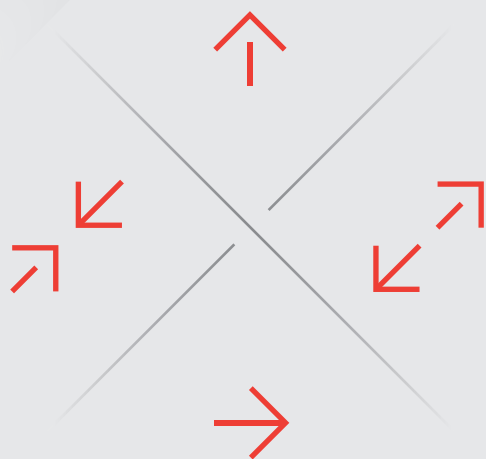
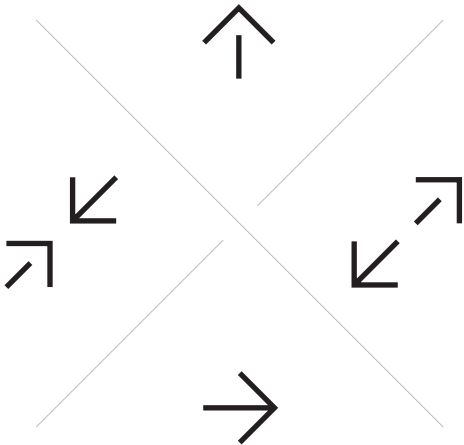


EQUIP



“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations” — Jesus



EQUIP FIELDGUIDE

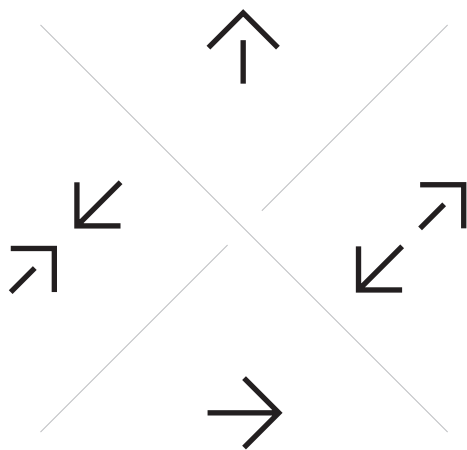
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Aknowledgements: Discussion questions and reflections for Knowable Word, License to Kill, Smooth Stones, The Gospel at Work, and Christian Beliefs were taken or adapted from each book.

**MAKE DISCIPLES THAT MAKE DISCIPLES.
PLANT CHURCHES THAT PLANT CHURCHES.**



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INTRODUCTION: EQUIP YEAR

There is almost nothing better, or more rewarding, than getting to follow Jesus in the journey of making disciples that make disciples. And yet, simply being loved, forgiven, and kept by Jesus is in fact better. Praise God that as disciples we get both of these. EQUIP is all about helping you grow in your love and devotion to Jesus and your effectiveness in making disciples of Jesus. You will do this in the context of real community where you will be challenged, encouraged, and helped to move forward as a disciple of Jesus, empowered by His Spirit, able to make disciples that make disciples.

Put simply, the aim of EQUIP is to cultivate your love for Jesus and equip you to be an effective disciple-making disciple.

We hope that you'll see EQUIP as a massive privilege, not because of the content or structure, but because of the opportunity to focus devoted time and energy to learn more about the depths of the Gospel. Its implications, and the joy of impacting others for Christ is an incredible gift from God.

THE APPROACH FOR EQUIP

EQUIP is not a class or a program. EQUIP is an experience within a local church context for life-on-life missional discipleship. The books you'll read and the things you'll write are meant to propel real transformation in your heart (motives/affections), head (understanding), and hands (action). So, the goal for EQUIP is life transformation, not just head information, though you will learn a lot.

To push past mere information and into personal transformation expect to spend a good amount of time with the people in your EQUIP group beyond meeting for regular discussion. Expect to be on mission with the people in your group. Expect to pray together. Expect and pursue life-on-life learning and discipleship with your group to the best of your ability. Your EQUIP leader will model this, but you'll make it that much better by bringing a life-on-life attitude to your group.

Life-on-life discipleship will ensure that you get the chance to learn, watch, and model what it means to be disciple-making disciples in the context of community, so that you can soon do the same for others, who will do the same for others, so that whole neighborhoods, cities, campuses, and countries will be filled with disciples of Jesus.

HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF THE YEAR

If you keep three things at the forefront of your mind throughout EQUIP, there's no doubt you'll make the most of this opportunity. First, remember that everything you do this year, from reading to writing projects to praying with your group, is worship to God. When that amazing truth stays primary, projects that feel tedious when it's been a hard week begin to be infused with a sense of joy and awe. The best way to keep this in mind is to pray before every study/reading/writing session you do. Ask God to help give you the focus, energy, and heart of worship as you do your weekly reading, etc. Reading about theology should be worshipful, but it's often not, so start everything in prayer.

Second, plan. Plan your work in advance. What times during the week will you read and study? Where will you do your work? Set a regular place and rhythm. What things in your life can you plan to invite your group members into for life-on-life community and mission? This type of planning will keep you from getting overwhelmed and will help you maximize your time.

Third, and most importantly, continually remember Jesus and what He has done for you. Because of His great sacrifice in your place, on the cross for your sins, you are fully loved by God the Father. You are an adopted child of God because of the saving work of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. As a justified, adopted, forgiven, Spirit-empowered Christian, you are not doing EQUIP to prove anything to God or anyone else, or even yourself. Instead, because of the Gospel you can seize this opportunity to glorify your King from a heart of gratitude and love but never to try and earn what He has already given in Jesus. Your aim in EQUIP is to glorify God, not earn His love; you are already have that completely in Christ. Because you are justified in Jesus, you can admit what you don't know as you go through EQUIP. You can admit where you struggle or need help. You can thank God for the growth He is giving you without becoming arrogant or looking down on others. And, because of the Gospel and the help of the Spirit, you can know that God will use EQUIP to move you forward in maturity and Christlikeness (Phil. 1:6).

A FEW AT-A-GLANCE TIPS:

- Print out your schedule, personal discipleship plan (PDP), and covenant and put them in a place where you can see them often to remind you of what's next and your desired goals.
- Pray before starting your reading, study, and projects. This will help you see the work as a chance to worship rather than something to just get through quickly.
- Create set times during the week for your reading, study, and projects.
- Work on projects with people in your group.
- Regularly pray for the people in your group.
- Spend time with your group outside of discussion times (your leader will help with this).
- Write in your books. The notes will help you for later projects.

DESIRED OUTCOMES

EQUIP is about making and maturing disciples that can multiply disciples. This process won't happen by learning information alone, but by engagement in the context of relational discipleship. Within this context, the emphasis will be helping you grow as a leader of self (personal love for Jesus and increased devotion in following Jesus) and moving towards being a leader of others (making disciples by leading others to follow Jesus). Put simply, the aim of EQUIP is to cultivate your love for Jesus and equip you to be an effective disciple-making disciple.

A helpful way to think of the overarching outcome for the year is by leveraging the following key categories and the corresponding rhythms of upward, inward, outward, and forward, which all flow from the implications of the Gospel.



WORSHIPPER Doctrine / Upward

This relates to how we view, understand, and worship God through sound doctrine, spiritual disciplines, and a right handling of the Scriptures.



FAMILY Church / Inward

This relates to our identity as God's children and what it practically means to be a part of the church of Jesus a family, both universally and locally, because of the Gospel.



AMBASSADOR World / Outward

This relates to our identity as ambassadors of Jesus sent into the world to show off a redeemed life and share the good news of the Redeemer.



DISCIPLE Character / Forward

This relates to the grace fueled effort we put in to move forward in our faith, in order to look more like Jesus who saved us and is changing us. We depend on His grace and make every effort to grow in godly character and make progress as believers.

SPECIFICALLY, OUR HOPE IS THAT EQUIP WOULD HELP YOU:

- Know the Gospel and its implications for all of life
- Know how to read the Bible well and develop a healthy regular rhythm of Bible reading/study
- Know how to pray and grow in frequency and regularity in prayer
- Know what your identity is in Jesus, why it matters, and how it changes everything
- Understand and love the central role of the local church and what it looks like to be a healthy member of the family
- Understand what to do with your finances as a good steward and disciple of Jesus as an act of worship
- Be confidently established in the foundations of faith in a reproducible way so you can teach others
- Understand your role as an ambassador; a kingdom representative and Gospel proclaimer
- Know how to teach, share, and defend what you believe and why
- Be able to teach all of the above to others with clarity and effectiveness
- Identify your spiritual gifts and increase in your stewardship of them for the glory of God, the good of the church, and the advancement of the mission
- Look more like Jesus, more free from sin, more joyful in the Holy Spirit, and more effective in Gospel ministry

COVENANT

I believe the opportunity to participate in EQUIP is a gift of God's kindness, meant to help me grow as a disciple of Jesus and further glorify Him with my life. As a result, I covenant before God, my group, and my church family to:

1. Participate in EQUIP with humility and a desire to learn and grow as a disciple of Jesus by recognizing my need for continued growth in all areas of life
2. Invest my time and energy in my group by coming prepared to engage in discussion
3. Invest my time and energy by doing life-on-life relationship and missional living with my group members beyond our discussion times
4. Be open to receive and give correction and encouragement in my group that we might further grow together as disciples of Jesus
5. Complete all reading and projects on time and with my best efforts, so as to glorify God and maximize this opportunity for growth
6. Preemptively request more time for projects before the due date when more time is needed out of courtesy to my group and leader
7. Protect the confidentiality of my group to encourage trust, openness, honesty, and Gospel growth
8. Miss no more than four cohort gatherings unless under extenuating circumstance and to communicate with my group leader if I am unable to attend

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

CONTENT OVERVIEW

In reality, all four key categories (worshipper, family, ambassador, disciple) overlap and intersect as they all flow from the implications of the Gospel. For example, living on mission as an ambassador of Jesus is worship. All of life is worship and all of life is shaping us as disciples of Jesus as God uses everything that comes our way in life to conform us into Christ's image. Yet, for the sake of order and study, the content has been organized into single categories to help you pursue specific growth and give attention to each area as you participate in EQUIP. Doing so will ensure that the categories you excel in, will be covered as well as the categories where you need growth most.

↑ WORSHIPPER

Doctrine / Upward

INTRODUCTION

Everyone is a worshiper. All of life is worship (1 Cor. 10:31). The question is not will we bow down to something but what will we bow down to? The truth is there is freedom in directing our hearts and our lives in worship to Jesus. God designed us to enjoy and flourish as we worship Him through His Son. Instead of turning good things into god things we strive to worship Jesus and enjoy all of life out of a posture of worship to Him. Ultimately, only the grace of God can continually captivate our hearts and lead us to worship Jesus. All of life flows in response to the downward love of God in the Gospel with us responding upward in worship to Jesus.

How you eat to how you play sports is worship. Worship starts with the revelation of God and our response to Him. As a result, knowing, hearing, and learning who God is and what He's done in Christ (theology) is essential to living a life of worship (doxology). If we learn doctrine, but it only hits our head (information) and not our heart (affections) and hands (action), then we know something is off. To be a disciple-making disciple who lives a life of worship to God, we must know Him. This means we need to know sound doctrine, how to handle His Word faithfully and how to talk with Him prayerfully. The more we humbly learn about God in all His glory as revealed in Scripture, the more we'll love God and live lives of worship to our Savior by the help of the Spirit.

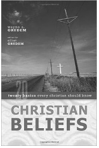
WORSHIPPER BOOK OVERVIEW

Here is a brief look at the content for this section to help familiarize you with where you are headed and what you can expect as you engage the material with your group.



Knowable Word: Helping Ordinary People Learn to Study the Bible by Peter Krol

This is a straightforward and in-depth guide to studying the Bible. Regardless of your familiarity with the Bible, you'll learn a ton from this book and finish it with the skills and confidence to study the Bible and help others do the same.



Christian Beliefs: Twenty Basics Every Christian Should Know by Wayne Grudem

This book provides a clear and concise overview of essential theology. *Christian Beliefs* will help you grasp the essential doctrines of the faith and how those doctrines shape how we live as disciples of Jesus.



You Can Pray by Tim Chester

An honest look at why we don't pray all that much, what prayer is, and how to grow in prayer. This book will make you want to pray and show you where to start.

KEY PROJECTS FOR WORSHIPPER SECTION

- Clear and usable Bible reading plan with specific reading times
- A personal statement of faith
- A personal prayer chart or prayer journal

71 [⌞] FAMILY

Church / Inward

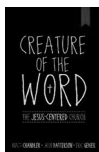
INTRODUCTION

The saving work of Jesus is massive in its scope and impact. Not only have we been saved to belong to God, but this salvation has brought us into a universal and local family known as the church. Even when we recognize the significance of the local church and see all the metaphors for the church in Scripture (the body, the bride, living stones, etc.), it's sometimes hard to know how to really engage as a part of the church other than having good attendance on Sundays and praying for the church from time to time.

But the reality is we are children of God who belong to each other. We are His sons and daughters, predestined for adoption, heirs to God and fellow heirs with Christ. We are devoted to one another as family because Jesus devoted Himself to us. We share all things with each other because Jesus gave Himself. We are exiles here until we are home with God, and we wait patiently to be with Him in the perfect city that He is building. (Galatians 3.23-4.7; Romans 12.3-8; Ephesians 1.3-6; Romans 8.14-17; Acts 2.38-4.7; Hebrews 11.9-16; John 14.1-3; Revelation 21-22). Because of these great truths, we get the privilege of learning and owning the church's mission and nature as a people, not just a person, so we can effectively enjoy the privilege of participating in all that Jesus has graciously called us into as the church.

FAMILY BOOK OVERVIEW

Here is a brief look at the content for this section to help familiarize you with where you are headed and what you can expect as you engage the material with your group.



Creature of the Word by Matt Chandler, Eric Geiger, Josh Patterson

This book will provide a clear picture on the cosmic nature, mission, and magnitude of the church in addition to understanding how Jesus is the center of church and its worship, service, and mission.



***What is a Healthy Church Member?* by Thabiti Anyabwile**

Here you'll get a great look at what it means to engage in a local church. This book will also unpack the scriptural call for church membership, what that means, and why it's a beneficial thing for you and for others. Expect to have a deeper understanding of how to love Jesus by loving His church after walking through this book.

KEY PROJECT FOR FAMILY SECTION

- Healthy church member personal statement

↙ ↗ AMBASSADOR

World / Outward

INTRODUCTION

Because of the work of Jesus for us, we are now His ambassadors on a mission to make disciples of all nations. It's a mission that includes Sunday mornings but extends beyond that window of time and influences all spheres of our ordinary lives. As Christ's ambassadors, we represent what a redeemed life under Jesus looks like and we proclaim the good news of Jesus that redeems.

Being an ambassador of Jesus equals both declaring the Gospel and demonstrating life under the Gospel to a watching and listening world, starting in all the places we regularly inhabit. We are privileged to spread the Gospel and make disciples so that more and more people can know and worship Jesus for their joy and for God's glory. This means that every person in God's church is vital to this mission. There are no bench players. Every believer is called to care, individually and corporately, for those around us by having an outward orientation to their lives. In this section, you will learn and discuss how the Gospel transforms work, whether in or outside of the home (one of the biggest platforms you have to represent Jesus), and how you can grow in your ability to proclaim the Gospel in a seeking, but skeptical culture.

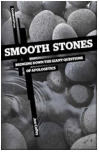
AMBASSADOR BOOK OVERVIEW

Here is a brief look at the content for this section to help familiarize you with where you are headed and what you can expect as you engage the material with your group.



The Gospel at Work by Sebastian Traeger and Greg Gilbert

How does the Gospel impact how you work or how you pick a job? How can you deal with workplace competition or a crabby boss? Is being in full-time vocational ministry more valuable to the kingdom than a “regular” 9 to 5 or is working full time for a church pulling you out of frontline mission and ministry? This book addresses all these topics and will help you understand how to think biblically about the place we spend a large portion of our weeks and lives.



***Smooth Stones: Bringing Down the Giant Questions
of Apologetics*** by Joe Coffey

This book will equip you to tackle all the big questions you've been asked or have been nervous to get asked. A large part of being an ambassador of Jesus is sharing Jesus and this book will help you do so with more confidence and effectiveness.

KEY PROJECTS FOR AMBASSADOR SECTION

- Leader of self life plan for categories of Jesus, church, family, work
- Interactive conversation on selected apologetic topics

→ **DISCIPLE**

Character / Forward

INTRODUCTION

While discipleship encompasses more than our character and obedience, character and obedience are key indicators of our devotion to, and understanding of, King Jesus. As disciples of Jesus, we are deeply committed to obeying our Lord and Savior in every single sphere of our lives. We take ownership of our lives and make every effort to grow in godliness, obedience, and the knowledge of God through the Bible and the empowering work of the Holy Spirit. We strive and toil for spiritual growth. We do this not to earn God's love, but because we have it already. We are about moving forward in our love, obedience, and affections for our King and Savior. In this section, we'll look at the great truths of who we are in Christ and how our identity in Him informs and empowers us to live obedient and fruitful lives for His glory.

DISCIPLE BOOK OVERVIEW

Here is a brief look at the content for this section to help familiarize you with where we're headed and what you can expect as you engage the material in your group.

***Who Am I* by Jerry Bridges**

Do you know who you truly are in Christ? And does that knowledge fully inform your daily living? This book will help you live in light of who you are in Jesus and help you understand parts of your identity in Christ you may overlook.

***Licensed to Kill: A Field Manual for Mortifying Sin***

by Brian G. Hedges

This book will help you get a real picture and a practical game plan for what it means to fight sin and how to see progress made in our greatest areas of struggle.

KEY PROJECTS FOR DISCIPLE SECTION

- Personal letter to self on each Gospel identity chapter
- Identification of sin to be mortified and written journal on growth in that area

PRE-ASSESSMENT

This pre-assessment is intended to provide a snapshot of where you are presently as a disciple of Jesus and then to help you craft a Personal Discipleship Plan (PDP) for growth in each of EQUIP year's key categories in the months to come. As you work through these pre-assessment questions, remember that your identity and standing before God is secure in and through Jesus, not in what is revealed in your responses below. By keeping this Gospel truth in mind, you will be able to respond honestly, which will maximize your opportunities for growth during your time in EQUIP. Your responses in this pre-assessment will identify your growth and strength areas to be addressed and worked on in your Personal Discipleship Plan (PDP). By God's grace, you will be able to look back at these responses at the end of EQUIP and see significant development and growth.

↑ **WORSHIPPER** Doctrine / Upward

This category may include goals related to the Scriptures, study, doctrine, and devotional Life

- Describe specifically how you became a Christian and how the Gospel has transformed your life.
- Describe your devotional life (Intake of Scripture and prayer) currently? Is this normal? If not, describe what is?
- What is the Gospel? In what ways does the Gospel change one's identity?
- How would you define the Trinity?
- How would you define the church?
- What do you believe about the Bible and its authority, inerrancy, and inspiration?
- How confident are you in your ability to study and understand the Bible? Describe how you might go about personally studying a passage of the Bible.

↖ **FAMILY** Church / Inward

This category may include goals related to church, leadership, family and beyond

- What is the importance of the local church?
- Are you currently serving in your local church? If so, in what ways?
- What gifts do you believe God has given you to serve the church? Have you tested any of these out through service?
- How have you experienced discipleship? How has this shaped your idea of what discipleship means?
- Who have you discipled? What did this look like and what was the fruit?
- Who are you currently discipling or investing in to help mature them as a disciple of Jesus?
- How have you, formally or informally, helped other believers grow in their faith?
- If married, how are you currently discipling your spouse and children?

↙ **AMBASSADOR** World / Outward

This category may include goals related to personal evangelism, service, work, and missional engagement

- How often do you share your faith? When was the last time you shared the Gospel or had a spiritual conversation with a non-believer?
- What in your mind is the biggest reason you don't share your faith more regularly (fear of others, hard time answering questions, etc.)?
- What local non-believers are you regularly praying for to meet Jesus?
- In what ways are you living missionally? Who are local non-Christian friends that you are in relationship with? How did these relationships form and what has been the fruit so far?
- How should a Christian view and think of work? Where is this a struggle for you?

- What do you think it means to live as a kingdom representative? How does being an ambassador of Jesus impact how you think of money, power, work, family, etc.

→ **DISCIPLE** Character / Forward

This category may include goals related to holiness, stewardship, and spiritual disciplines

- Looking at the qualification in 1 Timothy 3:8-13, which three qualifications are most characteristic of you and which three need the most work?
- What are your two most besetting sins or areas of struggle? Who knows about these? How have you tried to grow in these areas?
- Describe a time when your faith was severely challenged. How did you navigate that time?
- Share a recent time when you applied the Gospel to yourself in the midst of a struggle, hard circumstance, hard week, etc. How did you do this and what was the result?
- Do you currently budget and give to your local church? Why or why not?

PERSONAL DISCIPLESHIP PLAN (PDP)

PDP INSTRUCTIONS

This document is designed to help you develop a plan for growth in the key categories during your time through EQUIP and beyond. Based on your pre-assessment, record one to five goals in light of how you want to grow as a disciple of Jesus that makes disciples. While goals like “I want to love Jesus more” are great and truly are what we are aiming for, it is more effective to craft goals that are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Reasonable, and Timed—what we call SMART goals. SMART goals will allow you to really pursue specific growth as a disciple. For example, instead of having the goal “to love Jesus more” (which will hopefully be true by the program’s end), you can craft a goal that has the same effect but is SMART—for instance, something like “Memorize two biblical passages that describe Christ’s glory by January 1st” under the category of Worshipper.

DIRECTIONS FOR PDP

- Review your Pre-Assessment prayerfully
- Come up with 1-5 SMART goals for each sub-category based on desire and growth areas as seen in your Pre-Assessment
- Turn in this first draft of your PDP to your EQUIP leader
- Meet with your leader to review, revise, and finalize your PDP

See a sample PDP on the following page.

SAMPLE PDP

↑ **WORSHIPPER** Doctrine / Upward

This category may include goals related to the Scriptures, study, doctrine, and devotion

- Set Devotional Time: Use the M'Cheyenne Bible Reading Plan Daily from 7am to 7:45am.
- Set Daily Prayer: Use prayer journal from 7:45am-8:00am, Monday to Friday.
- Use work commute time twice a week to listen to Wayne Grudem's Systematic Theology talks on The Bible to better understand the reliability of the Bible (6 talks total, complete by end of October).

↖ ↗ **FAMILY** Church / Inward

This category may include goals related to church, leadership, family and marriage

- Attend next church membership class to learn more and pursue membership (October 4th).
- Grow spiritually with my wife by reading one chapter of the Bible together and discussing it (now w/ Romans on Monday nights after dinner).
- Test out gifting and interest in teaching by volunteering as lead teacher for Kids Ministry (finish application by September 15th).

↙ ↘ **AMBASSADOR** World / Outward

This category may include goals related to personal evangelism, service, work, and missional engagement

- Have at least one spiritual conversation with a seeking friend or co-worker a month (Use prayer chart to track progress and get my group to pray for opportunities).
- Pray for Kelly's salvation daily and ask him if he wants to read the Bible together (Ask after significant prayer by end of October).

→ **DISCIPLE** Character / Forward

This category may include goals related to holiness, stewardship, and spiritual disciplines

- Journal through *License to Kill* to grow in holiness and share findings with 1-2 close friends.
- Memorize Romans 13:12-14 to help me pursue godliness and fight sin (Complete by October 15th).
- Start a budget in order to steward money and start giving to my church (Complete by end of September).

SCHEDULE AND STUDY LENGTH

Because groups can participate in EQUIP in a customizable way, the following schedule is not binding other than the suggested week lengths for each particular study. The order present is recommended, but groups may run for shorter periods (ex. three or six months) and can customize what studies to tackle with their time together.

SCHEDULE (43 Weeks of Content for All Studies)

Who Am I — 4 Weeks

Knowable Word — 5 Weeks

Licensed to Kill — 5 Weeks

Creature of the Word — 3 Weeks

You Can Pray — 5 Weeks

What is a Healthy Church Member — 4 Weeks

Smooth Stones — 4 Weeks

Christian Beliefs — 8 Weeks

Gospel At Work — 5 Weeks

DISCUSSION GUIDES

INSTRUCTIONS

HOW TO USE THE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Since a significant amount of your time with your EQUIP group will center around your weekly discussion, it's important to know about the general aim behind discussion questions and how to interact well with them.

Each week's discussion questions are designed to promote conversation around the key concepts and key application points for the week's topic and reading. In discussion, we want to learn, process, and apply sound doctrine and truths about God and His word so that our lives and desires will be transformed.

As a result, discussion questions focus on the reading's key information (key concepts, definitions, etc.) and key points of application. For instance, some discussion questions will create conversation that will be more conceptual (for example: "What is the Great Exchange?"), while other questions will create conversation around things happening in your life and relationship with Jesus by applying those concepts specifically (for example: "How does the Great Exchange deepen your love for Jesus?" or "In what ways should being justified and having God's approval in Christ change how you live?").

EQUIP group leaders will help facilitate discussion so that a healthy balance of key concepts and application happens in discussion each week in order to make sure what you discuss is applied to your head, heart, and hands, so that you continue to move forward as a disciple of Jesus.

DISCUSSION QUESTION TIPS

General Discussion Tips

- Review the discussion questions before your weekly reading and before your group meeting
- Keep your Bibles open and turn to the week's biblical passages during discussion
- Keep the week's reading open and turn to it during discussion
- Bring up other questions that arose from your reading during discussion

- Be honest and open with your group in discussion to promote the most opportunity for growth, health, and change
- Ask follow up discussions of your group to make sure discussion moves past the surface

DISCUSSION TIPS FOR EQUIP LEADERS

- Review discussion questions prior to your group meeting and determine which are most essential, especially if it seems there may not be time to discuss all questions in depth
- Point to the week's reading and biblical passages during discussion as relevant
- Ask and encourage follow-up questions in discussion to ensure helpful conversation happens
- Ensure the Gospel is applied during discussion, particularly where people open up about sin and struggles

WHO AM I

I Am a Creature / I Am in Christ (Chapters 1-2)



BIBLICAL PASSAGES

As you read and examine the following passages, be sure to consider them in light of the author's intended meaning, the week's discussion topic(s), and the discussion questions below.

- Psalm 145:15-16
- Romans 5
- 1 Corinthians 15:22
- 2 Corinthians 5:21



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What happens when we overlook the fact that we are creatures made by and for God? How does remembering that we are creatures change our disposition and attitudes?
2. What does it mean to be in Adam? What does it mean to be in Christ?
3. Why is being in Christ an absolutely life changing reality?
4. What is the relationship between our living union and representative union with Christ? What would happen in your faith, day-to-day, if you mixed these categories up?
5. What does a healthy living union with Christ look like in your life?
6. What would change in your life and current relationships if you deeply believed your identity as creature and as one who is in Christ?



PROJECTS

Letter to Self. Choose one of the two chapters topics above (I am a Creature or I am in Christ) and write a short letter to yourself reminding yourself of who you truly are because of Jesus. There is a sample letter on page 133.

WHO AM I

I Am Justified / I Am an Adopted Son of God (Chapters 3-4)



BIBLICAL PASSAGES

As you read and examine the following passages, be sure to consider them in light of the author's intended meaning, the week's discussion topic(s), and the discussion questions below.

- Romans 8:15-17
- Galatians 3:25-4:7
- 2 Corinthians 5:21



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean to be justified? How does someone become justified?
2. What is the Great Exchange? How does this truth deepen your love for Christ?
3. In what ways should being justified and having God's approval in Christ change how you live? Why?
4. What does it mean to be an adopted child of God? What are two results of being adopted into God's family?
5. How are adoption and justification related? How is adoption, in one sense, even more shocking than justification according to Bridges? How does this make you feel?



PROJECTS

Letter to Self. Choose one of the two chapters topics above (I am Justified or I am an Adopted Son of God) and write a short letter to yourself reminding yourself of who you truly are because of Jesus.

WHO AM I

I Am a New Creation / I Am a Saint (Chapters 5–6)



BIBLICAL PASSAGES

As you read and examine the following passages, be sure to consider them in light of the author's intended meaning, the week's discussion topic(s), and the discussion questions below.

- Romans 6:1-14
- 1 Corinthians 1:1-2; 6:19-20
- 2 Corinthians 5:17-21



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean to be a new creation in Christ? How can you test if you've truly been made new?
2. How does being a new creation change our relationship to sin and temptation? What's the role of the Spirit in our lives as new creations?
3. What does it mean to be a saint? How should this inform your idea of your identity, purpose, and ownership?
4. How does knowing that you are declared holy as a saint give you motivation for obeying God in the present? What is the power for obedience that you have as a saint?
5. What would change in your life and current relationships if you deeply believed your identity as a new creation and saint?



PROJECTS

Letter to Self. Choose one of the two chapters topics above (I am a New Creation or I am a Saint) and write a short letter to yourself reminding yourself of who you truly are because of Jesus.

WHO AM I

I Am a Servant of Christ / I Am Not Yet Perfect (Chapters 7–8)



BIBLICAL PASSAGES

As you read and examine the following passages, be sure to consider them in light of the author's intended meaning, the week's discussion topic(s), and the discussion questions below.

- Romans 1:1
- 1 Corinthians 15:22
- 2 Corinthians 5:21



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean to be a servant of Christ? Why is this true of every believer?
2. What aspects of being a servant of Christ do you most overlook? How does the Cross give you joy in your identity as a servant of King Jesus?
3. What is the tension of who we already are in Christ and our daily experience? Why is this? How should we think about this tension biblically? What should this tension produce in us?
4. How does this tension help us treasure the Gospel always as believers? How does the Gospel comfort us in the tension of progressive sanctification?
5. What would change in your life and current relationships if you deeply believed your identity as a servant of Christ and as one who is not yet perfect?



PROJECTS

Letter to Self. Choose one of the two chapters topics above (I am a Servant of Christ or I am Not Yet Perfect) and write a short letter to yourself reminding yourself of who you truly are because of Jesus.

KNOWABLE WORD

Why Study The Bible? (Chapter 1)



BIBLICAL PASSAGES

As you read and examine the following passages, be sure to consider them in light of the author's intended meaning, the week's discussion topic(s), and the discussion questions below.

- John 14:25-26
- Acts 4:12
- 2 Tim. 3:15-17

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



1. Why devote time and energy to study the Bible? What is the goal of Bible study?
2. How confident are you in your ability to read and understand the Bible on your own? To teach others how to read it?
3. What has been your default Bible study method? How has this been helpful? Less helpful?
4. What is the OIA? What's important about it? What will the OIA method provide that has been missing in your default bible study method?
5. What is the role of the Spirit in studying Scripture?

Exercise: Walk through the passage and questions 2 & 3 together on page 20 of Knowable Word.

PROJECTS



Journal Reflection. Write a short journal response to the following questions:

- Why devote time and energy to study the Bible? What's the goal of Bible study?

KNOWABLE WORD

From Familiarity to Observation (Chapter 2)



BIBLICAL PASSAGES

As you read and examine the following passages, be sure to consider them in light of the author's intended meaning, the week's discussion topic(s), and the discussion questions below.

- John 3
- Genesis 2:4-25



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does observation look like in the Bible study process? How would you do this for a passage? For a whole book?
2. What are the five things to observe in a text according to this week's reading? Which do you most overlook? Which do you do currently?
3. How would you explain why genre matters to a person new to reading the Bible? What might be the consequences of reading one genre as if it were another? How is genre related to context?
4. What's the importance of things like connector words, author, and repeated words? How would you explain these to a person new to reading the Bible?
5. Why is familiarity often dangerous to observation and Bible study? How can you avoid this trap?

Exercise: As a group, make 50 observations about John 3:16.



PROJECTS

Observation Exercise. Follow all the “your turn” prompts in this chapter on Genesis 2:4-25 and bring them to share with your group.

Bible Study Guide/Key Tips Exercise. Make a list of key tips on observation based on this chapter. At the end of this study, you will revisit, revise, and compile your tips into a short, simple guide on how to study the Bible.

KNOWABLE WORD

From Presumption to Interpretation (Chapter 3)



BIBLICAL PASSAGES

As you read and examine the following passages, be sure to consider them in light of the author's intended meaning, the week's discussion topic(s), and the discussion questions below.

- John 3
- Genesis 2:4-25



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does observation relate to interpretation? Why do the work of interpretation?
2. What is the greatest enemy of interpretation? What forms does this enemy take in the interpretation process?
3. What are the three steps for interpretation? What might happen if you try to do these steps without observation?
4. How do you determine the author's main point of a passage? Why is this important? Can we do this perfectly? If not, how can we have some level of confidence that we are interpreting the text faithfully?
5. What did you learn about interpretation from your Interpretation Exercise and reading the author's examples on Genesis 2?



PROJECTS

Interpretation Exercise. Follow all the “your turn” prompts in this chapter on Genesis 2:4-25 and bring them to share with your group. Where you are able, try to record your thoughts and ideas prior to reading the author's explanations.

KNOWABLE WORD

From Inertia to Application / Head, Heart, Hands (Chapters 4-5)



BIBLICAL PASSAGES

As you read and examine the following passages, be sure to consider them in light of the author's intended meaning, the week's discussion topic(s), and the discussion questions below.

- James 1:22-25
- Genesis 2:4-25



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is application? What happens if we try to do application without observation or interpretation?
2. What is the greatest enemy of application? What forms does this enemy take in the interpretation process?
3. How does application relate to being hearers or doers? In what areas of your life are you mostly a hearer?
4. What are the two "directions" for application? What are the spheres of application? How are these concepts helpful in making sure we seek obedience in all parts of life?
5. How do we remember Jesus in our application? How does doing this give us comfort in struggles and power for obedience?
6. As a group, look at Genesis 2:4-25, in light of your observation and interpretation, discuss how the text calls for us to change and be changed.



PROJECTS

Creating a Bible Study Guide/Collection of Key Tips Exercise. Make a bulleted list of key tips on application based on this chapter. At the end of this study, you will revisit, revise, and compile your tips into a short, simple guide on how to study the Bible.

KNOWABLE WORD

The Unity of the Whole (Chapter 6)



BIBLICAL PASSAGES

As you read and examine the following passages, be sure to consider them in light of the author's intended meaning, the week's discussion topic(s), and the discussion questions below.

- James 1:22-25
- Genesis 2:4-25



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is correlation? Though you may not have used this term until now, how have you tried to find connection across the Bible in your personal reading/study?
2. What is the big story line of the Bible? How does this impact how we look at individual passages?
3. What are three healthy tips for correlation? In what ways do we need to exercise caution when making connections across Scripture?
4. How does application relate to being hearers or doers? In what areas of your life are you mostly a hearer?
5. As a group, look at Genesis 2:4-25, in light of your observation and interpretation, and discuss how the text calls for us to change and be changed.



PROJECTS

Final Bible Study Guide/ Collection of Key Tips Exercise. Make a final annotated list of key tips on Bible study based on your reading and past reflections. Your guide can either be an annotated list of key things to do when studying the Bible or a step-by-step guide to studying the Bible. See page 137 for a sample project.

LICENSED TO KILL

Killing Sin / Toward Life or Death (Chapters 1-2)



BIBLICAL PASSAGES

As you read and examine the following passages, be sure to consider them in light of the author's intended meaning, the week's discussion topic(s), and the discussion questions below.

- Romans 8:1
- Romans 8:13
- Romans 13:14



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is mortification? What is the goal of mortification? Is mortification for believers or non-believers or both? Why?
2. In what ways is sin more than an external behavioral problem? What are the implications of this for your progressive sanctification?
3. What are the dangers of sin? Does your life give evidence that you are sufficiently aware of these dangers?
4. What does it mean to make holy violence against sin? Why engage in this? To what degree is your life characterized by holy violence against sin? Has it ever been? Where in your life are you giving sin an opportunity?



PROJECTS

Journal Reflection. Prayerfully select what sin pattern in your life you want to see mortified. Answer the following:

- Why do you want to mortify this sin?
- What would change in your life if you make progress in holiness in this area?
- What are the internal and external aspects of this sin pattern?

LICENSED TO KILL

The Monster Within / With Murderous Intent (Chapters 3-4)



BIBLICAL PASSAGES

As you read and examine the following passages, be sure to consider them in light of the author's intended meaning, the week's discussion topic(s), and the discussion questions below.

- Romans 6-7
- Romans 8:13
- James 1:14-15



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How would you define indwelling sin? What does this mean for the Christian life?
2. How has your struggle with sin made you more thankful and desperate for God's grace in Jesus?
3. In what ways does sin do damage in a believer's life and soul? How have you experienced this and in what ways are you fighting these effects in the present?
4. Does sin have a hold on your affections? Do you find yourself frequently thinking about something sinful?



PROJECTS

Journal Reflection. Continue journaling on your selected sin pattern by answering the following. Over the last thirty days:

- Where has sin conquered your will?
- How has God's grace intervened and helped you fight sin in this area?
- Are there any other takeaway from these chapters related to your work of mortification in this area?

LICENSED TO KILL

Soul Surgery / Transforming Grace (Chapters 5-6)



BIBLICAL PASSAGES

As you read and examine the following passages, be sure to consider them in light of the author's intended meaning, the week's discussion topic(s), and the discussion questions below.

- Proverbs 8:13
- Colossians 3:1-17
- Romans 8:13



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are the steps for doing the work of mortification? What is the distinction between "presuming peace" and "waiting on the Lord"? How does the Gospel help us to do this properly?
2. What happens when someone deals with sin in legalistic ways? What are the typical motives for fighting sin and the typical results when done legalistically? How does the Gospel change the way we deal with sin?
3. What is union with Christ and how does this change our fight against sin?
4. What is the expulsive power of a new affection? Have you experienced this? Do you experience it regularly? Why is this key to fighting sin?
5. Where do you need to balance putting on and putting off in light of Colossians 3?



PROJECTS

Journal Reflection. Continue journaling on your selected sin pattern by using the following to help generate reflection:

- Do you rationalize your disobedience?

LICENSED TO KILL

Crucified with Christ / Empowered by the Spirit (Chapters 7-8)



BIBLICAL PASSAGES

As you read and examine the following passages, be sure to consider them in light of the author's intended meaning, the week's discussion topic(s), and the discussion questions below.

- Galatians 2:19-20
- Galatians 5:19-24
- 1 Thes. 5:19



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In your own words, explain how the cross of Christ gives believers the power to kill sin. How would you practically instruct a believer to do so? Where is this happening or lacking in your life?
2. What is the relationship between the Spirit's work and your effort in pursuing holiness? What's at stake if you misunderstand this relationship?
3. How can you more consciously depend on the Spirit in your daily life? What are some practical things you can do in this area?



PROJECTS

Journal Reflection. Continue journaling on your selected sin pattern by using the following to help guide your reflection:

- How are you filling your mind and heart with the cross of Christ in your fight against sin?
- How have you experienced the Spirit's work in your heart over the last week?
- Is He convicting you of sin? Urging toward obedience? Opening your mind to the beauty of the Gospel?

LICENSED TO KILL

The Weapons of War (Chapter 9)



BIBLICAL PASSAGES

As you read and examine the following passages, be sure to consider them in light of the author's intended meaning, the week's discussion topic(s), and the discussion questions below.

- Psalm 119:9-11
- Hebrews 3:12-13
- 2 Cor. 3:18



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why are prayer and Scripture vital weapons in fighting sin?
2. When you attempt to meditate or pray, what kinds of unhelpful thoughts, feelings, or desires flood into your mind? How might these intrusions be an indication of the very sins you need to put to death?
3. Do you think much on Jesus when you pray, read Scripture, and meditate? Why or why not? How does this relate to fighting sin?
4. Share and celebrate how God has been working in you through this study with members of your group.



PROJECTS

Short Written Reflection. How has your understanding of fighting sin changed over the course of this study? How has your practice of fighting sin developed over the course of this study?

Final Journal Reflection. Review your previous journal reflections on your selected sin pattern in order to create a written outline detailing what you've learned about your sin pattern and practical steps for continuing to fight sin. Include in your outline the 2-3 biggest things you've learned that will help you battle for holiness for the remainder of your earthly life?

CREATURE OF THE WORD

A People Formed / The Creature Worships (Chapters 1-2)



BIBLICAL PASSAGES

As you read and examine the following passages, be sure to consider them in light of the author's intended meaning, the week's discussion topic(s), and the discussion questions below.

- Genesis 12:1-3
- Acts 2:42-47
- Hebrews 10:19-25



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean that the church is a creature of the Word? How does this show both the individual and collective result of the Gospel? (Ch. 1)
2. What makes the church able to succeed where the Israelites so often failed? What sustains and shapes the church? How can you play a part in this sustaining and shaping work? (Ch. 1)
3. How would you explain the concept that "everyone is a worshipper" to a non-believing friend? Which of the three worship "barriers" do you battle the most? (Ch. 2)
4. What does it mean that church worship gatherings "are not always spectacular but they are always supernatural?" (42) How does this change your view of Sunday gatherings?
5. How would you explain the importance of Sunday gatherings to a believer who thinks all of life is worship so Sundays are optional? (Ch. 2)

CREATURE OF THE WORD

The Creature in Community / The Creature Serves (Chapters 3-4)



BIBLICAL PASSAGES

As you read and examine the following passages, be sure to consider them in light of the author's intended meaning, the week's discussion topic(s), and the discussion questions below.

- Romans 12:9-13
- Acts 16:6-40
- 1 Peter 2:9-12



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What things typically keep you and others from being in community in real ways? In what ways does the Gospel form community?
2. Using Romans 12:9-13, discuss the five ways this Gospel community works out (54-63). Which of the five comes hardest for you and what Gospel belief/action is lacking?
3. What does it mean that the Gospel is the foundation for service as well as the purifier of our motivations in service? What is your typical motive for service?
4. What might everyday service in your home, work, and neighborhood motivated by the Gospel look like in your life and how might this increase your impact as an ambassador of Jesus?



PROJECTS

Journal Reflection. Journal some thoughts from this week's reading by responding to the following questions:

- What things typically keep you and others from being in community in real ways? In what ways does the Gospel form community?

CREATURE OF THE WORD

The Creature Multiplies (Chapter 5)



BIBLICAL PASSAGES

As you read and examine the following passages, be sure to consider them in light of the author's intended meaning, the week's discussion topic(s), and the discussion questions below.

- Matthew 28:18-20
- 2 Cor. 5:17-21
- 1 Peter 2:9-12



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How has Jesus, through the implications of the Gospel, given every Christian an outward missionary identity? Why is this significant?
2. What does it mean when the authors state that "the mission of multiplication is more than evangelism but never less?" Do you agree or disagree?
3. When was the last time you shared the Gospel with someone? What keeps you from the mission of multiplying disciples?
4. How is the mission of disciple-making a community task? Brainstorm 5-10 simple ways your Equip Group could be on mission together.
5. Spend sometime talking through your project reflection and working through how each person in your group can take the next step forward in growing as a disciple-making disciple.



PROJECTS

Reflection. Write a 1-2 page reflection answering the following questions, which will help you evaluate your presuppositions on mission, discipleship, and multiplication:

YOU CAN PRAY

The Father Loves to Hear Us Pray /
The Son Makes Every Prayer Pleasing
to God / The Spirit Helps Us as We
Pray (Chapters 1-3)



BIBLICAL PASSAGES

As you read and examine the following passages, be sure to consider them in light of the author's intended meaning, the week's discussion topic(s), and the discussion questions below.

- Colossians 1:26-27
- Colossians 2:1-23
- Luke 11:1-4



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does God view our prayers as His children? Why? How should this impact how we view both God and prayer?
2. What's the significance of our adoption as related to prayer? How do we know the Father will never reject our prayers?
3. In what ways is Jesus the key to prayer more so than technique and discipline? What might happen in your prayer life if you forget that Jesus and His saving work is the key to prayer?
4. What's the different between Gospel prayer and mystical/ritualistic prayer? Where are you prone to fall away from the Gospel in prayer?
5. What's the role of the Spirit in prayer? In what way is this freeing? How does this show prayer to be Trinitarian?

YOU CAN PRAY

‘I’ve Got More Enjoyable Things To Do’ / ‘I’ve Got More Urgent Things To Do’ (Chapters 4-5)



BIBLICAL PASSAGES

As you read and examine the following passages, be sure to consider them in light of the author’s intended meaning, the week’s discussion topic(s), and the discussion questions below.

- Psalm 115
- Luke 10:18-22
- Hebrews 2:12-13



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are the biggest reasons you don’t pray as often as you’d like?
2. What attitudes and beliefs about God and prayer lead to enjoying prayer? How is Jesus the ultimate reason prayer can be truly enjoyable?
3. Why pray? How does prayer change the world? Why pray if God is sovereign?
4. What’s the relationship between helplessness and prayer? What the relationship between self-sufficiency and lack of prayer? How is this working out in your life currently?



PROJECTS

Journal Reflection. Journal some thoughts from this week’s reading by responding to the following questions:

- What are the biggest reasons you don’t pray as often as you’d like?
- What are the biggest reasons you don’t enjoy prayer?
- Why pray? How does prayer change the world? Why pray if God is sovereign?

YOU CAN PRAY

‘When I Needed Him, God Didn’t Answer’ / The Battle To Pray – and How to Win It (Chapters 6–7)



BIBLICAL PASSAGES

As you read and examine the following passages, be sure to consider them in light of the author’s intended meaning, the week’s discussion topic(s), and the discussion questions below.

- Lamentations 3:31-36
- Hebrews 12:4-11
- James 5:16-18



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the difference between God refusing to hear our prayers and God answering our prayers in a different way than we asked? Why is this distinction important?
2. What are some biblical reasons God will not hear the prayers of His people? What is the remedy for these situations? Are any of these reasons evident in your life?
3. How does the Gospel and its implications affect how we view unanswered prayer?
4. What is God’s discipline and how is it different than punishment? How does this change how we view the Christian life?
5. In what ways is the act of prayer a battle? How can you prepare well for this? What’s the relationship between the Scriptures and praying in this battle?

YOU CAN PRAY

The Arguments of Prayer (Chapter 8)



BIBLICAL PASSAGES

As you read and examine the following passages, be sure to consider them in light of the author's intended meaning, the week's discussion topic(s), and the discussion questions below.

- Daniel 9:1-19
- Isaiah 37:14-20
- Nehemiah 9:5-37



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean to “argue” with God in prayer according to this chapter? What biblical basis does this call have? Do you see these elements of argument anywhere in your prayers?
2. What are the three main foundations of our petitions to God according to the biblical examples of prayer?
3. How do these foundations change the basis of our prayer from pure need to God Himself? How will this biblical approach enrich your prayer life?
4. Complete the Reflection from page 135 together as a group and spend the remainder of your time in prayer together.



PROJECTS

Journal Reflection. Journal some thoughts from this week's reading by responding to the following questions:

- What does it mean to “argue” with God in prayer according to this chapter? What biblical basis does this call have? Do you see these elements of argument anywhere in your prayers?
- What are the three main foundations of our petitions to God according to the biblical examples of prayer?

YOU CAN PRAY

The Priorities of Prayer: God's Glory / The Priority of Prayer: Our Needs (Chapters 9–10)



BIBLICAL PASSAGES

As you read and examine the following passages, be sure to consider them in light of the author's intended meaning, the week's discussion topic(s), and the discussion questions below.

- Matthew 6:9–13
- Luke 11:2–4
- Col. 1:9–14



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In what ways has this reading helped you see the Lord's Prayer in a deeper or fresh way? What impact do you think these fresh insights will have on your love for God and prayer with Him?
2. How might prayer focused on God's glory in all things begin to reshape the priorities of your life? How might a focus on God's glory in your life begin to reshape your priorities in prayer and how you pray? Where have you seen this in your life?
3. What might it look like to pray for even "small things" in a God-centered way?
4. How might you use the Lord's Prayer as a framework for praying about daily things and needs?
5. How does the Lord's Prayer expand your view of God and the Gospel? How can you let this shape your prayers and personal priorities?



PROJECTS

Review Prayer Chart/Journal Experience. Look back over your chart/journal/list from the last two weeks. What has God been doing in you as you've engaged in prayer lately? Where do you see answers to prayer?

SMOOTH STONES

Is There a God? / Does Science Disprove God's Existence? (Chapters 1-2)



BIBLICAL PASSAGES

As you read and examine the following passages, be sure to consider them in light of the author's intended meaning, the week's discussion topic(s), and the discussion questions below.

- Ecclesiastes 3:11
- Psalm 19
- Romans 1



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How have you typically tried to give answers to the question "Is there a God?" What from this chapter will help you respond to this question?
2. What are the internal evidences for God's existence? What are typical flaws in logic when people deny God's existence and what types of questions can help examine these flaws?
3. Are faith in God and in science at odds? Why do many people think they are? How have you typically tried to help others understand the connection between faith and science?
4. How does science give evidence to God's existence? What from this chapter has given you the most practical help in responding to the question of God's existence and the question of science?



PROJECTS

Choosing a Topic for Role Play. Look at the table of contents for Smooth Stones and identify the questions you feel most and least equipped to respond to in conversation. Choose which question each member will select for an interactive role-play conversation during your cohort gathering during this study.

SMOOTH STONES

Is the Bible Authentic and True? / The Question of Evil and Suffering (Chapters 3-4)



BIBLICAL PASSAGES

As you read and examine the following passages, be sure to consider them in light of the author's intended meaning, the week's discussion topic(s), and the discussion questions below.

- Romans 1
- Romans 8:28-30
- 2 Tim. 3:15-17



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How have you typically tried to answer the question "Why do you believe the Bible is true?" What from this chapter will help you respond to this question?
2. How do we know that the Bible we hold now is authentic and reliable?
3. How have you typically tried to answer the question of why God allows suffering and evil? What from this chapter will help you respond to this question?
4. What does it mean to speak to the head and the heart when it comes to the question of suffering and evil? How does this topic give a clear path to point people to consider Jesus?
5. How is Christianity the only faith that provides deep meaning to suffering? How does this change how you view suffering and evil personally?

SMOOTH STONES

Aren't All Religions the Same? (Chapter 5)



BIBLICAL PASSAGES

As you read and examine the following passages, be sure to consider them in light of the author's intended meaning, the week's discussion topic(s), and the discussion questions below.

- John 14:6
- Acts 4:12
- Luke 16:19-31



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How have you typically tried to answer the question "Aren't all religions the same?" How would you respond to the charge that it is disrespectful to claim that your religion is right and others are not? What from this chapter will help you respond to this issue?
2. What is the issue with the claim that all truth claims are right? How might you explain this to someone? Why is this an important thing to point out?
3. What are a couple of key takeaways on conversing with a religious pluralist about Christianity?
4. In what ways is Christianity uniquely exclusive (in that salvation is through Christ alone) but, in another sense, inclusive according to the reading? Why is this such good news?



PROJECTS

Conversational Role-Play on Religious Exclusivity.

- Lead-in question to begin the role-play: "How can there only be one way to God?"

SMOOTH STONES

Is Jesus For Real? (Chapter 6)



BIBLICAL PASSAGES

As you read and examine the following passages, be sure to consider them in light of the author's intended meaning, the week's discussion topic(s), and the discussion questions below.

- 2 Tim. 3:15-17
- John 1
- Titus 2:11-15



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you have confidence that Jesus is who He said He is?
2. How do the non-Christian friends you have typically view Jesus? Which of your non-Christian friends seem most open to investigating Jesus? What proofs do you think they need to hear/examine?
3. How would you explain the proofs for Christ's miracles to a non-believer? How about His resurrection?
4. What does it mean to speak to the head and the heart when it comes to the person and work of Jesus?
5. Why must we keep the Gospel central in all apologetic/spiritual conversations?



PROJECTS

Conversational Role-Play on Jesus.

- Lead-in question to begin the role-play: "How do you know Jesus is really God?"
- The role-play will feature one group member engaging another group member, playing a skeptical friend, on an apologetic topic. Both the assigned skeptic and the believer should come prepared to engage in a ten-minute conversation with genuine questions and responses. Other group members will give feedback after.

WHAT IS A HEALTHY CHURCH MEMBER?

An Expositional Listener / A Biblical Theologian (Marks 1-2)



BIBLICAL PASSAGES

As you read and examine the following passages, be sure to consider them in light of the author's intended meaning, the week's discussion topic(s), and the discussion questions below.

- Matt. 4:4
- 2 Tim. 3:16-18
- Luke 24:44ff



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean to be an expositional listener? What are the benefits of doing this?
2. How would you rate yourself as an expositional listener based on the tips listed on pg. 22? What's your motive to grow as an expositional listener and how might you do this?
3. What is biblical theology and how does it contribute to the health of the church and its people?
4. Could you explain to a non-Christian or new Christian how the Bible fits together as one big story? What might help you grow as a biblical theologian?



PROJECTS

Journal Reflection. This short reflection will serve as the starting point for your Healthy Church Member Statement Project for this section. Journal some thoughts from this week's reading by responding to the following questions:

WHAT IS A HEALTHY CHURCH MEMBER?

Gospel Saturated / Genuinely
Converted / A Biblical Evangelist
(Marks 3-5)



BIBLICAL PASSAGES

As you read and examine the following passages, be sure to consider them in light of the author's intended meaning, the week's discussion topic(s), and the discussion questions below.

- John 3:1-15
- Romans 1:16-17
- 1 John



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the Gospel? What things are mistakenly assumed as the Gospel in and out of the church?
2. List as many reasons as you can on why the Gospel is essential for all of the Christian life. What does it mean to preach the Gospel to yourself? (Ch. 3)
3. What is conversion? What are biblical signs of genuine conversion? What's at stake if we see conversion as only a decision? (Ch. 4)
4. What genuine signs of conversion do you see in your life as outlined in the reading?
5. What are the three components of faithful evangelism? What typically keeps you from sharing the Gospel with friends? What makes you most nervous to share the Gospel? How can you deal with these issues in a Gospel centered way?

WHAT IS A HEALTHY CHURCH MEMBER?

A Committed Member / Seeks Discipline (Marks 6–7)



BIBLICAL PASSAGES

As you read and examine the following passages, be sure to consider them in light of the author's intended meaning, the week's discussion topic(s), and the discussion questions below.

- Matthew 18:15-35
- 1 Cor. 5:1-13
- 2 Timothy 3:16-17



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does a committed local church member look like? In which of these areas do you need to grow? In which of these areas are you making progress?
2. What are the two components of discipline? Why are these actually good and healthy God-given things when done biblically?
3. What does it mean to “joyfully” seek discipline? How might you begin to seek correction for growth in Christlikeness?
4. What is your responsibility for discipline in the life of others believers in your church? How does the Gospel help you do this discipline in a humble and loving way?



PROJECTS

Exercise. Write a short letter explaining the biblical case for local church membership to a Christian friend who thinks local church membership is a bogus idea with no biblical merit.

Healthy Church Member Statement. Continue working on your draft of your Healthy Church Member Statement.

WHAT IS A HEALTHY CHURCH MEMBER?

A Growing Disciple / A Humble Follower / A Prayer Warrior
(Marks 8-10)



BIBLICAL PASSAGES

As you read and examine the following passages, be sure to consider them in light of the author's intended meaning, the week's discussion topic(s), and the discussion questions below.

- Hebrews 13:17
- Acts 2:42-47
- Ephesians 6:18-20



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are the typical problems with how we think about growth? Which plagues you most? How should you think about growth biblically – in terms of the progress and the end goal?
2. What are the ordinary means of grace? How do these lead to true growth?
3. How have you been growing spiritually lately? What strategies for spiritual growth are most needed in your life right now and how will you put them into action?
4. What does it look like to have a healthy attitude toward leaders in the church? Why does this matter?
5. Describe the role of prayer in the life of a Christian, and specifically, in the life of a healthy member of a local church? How can you plan to pray for your church, leaders, and city?

CHRISTIAN BELIEFS

The Doctrine of God: What is the Bible? (Chapter 1)



BIBLICAL PASSAGES

As you read and examine the following passages, be sure to consider them in light of the author's intended meaning, the week's discussion topic(s), and the discussion questions below.

- 2 Tim. 3:16-18
- Psalm 19:7
- Matthew 4:4



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why is it important that the Bible be the basis for our beliefs?
2. Will the Bible definitively answer every question we bring to it? Why or why not?
3. What is one issue the Bible speaks on clearly? What is one issue that the Bible does not speak clearly on? How does this affect the emphasis you should place on these issues?
4. What are some practical applications of the four characteristics of Scripture (authority, clarity, necessity, sufficiency)? How should these characteristics shape how we live? How we disciple others?



PROJECTS

Statement of Faith. The final project for this study will be your own 2-4 page basic statement of faith following the essential categories of Christian doctrine.

- With each week of this study, you will develop a section of your statement of faith that corresponds with the topic from the selected Grudem reading.
- This week write a short summary stating your position on the Doctrine of the Word of God.

CHRISTIAN BELIEFS

The Doctrine of God: What is God Like? / What is the Trinity? (Chapter 2-3)



BIBLICAL PASSAGES

As you read and examine the following passages, be sure to consider them in light of the author's intended meaning, the week's discussion topic(s), and the discussion questions below.

- Genesis 1:1
- Psalm 115:1-3
- Matthew 3:16-17
- Matthew 28:18-20
- 1 Timothy 2:5



PERSONAL REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What are some attributes that God most clearly shares with us? What are some attributes He doesn't share very much with us? Name one attribute of God that you would like to imitate more fully in your daily life and why.
2. How do the different ways the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit relate to each other provide us with a model for the way we are to relate to each other? How does the doctrine of the Trinity lead you to worship?



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What might some of the dangers be in considering one of God's attributes more important than all the others?
2. Which of God's attributes seem most amazing to you? What have you learned about God through this attribute?
3. Why is the Trinity an important doctrine? What passages from Scripture tell us about the Trinity?

CHRISTIAN BELIEFS

The Doctrine of God: What is Creation? / What is Prayer? / What are Angels, Satan and Demons? (Ch. 4-6)



BIBLICAL PASSAGES

As you read and examine the following passages, be sure to consider them in light of the author's intended meaning, the week's discussion topic(s), and the discussion questions below.

- Genesis 1:1; 1:27
- John 1:1-3
- Isaiah 43:7
- Luke 11:9-12
- 1 Peter 5:8



PERSONAL REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. In what ways do God's acts of creation give us great humility? How do they also give us great dignity?
2. Is there anything in your life right now that might be hindering your prayers? If so, take a moment to prayer for God to forgive you of those things that hinder your prayers.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does God think about all of His creation? How did His view of creation change after Adam and Eve sinned? How is God's view of all His creation different from your view of specific aspects of His creation?
2. Why does God want us to pray? Is prayer effective? How so?
3. Is God required to give us what we ask for in prayer? Why or why not?

CHRISTIAN BELIEFS

The Doctrine of Man: What is Man? / What is Sin? (Chapters 7–8)



BIBLICAL PASSAGES

As you read and examine the following passages, be sure to consider them in light of the author's intended meaning, the week's discussion topic(s), and the discussion questions below.

- Isaiah 43:7
- Ephesians 2:1-8
- Romans 6:23



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why were we created? What are some specific ways we can fulfill the purpose we were created for?
2. What does it mean to be created in God's image? How does that affect your view of yourself and others? What are our responsibilities as God's image bearers?
3. What is sin? How does it affect our lives and the world we live in?
4. Will Christians continue to sin? Why or why not?
5. What are some of the negative results of sin in the life of a Christian? What should Christians do when they sin?
6. How was sin defeated? How does this impact how we live and fight sin now?



PROJECTS

Statement of Faith. Add to your Statement of Faith draft by writing a new section for the Doctrine of Man and revising your previous sections as needed in light of your last cohort discussion and further reading.

CHRISTIAN BELIEFS

The Doctrine of Christ: Who is Christ?
/ What is the Atonement? / What is
the Resurrection? (Chapters 9-11)



BIBLICAL PASSAGES

As you read and examine the following passages, be sure to consider them in light of the author's intended meaning, the week's discussion topic(s), and the discussion questions below.

- Phil. 2:9-11
- Hebrews 2:17
- 2 Cor. 2:51
- Romans 3:25-26; 4:25
- 1 Peter 1:3



PERSONAL REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. How does your understanding of the atonement humble you? How does it encourage you?
2. What are some results in your life, and in the whole world, of Jesus' resurrection from the dead?



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why is Christ's full humanity and full divinity such an important truth? What texts support these doctrines?
2. How does Christ's full humanity encourage you? How does Christ's full divinity encourage you?
3. In what way was the atonement necessary? How does the atonement show off the depths of God's love and justice?
4. Why was Christ's perfect life on earth essential to the atonement? Why was Christ's substitutionary death essential to the atonement?

CHRISTIAN BELIEFS

The Doctrine of Redemption Applied: What is Election? / What Does it Mean to Become a Christian? (Chapters 12–13)



BIBLICAL PASSAGES

As you read and examine the following passages, be sure to consider them in light of the author's intended meaning, the week's discussion topic(s), and the discussion questions below.

- Ephesians 1
- 2 Tim. 2:10
- Romans 8:28-30
- Acts 13:48



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What about the doctrine of election leads you to rejoice? What about it comforts us? What about it, if anything, troubles you?
2. In light of the doctrine of election, in what ways do our choices have meaning?
3. How is the doctrine of election, a major encouragement to evangelism, rather than a deterrent?
4. How does someone become a Christian? What does it mean to truly repent and believe in Jesus?
5. In what ways do we give evidence of genuine faith in Jesus?



PROJECTS

Statement of Faith. Add your Statement of Faith draft by writing a new section for the Doctrine of Redemption Applied and revising your previous sections as needed in light of your last cohort discussion and further reading.

CHRISTIAN BELIEFS

The Doctrine of Redemption Applied:
What are Justification and Adoption?
/ What are Sanctification and
Perseverance? (Chapters 14–15)



BIBLICAL PASSAGES

As you read and examine the following passages, be sure to consider them in light of the author's intended meaning, the week's discussion topic(s), and the discussion questions below.

- Galatians 4:4-7
- Romans 5:1
- Phil. 1:6
- 2 Peter 3:3-9



PERSONAL REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Do you really believe you have been justified once for all time?
2. What passages support the doctrine of perseverance? How does wwithis doctrine make you feel? How does it give hope, comfort, and encouragement?



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean to be justified? How are Christians justified?
2. How does it make you feel to be adopted into God's family? What are the specific blessings that come from adoption?
3. How is sanctification different from justification? Why is this a crucial distinction?
4. What is our role in sanctification? What is God's? What are some specific ways you can contribute more to your progressive sanctification this coming week?

CHRISTIAN BELIEFS

The Doctrine of Redemption Applied: What is Death? / The Doctrine of the Church: What is the Church? (Chapters 16–17)*

**Note: this week is combined with the Chapters 18–20 because of the revisiting of a previous topic in other reading, the church. Discuss with your group and leader how you'd like to set up discussion and reading for this week.*



BIBLICAL PASSAGES

As you read and examine the following passages, be sure to consider them in light of the author's intended meaning, the week's discussion topic(s), and the discussion questions below.

- 1 Cor. 12:8–10
- 1 Cor. 15
- Romans 12:6–8
- Colossians 3:16



PERSONAL REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Why do Christians die? How does that affect the way you think about your own death someday?
2. List some of the things a church is supposed to do, biblically. Can you name some specific examples of the Holy Spirit's work empowering and blessing some of those things in your own church?



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What happens to the bodies and souls of Christians when they die? How does this make you feel? Why?
2. What will happen to the bodies of Christians when Jesus returns? What specific aspects of our resurrection bodies are you especially hopeful about?

CHRISTIAN BELIEFS

The Doctrine of the Future: What Will Happen When Christ Returns? /
 What is the Final Judgment? /
 What is Heaven? (Chapters 18–20)



BIBLICAL PASSAGES

As you read and examine the following passages, be sure to consider them in light of the author's intended meaning, the week's discussion topic(s), and the discussion questions below.

- Revelation 14:10-11; 20:1-6; 21
- Matthew 24:44; 25:34
- Romans 2:8; 8:1; 14:10-12



PERSONAL REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What are some issues of eschatology that Christians differ on? How should Christians deal with these differences?
2. In what ways does the Bible's description of heaven surprise you, encourage you, and make you long for heaven even more?



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some of the things about eschatology that all Christians should agree on? Which of those give you the most joy?
2. What happens to Christians at the final judgment? What will happen to those who have rejected Jesus' claims?
3. How does your understanding of the final judgment affect your life today? How should it affect the way you relate to others?
4. What does the Bible tell us about hell? How does your understanding of hell make you feel? Why does it make you feel that way?
5. How should the hope of heaven influence how you live right now?

THE GOSPEL AT WORK

The Challenge / Idolatry of Work / Idleness in Work (Intro, Chapters 1-2)



BIBLICAL PASSAGES

As you read and examine the following passages, be sure to consider them in light of the author's intended meaning, the week's discussion topic(s), and the discussion questions below.

- Luke 18:18-29
- Colossians 3:22-24



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How do you view work? Is it any different than a non-believer? Why or why not?
2. What does it mean to make work an idol? What does it mean to be idle in work? Why are both important issues to confront?
3. Which of the two – idolatry or idleness – are you most prone to at work and why?
4. What's the fix for idolatry at work? For idleness in work?



PROJECTS

Reflection. Write a short paragraph on how you view your work. What in it brings you joy or frustrations? And which of the two issues (idolatry/idleness) do you struggle with the most? This reflection will help foster discussion and cultivate ideas for your final project for this book.

THE GOSPEL AT WORK

The Gospel in the Workplace / The King's Purposes in Our Work (Chapters 3-4)



BIBLICAL PASSAGES

As you read and examine the following passages, be sure to consider them in light of the author's intended meaning, the week's discussion topic(s), and the discussion questions below.

- Luke 18:18-29
- 2 Cor. 5:17-20
- Colossians 3:22-24



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What difference should it make in the workplace if an employee is a Christian according to the authors? Where do you agree or disagree?
2. Why is the most important thing about you as a worker the fact that you know and serve Jesus? How does the Gospel and its implications, which give you a new master, change how you view work? Where is this not happening in your work?
3. What are some of the key biblical motives for work? How should these truths shape the way you work and how you think of your work?
4. How would the way you approach work change if you truly believed that God had His purposes for you in your work? How does your specific work accomplish God's purposes for others?



PROJECTS

Journal Reflection. Write a short journal reflection responding to the following questions:

- What difference should it make in the workplace if an employee is a Christian according to the authors? Where do you agree or disagree?

THE GOSPEL AT WORK

How Should I Choose a Job? / How Do I Balance Work, Church, and Family? (Chapters 5–6)



BIBLICAL PASSAGES

As you read and examine the following passages, be sure to consider them in light of the author's intended meaning, the week's discussion topic(s), and the discussion questions below.

- Matthew 6:25-34
- Hebrews 10:24-25
- Colossians 3:22-24



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are the must-have and nice-to-have considerations when thinking about a job as a believer according to the authors? Where do you agree or disagree? What considerations did you think about or neglect when you made your most recent job change?
2. What are the concepts of faithfulness and fruitfulness in relation to the assignments/responsibilities God has given us: disciples of Jesus, work, church, and family?
3. How is aiming for faithfulness and fruitfulness different from pursuing balance?
4. Which good responsibilities has God given you that you are most tempted to prioritize over Him? Why might this be?



PROJECTS

Faithfulness/Fruitfulness Job Description. Write a brief “job description” for each of the assignments God has given you in your life (disciple of Jesus, family, church, work). Be sure to outline what it means to be faithful in each area of life. (Do this prayerfully keeping your season of life and the Scriptures in mind.)

THE GOSPEL AT WORK

How Do I Handle Difficult Bosses and Coworkers? / What Does It Mean to Be a Christian Boss? (Chapters 7–8)



BIBLICAL PASSAGES

As you read and examine the following passages, be sure to consider them in light of the author's intended meaning, the week's discussion topic(s), and the discussion questions below.

- Philippians 2:5-8
- Colossians 3:22-4:1
- 2 Cor. 5:17-20



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In what ways can the workplace be a great place of progressive sanctification? How should this help shape our attitude in dealing with workplace dynamics?
2. Which mark listed in Chapter 7 do you find most difficult? Why? How does the Gospel help with your difficulty in this area?
3. How is the biblical view of authority different than the world's perspective? How should this shape how you interact with those you have some level of authority over?
4. How does your attitude, actions, and motivates in the workplace relate to your role as a kingdom ambassador of Christ?
5. Have you ever apologized to someone in your workplace for your attitude, speech, or actions toward them? Do you need to do so now?



PROJECTS

Faithfulness/Fruitfulness Job Description. Continue finalizing your job description and action plan.

Complete What's Next Reflection. Detailed instructions on page 151.

THE GOSPEL AT WORK

How Can I Share the Gospel at Work?
/ Is Full-Time Ministry More Valuable
than My Job? / Defining Success
(Chapters 9-10, Conclusion)



BIBLICAL PASSAGES

As you read and examine the following passages, be sure to consider them in light of the author's intended meaning, the week's discussion topic(s), and the discussion questions below.

- Matthew 28:18-20
- 2 Cor. 5:17-20
- Colossians 3:22-24



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are the keys to faithfully sharing the Gospel with people at work? What typically stops people from doing so winsomely? Are these barriers legit or primarily driven by idols?
2. Have you shared the Gospel with anyone in your workplace in the past year? What excuses do you use to prevent faithfulness to God in this area? Who at your office would be surprised if they found out you are a Christian?
3. Is working in vocational ministry more valuable than a Christian working a "regular" job? What's faulty about this question according to the authors? Do you agree?
4. Have you ever felt more or less valuable than those in vocational Christian ministry? Why? What's been overlooked by how we assign value to various jobs? What are the biblical ways/criteria to value jobs?
5. How would you describe the ways that working for King Jesus gives you value and purpose in working your job? How does this relate to the identity and salvation won for you by Christ?

SAMPLE PROJECTS

Your projects do not need to duplicate the exact content of the following samples. Instead, use the samples as a helpful guide showing one of a multitude of ways to approach and complete a project. Each and every person's projects will and should look different.

WHO AM I

Letter to Self Sample

Dear Self,

You are a creature.

You forget this a lot, but it's important. God graciously made you. God graciously sustains you. God graciously owns you. When you remember this, it kicks you off your high horse and helps keep you humble. When you remember this, it keeps you comforted and secure.

The problem is you don't remember these truths much. Since you're not a puppet with visible strings that vertically point to the fact that you are not your own, you usually live, think, and act as if you are, in fact, your own. This is where the stress comes in. On those days when you forget God is your gracious Creator, Sustainer, and Redeemer, you essentially take all the weight that He alone can carry and put it on your own scrawny, finite shoulders. This is why you get inordinately stressed about those bills, that upcoming work project next week, and that confrontational conversation you know you need to have before Friday. Because in those moments, you believe it's up to you to maintain peace, order, and balance in your life.

But God is the one who made everything out of nothing. He didn't use tools, but just His word. He made order where there was none and He sustains this planet and the cosmos, without any help from you. Amazing! And, don't forget the fact that He made you. Even more than that, as His creature made for worship and joy, you rebelled from Him. But He loved you still. He redeemed you by condemning His Son in your place! How great is our God! If God would make, sustain, and save you through Christ, then as His beloved creature and child, take those stressors and worries to Him. Remember He is infinite and you are finite. Let that humble and comfort you; don't pretend that the ultimate responsibility and outcome of your life, day-by-day or week-by-week, is on your shoulders. You're a creature, which is a good thing! So, cast your cares and anxieties on the Creator and Sustainer who cares for you, infinitely! Follow the beautiful, comforting logic of Romans 8:28ff! You were not made, as a creature, to worship yourself or look to yourself for

ultimate sustaining power – so why stress as if all things are ultimately up to you?

I wonder what would happen if you, more often than not, took your worries and fears to the one and only Creator and Redeemer who loves you fully and perfectly? What if instead of worrying about all those things that are keeping you up at night, you took them to the Creator in prayer? How would that change Monday morning? How would that help you unwind and be present with your family after a hard day at the office? How would that lead you to better enjoy God and the season of life you're in right now?

Yes, trusting God as your Creator, Sustainer, and Redeemer would bring loads of God-honoring freedom, humility, joy, and peace. So, keep this good news in front of you: you are a creature with a perfect Creator, Sustainer, and Redeemer who is fully for you and working every situation for your good as His creature and child. The weight of the world is not on your shoulders, but God's, the one who even the highest heavens can't contain. He is able, trust Him.

KNOWABLE WORD

Annotated Bible Study Guide

1. Be Submitted to the Text Because it is God's Word

This should go without saying, but it gets forgotten, so it's worth saying. This is the most importance principle, or posture: being submitted to the authority of the Bible. The Bible is over us and we sit under it (Isa. 66:1-2). From this posture, we will come to the text in humility, eagerness, and with a teachable mind as we expect to learn from the text, not fit the text into our ideas and preferences.

2. There is an Intended Meaning in the Text

Another key principle that should go without saying is that there actually is an intended meaning in the Bible and in each particular passage/text. In an age where reader response theories and me-isms reign and rule, we have to come to the Bible with the understanding that God has worked through the original writers, by His Spirit, to write the Scriptures and there is an intended meaning that is discernable in the text.

3. Get Meaning From the Text, Do Not Dump Meaning Into the Text

We are working for exegesis, not eisegesis. We all bring assumptions and biases to the text. We need to acknowledge that and work and pray hard to get meaning from the text as opposed to dumping meaning into it.

4. Authorial Intent is the Key to Meaning

One of the ways we get meaning from the text is through close attention to the intended meaning from the text as displayed in the author's words in the text. Here we wrestle with the text prayerfully with proper understanding of grammatical and historical elements.

5. Avoid Grounding Authorial Intent in a Psychological Reading of the Author

In our work to get meaning from the text, we must avoid the speculative joyride that is psycho-analyzing the author's life and background or anything that is not biblically grounded or in the particular text or larger context.

6. Context Is Key

As we interpret the word, context is crucial. To understand a set of verses out of Philippians, it will help us to look beyond those verses to the large point in that section. It will help us to zoom out further and get a feel for the larger meaning of Philippians itself. We may also want to examine Pauline writing. Similarly, if a word is used or term is used in a strange way, context can help us understand the intended meaning.

7. Word Study Is Not Just Tied to the Etymology or Historical Meaning of the Word

It is not enough to say that the meaning of “salvation” in Greek times was X. That may be helpful, but we also have to pay attention to the way a word is used in the particular text we are examining. Since terms can shift meaning from their context, it’s not enough to do historical fact-checking since that alone cannot account for the context the term is being used in and the range of meaning for a term. (Imagine I tell someone “that’s hot” in conversation. To know what I mean, it’s not enough to know what hot means historically. The context will help show if I’m talking about the weather, something that’s good, or the temperature of an item — all things that “hot” could possibly mean.)

8. Understand Authorial Intent and Do It by Bringing In the Big Story of Scripture

At some point in interpreting the Word, we need ask where the text fits in the larger redemptive history of the Bible. For some passages, this is easy to see. In other passages, this might seem more camouflaged. Either way, we need to do this work to remain faithful to the whole of Scripture and its thread of redemption through Jesus (Jn. 5:39; Luke 24:1ff).

WHAT IS A HEALTHY CHURCH MEMBER

Healthy Church Member Statement

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

I believe local church membership is:

- A good thing given by God for order, building up, and meaningful community
- Assumed as a non-negotiable throughout the New Testament
- Described through the New Testament
- Taught in an implicit way where certain Scriptural commands clearly assume membership

PERSONAL COMMITMENTS ON CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

I participate in church membership by:

- Pursuing membership in my local church and in whatever future churches I may attend
- Helping others learn about the importance and gift of the local church and membership
- Pursuing healthy church member practices as outlined below

CHURCH DISCIPLINE

I believe church discipline is:

- Formative through the Scriptures and others, teaching us how to live in step with the Scriptures and the Gospel (2 Tim 3:15-16)
- Corrective through the Scriptures and others, correcting and confronting us to lead us from error into righteousness (Matt. 18:15-17)
- Given by Jesus for our good and growth in purity and godliness with order and instructions (Matt. 18:15-17)

- Another evidence of the necessity of church membership (1 Cor. 5)

PERSONAL COMMITMENTS ON CHURCH DISCIPLINE

I participate in church discipline by:

- Asking for and inviting correction, teaching, and encouragement from others in the faith as a way to actively seek formative, informal church discipline into my life
- Pursuing sexual purity and abstaining from pornography as I pursue godliness
- Putting aside my fear of others and sharing concerns or correction in love to others in the church for their good and growth rather than ignoring patterns of sin or concern in silence
- Receiving and responding to corrective and formative church discipline whenever in line with the Scriptures
- Encouraging and teaching others actively in simple ways through conversations after Sunday sermons as a way to participate in formative discipline that encourages and builds up the church
- Confessing my sin and key areas of struggle, like fear of others, with the people close to me so they can help encourage me in the Gospel and help me grow in obedience
- Not using formative or corrective conversations as a way to bolster pride or self-righteousness as I hear the struggles of others but rather using these opportunities to remember my righteousness is in Christ alone
- Always striving to have the Gospel, which gives safety and time to myself and others, shape all conversations around sin, correction, struggles, etc.

PRACTICES OF A HEALTHY CHURCH MEMBER

I believe a healthy church member should pursue the following overarching baseline practices:

- Personal pursuit of Jesus through word, prayer, and obedience (Matt. 4:4; 2 Tim. 3:16-17)
- Pursue godliness in all areas of life in light of the Gospel (Titus 2:11-15)
- Membership within a local church

- Prayer for and joyful submission to church community and leaders (Heb. 13:17)
- Sacrificial service and giving to his or her local church (2 Cor. 8-9)
- Participation in the great commandment and great commission as part of a local church (Matt. 22:34-40; 28:16-20)
- Receiving humbly and giving graciously “formative church discipline” (Heb. 3:12)

PERSONAL COMMITMENTS ON HEALTHY CHURCH MEMBER PRACTICES

I participate in healthy church member practices by:

- Pursing Jesus by reading my Bible each day for at least 20 minutes and having at least 15 minutes of “set” prayer time
- Seeking to share the Gospel with non-believers at least once a month
- Giving regularly to my church with 10% of my monthly income
- Using a budget so I can better steward my money and be able to support the church and other Gospel causes, etc.
- Praying for my pastors and other church leaders weekly by having them on my prayer chart
- Getting to service early in order to welcome new people and have good conversations with others in the church
- Initiating spiritual conversations with people in the church to encourage and disciple each other with simple questions like “What are you reading in the Bible lately?,” “What has God been teaching you?,” “Do you need prayer for anything this week?,” etc.

THE GOSPEL AT WORK

Faithfulness/Fruitfulness Job Description/Action Plan

Write a brief “job description” for each of the assignments God has given you in your life (Disciple of Jesus, family, church, work). Be sure to outline what it means to be faithful in each area of life.

DISCIPLE OF JESUS (Matthew 4:4; 28:18-20; 2 Tim 3:16;)

- Time with Jesus through daily intake of Scripture
- Daily time of prayer
- Having spiritual conversations with non-Christians once a month
- Regularly praying for family, church, neighbors and non-Christians
- Welcoming new non-Christian friends into our home in hospitality (meals, etc.)

Disciple of Jesus Action Plan

- Use Bible eater reading plan each morning 6am to 6:30am in living room
- Use prayer chart to pray for key areas
- Coordinate with spouse to have one non-Christian friend over for a meal each week

FAMILY

- Praying for spouse daily
- Encouraging spouse spiritually by discussing Bible and sermon during Sunday dinner
- Planning regular family activity for weekends
- Making sure technology is not distracting me from family time
- Teaching my kids about Jesus and the Bible

- Working and budgeting faithfully to provide

Family Action Plan

- Read The Jesus Story Book Bible with kids before bed each night
- Use prayer chart to pray for key areas
- Turn phone off after dinner
- Schedule family Bible time in calendar for Sunday nights
- Ask around for good budgeting tool

CHURCH

- Faithfully engaging in community and serving with church family as a member
- Introducing non-Christian friends to my christian friends
- Encouraging others in the faith by asking good questions, reading Scripture together
- Praying for church, city, church leaders, and our mission
- Regularly serving and giving financially so we can make disciples

Church Action Plan

- Attend next membership meeting
- Ask group leader how I can be more active and helpful
- Get in a discipleship group within the next month

WORK

- Working hard each day in service to Jesus
- Praying for Colossians 3:17 to shape each work day
- Being the best employee I can be for God's glory
- Doing my best to refrain from gossip and to instead build up co-workers
- Be a mentor and help to newer employees
- Be a gracious and godly supervisor to those under me

Work Action Plan

- Use prayer chart to pray for key areas
- Pray in my car before heading into the office for key relationships
- Arrange work party to care for sue as she goes through chemotherapy

KEY CONCEPTS AND TERMS

Below are key concepts and terms that you should know and be able to explain by the conclusion of each particular study. It is recommended to refer to this list at the beginning, middle, and end of each study as a check-in. Terms are generally listed in order of appearance.

↑ **WORSHIPPER**

Christian Beliefs

- God
- The Bible
- The Trinity
- The person and work of Christ
- Atonement
- Heaven
- Hell

Knowable Word

- Observation
- Context
- Genre
- Interpretation
- Application
- OIA method
- Correlation

You Can Pray

- The role of the Father in prayer
- The role of the Son in prayer
- The role of the Spirit in prayer
- Relationship between prayer and God's Sovereignty
- Unanswered prayer
- Reasons God will not hear prayers

FAMILY

What is a Healthy Church Member

- Church discipline
- Formative discipline
- Corrective discipline
- Biblical theology
- Conversion
- Evangelism

Creature of the Word

- The Church
- Mission
- Multiplication

AMBASSADOR

Smooth Stones

- The four questions of existence
- Pluralism
- Pluralism paradox

The Gospel At Work

- Idolatry
- Idleness
- Faithfulness and fruitfulness
- Authority

→ **DISCIPLE**

Who Am I

- Living union
- Representative union
- Justification
- Progressive sanctification
- Already but not yet

License to Kill

- Mortification
- Indwelling sin
- Progressive sanctification
- Legalism
- Union with Christ
- Expulsive power of a new affection

WHAT'S NEXT REFLECTION

Because EQUIP is designed to help you grow as disciple-making disciple, it's crucial to consider what's next after completing EQUIP. How might God be directing you to steward your new knowledge and experience of life-on-life missional discipleship? How might God want to use you to teach, model, and disciple others in the same way you have been disciplined through EQUIP? What tasks, roles, or opportunities might God have for you as EQUIP ends?

What's next might be as straightforward as applying to become an EQUIP group leader. Or, what's next might be pursuing a ministry internship or living as a more engaged church member and disciple-maker. Determining what's next is not about finding value or significance in a new role, task, or area of ministry/engagement. Determining what's next is about seizing the massive opportunity to steward your gifts and interests to honor God and make disciples that make disciples after a time of intense study and application through EQUIP.

Below are a list of possible “what's next” options to consider as you write your reflection.

- EQUIP Group Leader
- Gospel Community Leader or Emerging Leader
- Church Planting Intern
- Church Planting Resident
- Church Planting Core Team Member

DIRECTIONS FOR WHAT'S NEXT REFLECTION

- Prayerfully write a 1 to 2 page reflection responding to the following questions as you process what God may have for you as your time in EQUIP ends. Share your reflection with your EQUIP group for input, encouragement, and help.
- Have there been any “ah-ha!” moments during EQUIP that may give insight into what God has for next as a disciple-making disciple?

- In which of the key categories (worshipper, family, ambassador, disciple) have you seen the most growth and progress during EQUIP? Why do you think you've experienced such growth in this area? How might this give you insight into some possible "what's next" steps?
- What possible "what's next" options get you excited about making disciples? What do you think God has gifted you for and where have you seen fruit in discipling others during EQUIP? Where are there needs in your church?
- How have you been blessed by your EQUIP group leader? What might it look like for you to pursue leading an EQUIP group?

“Go...” — Jesus

