

Answering the Call

Student Guide — Week 2

The Goal of Revelation: Knowing Him Better

Welcome to Week 2. Last week we explored the difference between knowing about God and knowing God. This week we go further: what is the actual goal of revelation? Why does God reveal Himself to us? The answer is simple and profound—so that we may know Him better. Not so we can impress others. Not so we can get more blessings. But so that we can enter deeper relationship with the One who made us, loves us, and calls us His own.

Core Verse

Ephesians 1:17 (TLB): "I pray that the Father of glory, the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, will give you the Spirit who makes you wise and reveals God to you, so that you will know him better."

Paul prays for the Spirit who makes us wise and reveals God to us. The goal is not information. It is relationship. That is the invitation this week.

1 • Knowing Him vs. Knowing What He Gives

Think about someone you love primarily for what they do for you. Maybe it is a friend who always helps you move, or a coworker who covers your shifts. You value them. You appreciate them. But if they stopped being useful, would you still pursue them? Would you still want to know them?

That is the difference between knowing what God gives and knowing God Himself.

Reflection:

Take two minutes to write your answer: What blessings from God have I been treating as the goal of my faith, rather than the byproduct of knowing Him?

2 • What the Bible Says About Knowing God

The following passages show us why knowing God matters, what it costs, and what it produces. Read each passage slowly. Underline or highlight anything that stands out. Then answer the reflection question.

Philippians 3:7-10

"But all these things that I once thought very worthwhile—now I've thrown them all away so that I can put my trust and hope in Christ alone. Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the priceless

gain of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. I've put aside all else and count it all as garbage if only I can have Christ and become one with him, for I've not yet achieved true perfection; but I am concentrating only on this: I am leaving behind everything that happened to me in the past, and I'm stretching myself out to reach forward for what lies ahead. I'm going straight for the goal, and that goal is to know him and the mighty power that raised him from the dead, and to suffer with him in his sufferings, even to die as he died, so that somehow I might be raised from death to life."

Reflection: Paul calls his achievements garbage compared to knowing Christ. What have you been treating as gain that might be keeping you from knowing Him more deeply?

John 17:3

"And this is the way to have eternal life—by knowing you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth."

Reflection: Jesus defines eternal life as knowing God, not living forever. How does that change your understanding of what you are pursuing?

Psalms 27:4

"The one thing I want from God, the thing I seek most of all, is the privilege of meditating in his Temple, living in his presence every day of my life, delighting in his incomparable perfection and glory."

Reflection: David had everything, yet his one request was to live in God's presence. What is your 'one thing'? Is it presence, or is it provision?

Matthew 6:33

"He will give you all you need from day to day if you live for him and make the Kingdom of God your primary concern."

Reflection: What would it look like to make the Kingdom your primary concern in one specific area of your life this week?

Hosea 6:6

"I don't want your sacrifices—I want your love; I don't want your offerings—I want you to know me."

Reflection: God says He wants you to know Him more than He wants your religious activity. Where have you been busy for God without actually being with God?

Luke 10:38-42

"Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

Reflection: Martha was serving Jesus. Her work was good. But Mary chose presence. In what ways are you serving without sitting? What would it cost you to choose presence first?

John 15:14-15

"You are my friends if you obey me. I no longer call you slaves, for a master doesn't confide in his slaves; now you are my friends, proved by the fact that I have told you everything the Father told me."

Reflection: Jesus calls you His friend, not His servant. Do you relate to Him as a friend—sharing secrets, listening, being vulnerable—or as a servant checking off tasks?

Exodus 33:13-18

"If it is true that you look kindly on me, let me know your ways so I may understand you more fully and continue to enjoy your favor... Then Moses said, 'Show me your glorious presence.'"

Reflection: Moses asked to see God's glory after already experiencing miracles. What 'glory' are you still seeking? Have you confused God's power with His presence?

3 • The Giver vs. The Gifts

Knowing God's blessings is like receiving a gift from a loved one. You can appreciate the gift, use it, even treasure it. But if you never look into the giver's eyes, never ask why they chose it, never let the gift deepen your connection—you have missed the point. The gift was meant to lead you to the giver.

Key Distinctions:

- Pursuing blessings asks: What can You do for me? Pursuing God asks: Who are You, and how can I know You more?
- Pursuing formulas asks: What steps guarantee the outcome? Pursuing God asks: What posture keeps me close to You regardless of the outcome?
- Pursuing theology asks: What can I understand and explain? Pursuing God asks: What mystery can I enter and behold?

The Danger of Gift-Without-Giver

When we pursue blessings without pursuing God, we become spiritual consumers. We evaluate churches, ministries, and even relationships based on what we receive rather than who we encounter. We pray for outcomes rather than presence. We worship for feelings rather than for truth. And when the blessings stop, so does our faith—because our faith was never in God. It was in what God gave.

True spiritual wisdom always leads to a deeper relationship with the Father, not just deeper theology. Theology is the study of God. Relationship is the knowing of God. Both matter. But theology serves relationship. It does not replace it.

Reflection: Have you ever experienced a season where blessings dried up and your faith struggled? What did that reveal about what you were actually trusting in?

4 • Small Group Discussion Questions

Use these questions in your small group. You do not need to answer all of them. Let the conversation go where the Spirit leads.

1. The trophy wife test. We all know people who value what someone provides more than who they are. In what ways have you treated God like a provider rather than a person? What would change if your primary prayer shifted from 'Give me' to 'Show me'?
2. Paul's garbage. Philippians 3:8 says Paul counted everything as loss compared to knowing Christ. What have you been treating as gain—reputation, comfort, achievement, security—that might actually be keeping you from knowing Him more deeply?
3. Martha's choice. Most of us relate to Martha—busy, responsible, serving. What does it look like in your actual life to choose Mary's posture without abandoning Martha's calling? What practices help you prioritize presence over productivity?
4. Moses' request. Exodus 33 shows Moses asking to see God's glory after already experiencing miracles. What 'glory' are you still seeking? Have you confused God's power with His presence? What would it mean to seek His character more than His displays?
5. Friend or servant? Jesus calls His followers friends, not servants. Do you relate to God primarily as a servant (what do You want me to do?) or as a friend (what are You thinking? what are You feeling?)? What would it take to move from one to the other?

5 • This Week's Assignment

6. Name the Exchange — Write down one thing you have been asking God for. Then write a new prayer: 'God, even if You never give me this, I still want to know You.' Read Job 13:15 and bring your surrender to Him.
7. Practice the One Thing — For three days, begin your prayer time with Psalm 27:4: 'The one thing I want from God... is the privilege of meditating in his Temple.' Do not ask for anything else for ten minutes. Simply gaze. Read. Listen. Be still.
8. Seek the Kingdom First — Identify one area where you have been seeking blessing more than God. For one week, shift your focus. Pray for His Kingdom to come in that area, not for your preferred outcome. Read Matthew 6:33 daily.
9. Choose Mary Over Martha — Once this week, decline a good opportunity to serve so you can sit with Jesus instead. It may feel irresponsible. Do it anyway. Read Luke 10:38-42 and trust that presence is the foundation of sustainable service.

10. Share Your Hunger — Tell one person one attribute of God you are hungry to know more deeply. Not a doctrine. A person. Read Exodus 33:18 and let your hunger be known.

6 • Weekly Challenge: The 7-Day Deepening

- Morning: Read a passage aloud, twice. Pause on a word that stands out. Carry it with you.
 - Day 1: Psalm 27:1-6 — The Lord is my light and my salvation
 - Day 2: Psalm 63:1-8 — Earnestly I seek you
 - Day 3: John 15:1-17 — I am the vine; you are the branches
 - Day 4: Philippians 3:7-14 — The surpassing worth of knowing Christ
 - Day 5: Colossians 3:1-4 — Set your hearts on things above
 - Day 6: Hebrews 11:6 — He rewards those who earnestly seek Him
 - Day 7: Revelation 22:17 — The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come!'
- Midday: The Two-Minute Reset — Whisper the morning's word. Realign your thoughts toward His presence, not your problems.
- Evening: The Examen — Three questions: Where did I seek God's face today? Where did I settle for His hand? What do I want to carry into tomorrow?

A Final Word

You are not being asked to abandon your desires. You are being invited to place them in the hands of the One who knows what you need better than you do. The goal of revelation is not to make you a better Christian. It is to make you a closer friend of God. And friendship is worth everything.

"He will give you all you need from day to day if you live for him and make the Kingdom of God your primary concern." — Matthew 6:33 (TLB)