WEAVER STUDY GUIDES

Why Some do not Understand and Others will Never Understand

Study Guide

Old Testament Studies

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A lesson-by-lesson companion for reading, discussion, and written responses.

Downloadable classroom edition | 8.5 x 11 inches

Name / group

Date

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Using this guide

Read the corresponding chapter, then work through the themes, arguments, and Scripture references.

Write your responses before discussing the questions with others. Use the application pages to identify a practical next step.

The study material is retained from the existing lecture study guides. Added writing prompts provide space for your own response.

Print at Actual Size / 100% on US Letter paper. Single-sided and double-sided printing are both suitable. Lessons begin on the next available page; no blank pages are inserted.

Reading assignments refer to the October 9, 2026 opening-heading corrected edition of the companion book. Online lecture links and QR codes are collected at the end.

LESSON 1

Why Some do not Understand and Others will Never Understand

Part One of Two

August 17, 2025

Read Chapter 1 in the companion book, pages 5-22 (October 9, 2026 opening-heading corrected edition).

Major Themes

Sovereignty of God in Granting Understanding

Spiritual understanding is not a human achievement but a gift from God, given according to His sovereign will.

Lecture support: Matthew 13:11: 'Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.' The Greek word didōmi means a gift.

Natural Blindness of Fallen Man

The unsaved person is naturally unable to receive or understand spiritual truth because it is spiritually discerned.

Lecture support: 1 Corinthians 2:14: 'The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God... neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.'

Judicial Blindness as Divine Judgment

God judicially hardens those who persistently reject truth, making it impossible for them to ever understand or be converted.

Lecture support: Matthew 13:14-15 quotes Isaiah 6:9-10, describing hearts waxed gross, ears dull, and eyes closed so they cannot be converted and healed.

The Danger of God Withdrawing

The worst judgment is when God says 'Let them alone' and gives people over to their own desires, leaving them permanently hardened.

Lecture support: Matthew 15:14: 'Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind.' Also Hosea 5:6: 'he hath withdrawn himself from them.'

Human Responsibility to Seek Truth

Though truth is a gift, we are commanded to 'buy' it by earnestly crying out, seeking, and applying our hearts to God's Word.

Lecture support: Proverbs 2:1-6 describes inclining the ear, crying after knowledge, and seeking as silver; then God gives wisdom.

Gratitude and Humility for Received Truth

Recognizing that understanding is a gift should produce thankfulness and humility, not pride.

Lecture support: 1 Corinthians 4:7: 'What hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory?'

Key Arguments

Understanding is entirely a gift from God, not a human accomplishment.

Jesus explicitly states that knowledge of the mysteries is 'given' to some and not to others, using the Greek word for a gift.

Lecture support: Matthew 13:11: 'Because it is given unto you to know... but to them it is not given.' The word didōmi implies a gift originating outside oneself.

The natural man is incapable of understanding spiritual truth.

1 Corinthians 2:14 declares that the unsaved cannot know the things of the Spirit because they are spiritually discerned, and they consider them foolishness.

Lecture support: 1 Corinthians 2:14: 'The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God... neither can he know them.'

Even believers must have their eyes opened by God to recognize truth.

Cleopas, who knew Jesus personally, did not recognize Him until God opened his eyes, showing that divine illumination is necessary even for the familiar.

Lecture support: Luke 24:16: 'But their eyes were holden that they should not know him.' The Greek krateō means to have power; they were restrained from recognizing Christ.

Judicial blindness is a real and terrifying judgment that makes understanding impossible.

Isaiah 6:9-10, quoted six times in the New Testament, describes God actively shutting eyes and ears so that people cannot be converted, as a judgment for persistent rejection.

Lecture support: Matthew 13:15: 'For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest... they should be converted, and I should heal them.'

When God says 'Let them alone,' it is the worst possible judgment.

Jesus' command to leave the Pharisees alone signifies God's withdrawal, leaving them to their own destruction with no hope of understanding.

Lecture support: Matthew 15:14: 'Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.'

We must actively 'buy' the truth by earnestly seeking God for it.

Proverbs 2:1-6 outlines the conditions for receiving wisdom: receiving, hiding, inclining, applying, crying, and seeking as treasure. God then gives understanding.

Lecture support: Proverbs 2:4-5: 'If thou seekest her as silver... Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.'

Scripture References

Matthew 13:10-17

The primary text: disciples ask why Jesus speaks in parables; He explains that understanding is given to some and not others, quoting Isaiah's prophecy of judicial blindness.

Proverbs 23:23

Buy the truth and sell it not; used to emphasize the supreme value of truth and the need to acquire it at any cost.

1 Corinthians 2:14

The natural man cannot receive the things of the Spirit; they are foolishness to him and spiritually discerned, illustrating natural blindness.

1 Corinthians 4:7

Who maketh thee to differ? What hast thou that thou didst not receive? Used to show that all understanding is a gift, leading to humility.

1 Corinthians 11:14

Nature teaches that long hair is a shame for a man; used in the illustration about recognizing Jesus physically to argue He did not have long hair.

Ezekiel 5:1

God commands Ezekiel to use a barber's razor, showing that barbering was known in biblical times, supporting the argument about Jesus' hair length.

Luke 24:13-35

The road to Emmaus account where Cleopas and another disciple do not recognize Jesus until their eyes are opened, illustrating divine restraint of recognition.

Mark 3:18

Lists James the son of Alphaeus (Cleopas) among the apostles, establishing Cleopas' identity as a relative and close associate of Jesus.

John 19:25

Mary the wife of Cleopas is mentioned at the cross, confirming Cleopas' familial connection to Jesus through marriage to Mary's sister.

Proverbs 20:12

The hearing ear and the seeing eye, the LORD hath made even both of them; used to assert that seeing and hearing are gifts from God.

Ephesians 4:17-19

Describes the vanity of the Gentile mind, darkened understanding, alienation from God, and blindness of heart, illustrating natural depravity.

Isaiah 6:9-10

The original prophecy of judicial hardening: make the heart fat, ears heavy, eyes shut, lest they convert and be healed. Quoted six times in the NT.

Mark 4:11-12

Jesus explains parables conceal truth from outsiders so that seeing they may not perceive, quoting Isaiah's hardening theme.

Luke 8:9-10

To others it is given in parables, that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand, echoing Isaiah 6.

John 12:39-41

They could not believe because Isaiah said He hath blinded their eyes and hardened their heart; refers to Isaiah seeing Christ's glory.

Acts 28:25-27

Paul quotes Isaiah 6 to the unbelieving Jews in Rome, applying the judicial hardening to his contemporary hearers.

Romans 11:7-8

The election obtained it, and the rest were blinded; God gave them the spirit of slumber, eyes that should not see, quoting Isaiah.

Hosea 5:6

They shall seek the LORD but not find Him; He hath withdrawn Himself from them, illustrating God's withdrawal in judgment.

Matthew 15:12-14

Jesus says of the Pharisees, 'Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind,' signifying judicial abandonment.

Psalm 106:15

He gave them their request but sent leanness into their soul, showing that God sometimes grants desires as judgment.

Study notes

Discussion Questions

1. How does the truth that understanding is a gift from God change the way you approach Bible study and listening to sermons?

Consider: Based on Matthew 13:11 and 1 Corinthians 4:7, which emphasize that all spiritual knowledge is received, not self-generated.

2. What is the difference between natural blindness and judicial blindness, and why is the latter so terrifying?

Consider: Natural blindness is the universal inability of the unsaved (1 Cor 2:14); judicial blindness is God's active hardening as judgment (Matt 13:14-15).

3. Why did Cleopas not recognize Jesus, and what does this teach us about our own need for divine illumination?

Consider: Luke 24:16 says their eyes were 'holden'; even intimate knowledge of Christ does not guarantee spiritual sight without God's opening.

4. What does it mean for God to 'withdraw Himself' or say 'Let them alone,' and how should this warning affect our urgency in seeking Him?

Consider: Hosea 5:6 and Matthew 15:14 describe God's withdrawal as the worst judgment; it implies a point of no return for the persistently rebellious.

5. How can we practically 'buy the truth' according to Proverbs 2:1-6, and what does that look like in daily life?

Consider: The passage commands receiving, hiding, inclining, applying, crying, and seeking as treasure; it is an active, desperate pursuit.

6. In what ways might pride manifest when we gain biblical knowledge, and how does 1 Corinthians 4:7 counter that?

Consider: The verse asks, 'Why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?' True understanding should produce humility, not arrogance.

Applications

Cultivate Gratitude and Humility for Truth Received

Since all understanding is a gift, believers should be profoundly thankful and humble, never proud or arrogant about their knowledge.

Lecture support: 1 Corinthians 4:7: 'What hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory?'

Pray Earnestly for Divine Illumination

Like David in Psalm 119:18, we must continually ask God to open our eyes to see wondrous things in His Word, acknowledging our dependence.

Lecture support: Psalm 119:18: 'Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.'

Pursue Truth with Desperate Diligence

We must 'buy' the truth by receiving God's words, inclining our ears, crying for understanding, and seeking it as hidden treasure, as Proverbs 2 commands.

Lecture support: Proverbs 2:1-5: 'If thou seekest her as silver... Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD.'

Heed the Warning Against Judicial Hardening

Recognize that persistent rejection of truth can lead to a state where God withdraws and says 'Let them alone,' making repentance impossible. Urgently seek God while He may be found.

Lecture support: Matthew 15:14: 'Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind.'

Apply the Truth You Receive

It is not enough to know truth; we must obey it. Truth is worthless unless applied to life.

Lecture support: Implied by the closing statement: 'Truth is absolutely worthless unless you apply it.'

Personal Application and Notes

Which application will you work on, and what specific step will you take?

What Scripture or teaching will you return to as you put this into practice?

Additional notes or questions to discuss

LESSON 2

Pastor John Weaver - Why Some do not Understand and Others will Never Understand

Part Two of Two

August 17, 2025

Read Chapter 2 in the companion book, pages 23-37 (October 9, 2026 opening-heading corrected edition).

Major Themes

Spiritual Blindness of the Unsaved

The natural man cannot understand spiritual things because they are spiritually discerned; this is a result of inherent depravity.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes 1 Corinthians 2:14 and Ephesians 4:17-19 to show that the unsaved are darkened in understanding and alienated from God.

Illumination by the Holy Spirit

Understanding comes not by human effort alone but by the Holy Spirit opening the mind to comprehend revealed truth.

Lecture support: Weaver explains the difference between illumination and revelation, emphasizing that God opens our minds to understand what He has already revealed in Scripture.

Sovereignty of God in Dispensing Wisdom

God gives wisdom and understanding as He pleases, which accounts for different levels of understanding among believers.

Lecture support: Citing Proverbs 2:6 and 9:10, Weaver states that the Lord gives wisdom and understanding, and He may dispense them to whom He pleases.

The Necessity of Seeking Understanding

Believers are commanded to actively pursue truth through prayer, asking, and meditating on Scripture.

Lecture support: Weaver references Proverbs 23:23 ('Buy the truth') and 2 Timothy 2:7 ('Consider what I say') to show that understanding requires diligent seeking.

The Danger of Rejecting Understanding

Lack of understanding leads to sin, destruction, and the hard way of the transgressor.

Lecture support: Weaver cites Proverbs 6:32 on adultery, Proverbs 13:15 on the hard way of the transgressor, and Proverbs 21:16 on remaining in the congregation of the dead.

Eternal Life as Present Knowledge of God

Eternal life is not merely future but a current, intimate relationship with God the Father through Jesus Christ.

Lecture support: Weaver expounds 1 John 5:20 and John 17:3, stating that eternal life is knowing God now, not something that begins after death.

Key Arguments

Understanding is a gift from God, not a product of human intellect.

Weaver argues that even the disciples needed Christ to open their understanding, proving that spiritual comprehension requires divine intervention.

Lecture support: He cites Luke 24:45 where Jesus 'opened their understanding' and explains the Greek words dianoigo and nous to show thorough opening of the mind.

God commands believers to actively seek understanding.

While God is sovereign, He has ordained means - prayer, asking, and meditation - through which He grants understanding.

Lecture support: Weaver references Proverbs 23:23, Matthew 7:7, and 2 Timothy 2:7 to show that believers must 'buy the truth' and 'consider' God's Word.

Lack of understanding is demonstrated by sinful behavior.

Sin is a manifestation of a lack of understanding; if people truly understood the consequences, they would not sin.

Lecture support: Weaver uses Proverbs 6:32 ('whoso committeth adultery... lacketh understanding') to argue that sin reveals a failure to grasp God's truth.

Tradition and comfort zones hinder the reception of truth.

Many Christians resist truth because it challenges their traditions or pushes them out of their comfort zones.

Lecture support: Weaver notes that like the Pharisees, people value traditions over God's Word and fear the changes that truth demands.

Eternal life is a present reality, not a future acquisition.

Knowing God through Christ is eternal life now; those who despise spiritual things now will not suddenly love them after death.

Lecture support: Weaver interprets John 17:3 and 1 John 5:20 to mean that eternal life is an intimate relationship with God that begins in this life.

Scripture References

1 Corinthians 2:14

Weaver quotes this verse to show that the natural man cannot receive the things of the Spirit because they are spiritually discerned.

Ephesians 4:17-19

Cited to describe the darkened understanding and alienation from God that characterizes the unsaved.

John 8:43-44

Jesus asks why the Jews do not understand His speech, answering that they cannot hear His word because they are of their father the devil.

Hebrews 1:1-3

Referenced to support that revelation has ceased because Jesus Christ is the full and final revelation of God.

Matthew 15:17

Jesus asks His disciples, 'Do not you yet understand?' showing that even they struggled to comprehend His teaching.

Matthew 16:9

Jesus questions the disciples' understanding regarding the feeding of the five thousand.

Matthew 16:11

Jesus asks how they do not understand that He was not speaking about bread but about the leaven of the Pharisees.

Mark 8:21

Jesus asks His disciples, 'How is it that you do not understand?'

Luke 24:44-45

Jesus opened the disciples' understanding so they could comprehend the Scriptures concerning Him.

Proverbs 2:6

The Lord gives wisdom; out of His mouth comes knowledge and understanding.

Proverbs 9:10

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.

Matthew 6:33

Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added.

1 John 2

John divides Christians into babes, young men, and fathers, indicating different levels of spiritual maturity.

1 Corinthians 3

Paul says he had to feed the Corinthians with milk, not meat, because they were carnal.

Hebrews 5

The writer says they have become dull of hearing and need milk again instead of solid food.

Proverbs 23:23

Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, instruction, and understanding.

Proverbs 9:6

Forsake the foolish and live; go in the way of understanding.

Proverbs 12:11

He that tilleth his land shall be satisfied with bread, but he that followeth vain persons is void of understanding.

Proverbs 18:2

A fool hath no delight in understanding, but that his heart may discover itself.

Proverbs 21:16

The man that wandereth out of the way of understanding shall remain in the congregation of the dead.

Study notes

Discussion Questions

1. What is the difference between illumination and revelation, and why is it important to distinguish them?

Consider: Weaver explains that illumination is the Spirit opening our minds to understand what God has already revealed in Scripture, while revelation has ceased.

2. How does the sovereignty of God in dispensing wisdom affect our responsibility to seek understanding?

Consider: Weaver states that God gives wisdom as He pleases, yet commands us to ask, seek, and knock.

3. In what ways might our traditions or comfort zones hinder us from receiving truth?

Consider: Weaver warns that like the Pharisees, we can value traditions over God's Word and resist truth that challenges us.

4. What does it mean to 'consider' or meditate on God's Word, and how can we practice this consistently?

Consider: Weaver expounds 2 Timothy 2:7, explaining that 'consider' is a present active imperative meaning to continually ponder and meditate on Scripture.

5. How does the concept of eternal life as a present knowledge of God challenge common assumptions about salvation?

Consider: Weaver teaches from John 17:3 that eternal life is an intimate relationship with God now, not merely a future hope.

Applications

Cultivate a disposition to believe God above all else.

Weaver urges believers to accept that God is always right, even when His Word contradicts personal traditions or family upbringing.

Lecture support: He states, 'God is right. He's always right. Our traditions are wrong. We're wrong. Our family is wrong. Our friends are wrong. Whatever God says is right.'

Develop a strong and overwhelming desire for truth.

Weaver shares his personal anger at discovering lies and half-truths, which fueled a passion to know the truth in every area.

Lecture support: He says, 'When I found out I'd been lied to, I not only was angry, but then it gave me a strong desire to really know the truth in every area.'

Pray and ask God specifically for wisdom, understanding, and truth.

Weaver emphasizes that most Christians never ask, seek, or knock for these gifts, and thus lack them.

Lecture support: He states, 'Most Christians never ask, never seek, and never knock when it comes to truth, understanding, and wisdom.'

Meditate on Scripture consistently.

Weaver commands believers to 'chew the cud' of God's Word, turning it over in the mind repeatedly to gain understanding.

Lecture support: He explains the Greek word noeo and the illustration of a cow chewing cud to describe meditation.

Submit to God-ordained authorities for teaching.

Weaver points to Jeremiah 3:15, where God promises pastors who feed with knowledge and understanding, implying believers should listen to sound preaching.

Lecture support: He says, 'You can be fed with knowledge and understanding if you will listen to the Word of God expounded, explained, and applied.'

Personal Application and Notes

Which application will you work on, and what specific step will you take?

What Scripture or teaching will you return to as you put this into practice?

Additional notes or questions to discuss

Online Lecture Resources

Scan a code or select the lecture link in the PDF. The original lecture identifiers and destinations are preserved.

Lesson 1: Why Some do not Understand and Others will Never Understand - Part One of Two

Lecture JW01811

Open the formatted lecture online

https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01811&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

Lesson 2: Pastor John Weaver - Why Some do not Understand and Others will Never Understand - Part Two of Two

Lecture JW01812

Open the formatted lecture online

https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01812&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

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Source information

Study material: existing Major Themes, Key Arguments, Scripture References, Discussion Questions, and Applications from the corresponding Weaver Bible College lecture records. Original lecture titles and provenance are retained in those source records.

Layout upgraded September 30, 2026. Original manuscripts, study-guide data, and previous PDFs have not been changed.