redemption and restoration. Yes, that is the whole theme of the entire Bible. Yes, it is. And it's just beautiful that he gives us so many illustrations because we are all so different and we all need a different way of him to talk to us in a different life experience.

For him to say, Hey, I want you to come back to me. This is an area that you need to address, and I want you to come back to me. Yes, yes. Well, that's it for today. I hope that you will come back next week as we dove into Hosea. We're going to talk a little bit about his story and then we're going to talk about Elohim and what we can learn about knowing God through the story of his.

Jenn

And can't wait. It's going to be awesome.

Chandalee

We'll see you next time.

Jenn

Bye bye.