

THE ADVENTURE OF JOINING GOD IN HIS WORK

Lesson 1

The Adventure of Living by God's Revelation

Adjust your life to...

(1) How God reveals himself to us

(2) How we experience him

*He answered them, "My Father is working until now,
and I Myself am working."*

John 5:17

“Hearing from God” Exercise

Jot down words or phrases to answer the following:

How has God revealed himself to you?

Why is it important to know how God reveals himself to us?

- It provides a framework for _____.
- It provides a _____ which enlarges our view of God and his work in the world.

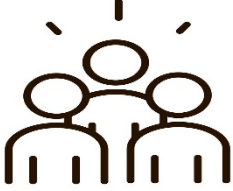
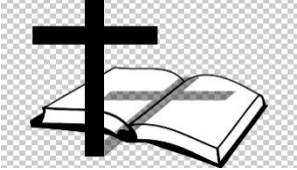
God reveals himself to us in five primary ways (“The Five Cs”):

The **first four ways are *general revelation*** because all people have access to them. Often these four categories are interrelated.

Responding positively to God’s general revelation prepares the heart for God’s ***special revelation*** which leads to salvation. Jesus’s healing of the man blind from birth (John 9) and the conversion of Cornelius (Acts 10) illustrates this truth.ⁱ Also, this fifth “C” is a truth check on our interpretation of all the other ways God speaks to us.

GOD'S REVELATION

OUR ADJUSTMENT

Romans 1:19-20; Psalm 19:1-6 <i>The Case for a Creator</i>, Lee Strobel		
Gen.1:26-28; Luke 15:11-32; Eph. 4:32-5:1		
Romans 2:14-15 <i>Meet Your Conscience</i>, Warren Wiersbe ii		
Acts 14:17; 17: 26-27 <i>Eternity in Their Hearts and Peace Child</i>, Don Richardson (Redemptive Analogies)		
Hebrews 1:1-3; John 5:39; 14:6; Acts 4:12 <i>Seven Reasons Why You Can Trust the Bible</i>, Erwin Lutzer/ <i>Why Trust the Bible?</i> Greg Gilbert		

The Bible is one unified story that leads to Jesus Christ. The Bible claims to be God's word over fifteen hundred times, and Jesus believed in the truthfulness of Scripture (John 5:39; 10:35; 16:12-15).

- *All Scripture is inspired by God and beneficial for teaching, for rebuke, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man or woman of God may be fully capable, equipped for every good work.* 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- *But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture becomes a matter of someone's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.* 2 Peter 1:20-21

How We Experience God *iii*

Object lessons

1. God is always _____ (John 5:17; Luke 19:10; Romans 8:19-21). What is God doing in the world? He is _____ lost people and _____ his fallen creation.
2. God wants a _____ relationship with you. (2 Chronicles 16:9; John 14:23; 2 Corinthians 5:14)
3. God _____ us (1) into a covenant love relationship and (2) to join him in his work (Matthew 5:14-16; 11:28-30; 28:18-20).
4. God _____ to us through creation, community, conscience, culture, and Christ/Scripture ("The Five Cs").
5. When God reveals himself to us, we have a _____ of faith. (Hebrews 11:6 and the entire chapter of Hebrews 11)
6. We must _____ our lives to align with God's call on us (Proverbs 3:5-6; Hebrews 11).
7. We experience God by _____ in his character and promises. This is an expression of our union with Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 2:20; Romans 6:11; John 14:23).

Adventure Workouts for Lesson 1

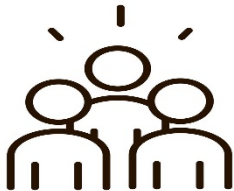
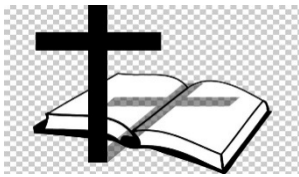
1. Memorize

John 5:17 "But He answered them, 'My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working.' "

2. Select at least one of the suggested Five C's "adjustment" activities this week:

GOD'S REVELATION

OUR ADJUSTMENT

CREATION		<u>Make time</u> for a walk or being in an outside space every day and → <u>Consciously accumulate</u> "snapshots" of beauty and wonder that connect you to your Creator.
COMMUNITY		<u>Carry a note card w/ you & record</u> the common grace wisdom you pick up from others. <u>Thank</u> 3 people for their example or words.
CONSCIENCE		<u>Set aside time daily</u> to reflect, confess, and repent. Now, <u>walk free</u> as you thank God for his grace.
CULTURE		<u>Look for</u> redemptive analogies in your culture (movie, book, news, etc.) Then, <u>meditate</u> on what God communicates to you through these analogies.
CHRIST/SCRIPTURE		<u>Select a scripture</u> to serve as your "truth glasses" this week and → <u>Be alert</u> for how God will speak to you.

3. How do we know God's will?

Look up the verses in the New Testament that clearly reveal God's will:

- It is God's will that you be *saved* (2 Pet 3:9; 1 Tim 2:4).
- It is God's will that you be *Spirit-filled* (Eph 5:17-18).
- It is God's will that you be *sanctified* (1 Thess. 4:3-4).
- It is God's will that you are *serving* (1 Pet 2:15).
- It is God's will that you grow when you are *suffering* (1 Pet 4:19).
- It is God's will that you are *thankful* (1 Thess. 5:18).

If you are progressively growing in these six areas, then you are in the arena of God's will. Now, pray, seek wise counsel, check your motives, align with your gifts & interests, and do not violate Scripture---then do what you want to do (Ps 37:4; Phil 2:12-13).

i "Joining God in the World" by Steve King

<https://www.cherrydale.org/grow/sermons/joining-god-in-the-world-acts-101-48/>

ii Wiersbe's biblically based book provides an analogy that clarifies how our conscience works. Conscience is not the light but bears witness to it (like a judge looking at the law book), and conscience is also like a window that lets the light in or if very dirty, blocks the light. Therefore, our conscience must be guarded as it can become defiled, evil, and seared, or with repentance can become clear, good and blameless. Believing the gospel and repenting leads to a good conscience (1 Timothy 1:5).

iii *Experiencing God*, Henry Blackaby