



STUDY GUIDE: January 11, 2026

Message Series: Unwritten
Message Title: You Can Know God
Teaching Pastor: Brian Hughes

Warm-up/Icebreaker: (10 min.)

Are you a “read the manual first” person or a “figure it out as I go” person? What’s the most complicated thing you’ve ever tried to assemble without instructions—or that you definitely needed instructions for?

Pray:

Dear God, thank You for being the Designer of our lives and not leaving us to figure things out on our own. Thank You for making a way for us to know You personally through Jesus. As we open Scripture and talk together, help us hear Your voice clearly. Give us open hearts, humility, and a desire to follow Your instruction. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Get Started: (30 min.)

Read Matthew 27:51. Hebrews 10:19–23.

- What do you think God was communicating through that moment, and why is it significant that God—not people—tore the curtain?
- What tends to make you hesitate or pull back from God—and how does this passage invite you to come closer?

“Before Jesus’ intervention - his sacrifice for us - a human high priest had to stand between us and God, but now Jesus Christ - God Himself - IS our High priest. So, the writer says, let us go right on into the presence of God. No more curtain...no more divide. That’s great news. We can encounter God with no one standing in our way. And we can know God personally, because Jesus clearly told us this: He said, “Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.” (John 14:9, NIV) Jesus’ mission was to offer us a pathway to personally know God and the pathway was him. To know Jesus is to know God.” -Pastor Brian Hughes

- How does focusing on Jesus simplify the idea of “knowing God”?

Reflect and Commit: (40 min.)

Read Hebrews 10:24–25.

- Why do you think our faith doesn’t fully function in isolation?
- What makes it tempting to drift away from gathering together?

"What comes to our mind with the word meeting is NOT what this writer had in his mind. What we often think of as a waste of time, he envisions time well spent, because he's not thinking of a meeting. He sees a dynamic, powerful, future altering, life giving, legacy building, culture shaping, soul filling, world changing Jesus focusing movement that learns, encourages, prays, worships, gives, grows and inspires....TOGETHER. That's the key word here - not meeting, which really isn't translated well - but together. In case you haven't caught on yet, we're talking about the weekly gathering that we call church. THIS is KEY to God's plan for you to know him and for Him to give you the instruction for your life direction." -Pastor Brian Hughes

Four critical components that your commitment to church will give you:

1. Inspiration
2. Connection
3. Conviction
4. Instruction

- Which one of these church components stands out to you the most and why?
- How has being part of the church inspired you—and helped you stay connected to Jesus rather than just motivated on your own?
- Based on today's message, what is one specific action or adjustment God may be asking you to make this week?

Read John 15:5.

- How does this verse challenge you in light of this study?

"Let's recommit to giving God our lives, and our trust and our time and our energy and our devotion, surrendering our whole lives to him, and in return, as we gather, getting the step by step instructions we need to move our lives exactly where he has called us to go, and to become who He is calling us to be." -Pastor Brian Hughes

Gather prayer requests. (5-10 min.)

Pray:

Dear Lord God, thank You for tearing down every barrier that once kept us from You. Help us stay connected to You and to one another, trusting Your design and Your timing. Give us the courage to make gathering together a priority, not an afterthought. Lead us step by step as we follow You and become who You've called us to be. In Jesus' name, Amen.