WEEK 2 — When God Gets Your Attention

January 17 • John 17:3

MAIN POINT

Before God invites me into His work, He invites me to know Him.

Aim: Show that God's ultimate invitation is relationship through Christ, not merely an assignment.

Primary NT: John 17:3

Supporting NT: John 6:44; 1 John 4:9–10, 19; Revelation 3:20

Key Doctrine: Grace and relationship with God through Christ

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use these questions and illustrations to introduce the topic and surface lived experience.

Have you ever been so focused on getting somewhere that you missed the journey? What tends to capture your attention? How has always being connected (phone, text, social media, etc.) changed your attention span?

Transition: Read the New Testament passage before turning to the Moses illustration.

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what Scripture says and what it means. Read the assigned passage before offering interpretation.

ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ JOHN 17:3.

- How does Jesus define eternal life?
- What is striking about that definition?
- Who makes knowing God possible?
- How is relationship different from assignment?

Movement 1 — God initiates the relationship

Connect: John 6:44; 1 John 4:19

We love because God first loved us. Moses did not arrange the burning bush.

Apply: What might you need to turn aside from?

Leader explanation: In John 17, Jesus prays on the eve of His crucifixion. He defines eternal life in relational terms: knowing the only true God and Jesus Christ whom He sent. This knowing is covenantal and personal, not merely knowing correct facts.

Moses illustration: Moses turns aside at the burning bush; God initiates the encounter (Ex 3:1-6).

Movement 2 — God's invitation is personal

Connect: John 17:3; Revelation 3:20

Jesus wants fellowship, not merely workers. Read Revelation 3:20 within its message to the church.

Apply: Do you find it easier to work for Jesus than to be with Jesus?

Leader explanation: John 6:44 describes the Father's gracious initiative in drawing people to Christ. First John 4:9–10 locates love in God's action of sending His Son, and verse 19 explains that our love responds to His love. Spiritual life begins in grace, not achievement.

Movement 3 — Relationship gives meaning to mission

Connect: 1 John 4:9–10

Communion with Christ undergirds service, protecting us from performance and comparison.

Apply: How can you practice being with Christ this week?

Leader explanation: Revelation 3:20 is addressed to the church in Laodicea, calling a complacent congregation to repent and renew fellowship with Christ. It should not be reduced to a technique for hearing private messages. The point of attention is communion with the Lord.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is eternal life according to Jesus?
- How does God take the initiative?
- Why is relationship prior to mission?
- Which is harder: being with God or doing things for God?
- What most interrupts your attention—hurry, shame, or distraction?
- Where has usefulness replaced intimacy?
- What daily activity could become a "turn aside" moment?
- What distraction needs a boundary?

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the Scripture directly shapes their week. Invite a concrete response without pressuring anyone to disclose private circumstances.

- Based upon your relational time with God, what might He be calling you to do?
- What is one thing you can do this week to remind you of your calling?
- Who might benefit from what you learned, and how could you share it?

PRAYER

Guided prayer: Jesus, I do not simply want directions or assignments. I want to know You. Turn my attention toward You.

BETWEEN-WEEK PRACTICE

READ John 17:1–5; John 6:35–44; 1 John 4:7–19; Luke 10:38–42; Philippians 3:7–10

DO / PRAY Choose a ten-minute daily "turn aside" time for Scripture and prayer.

MEMORY VERSE John 17:3

COMMENTARY

Leader reference: John 17:3

In John 17, Jesus prays on the eve of His crucifixion. He defines eternal life in relational terms: knowing the only true God and Jesus Christ whom He sent. This knowing is covenantal and personal, not merely knowing correct facts.

John 6:44 describes the Father's gracious initiative in drawing people to Christ. First John 4:9–10 locates love in God's action of sending His Son, and verse 19 explains that our love responds to His love. Spiritual life begins in grace, not achievement.

Revelation 3:20 is addressed to the church in Laodicea, calling a complacent congregation to repent and renew fellowship with Christ. It should not be reduced to a technique for hearing private messages. The point of attention is communion with the Lord.

Teaching note: Avoid making this passage promise more than it says. Invite honest questions, attend to the context, and return the discussion to Jesus and the authority of Scripture.