

What Does God Want?

Disciple copy — Pleasant Springs Church, Discipleship School

Name: _____ Date: _____

The full six-lesson series: ps-church.com/discipleship/what-does-god-want

The question under every other question

What does God actually want from me?

Most of us answer it like a demand: he wants me to _____, to show up, to stop.

The Bible's answer is three words long: God wants _____.

1 • He made you to be like him — on purpose

Genesis 1:26–27 (ESV) — "Then God said, 'Let us make man **in our image**, after our likeness. And let them have dominion...' So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."

⚠ The text is closer to **purpose** than possession: God made humanity **to** _____ **him** — to represent him and run his world on his behalf.

➤ It is a _____, **not a component.**

Job 38:4–7 (ESV) — "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?... when the morning stars sang together and all the **sons of God** shouted for joy?"

There was already a _____ household singing at the foundation. God made a second one, out of _____, on purpose.

► **Not because he was lonely. He made us to _____ us, and to have us enjoy him.**

► **You are wanted before you are _____.**

2 • What went wrong — and what God did next

Genesis 3:8–9 (ESV) — "And they heard the sound of the LORD God **walking in the garden** in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves... But the LORD God **called** to the man and said to him, '**Where are you?**'"

⚠ The first thing God does after the worst thing that has ever happened is go for a _____ and _____ for the man.

He already knows where Adam is. The question is not for God's information — it is an _____.

► **Everything after Genesis 3 is God getting his _____ back.**

3 • He picks one family to reach every family

Genesis 12:1–3 (ESV) — "Now the LORD said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you... and in you **all the families of the earth** shall be blessed.'"

⚠ Choosing Abraham is **not** God losing interest in everyone else. The stated purpose of the choice is _____ .

➤ Election is a _____ , **not a members' club**.

4 • And then he comes himself

John 1:14 (ESV) — "And the Word became flesh and **dwelt** among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."

The word behind "dwelt" is the _____ word — he pitched his tent among us.

5 • So what does he want from me?

Mark 1:14–15 (ESV) — "...The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; **repent and believe** in the gospel."

That word "believe." In modern English it usually means agreeing something is true — *I believe Paris is in France*. You can believe that and never move a _____ .

⚠ The New Testament word describes the trust you place in a **covenant partner** — trust that produces _____ .

➤ The series calls it _____ .

Romans 1:5 (ESV) — "...to bring about the **obedience of faith** for the sake of his name among all the nations."

Not obedience *instead of* faith. Not faith *without* obedience. **Allegiance to a risen Lord.**

But hear this before you hear anything else:

Ephesians 2:8–10 (ESV) — "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the **gift** of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus **for** good works..."

⚠ **Read the preposition.** Created _____ good works. The works are what the gift _____ — never what it _____.

➤ **You are not buying a seat at the table. You are being _____, and then you start behaving like family.**

6 • What it is all for

Revelation 21:3–4 (ESV) — "Behold, the **dwelling place** of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes..."

Same verb as John 1:14. He pitched his tent among us at Bethlehem; he pitches it among us _____ at the end.

Revelation 19:9 (ESV) — "Blessed are those who are invited to the **marriage supper** of the Lamb."

The last picture is an invitation to a _____. Not an inspection. Not a ledger.

1 John 3:1 (ESV) — "See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; **and so we are.**"

Not "and so we might be if we keep it up." **And so we** _____ .

Three things to remember

1. You are wanted before you are _____ .
 2. " _____ ?" was not an interrogation — it is what God does after the worst thing happens.
 3. Faith means believing _____ — and it is a **gift**, not a payment.
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Closing prayer

Father, thank you that you did not make us because you needed us, but because you wanted us. Thank you that when we hid, you came looking, and when we could not come back, you came yourself. Take from us the idea that we are tolerated, and give us instead the settled loyalty of people who know whose house they are in. Make us imagers of you where we live, this week. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

Take it further — the full series

Working through **Michael S. Heiser**, *What Does God Want?* (Blind Spot Press, 2018). All scripture in **Septuagint (LXX)** and **ESV** side by side.

Lesson	What it covers
1 God Wanted a Family	Why we exist; the supernatural family and the human one; imagers
2 What Went Wrong	The fall, the loss of the family, and why God did not give up
3 God Picks One Family	Abraham to Israel — one line as a rescue mission for the world
4 Jesus — God With Us	Incarnation, cross, resurrection: how the family is bought back
5 Believing Loyalty	What faith actually is — allegiance, not bare mental assent
6 The Family Restored Forever	New heavens and new earth; the marriage supper of the Lamb

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The honest sentence I would not say out loud

"I think God mostly wants me to _____."

Where did that come from?

My notes

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