

STUDENT DISCUSSION GUIDE

Formed by the Word – Session 2

Seeing but Not Recognizing

Psalm 119:18–40

SESSION FOCUS

Many people do not struggle with a lack of information about God. They have read Scripture, heard sermons, and learned the language of faith—yet still feel uncertain about what God is doing in their lives. This session explores why spiritual clarity is not automatic and why seeing clearly requires God to open our eyes. Psalm 119 invites us to move from sight to direction, humility to obedience.

OPENING REFLECTION

Take a moment to reflect honestly.

- Where do decisions feel unclear right now?
- Where does direction feel uncertain?
- Where does God’s presence feel difficult to recognize?

Personal Notes:

SCRIPTURE READING

Read **Psalm 119:18** slowly.

“Open my eyes, that I may see the wonderful things in your instructions.”

As you read, notice what the psalmist asks for—and what he does *not* ask for.

KEY IDEA

Spiritual clarity is not something we achieve.
It is something God gives.

PART 1: GOD MUST OPEN OUR EYES

(Psalm 119:18–20)



The psalmist is already committed to God and familiar with His Word, yet he still asks God to open his eyes. This reminds us that knowing Scripture is not the same as understanding it.

Reflection Questions

1. Why do you think familiarity with Scripture is not the same as understanding it?
2. What is the psalmist asking God to do that he cannot do for himself?
3. How does this challenge the idea that clarity comes from effort alone?

Personal Notes:

Read **Ephesians 1:17–18**.

4. What does Paul say needs to be opened in order for understanding to happen?
5. Why do you think Paul prays this for believers rather than unbelievers?

Personal Notes:

Read **Luke 24:30–32**.

6. What changed for the disciples—externally or internally?
7. What does this reveal about how spiritual recognition happens?

Personal Notes:

PART 2: WHAT KEEPS US FROM SEEING CLEARLY

(Psalm 119:21–24)

The psalmist identifies arrogance as a barrier to clarity—not arrogance in behavior, but the assumption that we already see clearly.

Reflection Questions

8. According to this passage, what happens to those who assume they already understand?
9. How can arrogance show up subtly in spiritual life?

Personal Notes:

Read **John 9:39–41**.

10. Why do those who think they see clearly often remain blind?



11. Why is humility essential for receiving sight?

Personal Notes:

Read **Proverbs 3:5–6**.

12. Where in your life might you be relying more on your own understanding than seeking God's direction?

Personal Notes:

PART 3: CLARITY LEADS TO DIRECTION

(Psalm 119:33–36)

After asking for sight, the psalmist begins asking for guidance. Clarity is not the end goal—obedience is.

Reflection Questions

13. What specific requests does the psalmist make in these verses?

14. What does this reveal about the relationship between understanding and obedience?

Personal Notes:

Read **James 1:22–25**.

15. Why does understanding without action lead to no transformation?

Personal Notes:

Read **Psalm 119:35**.

16. How does the psalmist describe God's path?

17. How does this challenge the idea that obedience is restrictive?

Personal Notes:

PART 4: REORIENTING OUR ATTENTION

(Psalm 119:37–40)

The psalmist recognizes that what we focus on shapes what we see. “Worthless things” are often distractions that capture attention without giving life.



Reflection Questions

18. What does the psalmist ask God to turn his eyes away from?

19. Why might these things not always be obvious sins?

Personal Notes:

Read **Matthew 6:22–23** and **Colossians 3:1–2**.

20. How does focus shape spiritual perception?

21. What captures your attention but does not give life?

Personal Notes:

SUMMARY – FROM SIGHT TO DIRECTION

Psalm 119 teaches us that spiritual clarity:

- Requires God to open our eyes
- Grows through humility
- Leads to obedience
- Is shaped by where we place our attention

The question is not simply:

“Do I know what God says?”

But:

“Am I willing to see what God is showing me?”

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Take a few quiet moments to reflect.

- Where might God already be showing you the next step?
- What has made you hesitant to follow?

Personal Response:

CLOSING PRAYER



Ask God to open your eyes, to make you teachable, and to give you courage to respond to what He reveals.

OPTIONAL PRACTICE FOR THE WEEK

This week:

- Begin each day with the prayer: **“Lord, open my eyes.”**
- Read **Psalm 119:17–40** slowly
- Return to **verse 18** throughout the day
- Ask regularly: *“What is God showing me right now?”*
- Take **one small step of obedience** based on what you see

FINAL THOUGHT The goal is not just to see—but to follow.
When God opens our eyes, He invites us to walk in His ways.

