

FACILITATOR / TEACHER GUIDE

Formed by the Word – Session 2

Seeing but Not Recognizing

Psalm 119:18–40

SESSION PURPOSE

This session helps participants recognize that spiritual clarity is not automatic. Even committed followers of God can struggle to see what God is doing in their lives. Psalm 119 teaches that clarity is a gift God gives, not something we achieve. Participants are invited to reflect on humility, spiritual sight, attention, and obedience as essential elements of discernment and direction.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this session, participants should be able to:

- Understand spiritual clarity as something God gives, not something we produce
 - Recognize the difference between familiarity with Scripture and true understanding
 - Identify arrogance and self-reliance as obstacles to spiritual sight
 - See the connection between clarity and obedience
 - Reflect on how attention and focus shape spiritual perception
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KEY PASSAGE

Psalm 119:18–40

SESSION LENGTH

60–75 minutes (adaptable for group size and discussion depth)

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Bible (print or digital)
- Student study guides
- Pen



- Quiet space for discussion and reflection
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SESSION FLOW

1. WELCOME & OPENING (5 minutes)

Facilitator Guidance:

Welcome participants and set a reflective tone. Remind the group that this session is about discernment, not certainty.

Opening Thought:

Many people know a great deal about God, yet still feel unsure about what God is doing in their lives. The issue is often not God's absence, but our inability to see clearly.

Opening Question (optional):

Where in your life does God's direction feel unclear right now?

2. INTRODUCTION – SEEING BUT NOT RECOGNIZING (10 minutes)

Teaching Focus:

The psalmist begins not with confidence, but with prayer.

Read Scripture: Psalm 119:18

Key Insight:

The psalmist does not ask for more information—he asks for sight.

Facilitator Notes:

Emphasize this core truth from the study:

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

Discussion Prompt:

Why do you think we often assume clarity comes from more effort or more information?

3. MOVEMENT 1 – GOD MUST OPEN OUR EYES (10 minutes)

Teaching Focus:

Commitment to God does not eliminate the need for illumination.

Read Scripture:

- Psalm 119:18–20



- Ephesians 1:17–18
- Luke 24:30–32

Key Truths to Emphasize:

- Familiarity with Scripture is not the same as understanding
- Believers still need God to open their eyes
- Recognition changes internally, even when circumstances stay the same

Facilitator Tip:

Slow this section down. Let participants sit with the idea that even sincere faith still needs clarity.

Discussion Questions:

- What is the psalmist specifically asking God to help him see?
- Why does Paul pray for believers' eyes to be opened?

4. MOVEMENT 2 – WHAT KEEPS US FROM SEEING CLEARLY (10 minutes)

Teaching Focus:

The psalmist identifies arrogance as a barrier to clarity.

Read Scripture:

- Psalm 119:21–24
- John 9:39–41
- Proverbs 3:5–6

Key Insight:

Biblical arrogance is not just pride in behavior—it is the assumption that we already see clearly.

Facilitator Notes:

Help participants see how self-confidence can quietly replace dependence on God.

Discussion Questions:

- According to the psalmist, what is the result of assuming we already understand?
- Where might you be relying more on your own understanding than seeking God's direction?

5. MOVEMENT 3 – CLARITY LEADS TO DIRECTION (10 minutes)

Teaching Focus:

The psalmist's prayer shifts from seeing to walking.



Read Scripture:

- Psalm 119:33–36
- James 1:22–25
- Psalm 119:35

Key Truth:

Clarity is not the end goal—obedience is.

Facilitator Insight:

Emphasize that God opens our eyes so we can live differently, not just understand more.

Discussion Questions:

- What specific requests does the psalmist make in these verses?
 - What does this reveal about the relationship between understanding and obedience?
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6. MOVEMENT 4 – REORIENTING OUR ATTENTION (10 minutes)**Teaching Focus:**

What we focus on shapes what we see.

Read Scripture:

- Psalm 119:37–40
- Matthew 6:22–23
- Colossians 3:1–2

Key Insight:

“Worthless things” are not always sinful—they are often distracting and lifeless.

Facilitator Notes:

Invite honest reflection without shaming. This is about awareness, not guilt.

Discussion Questions:

- What does the psalmist ask God to turn his eyes away from?
 - What captures your attention but does not give life?
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7. SUMMARY – FROM SIGHT TO DIRECTION (5 minutes)**Key Truths to Reinforce:**

- God must open our eyes



- Humility makes us teachable
- Clarity leads to obedience
- Attention shapes perception

Key Question to Emphasize:

Not just “Do I know what God says?”

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

8. FINAL REFLECTION & PRAYER (5 minutes)

Silent Reflection (optional):

Invite participants to consider:

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

Closing Prayer (Facilitator-Led):

Pray Psalm 119:18 aloud together:

“Open my eyes, that I may see...”

PRACTICE FOR THE WEEK

Encourage participants to:

- Begin each day with the prayer: **“Lord, open my eyes.”**
- Read Psalm 119:17–40 slowly
- Return to verse 18 throughout the day
- Take one small step of obedience based on what God reveals

Facilitator Reminder:

The goal is not just to see—but to follow.

