



SEEING WHAT GOD WANTS ME TO SEE John 14:26

ILLUMINATION: Letting the Holy Spirit show me the meaning of God's Word and how it applies to my life

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

John 14:26 (ESV)

"He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth."

John 14:17 (ESV)

"Therefore, I said that He (the Spirit) will take what is mine and declare it to you

John 16:15 (ESV)

"(I pray) that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him."

Ephesians 1:17 (ESV)

"(I pray that) having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might"

Ephesians 1:8-19 (ESV)

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN GOD OPENS MY EYES?

1. I SEE THE SOLUTION TO MY PROBLEM

"Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. And she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink."

Genesis 21:19 (ESV)

2. I SEE THE BARRIER TO MY PROGRESS

"Then the LORD opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, with his drawn sword in his hand. And he bowed down and fell on his face."

Numbers 22:31 (ESV)

3. I SEE THE DEFENSE FOR WHAT'S ATTACKING ME

"Then Elisha prayed and said, "O LORD, please open his eyes that he may see." So the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha."

2 Kings 6:17 (ESV)

4. I SEE HOW GOD IS WALKING WITH ME

"And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight."

Luke 24:31 (ESV)



PREPARING TO SEE WHAT GOD WANTS ME TO SEE

1. **BEGIN A RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS**

"The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned."

1 Corinthians 2:14 (ESV)

"Jesus answered him, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.'"

John 3:3 (ESV)

2. **ASK GOD IN FAITH TO OPEN MY EYES**

"Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law"

Psalms 119:18 (NIV)

"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting"

James 1:5-6 (ESV)

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you."

Matthew 7:7 (ESV)

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you."

Psalms 32:8 (ESV)

3. **COME WITH A HUMBLE ATTITUDE**

"He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way."

Psalms 25:9 (ESV)

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."

Proverbs 3:5-6 (ESV)

4. **CLEANSE MY HEART OF SIN & CONFLICT**

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

Matthew 5:8 (ESV)

"But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes."

1 John 2:11 (ESV)

5. **COMMIT IN ADVANCE TO DO WHAT GOD SAYS**

"Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes; and I will keep it to the end. Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart."

Psalms 119:33-34 (ESV)

"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." James 1:22 (ESV)



Sermon Discussion Guide

Seeing What God Wants Me to See

40 Days in the Word

October 20, 2019

"The Spirit will make you wise and let you understand what it means to know God." Ephesians 1:17b (CEV)

Do you sometimes feel that you don't get anything out of the Bible? The Bible is a difficult book to understand until God illuminates it, 'turning the light on' in our minds so we can see what God wants us to see. The Holy Spirit has a key role here: Jesus said he would send the Holy Spirit to remind us what Jesus said, make his words known to us, and understand what it means to know God. This process starts when we accept Christ in our lives and we receive 'spiritual eyes' to discern what God wants us to see in the Bible. We can't have the life God wants us to have without letting the Holy Spirit show us the meaning of God's Word and how it applies to our lives.

OPEN YOUR GROUP WITH A PRAYER. THIS IS ONLY A GUIDE – SELECT THE POINTS YOU WANT TO DISCUSS.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN GOD OPENS MY EYES?

"Then the Lord opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw the angel of the Lord standing in the road with his sword drawn. So he bowed low and fell facedown" Numbers 22:31 (NIV)

1. **What does it say? Paraphrase it!** Read Numbers 22:31 above and then put it into your own words. What other metaphors could be used in place of the angel in the road?
2. **What does it mean?** Share examples of how you have recognized a barrier God has shown you in order to change your direction when things were not working out, and explain how recognizing them made a difference in your life.
3. **What do I do?** What are some possible results of understanding that God is always walking with us?

PREPARING TO SEE WHAT GOD WANTS ME TO SEE

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you." Psalm 32:8

4. **What does it say?** What does Psalm 32:8 say the Holy Spirit will do in your life because you have been born again by accepting a relationship with Christ as your Lord and Savior?

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God." Matthew 5:8 (NIV)

"Whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness." 1 John 2:11 (NIV)

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." Matthew 7:7 (NIV)

5. What five things do the verses above say you must do to prepare yourself for good Scripture vision and clarity?
6. What steps do you feel you need to take to prepare yourself to see what God wants you to see in the Bible?

Diving Deeper (optional)

1. Why is it important to commit in advance to do what God says to us through the Bible before we even read it?

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God." Matthew 5:8 (NIV)

2. We must cleanse our hearts of sin and conflict in order to see what God wants us to see in the Bible. Describe examples of guilt or fear or relational conflict in your life that could impact the illumination of the Bible.

REVIEW ANY ASSIGNMENTS OR COMMITMENTS MADE DURING YOUR PREVIOUS MEETING.



Sermon Discussion Guide Leader Notes

Suggestions for This Week's Study

- Ask several members of your group to describe situations where they could see something but couldn't understand the meaning or significance of it until someone else explained it to them.
- Be sure it's clear that the goal of seeing what God wants you to see in the Bible is so you can apply it to your life, and not simply understand it. Focus on this week's memory verse in James 1:22: *"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says!"*
- Conclude by praying: "Father, you are the God of all clarity and knowledge. Only you can help us to see what you have for us to see. Help us to trust and acknowledge you in all our ways, letting the Holy Spirit show us the meaning of your Word and how it applies to our lives."

Preparing to Lead Your Group

- ✓ **PRAY** for insight as you begin to prepare for leading your group. Ask for God's wisdom, that the Holy Spirit will be the teacher and that you will be God's instrument to lead the group to greater understanding and a willingness to commit to becoming more like God. Prayer should be your primary source of personal preparation for leading your group.
- ✓ **PLAN** where you want to take your group in the next 60-90 days. Is your group strong in some areas and weak in others? How can you challenge the members to live more balanced Christian lives? Consider God's five purposes for the church: Fellowship, Discipleship, Ministry, Mission and Worship, and make a plan to encourage your group members to growth and commitment in their weak areas.
- ✓ **PONDER YOUR PROGRESS** after each session and at the end of a series. Reflect on what went well and what didn't. Re-evaluation is key to your growth as a leader. Consider whether your plan is being effective in moving the group to greater understanding and commitment. How are you doing with leading the discussion: is it stimulating, challenging, and meaningful? Are you able to keep the group on track? Do you need to make some changes?

Using This Sermon Discussion Guide

- Talk It Over is a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. We've designed it so it can be completed easily within 30-45 minutes. As the discussion leader, you should preview and evaluate the questions based on the needs of your group. Decide in advance what is most important to focus on, should time not allow for the entire lesson.
- Feel free to adapt the format to meet the needs of your group. If your group is mature and wants to dig deeper, consider using the Diving Deeper section or add additional Scripture and ask suitable questions. Remember that this is only a guide.
- The questions relating to Bible study methods are helpful to develop Bible literacy and spiritual maturity in our lives. You can help your group be aware of their needs in these areas by using these questions as a regular part of each discussion.
- Personal applications are essential for growth and should be included in every discussion. When discussing how they will apply principles, group members may state very general goals such as "I need to spend more time in prayer." It is important for you to help people make goals that are very specific and commit to specific plans of action by asking, for example, "How are you going to begin?" An example is to get up 25 minutes earlier each morning, spending 15 minutes reading the Bible and 10 minutes in prayer. Encourage each group member to be accountable to the group for personal progress at the next meeting.
- Your goal as the leader is to bring the group into a stimulating discussion that helps the members recognize their needs for personal life change. Ultimately you want them to be willing to commit to change with accountability to the group. Accountability helps us to persevere in our commitments and achieve the blessings of success.