



Simplified

WORKBOOK

*A step-by-step guide
to help you engage with God
through Scripture*

Introduction

WELCOME

I'm so glad you downloaded this workbook because that means you're interested in getting to know God better and want to engage with Him through the Bible. These are heart desires that God very much wants to answer because His love for you is great and He longs for you to know Him.

Through these next few pages I'll walk you through a simplified process of talking with God through Scripture. I've used this process in my own walk with God and found it hugely beneficial as I moved from a heavy legalistic (sometimes boring) experience into a fun life-giving relationship with Jesus.

DON'T TAKE MY WORD FOR IT

Research what I say in the Bible and see if it holds up. God wants you to get to know Him, so put the concepts in this workbook to the test by using them to engage in conversation with Him.

This is not an all-encompassing document for everything you'll ever want to know about how to connect with God. This also isn't a shortcut formula to bypass actual relationship-building. It's a tool to have in your relational toolkit to help empower you to communicate with God through the pages of the Bible.

WHAT'S SOMETHING YOU'RE EXCITED TO TALK WITH GOD ABOUT?

GET STARTED >>>

Getting Started

STEP ONE


Growing in relationship with God is a continual process. As a believer for almost 30 years, it's the best gift to get to continually know God more. To know our next step we first need to identify our starting point.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD? (circle one)

1	2	3	4
I don't know how to even begin a relationship with God.	I asked Jesus into my heart but wouldn't say we have a relationship.	We have a relationship but it feels stagnant lately.	I hear His voice and we're actively growing in relationship.

WHERE TO GO FROM HERE?

No matter where you are in the process, God is excited to connect with you. This workbook is a great resource to help you take your next step. Here's my recommendation on where to go from here:

#1 Welcome to your first step! God wants you to know Him and He provides a way for us to enter in relationship with him through salvation in Jesus.  My video to walk you through receiving salvation is at thejenweaver.com/come-to-jesus Then come back, read the info for #2 below and we'll keep going!

#s 2 & 3 I can help you get unstuck! We build relationships with God in ways similar to human relationships. Spending time together, getting to know each other, having shared experiences, building trust—all these contribute to a deepening relationship. As believers, we engage with God through worship, reading His word, participating in church community, and talking with Him in prayer. This resource will help you grow in your ability to talk with God as you read the Bible.





#4 Awesome! This resource will help you keep growing.

LEARN THE PROCESS >>>


Simplified Process


OVERVIEW



Understanding Scripture and building a relationship with God can sound overwhelming and complicated. But it's actually quite simple because God partners with us to bring His presence and provision into our lives. He helps us get to know Him.

 **Information** (what we learn) +  **Revelation** (what God reveals) +
 **Activation** (how we respond) =  **Transformation** (how God responds)

The formula above is not *the* way. Jesus is the way (John 14:6). This is just a simple process to help us remember how to engage in conversation with God as we read His Word.

I received salvation at a young age and while it was a real commitment, I didn't know about relationship with God for many years. I saw the Bible as words on a page, with laws and rules to follow. I had  **information** only.

As I started learning how to hear God's voice He would talk with me as I read, bringing  **revelation** in how the verses applied to my life. His revelation sheds light on who He is, His character, who we are, and how we can participate in His ministry to the world.

God doesn't share revelation just so we'll know more information. He shares truth so we can experience greater levels of freedom, healing, and empowerment as His followers. We're given opportunity to receive insight and respond by taking  **action** to apply to what God says. As we walk in obedience to what God says, He carries His work to completion in our lives by bringing  **heart transformation**. We don't have to do this work alone!

I've seen this cycle repeat over and over in my life. Its completely changed how I interact with God and how I read the Bible. I've learned to talk with God as I read and receive His revelation in my heart, not just information in my head.

But how do you know if what you think you're hearing from God is actually Him speaking?

HEARING GOD >>>

Revelation

IS THAT REALLY YOU, GOD?

We start with reading the Bible. ➡ If you're not sure how to do that, I have more resources on my website to help you. thejenweaver.com

For the purposes of this workbook, we'll assume you have a Bible and have a general sense of how to engage with Scripture. But how do you know if you're actually hearing God when you try to talk with Him?

God uses many different outlets to talk with us. He can use people, dreams, circumstances, the Bible, counsel, etc. There are also many ways different people internally hear God, with some of the common experiences including:

- IMAGES | a mental picture or memory of something
- WORDS | singular words, a phrase, or a Bible verse will pop into your head
- SENSE | you'll have a sense of peace or "knowing" what to do
- INTERNAL VOICE | similar to your own inner voice but it's not you

WHAT'S ONE WAY YOU'VE HEARD GOD SPEAK WITH YOU BEFORE?

When we practice hearing God we have the potential of internally hearing from three different sources:

1. God. Yay!
2. Ourselves, when our own thoughts get in the way.
3. Our enemy, the devil seeks to destroy us with lies. He's not in our heads but he will whisper lies hoping we'll believe him and mistakenly start internalizing those thoughts as truth.

Through practice we continually tune our ears to recognize the different voices vying for our attention. Don't let this learning curve discourage you, God is patient and loving and the more you communicate with Him, the more familiar you'll become with who He is and what His voice sounds like.

BELIEF & SURRENDER >>>

Belief & Surrender

TRUSTING GOD

We'll spend the next few pages talking through practical ways to weigh the words you read and hear. Using these tools properly begins with our willingness to trust God and surrender our will to Him.

YOU CAN TRUST HIM

Trusting God is a hard concept for many of us. We've been hurt before by people who are supposed to love and care for us. We've experienced harsh realities in the world around us. And for some, we're just getting to know God and it's hard to trust someone we can't see.

The Bible teaches us that God is a good Father, that His character is constant, and that He wants to use all things in life for our good. You can believe what He says in the Bible is true for you. God is who He says He is. If trusting God is difficult for you, here are some verses that I encourage you to read and talk with God about: [Matthew 7:9–11](#), [Romans 8:28](#), [Psalm 62:8](#), [Proverbs 3:5–6](#), [Proverbs 18:10](#), [Jeremiah 29:1–15](#)

YOU CAN SURRENDER

Sometimes I come to God so He can bless my plans or answer my prayers in a certain way, instead of coming to receive what He says is best. When my will doesn't line up with God's, I have a choice to make. Will I place my trust in Him or will I put trust in myself instead? It's possible to tell ourselves that God wouldn't mind our way. We can find someone who will agree with us, or locate an out-of-context verse that seems to back up our decision. God purposefully created us with free will so we can make our own choices. But when we hear Him and then go against His guidance, we cheat ourselves out of the best that God has for us.

This is why surrendering our will is so important. We bring our requests to God and lay them at His feet. We want His wisdom and direction, not our own. And if I trust Him, then I'm okay with what He says and does, even if I don't get what I want. Trust me, I know how hard this is to put into practice. [▶ You can even read my post about a painful time when God answered my prayer with a firm "No."](#) And yet I know even from that experience, that it's still best to surrender my will to His.

THOUGHTS ON SURRENDER >>>

Notes on Surrender

SURRENDER IS SUCH A HUGE ASPECT OF OUR WALK. WRITE DOWN YOUR THOUGHTS, STRUGGLES, AND HOPES ABOUT GROWING IN THIS AREA AND SHARE THEM WITH GOD. HE WANTS TO MEET YOU IN THE MIDST OF IT ALL.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin grey border, intended for the user to write their thoughts, struggles, and hopes about surrender.

EVALUATE WHAT YOU HEAR >>>

Weigh the Word

HOW TO EVALUATE WHAT YOU HEAR

A huge indicator to help you determine if you're hearing God correctly, is by weighing what you hear.

Imagine a best friend or relative in your life. If someone else walks up to you today and tells you something about this person you know and love, how will you evaluate the truth of what you hear?

- You can go ask your loved one directly
- You can measure it against what you already know about their character and through the context of your experiences with that person
- You can reference your loved one's history and other people's experiences with them

It's the same way with God. His personal revelation will always:

- A. Line up with His Word (the Bible)
- B. Live up to His character
- C. Bear good fruit

If this is all new to you, don't let it overwhelm you. It's all about taking one next step. 🎉

LINE UP WITH HIS WORD

God won't ever tell you something with His voice that doesn't align with what is written in His Word. This is why it's so important that we read the Bible and learn how to appropriately apply it to our lives.

➡ As you start researching topics in the Bible, Google is your friend! I encourage you though, don't just ping-pong around verses. (see below)

Here are some other quick tips:

- Find a version you like and understand. I like the English Standard Version (ESV) for studying but also enjoy reading from the New Living Translation (NLT), and the Passion Translation (TPT). If you're new to the Bible, you may like the New International Version (NIV).
- Read verses in context of the chapter or book as a whole, as cherry-picked individual verses are easily misunderstood and misused.
- As you grow in familiarity with the Bible, use tools like historical references, commentaries from Biblical scholars and source language concordances (Hebrew, Aramaic & Greek) to dive deeper into the text.
- If a verse is confusing to you, research more to gain understanding and talk with people you trust to help you learn what it means.

DOES IT LINE UP WITH HIS WORD? >>>

Example 1

DOES IT LINE UP WITH HIS WORD?

The Word of God is living and active (Hebrews 4:12). God can use the same verse to talk with different people about different things at the same time. He can also use a familiar verse to share brand new revelation. As you read, ask God to reveal the underlying truth of the verse and how it applies to your life.

Here's an example of how to weigh what I think I hear from God to see if it aligns with what the Bible says:

EXAMPLE

Say that I'm having a rough day today and feel pretty lonely. As I start thinking about things and talking with God, this thought flashes through my mind, *Of course you're alone. I'm God and I don't even love you.* If I weigh that sentence against what I'm feeling in the moment, I might believe it. But what happens if I research what the Bible says about God's love for me?

I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you. (Jeremiah 31:3 ESV)

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." (Joh 3:16-17 ESV)

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38-39 ESV)

IN LIGHT OF THE VERSES ABOVE, WHAT DOES
GOD ACTUALLY SAY ABOUT HIS LOVE FOR US?

DOES IT LIVE UP TO HIS CHARACTER? >>>

Example 2

DOES IT LIVE UP TO HIS CHARACTER?

God's personal revelation will always:

- A. Line up with His Word (the Bible)
- B. Live up to His character
- C. Bear good fruit

LIVE UP TO HIS CHARACTER

There are *tons* of verses that teach us that God does not change and that He won't go against Himself. Because He is steadfast, we know that His character is true and trustworthy. This also means that the things we hear from Him will live up to His character. Here are just a few of those verses:

"For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts. But you say, 'How shall we return?'" (Malachi 3:6-7 ESV)

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. (James 1:17 ESV)

We get to know God's character by learning about who He is through the Bible (see A above) and by experiencing life in relationship with Him. It's not *either or*, it's *both and*. Because we know this about God's character, if we hear something different or perceive that we are experiencing something different from God, we can know that's not accurate. Talk with God about that experience and let Him use it to help you get to know Him better.

WHAT DO THE VERSES ABOVE TEACH YOU ABOUT GOD'S CHARACTER?

DOES IT BEAR GOOD FRUIT? >>>

Example 3

DOES IT BEAR GOOD FRUIT?

God's personal revelation will always:

- A. Line up with His Word (the Bible)
- B. Live up to His character
- C. Bear good fruit

BEAR GOOD FRUIT

The Bible tells us that we can identify a tree by its fruit—that a good tree will bear good fruit (Matthew 7:15–20). It also tells us how to recognize the fruit, aka the result/produce/works of God's Spirit.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. (Galatians 5:22–23 ESV)

EXAMPLE

The words God speaks to us will bear good fruit according to His Spirit. So if I hear something that produces the opposite of God's fruit (i.e., anxiety), then I weigh the word. Anxiety is opposite to and in opposition with fruit that comes from God, so either I'm applying His word incorrectly or I'm listening to someone other than Him (aka my own thoughts or lies from the enemy).

Side note: the fruit of the Spirit also gives us insight into God's character. His Spirit produces love because He is love. Knowing the fruit that God's Spirit produces also helps us weigh the words according to what lives up to God's character because He is true to Himself (see B above).

CONSIDER SOMETHING YOU BELIEVE GOD SPOKE TO YOU RECENTLY. WHAT WAS THE FRUIT THAT WORD PRODUCED IN YOUR LIFE?

[MORE HELP >>>](#)

Still not sure?

ASK FOR HELP

If you're still not sure if you're hearing God correctly, get confirmation. Go to someone, or a few people, that you believe hear God and are mature in the faith, and ask them to help you confirm if what you heard sounds like God as they know Him.

And keep practicing! The more you talk with God the more readily you'll be able to recognize Him and His voice as you go through life.

BIBLE READING SUGGESTIONS

If you're trying to pick a place to start reading in the bible, a great place to begin is in one of the gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke or John) as they record Jesus's life on earth. If you're brand new to the Bible, I especially recommend the Book of John. No matter how familiar you are with Scripture, I always recommend asking God to show you the gospel message of Jesus throughout the entirety of the Bible. God's Word constantly demonstrates His work, helps us learn of who He is, and tells us what He has already fulfilled and accomplished for us. And diving into word study in the original language is a great way to expand your understanding of Scripture.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Here are some other resources that can help:

Frequency: Tune In. Hear God. By Pastor Robert Morris





Discerning the Voice of God By Priscilla Shirer

Women of the Word By Jen Wilkin

The YouVersion app also offers free devotionals and reading plans.

I also offer a limited number of video coaching calls each month. Please contact me if you'd like to learn more jen@thejenweaver.com.

OKAY, LET'S GET BACK TO THAT SIMPLIFIED PROCESS

 **Information** (what we learn) +  **Revelation** (what God reveals) +
 **Activation** (how we respond) =  **Transformation** (how God responds)

PRACTICE THE PROCESS >>>

Practice

THE SIMPLIFIED PROCESS

I have great news! In examples 1-3 we already started practicing the first 2 steps of this process.

- 📖 **Information** (what we learn)
- 🌟 **Revelation** (what God reveals)
- 👉 **Activation** (how we respond)
- 💖 **Transformation** (how God responds)

We read passages of scripture 📖 **Information** and God brought 🌟 **Revelation** about who He is and what He has said. Information by itself doesn't bring insight into our lives, but God gives us understanding through His revelation.

Now comes the next step: 👉 **Activation**.

IN LIGHT OF ONE OF THE THINGS GOD SHARED
WITH YOU, HOW WILL YOU RESPOND?

Your answer to the question above is your next step. How do you apply what you heard from the Lord? Start walking out your response to God's Word.





The final step of 💖 **Transformation** may be an immediate area of change and freedom, or may not come right away. Sometimes we walk out our activation repeatedly, or go through steps 1-3 many times as we receive healing and choose new patterns that align with God's Word. But this I can promise you. God will bring heart transformation if you don't give up and keep pressing in to hear His voice and respond to what He says.


It's not up to us to transform our lives. God partners with us and will empower supernatural heart transformation if we choose respond to His leading.

IN ACTION >>>

John 3:16

PRACTICE

 **Information** (what we learn) +  **Revelation** (what God reveals) +
 **Activation** (how we respond) =  **Transformation** (how God responds)

 **Information** (what we learn)

John 3:16 may be the most famous verse in the Bible. Let's read it in context of a few other verses in the chapter:

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. (John 3:16-18 ESV)


 **Revelation** (what God reveals)

Ask God to share something new with you as you read this passage. God can use a single verse to talk with us about an infinite number of things.

For example, maybe He focused on the word "gave" or highlighted how His goal wasn't to bring condemnation but to save us from our already condemned state. Today, I especially notice the generosity of God in this passage. He *so loved* that *He gave* and *He sent*, but God didn't force acceptance of this gift. Because of this love, His gift came with an invitation for us to choose to believe and receive. I share these as examples but it's not important what revelation other people receive. What does God want to talk with YOU about?

 **Activation** (how we respond)

Now ask God how you can act upon whatever revelation He brings you. Mine is to check my heart motivation because I also want to be motivated by love.





 **Transformation** (how God responds)


Now walk out this activation. Maybe you're prompted to pray and repent right now, to apologize to someone, to start a new habit. Walk it out and ask God to partner with you in it. That's a prayer He delights to answer.

NOW TRY ON YOUR OWN >>>

The Simplified Process

PICK A BIBLE PASSAGE

 **Information** (what we learn) +  **Revelation** (what God reveals) +
 **Activation** (how we respond) =  **Transformation** (how God responds)

 **Information** (what we learn)


What did you read?

 **Revelation** (what God reveals)

What does God want to share with you?

 **Activation** (how we respond)

How does He want you to act upon this revelation?

 **Transformation** (how God responds)

What transformation are you asking Him to do in your heart and life?

IN CONCLUSION >>>

Conclusion

WELL DONE!

Thank you for investing this time to get to know God better and engage with Him through the Bible.

My prayer is that this workbook and the simplified process will be a tool you can use to further your relationship with the Lord.

I also look forward to connecting with you on my site. I use this process in blog posts and regularly offer worksheets and printables to help women know the love of Christ and engage in life with Him. Please add me to your safe senders list to make sure you won't miss out on future resources.

I'd love to know if you found this workbook helpful, or if there's any questions you have along the way. I also offer a limited number of video coaching calls to help walk people through various aspects of faith as you grow in relationship with God.

Please feel free to contact me at jen@thejenweaver.com. I'd love to hear from you!

WHAT'S YOUR BIGGEST TAKE-AWAY FROM THIS WORKBOOK?

WHAT'S YOUR NEXT STEP FOR PUTTING WHAT YOU LEARNED INTO PRACTICE?

Notes