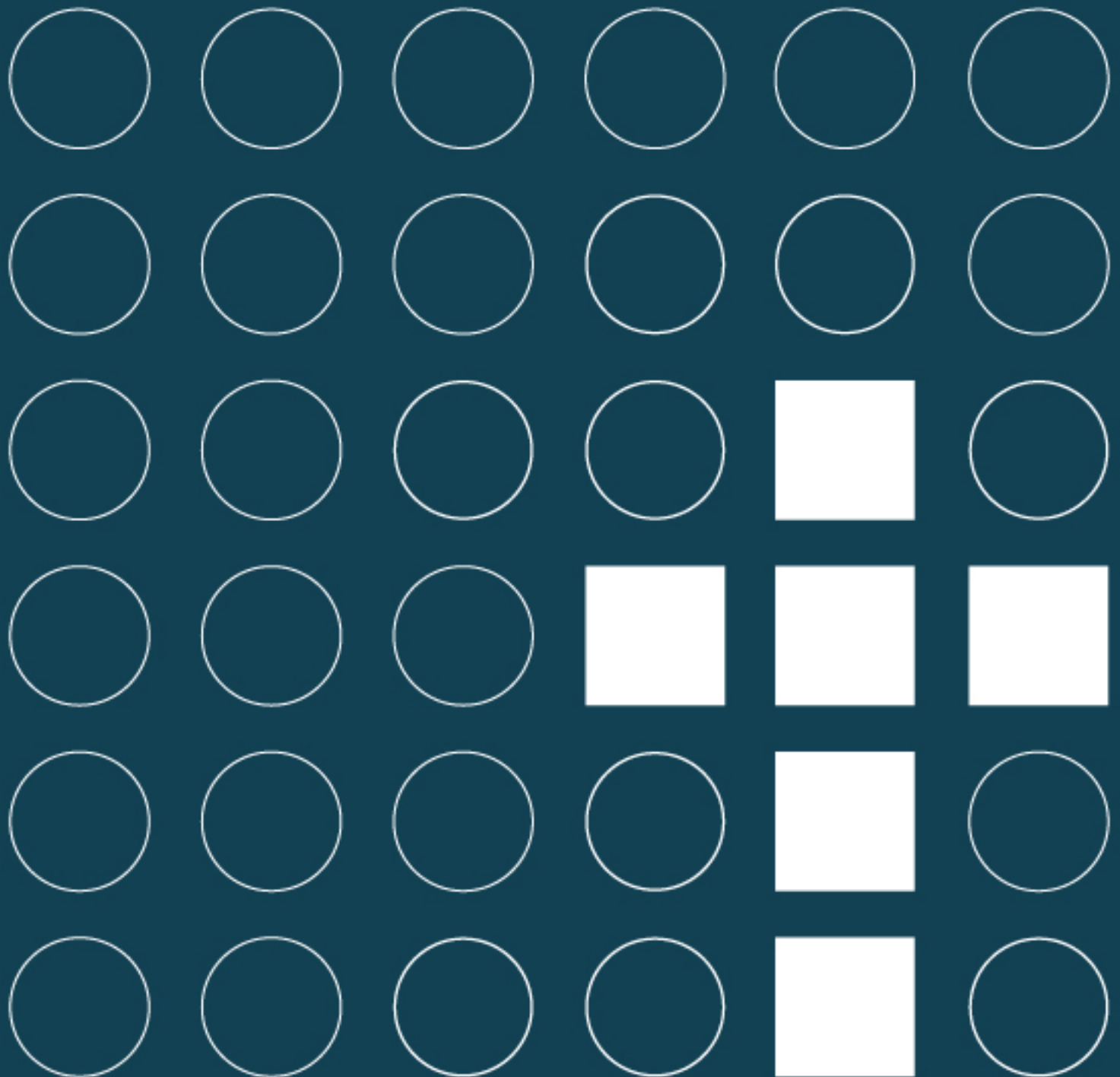


90
DAY

THEOLOGY

8 ESSENTIAL DOCTRINES WHICH INFLUENCE OUR THINKING + OUR LIVING



GROWTH **GROUPS**

A HIGHPOINT RESOURCE

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All Scripture is from the English Standard Version unless otherwise noted.

First Edition | 2022

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introduction

the-ol-o-gy

the study of God

¹⁶ Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers. - 1 Timothy 4:16 (NIV)

Understanding biblical theology is as important as ever given our culture today. Culture says, “you do you.” But is this what God says?

Theology is more than how to think; it’s about how to live. Theology involves orthodoxy and orthopraxy, beliefs and behavior. This is why Paul says, “*watch your life and doctrine closely.*”

In other words, what we believe about God should inform and influence every aspect of our everyday lives – at home, at church, and with culture.

But theology is more than belief and behavior. The goal of theology is not just a deeper knowledge about God, but rather to know God more deeply and love God increasingly. And from our love for God, we live for God.

1 Corinthians 8 warns about knowledge without love.

¹ This “knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up. ² If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know.

³ But if anyone loves God, he is known by God.

1 Corinthians 8:1-3

The Pharisees had knowledge but lacked love for God and people.

⁷ You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said:

⁸ “‘This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; ⁹ in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’”

Matthew 15:7-9

The Pharisees prided themselves in superior knowledge and strict legalism, yet their hearts were far from the Lord. In their self-righteousness they lacked love for those who were around them. May that not be true of us.

Beyond developing deeper biblical convictions, this study will encourage deeper relationships with God, with each other, and with Highpoint Church.

FOCUS OF THIS STUDY

90-Day Theology will focus both on biblical theology and applied theology. It is based on the statement of faith of Highpoint Church which focuses on eight essential doctrines –

- The Bible - *bibliology*
- God – *theology proper*
- Jesus - *Christology*
- Holy Spirit - *pneumatology*
- Human Condition - *hamartiology*
- Salvation - *soteriology*
- Church - *ecclesiology*
- End Times – *eschatology*

These are essential doctrines of the Christian faith. But there are many non-essentials doctrines as well. With essentials, conviction. With non-essentials, liberty. But in all things, love. When there is disagreement, disagree respectfully. Avoid needless arguments. Show honor to others in your Group – including your Group leader.

We are matured to multiply (2 Timothy 2:2). Perhaps you have an understanding of theology already. If so, as you go through this study consider these five questions:

- Do I *know* this?
- Do I *understand* this?
- Do I *believe* this?
- Am I *able to teach* it to others?
- Am I *teaching* it to others?

FORMAT OF THIS STUDY

Each section follows this pattern for each topic –

- Statement of Faith – *Read the statement for understanding.*
- Personal Bible Study – *Study the verses from the Statement of Faith to prepare for your Growth Group.*
- Theology training – *Video training for your group time is at www.highpoint.church.*
- Group Discussion – *Questions to facilitate group discussion and application.*

FLOW OF YOUR GROUP

A healthy Growth Group manages time effectively and engages with each group member. This is an example of how to balance time for a 90-minute Growth Groups.

SHARE: Introduction (20 minutes)

- Briefly connect with each other; i.e., share a high or low from the week
- Share reflections from your personal Bible study; come prepared to share

STUDY: Group Discussion (30 minutes – 10 video, 20 discussion)

- Watch the Theology video together and take notes
- Interactive discussion - follow the discussion questions provided
- Follow the 80/20 principle – the leader talks 20%; group members talk 80%
- Emphasize personal application, not only increased knowledge

SUPPORT: Accountability and Prayer (30 minutes)

- Married or mixed gender groups: divide into smaller gender-based groups for appropriate accountability and prayer.
- To become like Jesus, encourage each other to self-assess and specific life application.
- Follow up to previous week commitments.
- Model and encourage honest sharing.
- Pray together; don't just share requests.
- Each person should feel supported in prayer in the group time and throughout the week.

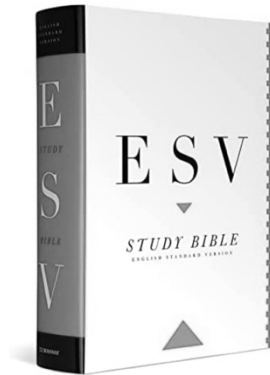
SOCIAL: Food and Fellowship

- Begin or end the group with snacks and informal interaction

NOTE: Build rhythms into your group for taking a week off from the normal format to serve together or gather socially with one another. Also, consider the church calendar to prioritize time for whole church events even it means taking a week off.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

The more you prepare and participate, the more you will benefit from this study.

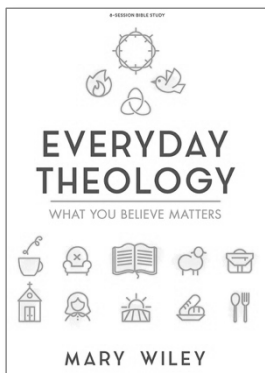


The ESV Study Bible is the primary resource to supplement this study.

You are encouraged to purchase this edition of the Bible.

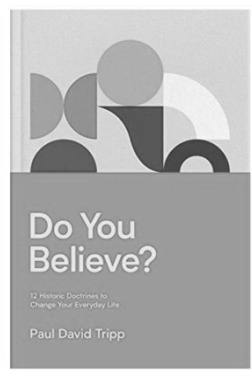
This resource will help you get the most out of this study – including providing helpful insights for the personal Bible study and additional notes in the appendix for each area of doctrine.

In addition to the ESV Study Bible, these are recommended resources to enhance your study.



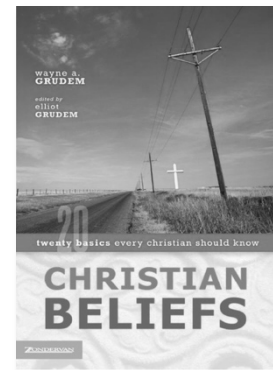
EVERYDAY THEOLOGY
Mary Wiley
Lifeway, 2019

A devotional workbook that emphasizes personal study and group discussion.



DO YOU BELIEVE?
Paul David Tripp
Crossway, 2021

This book connects biblical instruction with personal transformation.



CHRISTIAN BELIEFS
Wayne Grudem
Zondervan, 2005

A short but helpful book that explains complex topics in simple ways.



BibleProject

bibleproject.com

Helping people experience the Bible as a unified story that leads to Jesus.

This website contains animated videos, Bible reading plans, Bible studies, a blog, podcast, and more.

HIGHPOINT CHURCH

STATEMENT OF FAITH

GOD

We believe there is one living and true God, who is the Creator, Preserver, Redeemer, and Ruler of the universe. He is infinitely perfect in every way and eternally exists as three persons: The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit. This relationship is known as the Trinity and these three persons are one God, and each possesses fully the same nature, attributes, and perfections of deity. We are to give him our praise and worship because of who He is and what He has done.

Genesis 1:1; Psalm 90:2; 95; 100; Isaiah 6:1-3; 40:12-28; 45:5-7; Jeremiah 10:10; Matthew 28:19-20; John 17:3; Acts 17:24-25; Romans 11:33-36; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 John 3:20.

JESUS CHRIST

We believe Jesus Christ, the second Person of the Trinity, is the eternal Son of God. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. We believe He is the manifestation of God in the flesh. He is fully God and fully man. We believe He lived a sinless life of perfect obedience to the law of God and through His death on the cross made provision for the salvation of sinful people. We believe He was raised from the dead with a glorified body, ascended into heaven where He rules over the universe and intercedes for His people, and will one day return visibly to the earth.

Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 24:13-43; John 1:1-4, 14-18; 10:30; 14:8-11; Romans 8:34; 1 Corinthians 15:3-8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Acts 1:3; 9-11; Colossians 1:15-22; 2:9-10; Titus 2:13-14; Hebrews 1:1-6; 7:20-26; 1 Peter 2:21-24.

THE BIBLE

We believe that the Scriptures of the Old Testament and New Testament are God's revelation of Himself to mankind. We believe the 66 books of the Bible were written by human authors under the supernatural guidance and inspiration of the Holy Spirit and are entirely true without error in their original writings. The Scripture is God's Word being complete and sufficient as the supreme and final authority for the total well-being of mankind.

Psalm 119:9-24, 89-105, 160-176; Matthew 5:17-18; John 5:46-47; John 10:35; Romans 15:4; 2 Timothy 3:14-16; Titus 1:1-3; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Jude 3

HUMAN CONDITION

We believe that God created mankind in His own image and for His own glory as the crowning work of His creation. However, man sinned against God and thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death which is separation from God. This spiritual death has been transmitted to the entire human race (except for Jesus Christ) with the result that every person is born with a sinful nature that rebels against God and is under condemnation.

Genesis 1:26-28; 3; Psalm 8:3-8; 14:1-3; 51:3-6; Isaiah 59:1-3, Jeremiah 17:9, Romans 3:23; 5:12, 19; 6:23; Galatians 3:22; Ephesians 2:1-3

SALVATION

We believe in the good news of the gospel that those who turn from their sin in repentance and place their faith in Jesus Christ as their personal Savior are justified and declared "not guilty" of their sin receiving the gift of eternal life. This

salvation is acquired through faith alone apart from any good or religious works and is based entirely on the death of Jesus Christ on the cross as their substitute. We believe that Christ's resurrection demonstrated God's full acceptance of His death as payment for their sin and foreshadows the final resurrection of all those who believe.

Isaiah 53:2-6; John 3:16-19; 36; 14:6; Acts 4:12; Romans 4:24-25; 5:1-2, 6-11; 6:23; 8:1-2; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Galatians 3:24-28; Ephesians 2:8-9; Colossians 1:13-14; Titus 3:5-8

THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Trinity, comes to live in those who turn to Jesus Christ in repentance and faith and as they live in obedience to God He empowers them to gradually overcome the power of sin and become like Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit guides, instructs, fills, and comforts those who have turned to Jesus Christ as they have become children of God. We believe the Holy Spirit bestows spiritual gifts on each individual to edify and build up the body of Christ.

Mark 13:11; John 14:15-17, 26; 15:26-27; 16:7-14; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 12:4-5, 11-13; Galatians 5:16; Ephesians 1:1-13-14; 5:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:19

THE CHURCH

We believe in the one, universal Church made up of all who have trusted in Christ, who is the Head of the Church, which is His body. We also believe in the local church, which is an autonomous, local congregation of baptized believers who gather for worship, teaching, spiritual growth, service, fellowship, and observance of the ordinances of baptism and communion. The local church operates under the Lordship of Christ and is governed by elders who are assisted by deacons. It grows as each partner serves the body using the spiritual gifts given to them by the Holy Spirit,

resulting in maturity, unity, and glory to God. Christ has commissioned the church and its individual partners to spread the Gospel throughout the world.

Matthew 16:16-19; Acts 2:41-47; 20:28; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 3:20-21; 4:11-16; 5:23; Colossians 3:12-17; 1 Timothy 3

We believe that the Lord Jesus has given the local church two ordinances: baptism and communion. All who have received Christ as Savior should be baptized by immersion as a symbolic testimony of their participation in the death and resurrection of Christ. Likewise, believers should regularly partake in communion as a symbolic remembrance of Christ's death and as a testimony of our fellowship and our unity as the body of Christ.

Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2:41-42; 1 Corinthians 11:23-32

THE LAST DAYS

We believe that at God's appointed time, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly to the earth and establish His kingdom. We believe in the bodily resurrection of believers and unbelievers. At final judgment, unbelievers will be separated forever from God in a place of everlasting punishment because of their rejection of Jesus Christ. Believers, in their resurrected bodies, will live in God's glorious presence as they worship and serve Him forever.

Matthew 8:11-12; 10:28; 13:49-50; 25:31-46; Mark 9:47-48; Luke 12:5; John 14:3; Acts 1:6-11; 1 Corinthians 15:20-26; Philippians 3:20-21; 1 Thessalonians 3:13; 5:23-24; 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10; Hebrews 9:27-28; 2 Peter 3:7-13; Revelation 19:11-21; 20-22).



GROWTH GROUP GROUP COMMITMENT

*Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith ...
Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering ...
And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,
not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but
encouraging one another ...*

Hebrews 10:22-25

In Growth Groups we grow in our relationship with God and with each other. We meet together to draw near to God, to hold fast to God's Word, and to encourage love and good works in one another.

Together, we commit to:

- Support, care, encourage and pray for others in the group understanding this is a team-effort, not only the responsibility of the leader.
- Prioritize participation in the Growth Group, including contacting the group leader if unable to attend.
- Be a safe and shame-free environment to share honestly. We will keep confidences and refuse to gossip about others in the group. We understand the leader may need to consult with a Highpoint staff member and we trust his/her discernment.
- Be gracious. We will extend grace to others as God has extended to us.
- Show respect. We will be respectful of others in the group and will listen to and love each other.
- Welcome all people. As our group grows, we will multiply the group.
- Let the group leader facilitate the discussion and lead the direction on the group.



GROUP DISCUSSION | INTRODUCTION

1. Do you think it matters what we believe – personally and as a church? Explain.
2. What are you hoping to benefit from this Growth Group and through this study?
3. What emotions do you feel about starting a study on theology?
4. Read 1 Timothy 4:16. Summarize and explain this verse in your own words.
5. What is the danger of growing in knowledge but not love for God and others? How can we guard against developing self-righteous pride during this study?
6. Read through the Group Commitment together. Why is it important to show respect to others – including those you might disagree with? Explain.
7. How would you like to see our group go deeper in the Lord and with each other?
8. Beyond theology, how can we care and pray for you?

MEMORY VERSE

Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers. - 1 Timothy 4:16 (NIV)

THE BIBLE

We believe that the Scriptures of the Old Testament and New Testament are God's revelation of Himself to mankind. We believe the 66 books of the Bible were written by human authors under the supernatural guidance and inspiration of the Holy Spirit and are entirely true without error in their original writings. The Scripture is God's Word being complete and sufficient as the supreme and final authority for the total well-being of mankind.

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY | THE BIBLE

H.E.A.R. GOD'S WORD

Highlight - *what does the text say?*

Explain - *what does the text mean?*

Apply – *what does the text mean for me?*

Reflect - *how can the text dwell in me?*

In preparation for your Growth Group, H.E.A.R. from God's Word. Read these verses from the Statement of Faith. Mark up the Word. Journal your observations and personal notes.

DAY ONE

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

⁹How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word. ¹⁰With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! ¹¹I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. ¹²Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes! ¹³With my lips I declare all the rules of your mouth. ¹⁴In the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches. ¹⁵I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways. ¹⁶I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word. - Psalm 119:9-16 (see also 17-24, 89-105, 160-176)

¹⁷ "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸ For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. - Matthew 5:17-18

“⁴⁶ For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me. ⁴⁷ But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words?” - John 5:46-47

³⁵ *If he called them gods to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be broken—*
John 10:35

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY | THE BIBLE

⁴ For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. - Romans 15:4

¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. - 2 Timothy 3:14-17

¹ Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness, ² in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began ³ and at the proper time manifested in his word through the preaching with which I have been entrusted by the command of God our Savior - Titus 1:1-3

²⁰ knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. ²¹ For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. - 2 Peter 1:20-21

³ Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints. Jude 3

DAY TWO

DAY THREE

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY | THE BIBLE

Reflect on your personal study of the Bible. Summarize your thoughts to help prepare you for sharing in what you learned with your Growth Group.

What do these verses say about the Bible?

How do these verses challenge your thinking?

How should these verses impact your living?

BEFORE WATCHING THE TEACHING VIDEO,
connecting with each other in your Growth Group.

- Share a high or low from the week
- Share reflections from your personal Bible study

THE BIBLE

1. God's Word is Revelation

Because God reveals Himself, we can know God and have a relationship with Him. Without divine revelation we are left with human speculation like other world religions and humanistic philosophies. But God has chosen to reveal Himself to us in general ways and special ways.

GENERAL REVELATION	SPECIAL REVELATION
Creation	Written Word: The Bible
Conscience	Living Word: Jesus
Common Grace	

A primary way that God continues to reveal Himself to us is through His Word. God's Word is God's words to us about Himself and His work – past, present, future.

We don't read the Bible to know the Bible. We read the Bible to know God. We do not worship the Book. We worship the God the Book reveals

¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

GOD'S WORD IS ...	
_____	<i>All Scripture is breathed out by God</i>
_____	<i>teaching, reproof, correction, and training</i>
_____	<i>complete, equipped for every good work</i>

2. God's Word is Authoritative

AUTHORITATIVE BECAUSE IT IS _____.

¹⁶ *All Scripture is breathed out by God ...* - 2 Timothy 3:16



For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. - 2 Peter 1:21

Verbal, plenary inspiration of Scripture means:

- Verbal – every word chosen by God, every word matters.
- Plenary – every part of the Bible is important
- Inspiration – God-breathed revelation, superintended by the Holy Spirit.

Inspiration is not:

- God and humans collaborating together
- human writing the first draft and God editing
- God dictating words to the human authors

Inspiration is the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit upon human authors that they wrote precisely what God intended them to write to communicate His truth through their own style and personality.

QUICK FACTS ABOUT THE BIBLE

The Bible contains 66 books – 39 Old Testament books, 27 New Testament books.

The Bible was written in three languages over a period of 1,500 years by 40 authors on 3 continents.

The central theme of the Bible is Jesus Christ. The Old Testament points to the coming of Christ, the Gospels to the appearance of Christ, Acts to the preaching of Christ, the Epistles to the body of Christ, and Revelation to the return of Christ.

AUTHORITATIVE BECAUSE IT IS _____.

in-er-rant (adj):

incapable of being wrong, free from error, not erring,
accurate, truthful, trustworthy, reliable

The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever.
Psalm 119:160

Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.
Psalm 18:30

Scripture cannot be broken - John 10:35

Sola Scriptura:

Scripture alone is our highest authority

Most people do not reject the authority of God's Word for intellectual reasons, but rather for willful reasons to not submit to an authority that is not themselves.

Types of Bible Translations

Word-for-Word - ESV, NASB, NKJV

Thought-for-Thought - NIV, NLT

Paraphrase - The Message, The Living Bible

3. God's Word is Relevant

¹⁶ *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness ...* - 2 Timothy 3:16

We do not make the Bible relevant; the Bible is relevant. We do not view the Bible through our circumstances or our culture. We view our circumstances and our culture through the Bible.

RELEVANT FOR _____

God's Word teaches who God is, what God has done, and how to live.

RELEVANT FOR _____

God's Word reproves by pointing to areas in our life that need to change.

RELEVANT FOR _____

God's Word provides course correcting our lives.

RELEVANT FOR _____ IN RIGHTEOUSNESS

God's Word reveals how to become like Jesus.

The truthfulness of God's Word is timeless. It was written in an historical context but relevant to our lives today.

The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever."
1 Peter 1:24-25

IMAGES OF GOD'S WORD

Light - Psalm 119:105	Fire - Jeremiah 5:14
Hammer - Jeremiah 23:29	Sword - Hebrews 4:12
Meat - Hebrews 5:12-14	Seed - 1 Peter 1:23
Milk - 1 Peter 2:2	Mirror - James 1:22-24

4. God's Word is Sufficient

... ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. - 2 Timothy 3:17

SUFFICIENT FOR _____ GOD

We do not know everything about God, but God sufficiently reveals Himself.

SUFFICIENT FOR _____ SALVATION

¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. - 2 Timothy 3:14-15

SUFFICIENT FOR _____ IN SANCTIFICATION

³ His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence - 2 Peter 1:3

¹² For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. - Hebrews 4:12

H.E.A.R. GOD'S WORD

Highlight: *Make personal observations of the Word*


Explain: *Seek to correctly understand the Word*

Apply: *Allow the Word to shape thinking and living*

Reflect: *Meditate on and memorize the Word*

H.E.A.R. GOD'S WORD

Pick a time. Pick a place. Pick a passage. Study the Word to H.E.A.R. from God.

HIGHLIGHT What does the text say?	EXPLAIN What does the text mean?	APPLY How will I apply the text?	RELLECT How will the text dwell in me?
<p>PRAY: <i>"Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law."</i> (Psalm 119:18)</p> <p>AVOID using additional Bible study tools; do not cut corners in this step.</p> <p>IDENTIFY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> key words: emphasized, repeated expressions of time: then, after, until prepositional phrases: in, on, upon cause & effects: if, since, because comparisons & contrasts results: therefore, so that, for this commands: clear action statements <p>MARK UP THE PASSAGE: Write in your Bible. Circle, underline, and highlight. Write in margins.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blue: God, who He is, His character Red: Christ, gospel, salvation Green: God's promises Yellow: commands Black: anything else <p>IDENTIFY a key verse to memorize in each chapter</p> <p>NOTE what is unclear</p>	<p>REFER to an ESV Study Bible for additional study notes, insights, historical background, and more.</p> <p>USE ONLINE RESOURCES to assist with your study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> esvbible.org youversion.com biblegateway.com bibleproject.com <p>RESEARCH THE CONTEXT - Who? When?, Where?, What? Why?</p> <p>IDENTIFY THE GENRE - historical, poetic, prophetic, parable, epistle</p> <p>CHECK cross-references to see how the passage relates to others.</p> <p>COMPARE TRANSLATIONS: refer to NIV, NASB, NKJV to see what is similar, different, or clarified.</p> <p>CONFIRM OR CORRECT your personal observations with additional, trusted sources.</p> <p>DEFINE key words.</p> <p>DISCUSS insights and questions with others</p>	<p>ASK God to SPEAK to you. Are there any ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sins to confess? Promises to claim? Examples to follow? Actions to obey? Knowledge to grow in? <p>Most passages have one or more of the above applications.</p> <p>KNOW. BE. DO.: Consider specific application in three statements "I understand... I am... I will..."</p> <p>EMBRACE what God's Word says is true about your identity.</p> <p>PRACTICE specific application in your</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> life contexts (home, work, community, church) life relationships (spouse, children, extended family, friendships, coworkers). <p>SHARE God's truth with someone else as a way of ministering to them.</p>	<p>RENEW your mind with God's Word.</p> <p>REVIEW the passage over and over for better comprehension and longer retention.</p> <p>PRAY through the passage by personalizing the text back to the Lord.</p> <p>RECITE key verse(s) from memory from each chapter.</p> <p>JOURNAL application, handwrite verses, jot down notes from the text.</p> <p>PONDER a phrase, a verse, a paragraph.</p> <p>LISTEN to the Spirit as you read the Word.</p> <p>DO NOT RUSH this final step in the process of studying God's Word.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>

5 TIPS FOR MEMORIZING GOD'S WORD

1. HANDWRITE the Scripture on an index card.
2. READ IT ALOUD seven times a day for a week.
3. DWELL on it. Think about it. Let it renew your mind.
4. SHARE it with someone else - your Small Group, your spouse, a friend.
5. REVIEW it three times a year and you will have it for life.

GROUP DISCUSSION | THE BIBLE

SHARE: GET TALKING

1. Why does what you believe about God's Word matter?
2. What was most helpful for you in this study?

STUDY: GO DEEPER

3. Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17. Summarize and explain this verse in your own words.
4. Since the Bible is authoritative, how should it influence our thinking and living?
5. How have you experienced God's Word to be relevant in your life?
6. In what ways can you grow in your personal study of God's Word?
7. What does the acronym H.E.A.R. stand for? Explain each element in your words. How can this template help you?

SUPPORT: GROW TOGETHER

8. What is a specific application for you from this study this week?
9. What commitments did you make last week? How is it going?
10. How can we pray for and support you this week? *Share and listen to others. Jot down prayer requests to follow up during the week and at the next group time.*

MEMORY VERSE

¹⁶All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. - 2 Timothy 3:14-16

GOD

We believe there is one living and true God, who is the Creator, Preserver, Redeemer, and Ruler of the universe. He is infinitely perfect in every way and eternally exists as three persons: The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit. This relationship is known as the Trinity and these three persons are one God, and each possesses fully the same nature, attributes, and perfections of deity. We are to give him our praise and worship because of who He is and what He has done.

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY | GOD

H.E.A.R. GOD'S WORD

Highlight - *what does the text say?*

Explain - *what does the text mean?*

Apply – *what does the text mean for me?*

Reflect – *how can the text dwell in me?*

In preparation for your Growth Group, H.E.A.R. from God's Word. Read these verses from the Statement of Faith. Mark up the Word. Journal your observations and personal notes.

DAY ONE

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. – Genesis 1:1

*Before the mountains were brought forth, or
ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.*
- Psalm 90:2

In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. ²Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!" – Isaiah 6:1-3

Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand and marked off the heavens with a span, enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure and weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance? ¹³Who has measured the Spirit of the Lord, or what man shows him his counsel? ¹⁴Whom did he consult, and who made him understand? Who taught him the path of justice, and taught him knowledge, and showed him the way of understanding? – Isaiah 40:12-14

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY | GOD

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. – Matthew 28:1-3

And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. – John 17:3

The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. – Acts 17:24-25

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! ³⁴For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor? ³⁵Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid? ³⁶For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen. – Romans 11:33-36

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. – 2 Corinthians 13:14

...for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. – 1 John 3:20

DAY TWO

DAY THREE

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY | GOD

Reflect on your personal study of God from God's Word. Summarize your thoughts to help prepare you for sharing in what you learned with your Growth Group.

What do these verses say about God?

How do these verses challenge your thinking?

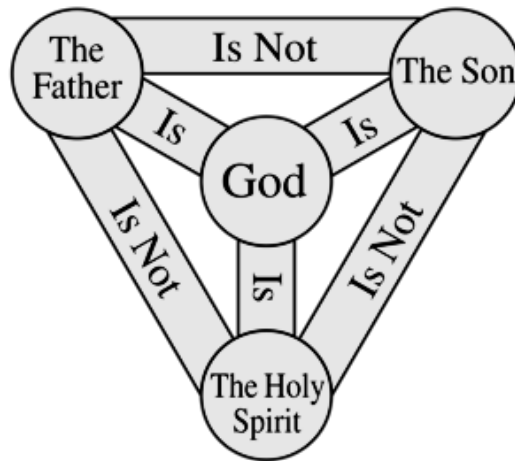
How do these verses impact your living?

BEFORE WATCHING THE TEACHING VIDEO,
connect with each other in your Growth Group.

- Share a high or low from the week
- Share reflections from your personal Bible study

GOD

1. God is Three-in-One



GOD IS _____ PERSONS

God is eternally three Persons, existing in perfect unity and relational harmony.

THE FATHER, THE SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT ARE _____ GOD

Each Person of the Trinity is fully God, yet distinctly three Persons.

THERE IS ONLY _____ TRUE GOD

God is one being, singular in nature and essence, not three separate gods.

THE TRINITY IS NOT:

Polytheism - *many gods*

Tritheism - *three gods*

Arianism - *denying the deity of Jesus and the Holy Spirit*

Modalism - *one person appearing in different "modes"*

ANALOGIES OF TRINITY

Some common analogies that seek illustrate the Trinity.

Apple - skin, core, seeds

H₂O - water, ice, steam

Clover - three leaf

Egg - shell, yoke, whites

Although these can be helpful word pictures, each come of short of accurately illustrating the mystery of the Trinity.

ONE GOD

⁴ *"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. - Deuteronomy 6:4*

⁵ *I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; I equip you, though you do not know me, ⁶ that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other. - Isaiah 45:5-6*

THREE PERSONS

²⁶ *Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness ..." - Genesis 1:26a*

¹⁶ *And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; ¹⁷ and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." - Matthew 3:16-17*

¹⁴ *The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. - 2 Corinthians 13:14*

⁴ *There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, [6] one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. - Ephesians 4:4-6*

IS THE TRINITY A CONTRADICTION?

Scripture does not ask us to believe in a contradiction. A contradiction would be "There is one God and there is not one God," or "God is three persons and God is not three persons," or even (which is similar to the previous statement) "God is three persons and God is one person." But to say, "God is three persons and there is one God" is not a contradiction. It is something we do not understand, and therefore, it is a mystery or a paradox, but not a contradiction. - Wayne Grudem, Bible Doctrine

2. God is Holy

There is none holy like the Lord; there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God.
1 Samuel 2:2

GOD'S HOLINESS IS ...

His absolute perfection and separation from sin,
in both who He is and what He does.

GOD IS COMPLETELY _____ FROM SIN

- God's *presence* is holy - Psalm 24:3
- God's *day* is holy - Genesis 2:3
- God's *name* is holy - Psalm 103:1
- God's *calling* is holy - 2 Timothy 1:9
- God's *way* is holy - Isaiah 35:8
- God's *law* is holy - Romans 7:12
- God's *work* is holy - Psalm 98:1
- God's *nature* is holy - Matthew 5:48

GOD IS _____ IN ALL OF HIS ATTRIBUTES

INCOMMUNICABLE ATTRIBUTES	COMMUNICABLE ATTRIBUTES
<i>Characteristics and attributes solely unique to God alone.</i>	<i>Characteristics and attributes transferable in some degree to humans.</i>

SOME OF GOD'S ATTRIBUTES

GOD'S INCOMMUNICABLE ATTRIBUTES

Independence: *God does not need anything or anyone to bring Him joy.*

Job 41:11, Psalm 50:10-12, John 17:5, Acts 17:24-25

Immutable: *God does not change. He is consistent in His perfections, purposes, and promises.*

Psalm 33:11; 102:25-27, Malachi 3:6, Matthew 13:35, Ephesians 1:4, 1 Peter 1:20

Timeless: *God has no beginning or end and is unbound by time.*

Genesis 1:1, Psalm 90:2-4, John 1:3, 2 Peter 3:8, Jude 25, Revelation 1:8, 4:8

Omnipresence: *God is equally and completely present in all places and in all time.*

Deuteronomy 10:14, 1 Kings 8:27, Jeremiah 23:23-24, Psalm 139:7-10

Omniscience: *God's knowledge is perfect and unhindered in any way.*

1 Chronicles 28:9, Isaiah 40:28, Psalm 139:4; 147:5, Acts 1:24, Hebrews 4:13, 1 John 3:20

Omnipotence: *God has the ability to do anything at any time.*

Genesis 18:14, Daniel 4:35, Job 42:1-2, Isaiah 14:27, 43:13, Jeremiah 32:27, Matthew 19:26

GOD'S COMMUNICABLE ATTRIBUTES

Wisdom: *God's direction is always best and He leads us.*

Job 9:4, Romans 8:28; 16:27, Proverbs 1:7, 2:6; Luke 21:15, Ephesians 1:17, Colossians 3:16, James 1:5

Truthfulness: *God is the final standard of truth and He corrects us.*

Isaiah 65:16, John 3:3; 7:28; 17:3; 17:17, Titus 1:2, Psalm 15:2, Proverbs 13:5, John 17:7

Goodness: *God is the final standard of good and He is for us.*

Exodus 34:6, Psalm 25:8; 34:8; 145:9, Nahum 1:7, Mark 10:18, Psalm 23:1-6; 27:13, James 1:17

Love: *God is the definition of true love and He sacrifices for us.*

Deuteronomy 7:9, Psalm 136:26, Isaiah 54:10, 1 John 4:7-11; 16, John 3:16, Romans 5:8

Righteousness: *God is perfectly just and He justifies us.*

Genesis 18:25, Deuteronomy 32:4, Isaiah 45:19; 46:13, 1 Corinthians 1:30, 2 Corinthians 5:21

Jealousy: *God is always protecting honor and He demands that of us.*

Deuteronomy 4:24, Isaiah 48:11, Nahum 1:2, Exodus 20:5; 34:14, Deuteronomy 5:9, 2 Corinthians 11:2

Wrath: *God intensely hates all sin and He purifies us.*

Numbers 16:46, Nahum 1:2-6, John 3:36, Romans 1:18; 2:5; 5:8-9, Hebrews 9:22, 1 John 1:9; 2:2

3. God is Creator

By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host.
Psalm 33:6

HOW DID GOD CREATE?

Answer: _____ from Nothing

“Creatio Ex Nihilo”

a Latin phrase used to describe the doctrine that God created the unsearched galaxies from absolutely nothing – meaning that before God created all things, nothing else existed except God Himself.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. - Genesis 1:1

All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. - John 1:3

By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible. - Hebrews 11:3

WHY DID GOD CREATE?

Answer: For His _____ through our Good

For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made...
Romans 1:20

Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created. - Revelation 4:11

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. - Ephesians 2:10

GOD IS WORTHY OF WORSHIP

⁹ *Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth!* - Psalm 96:9

Worship is ascribing worth or worthiness to God.

²³ *But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.* ²⁴ *God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.*” - John 4:23-24

God is looking for true worshipers. This implies we can worship falsely, as posers. Genuine worshipers have been transformed by Jesus and worship in spirit and in truth.

- To worship in spirit is to worship with our heart, our soul, our emotions.
- To worship in truth is to worship with our mind, based on truth from God’s Word.

To worship *only with spirit* can lead to worshipping the emotions that come from worship, instead of genuinely worshipping God. To worship *only with truth* can lead to going through the motions, instead of genuinely worshipping God from our heart.

We need to worship in spirit *and* truth. We don’t just sing *about* God; we sing *to* God. We don’t just sing with our lips; we sing from our hearts.

The end goal of worship is not ourselves - our experience, our preferences. The end goal of worship is to glorify and magnify God.

ENGAGING IN WORSHIP

Priority - make it a priority engage in Sunday worship services

¹ *I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the LORD!”* - Psalm 122:1

Preparation - come ready to enter into worship

³ *Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place?* ⁴ *He who has clean hands and a pure heart* - Psalm 24:3-4a

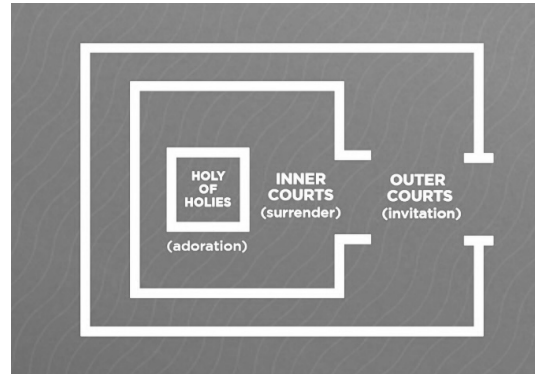
Participation - express worship through singing aloud, raising hands, clapping, kneeling

¹ *Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!* - Psalm 47:1

Worship as a Journey

Worship is a journey with a destination. We see this the Psalms of Ascent in the Book of Psalms. These are collections of Psalms people sang as they ascended to the Temple in Jerusalem. The worship journey includes – a call to worship, testimony songs (testifying to who God has done or is doing), declarative song (declaring who God is), and ascriptive songs (praising God for who He is).

As we worship, we move from the outer courts of the Temple to the inner courts to the Holy of Holies. We journey from gathering to sacrifice to worship in God's presence. The destination of worship is always God.



We worship God through ...

¹ Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise in the assembly of the godly!
- Psalm 149:1

¹¹ whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. - 1 Peter 4:11

⁹ Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce - Proverbs 3:9

¹⁵ Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. ¹⁶ Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. - Hebrews 13:15-16

¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. - Romans 12:1

GROUP DISCUSSION | GOD

SHARE: GET TALKING

1. Why does what you believe about God matter?
2. What was most helpful for you in this study?

STUDY: GO DEEPER

3. Read 1 Samuel 2:2. Summarize and explain this verse in your own words.
4. How would you explain the doctrine of the Trinity?
5. What does it mean that God is holy and holy in each of His attributes?
6. What is an attribute of God that you are grateful for in this season of your life? What communicable attribute of God would you like to reflect more in your life?
7. How would you grade yourself related to worshiping God in these areas - in singing, in serving, in giving, in caring, in living

SUPPORT: GROW TOGETHER

8. What is a specific application for you from this study this week?
9. What commitments did you make last week? How is it going?
10. How can we pray for and support you this week? *Share and listen to others. Jot down prayer requests to follow up during the week and at the next group time.*

MEMORY VERSE

*⁹ Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness;
tremble before him, all the earth! - Psalm 96:9*

JESUS

We believe Jesus Christ, the second Person of the Trinity, is the eternal Son of God. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. We believe He is the manifestation of God in the flesh. He is fully God and fully man. We believe He lived a sinless life of perfect obedience to the law of God and through His death on the cross made provision for the salvation of sinful people. We believe He was raised from the dead with a glorified body, ascended into heaven where He rules over the universe and intercedes for His people, and will one day return visibly to the earth.

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY | JESUS

H.E.A.R. GOD'S WORD

Highlight - *what does the text say?*

Explain - *what does the text mean?*

Apply – *what does the text mean for me?*

Reflect – *how can the text dwell in me?*

In preparation for your Growth Group, H.E.A.R. from God's Word. Read these verses from the Statement of Faith. Mark up the Word. Journal your observations and personal notes.

DAY ONE

[illegible]

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. - John 1:1-4

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son^[a] from the Father, full of grace and truth. 15 (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") 16 For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known. - John 1: 14-18

³⁰ *I and the Father are one.*" - John 10:30

³For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. - 1 Corinthians 15:3-8

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY | JESUS

²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. - 2 Corinthians 5:21

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. ²¹ And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him - Colossians 1:15-22

⁹ For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰ and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. - Colossians 2:9-10

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.³ He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,⁴ having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.⁵ For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”? Or again, “I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son”? ⁶ And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God’s angels worship him.” - Hebrews 1:1-6

DAY TWO

DAY THREE

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY | JESUS

Reflect on your personal study of Jesus from God's Word. Summarize your thoughts to help prepare you for sharing in what you learned with your Growth Group.

What do these verses say about Jesus?

How do these verses challenge your thinking?

How should these verses impact your living

BEFORE WATCHING THE TEACHING VIDEO,
start your Growth Group connecting with each other.

- Share a high or low from the week
- Share reflections from your personal Bible study

JESUS

1. Jesus is the Son of God

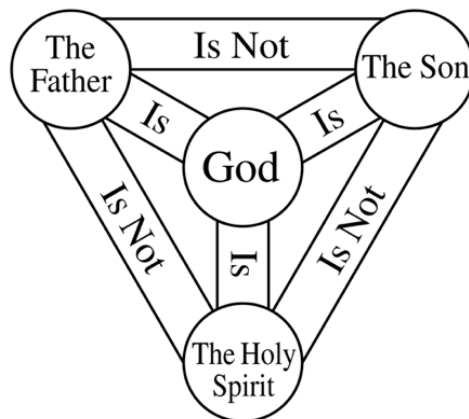
JESUS IS _____

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. - John 1:1-3

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn* of all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. - Colossians 1:15-16

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. - Colossians 2:15-16

Jesus is the Living Word of God who has eternally existed as God – not a god, but the true God. Jesus was present and participated in the creation of all things.



*Note about "firstborn" – "It would be wrong to think in physical terms here, as if Paul were asserting the Son had a physical origin or was somehow created (classic Arian heresy) rather than eternally existing as the Son, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, in the Godhead ... what Paul had in mind here was the rights and privileges of a firstborn son" - ESV Study Bible note for Colossians 1:15

JESUS BECAME _____

¹⁴ *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. – John 1:14*

Incarnation means “becoming flesh”

This describes the second Person in the Trinity entering human history as the God-man, Jesus Christ, through the virgin birth (see Matthew 1:18-25)

Jesus is fully _____ and fully _____.

The two natures of Jesus are called the hypostatic union, meaning undiminished Deity and perfect humanity united forever in one person.

Jesus is one person, not two. He is not sometimes God and sometimes man. He is one person with two natures.

⁵ *Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form ...*

Philippians 2:5-8a

These verses speak to Jesus’ deity and humanity.

He is equal with God in divine essence (v. 5-6), yet He emptied Himself to be born in the likeness of men (v. 7).

This is not talking about what He emptied Himself of, but what He emptied Himself into.

It’s like pouring water from one glass to another glass. Jesus took all His Deity and poured into “the form of a servant.” Jesus did not stop being who He is, but He changed the form of who He is.

When Jesus came to earth, He moved from His preexistent, glorified form and poured the fullness of His deity into human form. When Jesus was born in “the likeness of men” simply means that though He was more than just a man, others who saw Him would think that He was just a man. He didn’t have a halo on His head. He looked like a man.



³¹ But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

John 20:31

2. Jesus is the Lamb of God

²⁹ *The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" – John 1:29*

The sacrifice of a lamb in the Old Testament to atone for sins. In Exodus 12 the Israelites used the blood of a spotless lamb on their doorposts and the Spirit of God passed over their home. This is what is celebrated at Passover.

The lamb in the Old Testament was a foreshadowing of Jesus as the Lamb of God.

²² *Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins. – Hebrews 9:22*

¹⁹ *but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.*
1 Peter 1:19

We no longer need to offer blood sacrifice because Jesus is our sacrifice for sins.

The first Passover marked the Israelite's release from the bondage of slavery; the death of Christ marks our release from the bondage of sin. As the Passover feast is held as a remembrance, we remember the sacrifice of the Lamb of God through communion until He returns.

³ *For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. – 1 Corinthians 15:3-4*

JESUS _____

²¹ *For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. – 2 Corinthians 5:21*

This is the great exchange. We owed a debt that we could not pay. Jesus paid a debt that He did not owe. Jesus did not demand our blood, but rather gave His own blood. And as a result, our unrighteousness was exchanged for His righteousness, our imperfections for His perfection.

SUBSTITUTIONARY ATONEMENT

Substitutionary – Jesus in _____ place

Atonement – “at one with God”

²⁴ *He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. – 1 Peter 2:24*

ATONEMENT

I WAS

DEAD
CONDEMNED
SEPARATED
ENSLAVED
LOST
GUILTY

BUT GOD

SACRIFICED
SUBSTITUTED
RECONCILED
REDEEMED
RESCUED
PARDONED

NOW I AM

ALIVE
LOVED
ADOPTED
FREE
FOUND
FORGIVEN

Jesus took the penalty for our sins, in our place.

Circle the word “for” in each of the following verses.

⁵ *But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.* – Isaiah 53:5

¹² *yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.* – Isaiah 53:12

²⁵ *who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.* – Romans 4:25

⁸ *but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*
Romans 5:8

³ *For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures* – 1 Corinthians 15:3

¹⁸ *For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit.* – 1 Peter 3:18

¹⁰ *In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.* – 1 John 4:10



Mercy and justice meet at the cross – Jesus substituted Himself for sinner, sins were propitiated and diverted from them to Jesus.

Perhaps the clearest illustration of this is that of a judge who pronounced a criminal guilty as charged and handed down a just sentence. But before the criminal was taken away by the bailiff, the judge announced he was going to personally take the sentence upon himself to let the criminal go. Then he stood up, took off his robe, and was placed in handcuffs and taken away. Both justice and mercy were served – the just penalty was served while the criminal was granted mercy.

JESUS _____ AGAIN

³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶ Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain ... ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.

1 Corinthians 15:3-8, 14, 17

Resurrection Facts

- o Jesus' resurrection was prophesied in advance - *Isaiah 53:8-12*
- o Jesus predicted His resurrection - *Matthew 12:38-40, Mark 8:31; 9:31; 10:33-34; John 2:18-22*
- o Jesus died on the cross - *John 19:34-35*
- o Jesus was buried in a known tomb - *Matthew 27:57-60*
- o Jesus was physically alive three days after His death - *Matthew 28:9, Luke 24:36-43, John 20:17; 20-28*
- o Jesus' resurrection was recorded in all four Gospels - *Matthew, Mark, Luke, John*

False Theories about the Resurrection

- o *The Swoon Theory* (Jesus did not really die) - The biblical record is emphatic that Jesus died on the cross. He was scourged. He was crucified. He died by asphyxiation. He was declared dead. A spear was thrust into His side. He was wrapped tightly in grave clothes.
- o *Women went to the Wrong Tomb Theory* - If this was the case, they would have been pointed to the right tomb.
- o *The Body was Stolen Theory* - For this to happen the Romans guards would have had to fall asleep at the same time and remain asleep while the stone entrance was removed knowing they faced the death penalty for a stolen body.
- o *The Disciples were Hallucinating Theory* - To hallucinate is a private, personal experience - not a public experience. Jesus appeared to over 500 people on separate occasions in separate locations over a period of 40 days.

Testimony of Transformed Lives

Prior to the resurrection the disciples were timid and fearful, even hiding in the upper room after the crucifixion. Following the resurrection, they were transformed into bold witnesses of what they had seen and heard firsthand - even to the point of dying for their convictions.

²⁵ Jesus said ... "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" - John 11:25-26

3. Jesus is Lord of All

WE DO NOT _____ JESUS LORD; JESUS IS LORD.

After Jesus rose from the dead, He ascend into heaven where He is seated at the right hand of the throne on God, making intercession for us as our mediator between God and humans. Jesus rules and reigns as sovereign king and Lord. Jesus will come again in glory.

⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
Philippians 2:9-11

BECAUSE JESUS IS LORD OF ALL, WE ...

_____ to Jesus

⁶² Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God." - Luke 9:62

_____ Jesus

⁶ whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.
1 John 2:6

_____ Jesus

¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. - John 15:10

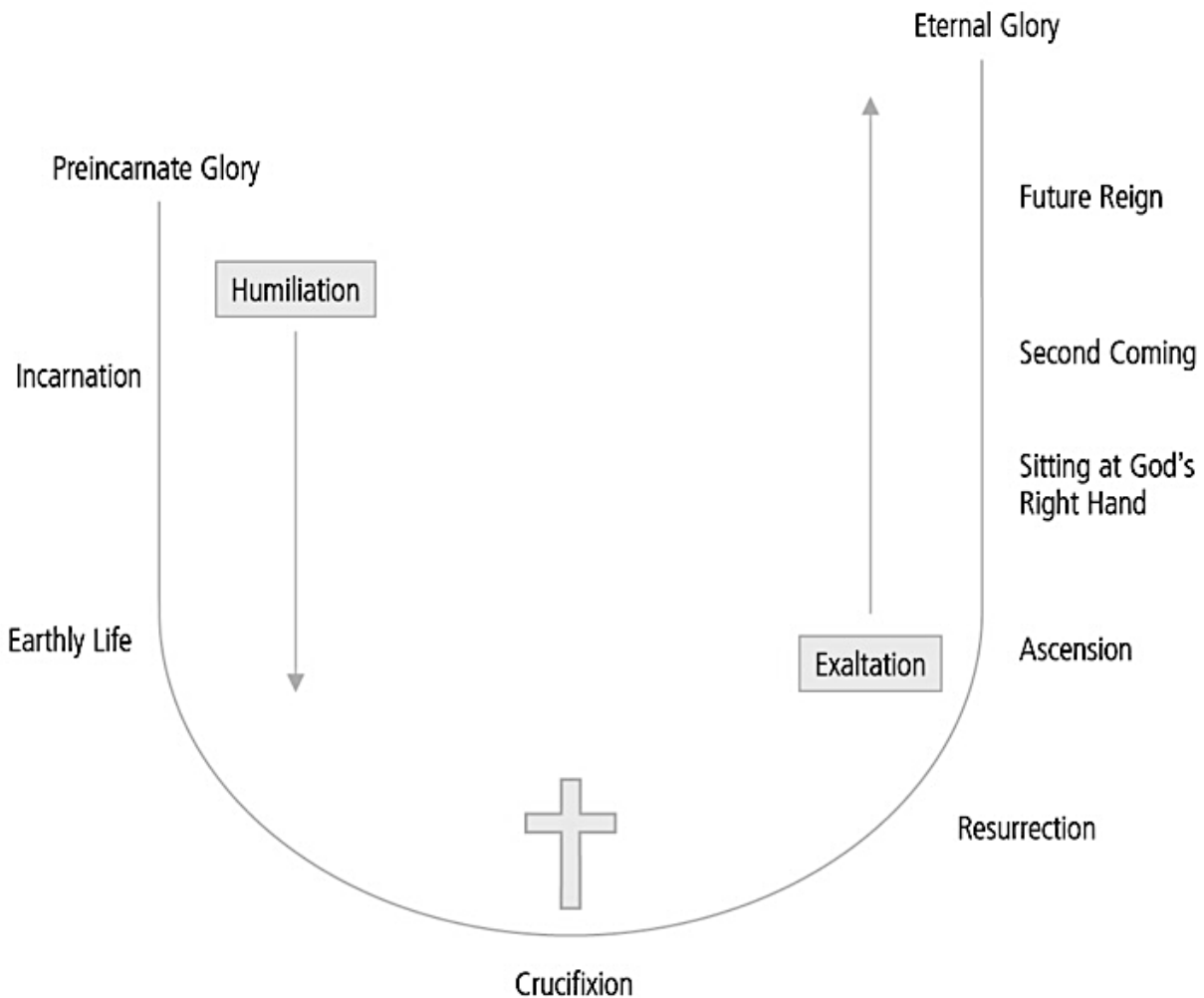
_____ Jesus

³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."
Matthew 14:33

_____ Jesus

²⁰ for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard." - Acts 4:20

OVERVIEW OF CHRISTOLOGY



^chart is from the ESV Study Bible

Jesus is the SON OF GOD	⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. – Philippians 2:5-7
Jesus is the LAMB OF GOD	⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. – Philippians 2:8
Jesus is the LORD OF ALL	⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. – Philippians 2:9-11

WHO DO YOU SAY JESUS IS?

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴ And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” – Matthew 16:13-14

**Is Jesus a prophet, a good teacher, a moral example?
Or is Jesus the Son of God?**

JESUS FULFILLED PROPHECY

- Jesus would be born of a virgin – Isaiah 7:14
- Jesus would be born in Bethlehem – Micah 5:2
- Jesus would be born into the tribe of Judah – Genesis 49:10
- Jesus’ ministry would begin in Galilee – Isaiah 9:1
- Jesus would do miracles – Isaiah 35:5-6
- Jesus would teach parables – Psalm 78:2
- Jesus would enter Jerusalem on a donkey – Zechariah 9:9
- Jesus would be betrayed by a friend – Psalm 41:9
- Jesus would be sold for thirty pieces of silver – Zechariah 11:12
- Jesus would be accused by false witnesses – Psalm 35:11
- Jesus would be wounded and bruised – Isaiah 53:5
- Jesus’ hands and feet would be pierced – Psalm 22:16
- Jesus would be crucified with sinful men – Isaiah 53:12
- Jesus’ garments would be torn apart, and lots cast for them – Psalm 22:18
- None of Jesus’ bones would be broken – Psalm 34:20
- Jesus’ side would be pierced – Zechariah 12:10
- Jesus would be buried in a rich man’s tomb – Isaiah 53:9
- Jesus would rise from the dead – Psalm 16:10

JESUS CLAIMED TO BE GOD

- Jesus claimed to be the Son of God – John 3:16
- Jesus claimed to have power to forgive sins – Luke 5:20
- Jesus claimed to raise people from the dead – John 5:28-29
- Jesus claimed to be one with God – John 10:30
- Jesus claimed to be the only way to God – John 14:6
- Jesus claimed to be the giver of eternal life – John 10:28

JESUS HAD SUPERNATURAL POWER

- Jesus turned water into wine – John 2:1-11
- Jesus multiplied the loaves and fishes – John 6:5-13
- Jesus walked on water – Matthew 14:25
- Jesus opened the eyes of the blind – John 9
- Jesus made the lame walk – Matthew 9:1-8
- Jesus cast out demons – Mark 5:1-20
- Jesus stilled a raging storm – Mark 4:35-41
- Jesus cleansed ten lepers – Luke 17:11-19
- Jesus raised the dead – Matthew 9:18-26

JESUS ROSE FROM THE DEAD

- Jesus was really dead
- Jesus was buried in a tomb
- The tomb was empty
- Jesus appeared to more than 500 people – literally, physically, bodily, visibly

I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: "I am ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God." That is one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said those sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic – on the level of man who says he is a poached egg – or else he would be the devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit on Him or kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open for us. He did not intend to. – C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

¹⁵ "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter replied,
"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."
Matthew 16:15-16

**Who you say that Jesus is -
a Liar, a Lunatic, or the Lord?**

JESUS IN EVERY BOOK OF THE BIBLE

Genesis – Jesus is our Creator
 Exodus – He is the Passover Lamb
 Leviticus – High Priest
 Numbers – Water in the desert
 Deuteronomy – He is our Eagles wings of deliverance
 Joshua – Commander of the army of the Lord
 Judges – He is the Lord of Peace
 Ruth – He is our Redeemer
 1 Samuel – He is the Prophet, Priest, and King
 2 Samuel – Rock of Salvation
 1 Kings – Builder of a temple that will never fall
 2 Kings – He is the reigning King
 1 Chronicles – Son of David that is coming to rule
 2 Chronicles – the King who reigns eternally
 Ezra – Priest proclaiming freedom
 Nehemiah – the One who restores what is broken
 Esther – Protector of his people
 Job – Mediator between God and man
 Psalms – He is our song in the morning and in the night
 Proverbs – our Wisdom and Strong Tower!
 Ecclesiastes – our meaning for life
 Song of Solomon – Author of faithful love
 Isaiah – He is our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace
 Jeremiah – the weeping Messiah
 Lamentations – He assumes God's wrath for us
 Ezekiel – Son of Man
 Daniel – He is the Son of God with us in the fiery furnace
 Hosea – Faithful husband even when we run away
 Joel – He is the baptizer of the Holy Spirit
 Amos – delivers justice to the oppressed
 Obadiah – He is Mighty to Save
 Jonah – The great missionary
 Micah – He casts our sin into the sea of forgetfulness
 Nahum – He proclaims future world peace
 Habakkuk – He crushes injustice
 Zephaniah – He's the Warrior who saves
 Haggai – He restores our worship

Zechariah – He is Lord and King over all the earth
 Malachi – Sun of righteousness who brings healing
 Matthew – The Messiah who is King
 Mark – The Messiah who is a Servant
 Luke – The Messiah who is a Deliverer
 John – The Messiah who is a God in the flesh
 Acts – The Spirit who dwells in His people
 Romans – The Power of God unto salvation
 1 Corinthians – He is our conqueror over death; Our resurrection!
 2 Corinthians – He is the down payment of what's to come
 Galatians – He is our inheritance
 Ephesians – He is our peace at the right hand of the Father
 Philippians – He is the God that supplies all our needs
 Colossians – He holds the supreme position in all things
 1 Thessalonians – He is our comfort in the last days
 2 Thessalonians – He is our returning King
 1 Timothy – He is our Crown of Righteousness
 2 Timothy – He is Christ our Helper
 Titus – He is our Hope
 Philemon – He is a friend that sticks closer than a brother
 Hebrews – He is our High Priest
 James – He is the Great Physician
 1 Peter – He is our hope in times of suffering
 2 Peter – He is the restorer of all things
 1 John – He is our Love and Light
 2 John – He is Christ come in the flesh
 3 John – He is our prosperity, health, and peace
 Jude – Jesus is the Lord coming with 10,000 of his believers
 Revelation – Jesus is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords,
 The Alpha and the Omega, The Beginning, and the End, and
 He is coming again and the One who makes all things new.

GROUP DISCUSSION | JESUS

SHARE: GET TALKING

1. Why does what you believe about Jesus matter?
2. What was most helpful for you in this study?

STUDY: GO DEEPER

3. Read Philippians 2:5-11. How do these verses summarize key aspects of who Jesus is?
4. How would you explain Jesus as the Son of God, Lamb of God, and Lord of All?
5. Why is Jesus' death and resurrection important? What did His death and resurrection accomplish? What is the atonement?
6. Is Jesus more than a good man and moral teacher? Who do you say that Jesus is?
7. How can you grow in surrendering, following, serving, sharing about, and worshiping Jesus?

SUPPORT: GROW TOGETHER

8. What is a specific application for you this week?
9. What commitments did you make last week? How is it going?
10. How can we pray for and support you this week? *Share and listen to others. Jot down prayer requests to follow up during the week and at the next group time.*

MEMORY VERSE

²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
2 Corinthians 5:21

HUMAN CONDITION

We believe that God created mankind in His own image and for His own glory as the crowning work of His creation. However, man sinned against God and thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death which is separation from God. This spiritual death has been transmitted to the entire human race (except for Jesus Christ) with the result that every person is born with a sinful nature that rebels against God and is under condemnation.

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY | HUMAN CONDITION

H.E.A.R. GOD'S WORD

Highlight - *what does the text say?*

Explain - *what does the text mean?*

Apply - *what does the text mean for me?*

Reflect - *how can the text dwell in me?*

In preparation for your Growth Group, H.E.A.R. from God's Word. Read these verses from the Statement of Faith. Mark up the Word. Journal your observations and personal notes.

DAY ONE

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."
²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." - Genesis 1:26-28

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, ⁴ what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?
⁵ Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. ⁶ You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet, ⁷ all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, ⁸ the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas. - Psalm 8:3-8

The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds; there is none who does good. ² The Lord looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. ³ They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one. - Psalm 14:1-3

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY | HUMAN CONDITION

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. ⁴Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. ⁵Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. ⁶Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart. - Psalm 51:3-6

Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear;² but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.³ For your hands are defiled with blood and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies; your tongue mutters wickedness. - Isaiah 59:1-3

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? - Jeremiah 17:9

²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God - Romans 3:23

¹² Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned - Romans 5:12

¹⁹ For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. - Romans 5:19

²³For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. - Romans 6:23

²² But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. - Galatians 3:22

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—³among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. - Ephesians 2:1-3

DAY TWO

DAY THREE

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY | HUMAN CONDITION

Reflect on your personal study of Human Condition from God's Word. Summarize your thoughts to help prepare you for sharing in what you learned with your Growth Group..

What do these verses say about human condition?

How do these verses challenge your thinking?

How should these verse impact your living?

BEFORE WATCHING THE TEACHING VIDEO,
start your Growth Group connecting with each other.

- Share a high or low from the week
- Share reflections from your personal Bible study

HUMAN CONDITION

1. We are Created in God's Image

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." ²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. - Genesis 1:26-27

CREATED IN THE _____

The theology of humanity begins with God and ends with God

To be "in the image of God" is fundamental to who we are. This is the start of humanity. And these words give identity, purpose, and destiny:

- Our *identity* is who we are, not what we do (Genesis 1:27)
- Our *purpose* is to glorify God (Isaiah 43:7)
- Our *destiny* is to enjoy God forever (Ecclesiastes 3:11)

Animals were made "according to their kind" but humans were created "in the image of God."

Every person has intrinsic worth because our DNA is the image of God.

- To hate someone is to hate God.
- To disrespect someone is to disrespect God.
- To reject someone is to reject God.
- To abuse or objectify someone is to violate God.

CREATED FOR _____

²⁶ Let us make man in our image, after our likeness ... ³¹ and God saw everything he had made, and behold, it was very good ... ¹⁸ Then the Lord said, "It is not good that the man should be alone ..." - Genesis 1:26, 31; 2:18

God is community – Father, Son, Holy Spirit – and He created us to be in community with:

- Himself
- ourselves
- each other
- His creation

CREATED _____ AND _____

in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. - Genesis 1:27

God created male and female in His image. Men and women are equal in dignity, value, and worth because both genders are in the image of God.

²⁴ *Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. - Genesis 2:24*

God created the covenant of marriage and defines marriage as one man and one woman, husband and wife, as one flesh. This eliminates alternatives like polygamy, adultery, homosexuality, bestiality, and the like. Jesus' affirms the marriage covenant in the Gospels (Matthew 19:5-6, Mark 10:7-9) and the Apostle Paul refers to the first marriage when teaching about marriage (Ephesians 5:31-33).

In a world where any view that doesn't embrace non-binary gender is deemed archaic and unfair, this passage is a helpful reminder of God's intention in creation and the purpose for creating as He did. God's design before sin entered the world is good and right.

However, that doesn't give us the freedom to be unkind to those dealing with the struggle of sexual sin or gender confusion. Remember, all are made in the image of God, and all struggle against temptation. Our temptations and struggles with sin are probably not the same. However, we can all be sympathetic to the process. Dying to self is grueling work, but God calls us to holiness. God created all things purposefully, and we are to live within His design. He created us male and female to bring Him glory.

- Mary Wiley, Everyday Theology

CREATED FOR _____

God created us to display His glory so that His glory would be known and praised.

⁷ *everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made*
Isaiah 43:7

³¹ *So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*
1 Corinthians 10:31

¹⁶ *In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. - Matthew 5:16*

We were created to glorify God on earth and for eternity.

2. We are Sinners by Nature

²³ *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*
Romans 3:23

Sin means “to miss the mark” of God’s holy perfection.
It is more than missing the mark to the right or left.
All of our efforts to hit the target come up short.



TYPES OF SIN	
Sins of _____	<i>doing what you should not to do</i>
Sins of _____	<i>not doing what you should do</i>
Sins of _____	<i>having a wrong attitude</i>
Sins of _____	<i>misusing good things for wrong purposes</i>
Sins of _____	<i>turning a good thing into an ultimate thing</i>

¹² *Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned ...* ¹⁵ *But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man’s trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many ...* ¹⁹ *For as by the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous.* - Romans 5:12, 15, 19

EFFECTS OF ORIGINAL SIN	
Sin is _____	We are born into a sinful condition because of Adam’s sin
Sin is _____	Adam’s guilt and condemnation is attributed to us
Sin is _____	We are unable to remedy our depravity

TOTAL DEPRAVITY:
*Our human nature is thoroughly sinful
including mind, emotion, and will.*

OF OUR SIN

We are Separated from God

² *but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.* - Isaiah 59:2

We are Children of Wrath

³ *we were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.* - Ephesians 2:3

We are Enslaved to Sin

²⁰ *For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness.* ²¹ *But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death.* - Romans 6:20-21

We are Destined for Death

²¹ *For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.* ²² *For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.* - 1 Corinthians 15:21-22

TYPES OF DEATH	
Physical Death	<i>Heart and lungs stop; no pulse</i>
Spiritual Death	<i>Being separated from God</i>
Eternal Death	<i>Being separated from God for eternity</i>

OF SIN

¹⁴ *But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.*

¹⁵ *Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. - James 1:14-15*



- *Desire* – We are enticed by our own desires. Like bait to a fish, we are lured to sin by our desires.
- *Deception* – We are tempted to believe something or someone will provide what God has not provided.
- *Doubt* – We do not believe God is good, sufficient, trustworthy.
- *Disobedience* – We move beyond seeing the bait, we take the bait. Sin like bait to a fish is always over promise and under deliver.
- *Death* – The one who is deceived and takes the bait, gets hooked. There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death. It leads to regret, guilt, shame, and consequences.

This process goes back to beginning of time – to the Garden of Eden. Adam and Eve were living in ultimate paradise. But Eve was not content simply being created in the image of God.

- Eve *desired* to be like God; not just to reflect God, but to be God.
- Satan *deceived* her into thinking that if she ate of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil that she would be like God.
- The serpent convinced her to *doubt* God, that God was withholding from her.
- So, Eve *disobeyed* God and ate of the fruit. As did Adam.
- And Adam and Eve experience *death* from sin – shame, guilt, separation from God, and ultimately physical death.

The issue is *not* temptation. The issue is our hearts, our passions, our desires. Jesus was tempted in every way but was without sin.

Temptation does not need to lead to disobedience. Temptation can equally lead to obedience. Temptation is like a fork in the road – Will you doubt the Lord? Or will you trust the Lord?

One path leads to bondage, the other leads to freedom. One path leads to guilt and regret, the other leads to peace. One path leads to consequences, the other path leads to blessing.

I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life ... - Deuteronomy 30:19

There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death. - Proverbs 14:12

Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few. - Matthew 7:13-14

_____ TO OUR SIN

Sinful Responses to Sin

- Ignore - *unaware, indifferent, apathetic*
- Make excuses - *I deserve ...*
- Minimize - *It's not a big deal, I'm not as bad as others*
- Rationalize - *I'm not hurting anyone*
- Blame Shift - _____ *made me (spouse, friend, the devil)*

Biblical Response to Sin

re-pent-ance

the acknowledgement of sin (mind),
with genuine sorrow (emotion),
leading to a change in behavior (will).

Repentance is involves ...

- _____ - acknowledging sin
- _____ - genuine sorrow; broken and contrite heart

For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death." - 2 Corinthians 7:10

Worldly Sorrow	Godly Sorrow
Focus on Self	Focus on God and Others
Turns to Sin	Turns from Sin
Feeling Sorry	Being Grieved
Prideful and Conceited	Broken and Contrite

- _____ - commitment to turn from sin and change future actions

Jesus paid the penalty of your sin past, present, and future on the cross. Through faith in Jesus, we receive salvation. But we repent daily to maintain close fellowship with the Lord.

"Repent therefore, and turn back that your sins might be blotted out that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord. - Acts 3:19

3. We are Redeemed by Christ

¹And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ²in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

⁴But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. - Ephesians 2:1-10

MY REDEMPTION STORY

How would you summarize your story?

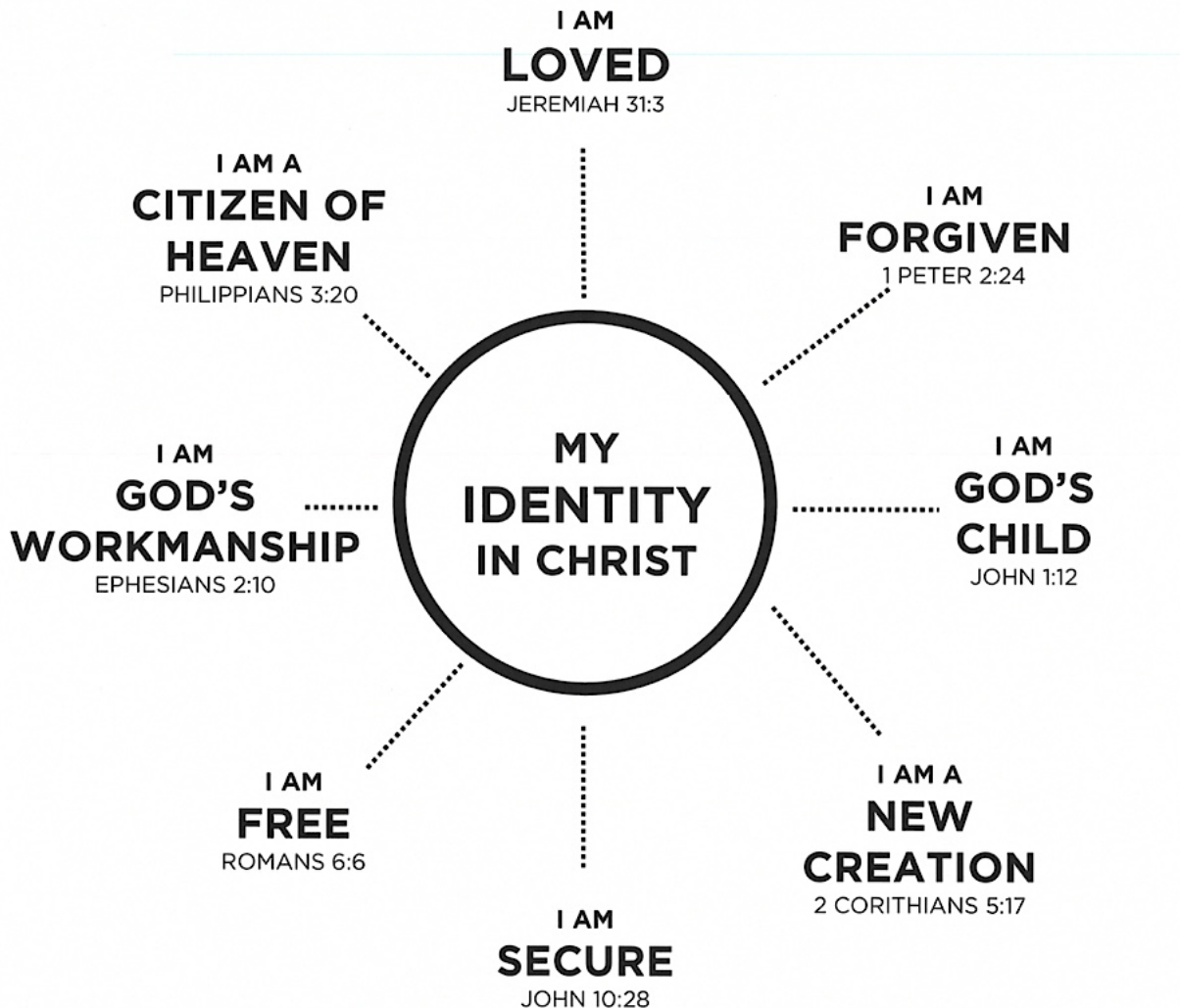
I WAS ... *dead* in sin (1-3)

BUT CHRIST ... made me *alive* (4-9)

AND NOW ... I am *saved* for good works (10)

OUR IDENTITY IS REDEEMED IN CHRIST

¹⁷ *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.
The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*
2 Corinthians 5:17



You are *not* what you do. You are *not* what was done to you.
You are *not* your biggest regret, your darkest moment, or your
worst mistake. You are *not* who others say you are. You are *not*
who you say you are.

You are who God says you are.

GROUP DISCUSSION | HUMAN CONDITION

SHARE: GET TALKING

1. Why does what you believe about human condition matter?
2. What was most helpful for you in this study?

STUDY: GO DEEPER

3. Read Genesis 1:26-27. Summarize these verses in your own words.
4. What do Romans 3:23 and Romans 5:12 say about our human condition?
5. What are different “types” of sins? How is all sin, sin?
6. What are some common responses to sin? What is the biblical response to sin?
7. We are redeemed by Jesus. Who are you in Christ?

SUPPORT: GROW TOGETHER

8. What is a specific application for you this week?
9. What commitments did you make last week? How is it going?
10. How can we pray for and support you this week? *Share and listen to others. Jot down prayer requests to follow up during the week and at the next group time.*

MEMORY VERSE

*God created man in his own image, in the image of God
he created him; male and female he created them.*

Genesis 1:27

SALVATION

We believe in the good news of the gospel that those who turn from their sin in repentance and place their faith in Jesus Christ as their personal Savior are justified and declared “not guilty” of their sin receiving the gift of eternal life. This salvation is acquired through faith alone apart from any good or religious works and is based entirely on the death of Jesus Christ on the cross as their substitute. We believe that Christ’s resurrection demonstrated God’s full acceptance of His death as payment for their sin, and foreshadows the final resurrection of all those who believe.

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY | SALVATION

H.E.A.R. GOD'S WORD

Highlight - *what does the text say?*

Explain - *what does the text mean?*

Apply – *what does the text mean for me?*

Reflect - *how can the text dwell in me?*

In preparation for your Growth Group, H.E.A.R. from God's Word. Read these verses from the Statement of Faith. Mark up the Word. Journal your observations and personal notes.

DAY ONE

[illegible]

16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 17 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. 18 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. 19 And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. - John 3:16-19

³⁶Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him. - John 3:36

⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. – John 14:6

¹² And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” – Acts 4:12

²⁴ but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord,²⁵ who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification. – Romans 4:24-25

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.² Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. – Romans 5:1-2

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY | SALVATION

6 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.⁷ For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—⁸ but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.⁹ Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. – Romans 5:6-10

²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. – Ro 6:23

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. – Romans 8:1-2

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. - 2 Cor 5:17-21

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. - Ephesians 2:8-9

5 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. ⁸The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people. – Titus 3:5-8

DAY TWO

[illegible]

DAY THREE

[illegible]

[illegible]

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY | SALVATION

Reflect on your personal study of salvation from God's Word. Summarize your thoughts to help prepare you for sharing in what you learned with your Growth Group.

What do these verses say about salvation?

What do these verses challenge your thinking?

What should these verses impact your life?

BEFORE WATCHING THE TEACHING VIDEO,
start your Growth Group connecting with each other.

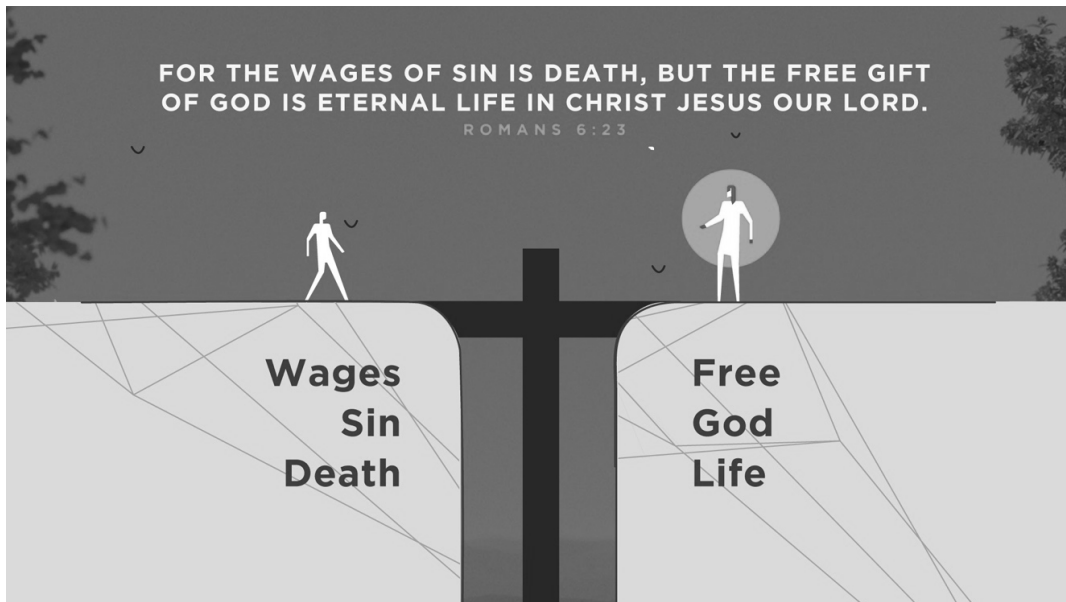
- Share a high or low from the week
- Share reflections from your personal Bible study

SALVATION

1. The Gospel of Salvation

THE GOSPEL

Gospel means **good news**. Good news isn't good news without understanding the bad news.



THE CONTRASTS IN ROMANS 6:23

A **wage** is something we earn, we deserve.

A **gift** is something we cannot earn, do not deserve.

Sin is to miss the mark of holiness.

God alone is holiness.

We deserve eternal **death** because of our sin.

But God's gift of grace is eternal **life** to all who will believe in Jesus.

¹² *And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."* - Acts 4:12

THE GOSPEL

⁸ *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God - Ephesians 2:8*

Salvation involves more than understanding the Gospel, each person must respond personally to the Gospel - to His grace through faith.

The “gift of God” is offered to whoever believes.

No one else can respond for you. And you cannot respond for others. To respond to the Gospel is a personal choice.

ABCs of SALVATION

A_____ you are a sinner and incapable of saving yourself

²³ *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. - Romans 6:23*

B_____ Jesus died and rose again to offer you forgiveness and life

¹² *But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God - John 1:12*

C_____ Jesus as Lord with your mouth

⁹ *if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. - Romans 10:9*

Being good is not good enough.

⁹ *not a result of works, so that no one may boast. - Ephesians 2:9*

The Gospel is about divine accomplishment, not human achievement. All world religions can be spelled DO. They are about what we do for God and for His favor - paying penance, doing good, trying to improve yourself. But Christianity is spelled DONE. It is all about what Jesus accomplished on the cross.

**Good people do not go to heaven.
Forgiven people go to heaven.**

THE GOSPEL

¹⁶ *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.* - Romans 1:16

After understanding the Gospel and responding to the Gospel, we need to share the Gospel with others. We do so by living as an everyday Gospel influence.

Love - *incarnate God's love to others*

Look - *have eyes to see people around you*

Listen - *show interest in others; take time to ask questions*

Learn - *actively learn as you listen*

Lead - *share the Gospel to lead others to Christ*

SHARE YOUR STORY - how Jesus changed your life; be authentic and clear

- I was ...
- But Christ ...
- And Now ...

SHARE THE GOSPEL - use these five words to share the essentials of the Gospel

- GOD - *God is creator, holy, just, love.*
- SIN - *We sin by nature and choice; our sin has separated us from a holy God.*
- JESUS - *Jesus died for our sin (in our place) and rose again.*
- BELIEVE - *Forgiveness of sin is available through personal faith in Jesus.*
- LIFE - *God offers new life and eternal life through Jesus.*

SHARING THE GOSPEL | GENESIS TO REVELATION

Mark Your Bible with these verses, indicating which verses to turn to next.

- Genesis 1:27 - *created in the image of God*
- Isaiah 59:2 - *our sin separates us from God*
- Romans 3:23 - *all have sinner*
- Romans 6:23 - *wages of sin is death*
- Hebrews 9:27 - *each person will face judgement*
- Ephesians 2:8-9 - *we're saved by grace through faith, not works*
- 1 Peter 3:18 - *Jesus died for our sins*
- Romans 10:9 - *we must believe in our heart and confess with our mouth*
- John 5:24 - *Jesus offers eternal life through belief*
- Revelation 3:20 - *Jesus stands at the door and knocks*

2. The Results of Salvation

²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be **conformed** to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also **called**, and those whom he called he also **justified**, and those whom he justified he also **glorified**. - Romans 8:29-30

God chooses. God adopts. God calls. God saves.

⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will - Ephesians 1:4-5

Past: Has been saved from the penalty of sin

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:1

Justification - "just as if I never sinned"

Present: Being saved from the power of sin

¹¹ But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

1 Corinthians 6:11

Sanctification - process of becoming like Jesus

Future: Will be saved from the presence of sin

¹¹ But we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.

Acts 15:11

Glorification - our glorified state in heaven

The past, present, and future work of salvation in our lives is all because of the work of Christ in us. Our salvation is initiated by God, continued by God, and finalized by God.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE SAVED?

Saved from What?

¹ And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. – Ephesians 2:1-3

- Saved from Death – separation from God – spiritual and eternal
- Saved from Satan – He gives us victory and authority through His victory and authority
- Saved from Old Nature – He replaced our old nature with a new nature
- Saved from God's Wrath – Jesus absorbed God's holy and just wrath for us

Saved by Whom?

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. – Ephesians 2:8-9

- Saved by Jesus; God saves us through Jesus as an act of mercy, grace, and love.
- Saved by Jesus, not by our works. Being good is not good enough.

Saved for What?

¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. – Ephesians 2:8-10

- Saved *for* good works, not *by* good works

We exist to help people believe in, belong to, and become like Jesus.

⁶ Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.
Colossians 2:6-7

Salvation leads to the lifelong process of sanctification. After receiving Christ Jesus the Lord, seek to a) walk in Christ; b) be rooted, built up and established in faith, and c) abound in thankfulness.

Prioritize personal and corporate worship, engage with a Growth Group community, serve on a serving team, and read the Word personally. These activities help build you up in your salvation.

3. The Assurance of Salvation

¹¹ And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.
¹² Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.
¹³ I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God,
that you may know that you have eternal life. - 1 John 5:13

SALVATION IS _____ AND _____.

The Good Shepherd will keep everyone of His sheep forever.

⁹ I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. ¹¹ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep ... ²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. ³⁰ I and the Father are one." - John 10:9-11; 27-30

What about people who "fall away" from their faith?

Group A: Wander for an extended period of time, but return.

This period can be painful for a parent, a spouse, a friend. Don't give up hope. Keep praying for conviction and confession while having compassion. Love unconditionally.

¹⁹ My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, ²⁰ let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins. - James 5:19-20

Group B: Forsake the faith and never come back.

Did the Father fail or the Shepherd lose a sheep? Is salvation not secure? These people were never sheep in the Shepherd's flock. They were not children adopted into the Family. Even though there were signs of faith - it was not a genuine faith. Some forsake the faith because of hurt or hypocrisy. But each person is responsible for himself/herself - and cannot blame others.

²¹ "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' ²³ And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.' - Matthew 7:21-23

IS YOUR FAITH A _____ FAITH OR A _____ FAITH?

Scripture teaches once saved, always saved. But how do you know you are one of the sheep? How do you know you are saved?

Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. - 2 Corinthians 13:5

ABC's for ASSURANCE of SALVATION		
Abiding Faith	The genuinely saved will persevere. Once saved, always following.	<p><i>But the one who endures to the end will be saved.</i> Matthew 10:22</p> <p><i>if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard - Colossians 1:23</i></p>
Biblical Fruit	Salvation produces fruit – including genuine love for God and for others.	<p>¹⁷ So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸ A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ Thus you will recognize them by their fruits. Matthew 7:17-20</p>
Changed Life	Not perfection, but progress. A faith that hasn't changed you hasn't saved you.	<p><i>Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. - 2 Corinthians 5:17</i></p>

GROUP DISCUSSION | SALVATION

SHARE: GET TALKING

1. Why does what you believe about Jesus matter?
2. What was most helpful for you in this study?

STUDY: GO DEEPER

3. Read Romans 6:23. How does this one verse summarize the bad news and good news of the Gospel?
4. What are the ABCs of Salvation?
5. What are the key results of salvation identified in Romans 8:29-30?
6. The Bible teaches assurance of salvation. How can one discern a saving faith versus a superficial faith?
7. How can you live with greater Gospel influence – love, look, listen, learn, lead?

SUPPORT: GROW TOGETHER

8. What is a specific application for you this week?
9. What commitments did you make last week? How is it going?
10. How can we pray for and support you this week? *Share and listen to others. Jot down prayer requests to follow up during the week and at the next group time.*

MEMORY VERSE

¹² *But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name,
he gave the right to become children of God*
John 1:12

HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Trinity, comes to live in those who turn to Jesus Christ in repentance and faith and as they live in obedience to God He empowers them to gradually overcome the power of sin and become like Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit guides, instructs, fills, and comforts those who have turned to Jesus Christ as they have become children of God. We believe the Holy Spirit bestows spiritual gifts on each individual to edify and build up the body of Christ.

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY | HOLY SPIRIT

H.E.A.R. GOD'S WORD

Highlight - *what does the text say?*

Explain – *what does the text mean?*

Apply – *what does the text mean for me?*

Reflect – *how can the text dwell in me?*

In preparation for your Growth Group, H.E.A.R. from God's Word. Read these verses from the Statement of Faith. Mark up the Word. Journal your observations and personal notes.

DAY ONE

"And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. - Mark 13:11

¹⁵ *"If you love me, you will keep my commandments.*

¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever,¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

- John 14:15-17

²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. - John 14:26

²⁶ *"But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. ²⁷ And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning. - John 15:26-27*

Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.⁸ And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in me;¹⁰ concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer;¹¹ concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY | HOLY SPIRIT

12 "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now." 13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. 14 He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. - John 16:7-14

⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” - Acts 1:8

¹⁶Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? - 1 Corinthians 3:16

⁴Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord - 1 Corinthians 12:4-5

¹¹All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills. ¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.¹³For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. - 1 Corinthians 12:11-13

¹⁶But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. - Galatians 5:16

¹³ In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory. - Ephesians 1:13-14

¹⁸ *And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit -*
Ephesians 5:18

¹⁹ *Do not quench the Spirit.* - 1 Thessalonians 5:19

DAY TWO

[illegible]

DAY THREE

[illegible]

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY | HOLY SPIRIT

Reflect on your personal study of Holy Spirit from God's Word. Summarize your thoughts to help prepare you for sharing in what you learned with your Growth Group.

What do these verses say about the Holy Spirit?

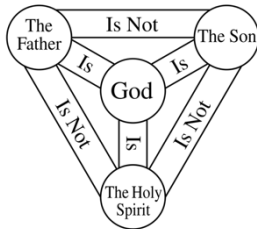
How do these verses challenge your thinking?

How should these verses impact your living?

BEFORE WATCHING THE TEACHING VIDEO,
start your Growth Group connecting with each other.

- Share a high or low from the week
- Share reflections from your personal Bible study

HOLY SPIRIT



The Holy Spirit is _____ - *equal as God, yet distinct*

The Holy Spirit is _____ - *not an impersonal force*

At the moment of salvation, each believer is baptized in the Spirit and baptized into the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:13).

1. The Ministry of Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is involved in our everyday lives in various roles – including in these ten ways.

The Holy Spirit _____ - *He guarantees our eternal salvation*

¹³ *In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.* - Ephesians 1:13-14

The Holy Spirit _____ - *He is in us and with us*

⁹ *You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.* - Romans 8:9

The Holy Spirit _____ - *He gives life to us*

¹⁰ *But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.* - Romans 8:10-11

The Holy Spirit _____ – *He transforms us to become like Jesus*

¹³ For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.
Romans 8:13-14

The Holy Spirit _____ – *He prays for us to the Father on our behalf*

*²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.
²⁷ And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.* – Romans 8:26-27

The Holy Spirit _____ – *He reveals sin, righteousness, and judgment*

*⁸ And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:
⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in me. ¹⁰ concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; ¹¹ concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.* – John 16:8-11

The Holy Spirit _____ – *He brings peace to our hearts and minds*

*And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter,
that he may abide with you for ever* – John 14:16 (KJV)

The Holy Spirit _____ – *He guides in truth because He is truth*

¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. – John 16:13

The Holy Spirit _____ – *He reveals truth for our understanding*

²⁶ But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. – John 14:26 (RSV)

¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him – Ephesians 1:17

The Holy Spirit _____ – *He strengthens us with His power*

⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” – Acts 1:8

¹⁶ that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being – Ephesians 4:16

2. The Filling of the Holy Spirit

And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit
Ephesians 5:18

Scripture teaches one baptism of the Holy Spirit, but many fillings of the Holy Spirit.

In a similar way to a gas tank needing to be regularly and repeatedly filled with fuel and our bodies needing to be regularly and repeatedly filled with food and water, we need to be regularly and repeatedly be filled with the Holy Spirit.

BEING FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT IS A _____.

- Present – continuous action
- Passive – we are the object of the action
- Indicative – command, not a suggestion

BEING FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT IS ABOUT _____.

- Filled means “to be controlled, intoxicated, permeated, influenced.”
- What drunkenness is to the body negatively, the Holy Spirit is to spirit positively.
- When filled with the Spirit we are operating under the influence of the Spirit. `

We resist the filling of the Spirit by quenching the Spirit and grieving the Spirit.

<i>Do not grieve the Holy Spirit</i> Ephesians 4:30	QUENCH THE SPIRIT: sins of commission to do things the Spirit does not want me to do	Ways I have Quenched the Spirit:
<i>Do not quench the Holy Spirit</i> 1 Thessalonians 5:19	GRIEVE THE SPIRIT: sins of omission to not do things the Spirit wants me to do	Ways I have Grieved the Spirit:

PRAY TO BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

If we want to be filled with the Holy Spirit, we must *pray* for it. This is what Paul does in Ephesians 3:19. He asks the Father in heaven (v 14) that the believers might be *“filled with all the fullness of God.”*

We need the Holy Spirit’s filling in our lives, in our homes, and in our church. We are filled with the Spirit when we surrender ourselves to His control and ask Him to fill us. When we do so, the Holy Spirit fills us.

And being filled with the Spirit is to be a daily reality in our lives – rather than being full of self, we are to be full of the Spirit.

<p>²³ <i>Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts!</i></p> <p>²⁴ <i>And see if there be any grievous way in me and lead me in the way everlasting!</i></p> <p>Psalm 139:23-24</p>	<p>Ponder</p>	<p>This is a bold and vulnerable prayer to pray. Ask God to search you and to show you how you are grieving or quenching the Spirit. You cannot fully be filled with the Spirit if you are unwilling to open all areas of your life to the Lord to do some house cleaning. We clean out our house through repentance.</p>
<p>⁹ <i>If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.</i></p> <p>1 John 1:9</p>	<p>Repent</p>	<p>The Holy Spirit cannot fill you if you are filled with sin. As you confess your sins you are not only forgiven, but you are cleansed. You are clearing out sin and creating room for the Spirit.</p>
<p>¹¹ <i>What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; ¹² or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³ If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”</i></p> <p>Luke 11:11-13</p>	<p>Ask</p>	<p>The Father gives the Spirit to those who ask him! It’s as simple as praying, <i>“Lord, fill me with your Spirit today. Fill me with your presence and your power.”</i> This a great prayer to pray every time you eat. At the same time, you eat to replenish your body you can ask to be replenished with the Spirit.</p>
<p>¹⁹ <i>Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God?</i></p> <p><i>You are not your own</i></p> <p>1 Corinthians 6:19</p>	<p>Yield</p>	<p>When you yield to the Lord, instead of grieving and quenching the Spirit, you maintain the filling of the Spirit. We do not need more will power in our lives; we need more Holy Spirit power in our lives.</p>

3. The Fruit of the Holy Spirit

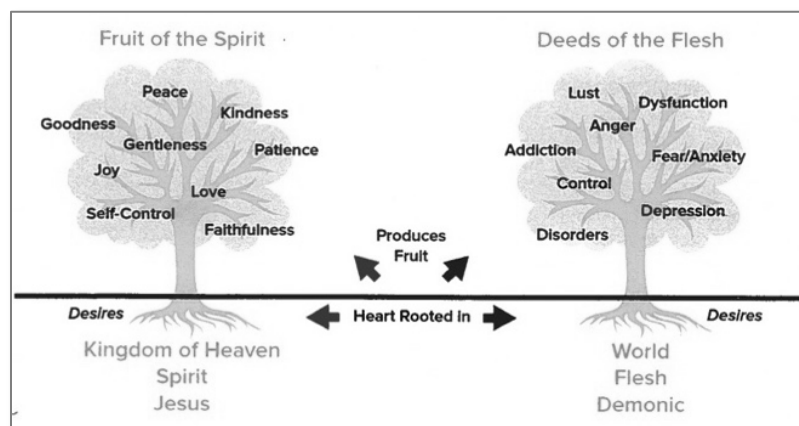
²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. – Galatians 5:22-23

The Holy Spirit's presence in our life produces fruit – the fruit of the Spirit.



	Showing affection for others without expecting anything in return
	Supernatural delight from God
	Calm and confidence assurance in the Lord's plans and purposes
	Trusting God's timing without complaining
	Serving others in practical ways
	Be the same person in each situation
	Dependable, reliable, loyal
	Power under control
	Your desires under God's control

We don't grow the fruit. The Holy Spirit grows the fruit as we allow Him to fill us and work in our lives.



^STEPS: Gospel-Centered Recovery, Lifeway

Fruit reveal roots. If you are rooted in the flesh, the deeds of the flesh will result.
 If you are rooted in the Spirit, the fruit of the Spirit will result.

4.The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Spiritual Gifts are ...

Spirit-empowered abilities given by the Holy Spirit to empower followers of Jesus to serve others and build the body of Christ.

¹⁰ *As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:*
¹¹ *whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. - 1 Peter 4:10-11*

1. Every believer has a spiritual gift; no believer has all the gifts.
2. Spiritual gifts are to serve others, not serve self.
3. We need to be good managers of our gifts – whether speaking gifts or serving gifts.

DISCERNING SPIRITUAL GIFTS

1. PERSONAL EXPERIENCE. *Discover your spiritual gifts by rolling up your sleeves and serving the Lord by serving others in the church. See how it goes. If it's not a fit, don't get discouraged. Rather, try something else until you find your fit.*
2. ASK OTHERS. *Better than assuming your own spiritual gifts, ask others to affirm your spiritual gifts. Let others watch you in action as you serve in varied roles and ask for their honest feedback.*
3. TAKE A SPIRITUAL GIFT ASSESSMENT. *An assessment can be helpful and insightful, but the previous two steps are often more reliable.*

USING SPIRITUAL GIFTS

1. UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GIFT AND ROLES. *There are a lot of roles for each of the spiritual gifts.*
2. FIND PLACES TO SERVE. *Gifts are given to be used to serve others, not serve self. Being selfless is to serve where there are needs. The church is like family who pitch in to help as needed.*
3. SEEK TO GROW SPIRITUALLY. *Giftedness and maturity are not same. Our gifts are developed through growth in discipleship.*

SPIRITUAL GIFTS DESCRIBED

¹Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed.
1 Corinthians 12:1

Two primary passages talk about spiritual gifts – Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12.

Administration 1 Cor 12:28	Ability to complete God-given goals with skills in planning, organizing, & supervision	Hospitality Rom 12:13	Ability to make others feel welcome as a mean to disciple or serve them
Apostleship 1 Cor 12:28	Being sent to a new place with the Gospel and to raise up leaders	Knowledge 1 Cor 12:8	Ability to research facts, eagerness to learn, with the goal of making informed decisions.
Discernment 1 Cor 12:10	Wisdom to recognize truth and untruth from behavior and teaching	Leadership Rom 12:8	Ability to influence and motivate people to follow the Lord
Evangelism Eph 4:11	Ability and passion to boldly communicate the message of the Gospel to non-believers	Mercy Rom 12:8	Ability to feel and express empathy toward others who are suffering
Exhortation Rom 12:8	Ability to inspire, encourage, comfort, and support to others	Prophecy Rom 12:6, 1 Cor 12:10	Ability to speak the message of God to others
Faith 1 Cor 12:9	Ability to envision what needs to be done and to trust God's power and provision to accomplish it	Service Rom 12:7, 1 Cor 12:28	Ability to identify tasks needed for the body of Christ and using available resources
Giving Rom 12:8	Willing and able to share personal resources meet others' needs and to support ministries	Tongues 1 Cor 12:8-10, 29-30	Ability to speak in another language (one that is not learned) or a personal prayer language
Healing 1 Cor 12:9	Capability to be used by God to restore others – physically, emotionally, or spiritually	Teaching Rom 12:7, 1 Cor 12:28	Ability to communicate truth from God's Word resulting in understanding and application
Helps Rom 12:7, 1 Cor 12:28	Ability to support others in the body of Christ	Wisdom 1 Cor 12:8	Insight into people and situations with an understanding of what to do and how to do it.

While spiritual gifts are important, they are not the most important thing. The Apostle Paul says love is more excellent than all spiritual gifts. And these gifts, if not used in love, are worthless.

¹If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. – 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

SPIRITUAL GIFT ASSESSMENT

This spiritual gift assessment from www.gifts.churchgrowth.org will take about 20 minutes to complete.

Upon completion, read about your gifts – the value of your gifts, cautions about your gifts, and ways to use your gifts to serve others and the church.



PERSONAL SPIRITUAL GIFTS SUMMARY

My Spiritual Gifts based on assessment and affirmation	_____	_____	_____
Value of this spiritual gift			
Cautions re this spiritual gift			
Roles in the body of Christ for this spiritual gift			
Ways I would like to serve using this gift			

GROUP DISCUSSION | HOLY SPIRIT

SHARE: GET TALKING

1. Why does what you believe about the Holy Spirit matter?
2. What was most helpful for you in this study?

STUDY: GO DEEPER

3. Review ten of the ministries of the Holy Spirit. Why are each of these ministries important? How have you experienced them in your life?
4. Read Ephesians 5:18. In what ways is the filling of the Holy Spirit a command about control?
5. What is the difference between quenching the Holy Spirit and grieving the Holy Spirit?
6. What is a fruit of the Spirit that would like to see increase in your life?
7. Spiritual gifts are given for use within the church, the body of Christ. How are you using your gifts to serve the body of Christ? In what ways do you need to grow in serving?

SUPPORT: GROW TOGETHER

8. What is a specific application for you this week?
9. What commitments did you make last week? How is it going?
10. How can we pray for and support you this week?

MEMORY VERSE

*And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery,
but be filled with the Spirit - Ephesians 5:18*

THE CHURCH

We believe in the one, universal Church made up of all who have trusted in Christ, who is the Head of the Church, which is His body. We also believe in the local church, which is an autonomous, local congregation of baptized believers who gather for worship, teaching, spiritual growth, service, fellowship, and observance of the ordinances of baptism and communion. The local church operates under the Lordship of Christ and is governed by elders who are assisted by deacons. It grows as each partner serves the body using the spiritual gifts given to them by the Holy Spirit, resulting in maturity, unity, and glory to God. Christ has commissioned the church and its individual partners to spread the Gospel throughout the world.

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY | THE CHURCH

H.E.A.R. GOD'S WORD

Highlight - *what does the text say?*

Explain - *what does the text mean?*

Apply - *what does the text mean for me?*

Reflect - *how can the text dwell in me?*

In preparation for your Growth Group, H.E.A.R. from God's Word. Read these verses from the Statement of Faith. Mark up the Word. Journal your observations and personal notes.

DAY ONE

[16] Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." [17] And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. [18] And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. [19] I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." - Matthew 16:16-19

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. - Matthew 28:18-20

[28] Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. - Acts 20:28

[22] And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, [23] which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all. - Ephesians 1:22-23

DAY TWO

DAY THREE

90 Day Theology

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY | THE CHURCH

Reflect on your personal study of the Church from God's Word. Summarize your thoughts to help prepare you for sharing in what you learned with your Growth Group.

What do these verses say about the Church?

How do these verses challenge your thinking?

How should these verses impact your living?

BEFORE WATCHING THE TEACHING VIDEO,
start your Growth Group connecting with each other.

- Share a high or low from the week
- Share reflections from your personal Bible study

THE CHURCH

1. The Mission of the Church

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. - Matthew 28:18-20

These words of Jesus, known as the Great Commission, were given after His resurrection and before His ascension. This mission is for His disciples – both then *and* now.

Our mission is to _____.

To “*make disciples*” is the main imperative in Jesus’ words. There are three participles in this passage that support this effort –

- *go* – as you are going, throughout life
- *baptizing* – Jesus, along with Scripture, teaches believers’ baptism
- *teaching* – with an emphasis on increasing obedience more than increasing in knowledge

Our mission is not to *be* a disciple, but to *make* disciples. All Christians are disciples, but not all disciples are making disciples.

As a disciple, God has given you authority to make disciples. And Jesus promises to be with you – to equip and empower you – to fulfill this mission.

**We exist to help people
believe in, belong to, and
become like Jesus.**

To make disciples is to help people

- *believe* through showing and sharing the Gospel (John 1:12)
- *belong* through connecting people into community (Romans 12:4-5)
- *become* like Jesus through increased growth in Christlike character and conduct (Colossians 1:28)

2. The Values of the Church

⁴¹ Those who received his word were baptized and there were added that day about three thousand souls. ⁴² And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵ And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. - Acts 2:41-47

WON TO _____

⁴¹ Those who received his word were baptized and there were added that day about three thousand souls. ⁴² And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Through faith in Jesus, we have been won to worship. As a result, we are devoted to these elements of worship.

- *Apostles' teaching* - We are committed to promoting the personal study and the public proclamation of God's Word.
- *Fellowship* - Fellowship is spiritual togetherness with each other by being partners and participants in the Gospel.
- *Breaking of bread* - We remember the sacrifice of Jesus Christ through communion, an aspect of worship.
- *Prayers* - We call out to God in prayer - personally and corporately.

SAVED TO _____

⁴³ And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.

The apostles, who were saved, served others by pointing to Jesus through wonders and signs. In the same way, we have been saved to serve, not been saved to sit.

As the church grew those who were saved, served. Throughout Acts we see people in the church serving tables, meeting needs, or hosting people in their homes. All to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

We are saved not be only *consumers* of ministry but also *contributors* to ministry.

BLESSED TO _____

⁴⁴ And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵ And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.

We are blessed to be a part of the Church - to the movement of God to meet others' needs and to spread the Gospel.

As faithful stewards we invest our ...

- *Time* - We give of our time to serve others by serving on a ministry team
- *Talents* - We maximize our gifts and abilities for Kingdom purposes
- *Treasures* - We give back generously of the first fruits of our finances as an act of worship

MATURED TO _____

⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts,

We follow the pattern of the early church by gathering for weekend worship and gathering in smaller groups throughout the week.

We get out of rows and into circles for mutual ministry of discipleship and care.

As our small groups matures spiritually and grows numerically, we multiply the group for multiplied ministry.

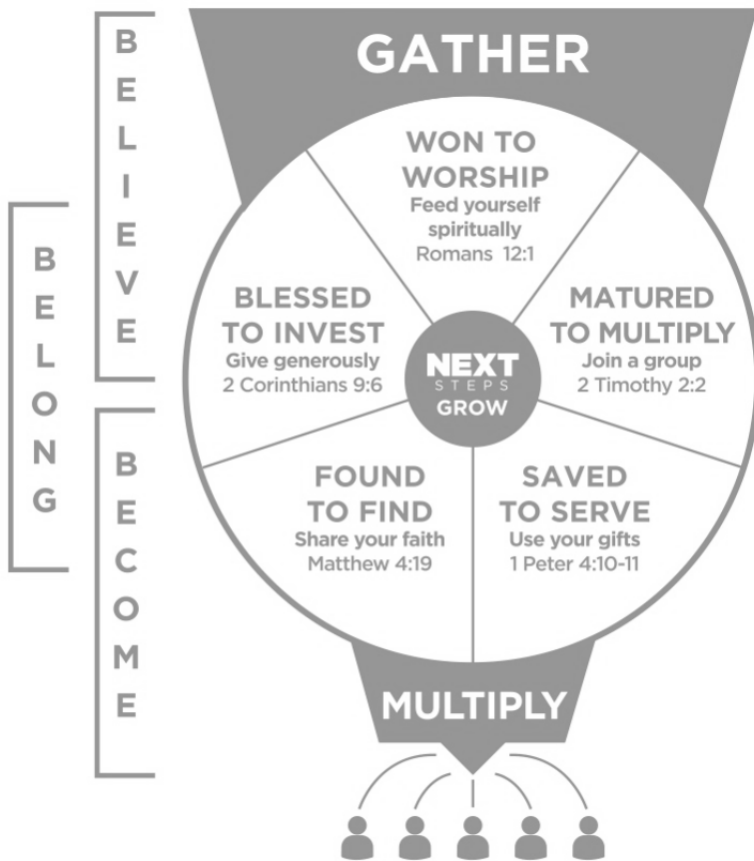
FOUND TO _____

⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved

The early church cared for people and shared the Gospel. As a result, they had favor in the community and people were being saved every day. We are called to do the same -

- *Care for Others* - serve on host teams or in the Care Center, look for ways to serve your neighbors and your community.
- *Share the Gospel* - share your story, invite others to church, explain the Good News of Jesus.

**These values are more than statements -
this is who we are as a church.**



The wheel of engagement is a picture of our intentional discipleship process.

We gather in a variety of impactful environments to live out our five values.

Won to Worship - *feed yourself spiritually*

Matured to Multiply - *engage in community, join a group*

Saved to Serve - *use your gifts, join a sere team.*

Found to Find - *share your faith with others.*

Blessed to Invest - *give back to God of your financial resources*

It is a wheel because it rotates, it isn't stationary. Imagine a wheel rotating with people engaged in different areas in different seasons.

Ideally, we are engaged in all five ways. If someone in engaged in three of the five areas they will likely be growing in their faith and discipleship.

PARTNERSHIP AT HIGHPOINT

Many churches promote membership. But the church is not Costco, nor is it a country club. Membership implies privilege, entitlement, and status.

At Highpoint, we choose to use the term "partner." To partner communicates spiritual togetherness, a shared commitment of common values. To partner is active and participatory; being on the move with God through His church.

Partnership is about being a part of a movement advancing the message, mission, and ministry of Jesus here, there, and everywhere.

To become a Partner at Highpoint involves a) story of faith in Jesus, b) baptism as a believer, and c) a commit to the values of Highpoint. To learn more, attend Growth Track.

3. The Ordinances of the Church

We believe that the Lord Jesus has given the local church two ordinances: baptism and communion. All who have received Christ as Savior should be baptized by immersion as a symbolic testimony of their participation in the death and resurrection of Christ. Likewise, believers should regularly partake in communion as a symbolic remembrance of Christ's death and as a testimony of our fellowship and our unity as the body of Christ.

BAPTISM

Jesus was baptized. And He commands His followers to be baptized. Therefore, baptism is an important step of faith and obedience for each believer.

Baptism is a _____

Baptism is one's public profession of your personal decision to follow Jesus. It's the biblical way to confess and declare your faith in Jesus.

During baptism, each person has an opportunity to share his/her story of faith in Jesus.

- What was your life before faith in Jesus?
- When did you place your faith in Jesus?
- How has Jesus changed your life?
- Why do you want to be baptized?

Baptism is _____

Baptism is something each person is to do for himself/herself. It is not something that a spouse can do for a spouse, or a friend for a friend, or a parent can do for a child.

The act of baptism does not save someone. Only Jesus saves. Baptism is the biblical way to confess and declare that you are saved.

Baptism is a _____

At Highpoint, we practice baptism by immersion, rather than sprinkling or pouring, because that is what we see in the Bible – a person went *into* the water and *came up from* the water. In this way, baptism by immersion (standing, lowered, raised) is a significant picture.

- Baptism is a picture of Jesus – His death, burial, and resurrection.
- Baptism is also a picture your story – you were once dead in sin, but you have been forgiven, and now you have been raised to new life.

COMMUNION

Jesus instituted communion through His last supper with His disciples as part of the Passover (Matthew 26:26-30, Mark 14:22-26, Luke 22:14-20). Jesus took the unleavened bread and broke it - a symbol of His body. Then, He took the cup - a symbol of His blood shed.

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵ In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

²⁷ Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹ For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. - 1 Corinthians 11:23-29

The frequency of observing communion is determined by the local church. Highpoint Church practices communion once a month.

Communion is an opportunity to ...

- _____ the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross; His body broken, His blood shed.
- _____ personally in an introspective way to receive communion in a worthy manner.
- _____ of any known sin to the Lord - if we confess our sins He is faithful and just and will forgive us of our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).
- _____ in God's grace by thanking God for His forgiveness.

VIEWS ABOUT COMMUNION AND THE PRESENCE OF JESUS

Transubstantiation - The Roman Catholic view says the bread and wine actually become the body and blood of Jesus.

Consubstantiation - The Lutheran view says Jesus is present in, with, and under the bread received (as water in a sponge).

Memorial View - This view of most protestant churches says the elements of the bread and cup are symbols to serve a memorial to remember the work of Jesus on the cross.

BAPTISM

FAQ

The Bible teaches belief, then baptism.

So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. - Acts 2:41

*But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.
Acts 8:12*

Even Simon himself believed, and after being baptized he continued with Philip. And seeing signs and great miracles performed, he was amazed. -Acts 8:13

And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" -Acts 8:34-36

And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family. -Acts 16:31-33

These verses indicate that immediately after someone believed, they were baptized as a public profession of their belief.

Let's consider some frequently asked questions. Perhaps you have these questions. Or someone you know has these questions.

WHAT IS BAPTISM?

Baptism is the public profession of a personal decision to follow Jesus. It is the biblical way to confess and declare faith in Jesus.

At Highpoint, we practice baptism by immersion, rather than sprinkling or pouring, because that is what is described the Bible – people went into the water and came up from the water. If someone has a physical limitation, we will gladly accommodate the need.

Baptism by immersion is a picture.

- Baptism is a picture of Jesus – His death, burial, and resurrection.
- Baptism is a picture your story – you were once dead in sin, but you have been forgiven, and now you have been raised to new life.

The act of baptism does not save someone. Only Jesus saves. But baptism is the biblical way to confess and declare that you are saved.

WHEN DO I GET BAPTIZED?

The order is belief, then baptism. And in the Bible, we see an immediate response.

There was not a baptism class that needed to be completed as a prerequisite. There was not a waiting period to gain approval or be confirmed.

Instead, it was: *"Here is some water. What prevents me from being baptized?"*

If you are a new believer – it is never too soon to be baptized.

If you have known the Lord for years or decades – it is never too late to be baptized.

Some of the greatest baptism moments at Highpoint have been people in both categories – new believers and long-time believers – both stepping forward in obedience.

Jesus was baptized and commands each of His followers to be baptized.

Whether you have been a Christian for a few days or weeks; or for years or decades – do not delay your obedience to Jesus!

WHAT IF I WAS BAPTIZED AS AN INFANT?

Remember the order we see in the Bible – believe, then baptism.

If you were baptized as an infant, it was your parents' decision, not your decision. Your parents loved you and did what they thought was best. You should be grateful!

But what we see in the Bible is personal belief in Jesus.

You are not saved because your parents, grandparents, siblings believe in Jesus. You are saved through your personal belief. Again, the order – belief, then baptism.

To be baptized as an adult does not disrespect your parents. In fact, it honors your parents because you are affirming what they desired for you when you were baptized as an infant and that is faith in Jesus.

WHAT IF I WAS ALREADY BAPTIZED?

The Bible does not teach the need to be baptized over and over again.

If you were baptized before genuine belief, you should be baptized again.

If you were baptized after personal belief, you do not need to be baptized again and again. You do not need to be baptized at each church you attend. Or after each time you sin or rededicate yourself.

Perhaps you are unsure. Perhaps you were baptized in grade school or at a teen retreat because other students were being baptized, but you did not really start following the Lord until later in your life. Perhaps you are not sure when you were saved and you want your baptism to be a meaningful moment. If this is you, you are encouraged you to be baptized.

WHAT IF MY SON OR DAUGHTER WANTS TO BE BAPTIZED?

Baptism needs to be his/her personal choice.

Have your child contact a pastor. If your child is not ready to that, perhaps give it some more time.

Baptism is to please the Lord, not a parent. And baptism should occur at an age he/she will remember.

CAN A FAMILY BE BAPTIZED?

Yes. If each person has a personal story of faith in Christ and desires to be baptized. What a great thing to do together as husband and wife, or as a parent and child, or as a family together.

WHY SHOULD I GET BAPTIZED?

If you are a Christian and not yet baptized it is a matter of one of two things.

- It is either a matter of spiritual ignorance - as in you didn't know.
- Or it is a matter of spiritual pride. - as in you do know but you don't think it applies to you. For whatever reason you've convinced yourself that you don't need to do it.

Maybe you think that because you been following Christ for so long that to do it now would be embarrassing. We should never be embarrassed when we do what God wants, no matter how long it takes us to get on board.

Fear is a form of pride because fear is rooted in self, not in faith. This why baptism is a step of faith.

Ask yourself the question the Ethiopian asked Philip, *"What prevents me from being baptized?"*

Which is it for you? Is it a matter of spiritual ignorance or spiritual pride? There aren't really any other options.

After reading this Baptism FAQ you cannot claim spiritual ignorance anymore. The only option left for you if you haven't been baptized is spiritual pride. Don't let that be you! The Bible says, "Humble yourself before the Lord & He will exalt you."

www.highpoint.church/baptism



GROUP DISCUSSION | THE CHURCH

SHARE: GET TALKING

1. Why does what you believe about the church matter?
2. What was most helpful for you in this study?

STUDY: GO DEEPER

3. Read Matthew 28:19-20. Our mission is to make disciples. What is the difference between “being a disciple” and “making disciples”?
4. What were the values of the early church in Acts 2:41-47? How would you grade yourself in each of these values? Explain.
5. How would you explain the importance of baptism to someone else? Have you been baptized as a believer in Jesus? If so, share about your baptism. If not, what is preventing you from being baptized?
6. What is communion and its importance?
7. Are you a Partner at Highpoint? If not, are you willing to attend the next Growth Track to learn more?

SUPPORT: GROW TOGETHER

8. What is a specific application for you this week?
9. What commitments did you make last week? How is it going?
10. How can we pray for and support you this week? *Share and listen to others. Jot down prayer requests to follow up during the week and at the next group time.*

MEMORY VERSE

from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. - Ephesians 4:16

LAST DAYS

We believe that at God's appointed time, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly to the earth and establish His kingdom. We believe in the bodily resurrection of believers and unbelievers. At final judgment, unbelievers will be separated forever from God in a place of everlasting punishment because of their rejection of Jesus Christ. Believers, in their resurrected bodies, will live in God's glorious presence as they worship and serve Him forever.

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY | LAST DAYS

H.E.A.R. GOD'S WORD

Highlight - *what does the text say?*

Explain – *what does the text mean?*

Apply – *what does the text mean for me?*

Reflect – *how can the text dwell in me?*

In preparation for your Growth Group, H.E.A.R. from God's Word. Read these verses from the Statement of Faith. Mark up the Word. Journal your observations and personal notes.

DAY ONE

[3] And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. - John 14:3

6 So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." 9 And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10 And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, 11 and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven." - Acts 1:6-11

20 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. 23 But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. 24 Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. 25 For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death. - 1 Corinthians 15:20-26

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY | LAST DAYS

[13] so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.
- 1 Thessalonians 3:13

[5] *This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering—[6] since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, [7] and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels [8] in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. [9] They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, [10] when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed. - 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10*

[27] And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, [28] so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him. - Hebrews 9:27-28

[11] Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. [12] His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. [13] He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. - Revelation 19:11-13

DAY TWO

DAY THREE

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY | LAST DAYS

Reflect on your personal study of Last Days from God's Word. Summarize your thoughts to help prepare you for sharing in what you learned with your Growth Group.

What do these verses say about the Last Days?

How do these verses challenge your thinking?

How should these verses influence your living?

BEFORE WATCHING THE TEACHING VIDEO,
start your Growth Group connecting with each other.

- Share a high or low from the week
- Share reflections from your personal Bible study

LAST DAYS

1. Jesus is Returning

⁹ After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. ¹⁰ They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹ "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven." - Acts 1:9-11 (NIV)

HIS RETURN WILL BE _____

"same Jesus ... same way"

The same Jesus who was born in Bethlehem, raised in Galilee, died on a cross, rose again, and ascended into heaven is coming again - personally, literally, visibly, bodily.

HIS RETURN WILL BE _____

²⁷ And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.
Luke 21:27

⁷ Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen. - Revelation 1:7

¹¹ Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. ¹² His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. ¹³ He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. ¹⁵ From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. ¹⁶ On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords. - Revelation 19:11-16

HIS RETURN IS _____

⁴² Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming ... ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Matthew 24:42, 44

¹³ Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour. - Matthew 25:13

³² "But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. - Mark 13:32-33

²⁰ He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!
Revelation 22:20

Anyone who claims to know when Jesus will return is always wrong.

Imminent isn't immediate; but it could be any day.

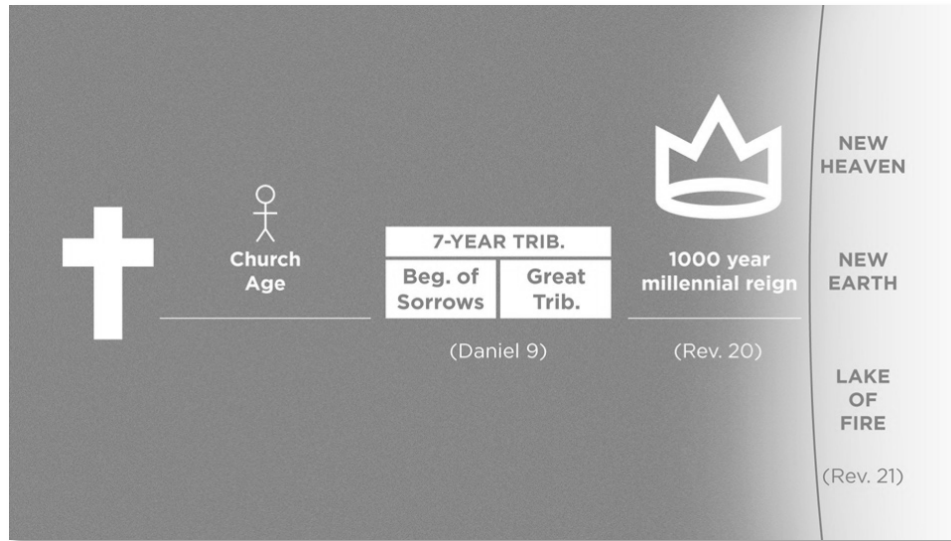
Live in the present expecting at any moment Jesus might return.

SUMMARY OF LAST DAYS

1. Jesus will return (Acts 1:11)
2. Our bodies will be resurrected, our souls will be reunited with our bodies (1 Corinthians 15:50-53)
3. Final judgement will occur (2 Corinthians 5:10; Revelation 20:11-15)
4. Jesus will reign and rule over the earth (Revelation 11:15)
5. Satan, sin, and death will be banished forever (Revelation 20:7-10)
6. We will dwell with God forever (Revelation 21-22)

^Everyday Theology, Mary Wiley

ESCHATOLOGY OVERVIEW



Four Views of the Rapture 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	
Pre-Tribulation Rapture	Rapture happens before the Great Tribulation preceding the return of Jesus
Mid-Tribulation Rapture	Rapture halfway through Great Tribulation when the Anti-Christ assumes power; preceding return of Jesus
Pre-Wrath Rapture	Rapture will happen at the end of Great Tribulation before the bowl judgements (Revelation 16); preceding return of Jesus
Post Tribulation	Rapture occurs simultaneous to the return of Jesus at the end of the Tribulation

There is biblical evidence and merit to each of these positions. Each position agrees in the essential doctrine of the return of Jesus. But the timing of rapture related to Great Tribulation is non-essential. When Jesus comes again, we will not argue about when or how it occurred, so let's not argue now.

Four Views of the Millennium Jesus' Thousand Year Reign (Revelation 20)	
Amillennialism	Jesus will not have a literal thousand-year reign on the earth; Revelation 20 is symbolic
Postmillennialism	Jesus will return after the millennial (not literal) reign, which began at the cross.
Premillennialism	After the church age will come a time of tribulation. Jesus will return and reign alongside believers for one thousand years.
Pretribulation Premillennialism	Jesus will rapture His people before the tribulation begins. After the tribulation, Jesus will return and reign for the millennium.

[^]for further study see *Systematic Theology* by Wayne Grudem

2. Judgment is Coming

The Bible teaches there will be two judgements in the last days – one for believers and one for nonbelievers.

JUDGEMENT _____ OF CHRIST

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; ¹¹ for it is written, “As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.” ¹² So then each of us will give an account of himself to God. - Romans 14:10-12

¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. - 2 Corinthians 5:10

GREAT WHITE _____ JUDGEMENT

¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. ¹³ And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. ¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. ¹⁵ And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. – Revelation 20:11-15

²⁷ And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment
Hebrews 9:27

Judgement Seat of Christ		Great White Throne Judgement
Believers	Who will be judged?	Unbelievers
Jesus	Who is the judge?	Jesus
Reward the faithful	What is the purpose?	Punish the rebellious
Good works will be rewarded	What is the outcome?	Spiritually dead thrown into the lake of fire, eternally separated from God.

Are you ready to give an account of your life to Jesus?

3. Eternity is Real

If a man dies, will he live again? – Job 14:14

Five False Views of Eternity

Materialist – *there is no such thing as soul or spirit; when we die we simply cease to exist*

Reincarnationist – *after we die we come back to earth in another life form, either higher or lower based on how we lived.*

Universalist – *a loving God would never send anyone to hell, eventually everyone ends up in heaven*

Annihilationist – *believers go to heaven while unbelievers are destroyed by God*

Probationist – *everyone goes to Purgatory where we pay for our sinful acts unto; we have purged ourselves, then we enter heaven.*

^Ray Pritchard, What a Christian Believes

³⁶ *Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him. – John 3:36*

HELL IS ETERNAL _____

¹⁵ *And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. – Revelation 20:15*

³⁰ *And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth ...* ⁴¹ *"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels ...* ⁴⁶ *And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."* – Matthew 25:30, 41, 46

⁴³ *And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than with two hands to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. ⁴⁵ And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame than with two feet to be thrown into hell. ⁴⁷ And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell, ⁴⁸ 'where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.*
– Mark 9:43-48

Jesus talked more about hell than heaven.

Hell is real, terrible, and eternal. Hell is worse than anyone can imagine.

Hell is an eternal place of conscious punishment for those who reject Jesus.

At the end of the age, the Devil will be *"thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur ... and will be tormented day and night forever and ever"* (Revelation 20:10)

Biblical Descriptions of Hell

- Fire – Matthew 13:42, 50; 18:8,9; Revelation 19:20; 20:14-15
- Darkness – Matthew 25:30; Jude 13
- Punishment – Revelation 14:10-11
- Exclusion from God's Presence – Matthew 7:23; 25:41; Luke 16:19; 2 Thessalonians 1:9
- Restlessness – Revelation 14:11
- Second Death – Revelation 2:11; 20:6, 14; 21:8
- Weeping and Gnashing of Teeth – Matthew 13:42, 50; 22:12-13; 24:51; 25:30; Luke 13:28

Heaven and hell are a result of God's love and God's justice.

⁴ *[God] ... who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

1 Timothy 2:4

⁹ *The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.* - 2 Peter 3:9

¹⁷ *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.* ¹⁸ *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 3:17-18

God doesn't send people to hell; people choose hell by rejecting Jesus.

²¹ For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened ... ²⁴ Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, ²⁵ because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

Romans 1:21, 24-25

*Either people will say to God, "Thy will be done,"
or God will say to them, "Thy will be done."
C.S. Lewis, The Great Divorce*

HEAVEN IS ETERNAL _____

¹ *"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. - John 14:1-3*

³ *And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "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. ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." - Revelation 21:3-4*

Facts about Heaven

- Heaven is a real place, not just a state of mind.
- Heaven is more amazing than anyone could imagine.
- Heaven is the dwelling place of God
- In heaven, fellowship with God is unhindered.
- Heaven is reserved for those who place their faith in Jesus.

¹⁶ *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. - John 3:16*

²⁵ *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" - John 11:25-26*

GROUP DISCUSSION | LAST DAYS

SHARE: GET TALKING

1. Why does what you believe about the Last Days matter?
2. What was most helpful for you in this study?

STUDY: GO DEEPER

3. Read John 14:1-3. Summarize these verses in your own words.
4. Jesus is returning. How should this reality affect our daily living?
5. What is the difference between the Judgement Seat of Christ and the Great White Throne Judgment?
6. Why do you think Jesus talked more about hell than heaven?
7. Summarize John 3:36 in your own words.

SUPPORT: GROW TOGETHER

8. What is a specific application for you this week?
9. What commitments did you make last week? How is it going?
10. How can we pray for and support you this week? *Share and listen to others. Jot down prayer requests to follow up during the week and at the next group time.*

MEMORY VERSE

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. – John 3:16

conclusion

1. Summarize the 8 essential doctrines your own words. Review your notes if necessary.

GOD	JESUS
BIBLE	HUMAN CONDITION
SALVATION	HOLY SPIRIT
CHURCH	END TIMES

2. How do you know God more deeply because of this study?
3. What did you learn about yourself through this theology study?
4. Which theology topic challenged you the most in your thinking and your living? Explain.
5. What is your plan for continued growth in your thinking and your living?
6. How can you share what you learned with someone else to encourage their growth in theology, too?

¹⁶ Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers. -1 Timothy 4:16 (NIV)

MEMORY VERSES

GOD	JESUS
BIBLE	HUMAN CONDITION
SALVATION	HOLY SPIRIT
CHURCH	END TIMES

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
Psalm 119:105

The goal of theology is not just a deeper knowledge about God; it's about knowing God more deeply.

Knowing God more deeply impacts our thinking and our living. This study goes beyond biblical theology to applied theology.

This study is based the statement of faith of Highpoint Church. Dig into an essential doctrine every week through a personal Bible study, teaching, and group discussion.

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