



Chamber of Life Series
Building Foundation | Growing in Faith

Getting to Know God & His Word

Study Guide

by **James W. Goll**



GOD
ENCOUNTERS
MINISTRIES

with James W. Goll

Published by
God Encounters Ministries
P.O. Box 1653, Franklin, TN 37065
www.encountersnetwork.com

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Classes and Other Resources

The following *Getting to Know God and His Word Study Guide* is great for individual study in your own home, with a small group, or in a classroom setting. It also serves as part of a class by the same title at **God Encounters Ministries**, with its corresponding book, *Passionate Pursuit* and 12 Sessions taught by James W. Goll. Visit www.GodEncounters.com for more information about this and many other life-changing classes.

At the end of each detailed lesson are simple questions for your reflection and review. In the back of this study guide, you will find the answers to these questions to aid in your learning.

James W. Goll has many other resources available. They may be purchased at www.GodEncounters.com or by calling 1-877-200-1604. For more information, visit our website or email info@godencounters.com.

Dedication and Acknowledgement

I have had many rich blessings in my walk with the Lord Jesus Christ. Some of these blessings have taken the form of tutors, teachers or equippers the Holy Spirit brought into my life. The most influential of all these human agencies has thus far been the late Derek Prince. His amazing teaching ministry, always centered on the Word of God, radically impacted my life. He scribbled on the wet cement of my life when I was in my twenties. I have never recovered.

With this in mind, I dedicate this *Getting to Know God and His Word Study Guide*, in honor of my grandfather in the faith – Derek Prince.

Thank you Lord, for allowing the teaching influence of this humble, brilliant man of God to cross my path. As another generation arises and now studies these particular notes of mine, as I did Derek Prince's many books and outlines, may concrete be poured into their lives as well. To God be the glory!

Dr. James W. Goll
Encounters Network

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Preface: Getting to Know God and His Word

This *Getting to Know God and His Word Study Guide* comes from my own heart's desire to know my Lord better. Though it is my fifteenth manual, perhaps it should have been my first. These teachings help us with the ABC's. Our goal in life is to know God and to make Him known. I encourage you as you approach this subject of knowing the nature of God, look deeply – not just at the surface level. And, hunger for the things of God, the truth of God, and for God Himself.

The study guide is divided into two sections. The first section is called **To Know Him Is to Love Him**. We'll first look at "God as our Father." What a privilege to be a son or daughter of God. But, if that is the case, then He must be a Father. This section alone could transform your life! Come on a journey and bask in the light of God as Father! Next, we'll look at "Jesus – The Messiah". He is our Master, Savior, Deliverer, and our Messiah! In these lessons you will get a peek at who Christ Jesus really is, and as a result you will love Him all the more. Lastly, we will learn about our personal tutor – "The Person of the Holy Spirit". It takes God to know God, and you can't have enough of the Holy Spirit! We complete this section by getting to know the third person of the Trinity at a deeper level.

The second section is simply called **Knowing God by Knowing His Word**. In it we see the need to lay a firm foundation. We then take time to learn about the origin, effectiveness, and power of God's Word.

In our quest to know our Master, there are many courses to enroll in. Surely being devoted to the study of scripture, a life of worship and prayer, walking in forgiveness, and soaking in His great love are some of the classes we each need to learn from along the way. Let us learn about the nature of God and thus be transformed into His image.

You will find *Reflection Questions* at the end of each lesson and the corresponding answers in the back of the manual. This study guide is prepared to help you know the Lord of Hosts and walk in His nature. Let it be for the glory of God!

Blessings to You!

James W. Goll

Section One:

**To Know Him
Is to Love Him**

Lesson One:

God as Our Personal Father

In the beginning of these lessons on *Getting to Know God and His Word*, it is important that we lay a firm foundation. The depth and the strength of the foundation determine what can be built upon it. There is a fixed relationship between the strength of the foundation and the size and permanence of its structure.

Psalms 11:3 states, *“If the foundations are destroyed what can the righteous do?”* This is a question that must be asked and answered sufficiently. Whether you are “investigating the Christian faith,” a “new believer in Christ” or have been a “true disciple” for scores of years, it behooves us each to make sure our foundation is solid!

Therefore, I welcome you into this study, where we will learn to become an authentic follower of the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us make sure our foundation is firm.

I. THE UNFOLDING REVELATION OF GOD

A. A God Who Can Be Encountered

“Moses said to God, ‘Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they say to me, ‘What is His Name?’ What shall I say to them?’” (Exodus 3:13)

This question has been asked throughout the ages by all truth seekers. “Who are You?” “What is Your Name?!”

“And God said to Moses, ‘I AM WHO I AM.’ And He said, ‘Thus shall you say to the children of Israel, I AM has sent me to you.’” (Exodus 3:14)

Part of the amazing revelation stated here is that God is always “present tense.” He is not just the God of the past or “history.” He is I AM! In fact, ponder on the thought, “I AM has sent me to you.” This is who He is. He is approachable. God is personal. He is now. He is here and wants a living, vibrant relationship with you! He is God who can be and wants to be encountered.

B. The Many Names of God

Every Name of God reveals another aspect of His nature to mankind. Every new encounter reveals another characteristic of who He really

is. Each one of these Names, though, only make up a tiny portion of who God is.

As we bring these many different expressions of who He is together, we see a greater composition of His attributes and greatness.

Consider the following Names of God:

1. Jehovah Jireh – Genesis 22:14 – The Lord Will Provide
 2. Jehovah Nissi – Exodus 17:15 – The Lord Is My Banner
 3. Jehovah Shalom – Judges 6:24 – The Lord Is Peace
 4. Jehovah Tsidkenu – Jeremiah 23:6, 33:16 – The Lord Our Righteousness
 5. Jehovah Rapha – Exodus 15:26 – The Lord Our Healer
 6. Jehovah Shammah – Ezekiel 48:35 – The Lord Is Present
 7. Jehovah Rophe – Psalms 23:1 – The Lord Is Our Shepherd
 8. Holy One of Israel – Psalms 71:22
 9. The Judge – Genesis – 18:25
 10. Eternal God – Deuteronomy 33:27
 11. Almighty – Genesis 17:1
 12. Fortress – II Samuel 22:2
 13. The Lord – Exodus 6:3
 14. Living God – Joshua 3:10
 15. Lord of Hosts – I Samuel 1:11
 16. Lord of Lords – Duet. 10:17
 17. Lord of Sabaoth – Romans 9:29, James 5:4
 18. Our Strength – Exodus 15:2
 19. Most High – Deuteronomy 32:8
 20. Father of Lights – James 1:17
- (and many more!)

C. The Greatest Revelation of All

Perhaps the greatest Name and this revelation of who God is, comes from His inner most being – His heart. Yes, He is our Creator. Yes, He is El Shaddai. But the Lord God Almighty is our Father.

Paul, the bondservant of our Lord Jesus Christ, reveals this to us in his opening remarks in his epistle to the church at Ephesus. *“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”* (II Corinthians 1:2). But this revelation of who God is unfolds even more in Ephesians 3:14, 15. *“For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named.”* Ponder it. Reflect. Pause...

God wants a family. God desires fellowship. Therefore, He reveals Himself as our Father.

II. IN BOTH THE OLD AND THE NEW

A. From the Old Covenant

1. Deuteronomy 32:6 – Is He not your Father?
2. Psalms 68:5-6
3. Psalms 103:13
4. Isaiah 9:6 – His Name shall be called
5. Isaiah 6:8 – Thou art our Father
6. Malachi 2:10 – One Father

B. From the New Covenant

1. Matthew 7:11 – How much more?
2. Matthew 23:9 – For One is your Father
3. Luke 11:2 – When you pray say
4. John 1:14 – Begotten of the Father
5. I Corinthians 8:5-6 – One God, the Father
6. Ephesians 4:6 – One God and Father
7. Philippians 2:11 – To the glory
8. Hebrews 12:9 – Father of spirits
9. I Peter 1:17 – Address as Father
10. Revelation 1:6 – Priests to His God

III. THE PURPOSE OF JESUS

A. John 14:6-9 – Show Us the Father

Jesus came to reveal God's Fatherhood and Himself as the Way to Him.

“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him.’ Philip said to Him, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”

B. John 14:28 – To Reveal the Greater One

Jesus depicts His relationship as a Son to a Father. He points to another.

“You heard that I said to you, ‘I go away, and I will come to you.’ If you loved Me, you would have rejoiced because I go to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.”

C. John 14:2-3 – To Prepare a Place

Jesus came to prepare a place for us in the Father's House. Just as Jesus came from the bosom of the Father (John 1:18), so He returns to the Father. But we are now invited to go be where Jesus dwells!

"In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also."

D. John 17:4-6

Jesus came from a place of glory. He came to reveal the Name of God and glorify God on the earth. Notice the relationship of the Father and the Son portrayed here with deep passion and yearning.

"I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do. Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. I have manifested Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world; they were Yours and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word."

E. John 17:24-26

Jesus cries out to His Father that His disciples would see His glory. He wants them to partake of His love and to be with Him.

"Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, although the world has not known You, yet I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me; and I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."

IV. THE PURPOSE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

A. John 16:13-15 – To Reveal the Son and the Father

"But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you."

1. The Holy Spirit does not speak on His own initiative.
2. He guides us into truth.
3. He speaks of things yet to come.
4. He glorifies Jesus at all times.
5. He reveals the Father to us.

B. Romans 8:14-17 – The Spirit of Adoption

“For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God.”

1. A mature son or daughter follows the leading of the Holy Spirit.
2. The Spirit of Adoption releases a conviction, a cry, and an awareness within us for our need for the Father.
3. The Holy Spirit confirms to us that we are heirs with Christ and children of God our Father.

V. THE AMAZING LOVE OF GOD

A. I John 3:1 – Behold, the Love of God

See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

B. John 3:16 – God So Loved the World

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”

Compare the following verses:

1. I John 4:9, 18
2. Romans 8:31, 32
3. Romans 8:38, 39

C. I John 5:7 – The Three Are One!

For there are three that testify.

VI. THE FATHER'S BLESSING

A. The Need We Each Have

There are no perfect individuals on earth. There are no perfect families on earth. There are no perfect fathers. Even the best are a dim mirror of the true eternal Father – God in heaven that loves us! Why is this? My personal thoughts are that we are created to need God! We are created to need a “Father’s Love” and a “Father’s Blessing” that ultimately only He can fill. There are no grandchildren in the Kingdom of God. The best mentors and examples of the faith should always be used to direct us to another. One who is superior. One who is great. One who is worthy of our worship and praise. We each have the need for our Father’s love and blessing.

B. God Used Human Vessels Representing Himself

In the Book of Genesis, we are given an example where the patriarchal, or Father’s, blessing is passed on.

Genesis 49 tells us of Israel’s (formerly Jacob) blessing being given to his sons. Each blessing was distinct. Each was individual. Each was a prophetic act. Earlier in Genesis 27 we are shown another picture of the father’s blessing being given. This time it was from Isaac to Jacob and Esau. Esau was the firstborn, but Jacob deceived his father and stole the firstborn son’s blessing. Once it was given, it could not be revoked!

C. Today God Uses Imperfect Vessels

Each of us has been created with the need of a Father’s love and blessing. For many of us, we have had poor earthly models. Every child born into this world cries out for the love of a father. When received, this impacts acceptance and security. When denied, it leads to rejection. This is the single greatest root cause of emotional and demonic problems in a person’s life. Rejection tends to perpetuate itself in a vicious circle from one generation to the next. But this changes through the completed work of the cross of Jesus Christ. Jesus came to introduce us to “Our Father.” Through relationship with Him this need and void can be filled. (See other lessons in the study guide *The Healing Anointing* on “God’s Remedy for Rejection” and “Healing of the Wounded Spirit” for more on this subject.)

As you seek God’s face He will also bring into your life vessels to impart the Father’s love to you. Honor is a key that releases this heavenly grace through earthen vessels. Drink from the deep wells of pioneers who have gone before you. Receive His love and acceptance through cracked clay pots in Christ’s Name.

D. Receive the Father's Love

1. Now open your heart and freely receive the love of God the Father through Jesus Christ His Son.
2. Receive the love of God the Father through a relationship with the Word of God!
3. Receive the love of God the Father through soaking in the Holy Spirit's presence.
4. Receive the love of God the Father through reading the lessons of Church history and about leaders who have known the depths of His amazing love.
5. Receive the love of God the Father by redemptively gleaning glimpses of His shadow through your earthly family members.
6. Receive the love of God the Father by honoring the anointing of the Holy Spirit upon veterans of the faith. Drink deeply!
7. Receive the blessing and love of God!

E. It Happens by Revelation!

1. Read II Kings 1 and 2 where it depicts the life of Elijah and Elisha. Especially note II Kings 2:9-14. Elisha cries out, *"My Father, my Father!"*
2. The prophet Malachi promises us a last day move of God where the Holy Spirit would restore the *"hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers."* (Malachi 4:6)

Let it begin! Let it come forth in fullness! Receive God as Your Father!

Reflection Questions

Lesson One: God as Our Personal Father

Answers can be found in the back of the study guide.

1. God is not just the God of the _____; He is _____ and wants to be _____.
2. Every _____ of God reveals another aspect of His _____.
3. Jesus came to earth to show us _____.
4. We are created to need a Father's _____ and _____.
5. God uses _____ to represent Himself.
6. Reflect on what your earthly model(s) of a father have shown and have not shown you about God the Father. Write some of these good representations and also misrepresentations of Father God below. Then rate how accurate you feel your perception of God the Father is on a scale of 1 to 10.

Continued on the next page.

8. Choose one of the Names of God listed in Section I, B (Jehovah Jireh, Jehovah Nissi, etc.). Read the Biblical context in which that Name of God was used to reveal a certain part of His character. Then think about one experience in your own life where God revealed a particular part of His character to you. Write below a name that could summarize who God was to you in that situation. (For example, if God showed Himself strong on your behalf during a time of weakness, He would be “God, my Strength.”)

About the Author

Dr. James W. Goll is the President of God Encounters Ministries, formerly known as Encounters Network, and has founded numerous ministries including Prayer Storm and Women on the Frontlines. He is a member of the Harvest International Ministries apostolic team and an instructor in the Wagner Leadership Institute and Christian Leadership University.

With great joy James has shared Jesus in more than 50 nations teaching and imparting the power of intercession, prophetic ministry, and life in the Spirit.

James is the prolific author of numerous books including *The Seer*, *The Lost Art of Intercession*, *The Coming Israel Awakening*, *Finding Hope*, and the award winning *The Lifestyle of a Prophet*. He has recorded multiple classes with corresponding study guides and full curriculum kits.

In the spirit of revival and reformation, James desires to facilitate unity in body of Christ by relationally networking with leaders of various denominational streams. His passion is to “win for the Lamb the rewards of His suffering.” Praying for Israel is a burden of his heart, as Israel fulfills her role in the consummation of the ages.

James and Michal Ann were married for 32 years before her graduation to heaven in the fall of 2008. James has four adult children who are all married: Justin, GraceAnn, Tyler, and Rachel and a growing number of grandchildren. James makes his home in the rolling hills of Franklin, TN.

For More Information & Additional Resources:

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God's Supernatural Power in You
The Reformer's Pledge
Prayer Changes Things
Passionate Pursuit: Getting to Know God and His Word
Finding Hope – Rediscovering Life after Tragedy
Releasing Spiritual Gifts Today
Hearing God's Voice Today

In addition, there are numerous study guides including: *Discovering the Seer in You*, *Exploring the Gift and Nature of Dreams*, *Prayer Storm*, *A Radical Faith*, *Deliverance from Darkness*, *Walking in the Supernatural Life*, *Finding Hope for Your Life* and many others with corresponding classes and curriculum kits.



GOD ENCOUNTERS MINISTRIES

with James W. Goll



God Encounters Ministries started around twenty-five years ago in Missouri, originally called Ministry to the Nations. It was a natural - supernatural overflow of the relationship that James and Michal Ann Goll had with Jesus and each other. After moving to the Nashville, TN area in 1996, the ministry was renamed Encounters Network. Through the years the heart and core values of the ministry have remained exactly the same!

Now we are reaching more people than ever with the gospel of Jesus, teaching and imparting the power of prophetic ministry, intercession and life in the Spirit. We believe that God Encounters are for everyone! So visit our website and deepen your walk with God today!

For more info, visit: GodEncounters.com



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