



Session One: loving the **Revelation**

In this session we will learn about how the Bible is more than a book: **It's a living revelation of God!**

To begin with the right perspective on how precious the Bible is, think about this: only God fully knows God (2 Corinthians 2:11), we can never know God on our own... Therefore God must take the initiative to make Himself known: the communication must come from God to us... We know this is what God did through Jesus Christ (Hebrews 1:1-3a). But this is also exactly what he did in the Bible! Huzzah! In fact, the two are intimately interlinked (John 1:1-3, and verse 14).

Why did God reveal himself through Scripture? Have a look at Deuteronomy 29:29 for one answer to this question...

So we do not claim to know everything about God, but we **CAN** claim to know true and sufficient things about God because he has revealed them to us.

God's revelation has a purpose: **THAT WE MIGHT KNOW HIM.** Let's look at some examples from the Old Testament...

What do we learn about God?

- In the laws in the Pentateuch (food laws, ceremonial laws, sacrificial laws): *God shows us His holiness and his dislike of sin.*
- In the long descriptions of the plans and dimensions for the tabernacle: *we see God's desire to dwell with His people.*
- In the endless examples of God's people *repeatedly* turning their backs on Him: *this shows God's anger at sin but also His endless mercy and infinite grace.*

Can you think of other examples in the Scriptures where God's character is revealed?

So we've established that God has revealed himself in the Living Word...

*How does this affect the way we approach the Scriptures?
What should our response be to the Word?*

Have a look at Jesus' answer in Matthew 7:24-27 and John 14:15, 21 & 23 and make a note of it.

Application

In small groups...

1. PRAISE GOD for His Word! The only reason we know *anything* about God at all is because He has taken the initiative and has chosen to reveal himself to us: spend some time thanking Him for this.
2. In light of this understanding, spend some time thinking about the implications when we don't read our Bibles and leave them closed to gather dust. Be honest about your current Bible-reading habits, and think of practical ways that you can improve them.
3. Pray about these things in the light of Deuteronomy 8:3. Ask God to teach you to view the Bible as your daily bread. Consider the words of John Piper: *"Not to pursue our joy every day in the Word of God is to abandon the revealed will of God. It is sin."*

For later...

Spend some time reading and meditating on Psalm 119. The psalmist is SO in love with God's Word! Pray that God would make this passion a reality in your life.

Make sure you leave time to pray about what you've learnt to the God who has graciously revealed Himself

