

a theologically edifying discourse

WEEKS 1-3
LEADER GUIDE



HEAD-HEART-HANDS-HABITS

In this series, we will be studying the key beliefs that we strongly hold to as followers of Christ and as a church body. In order to help convey the importance of each truth and how we can apply it to our lives, we will be using a different approach in our LifeGroup discussions to help us read, interpret, and apply these truths with the goal of growing as disciples of Jesus Christ!

The Head - Heart - Hands framework seeks to help us live a life balanced by our thinking, feeling, and behavior. It isn't meant for us to pick and choose, but all are necessary in order to help us live our lives fully in the faith that comes from Christ, as we seek to love Him with our heart, soul, mind, and strength.

In each lesson, there will be questions from each of the areas: Head, Heart, Hands, and Habits. Just as we can't live a healthy, balanced life by only eating one or two foods, we must have all of these areas to live a healthy spiritual life in Christ. As a result, it is important that you discuss questions from each of these areas. For many, you will find several questions to choose from. Choose the question(s) that will most benefit your LifeGroup from each section rather than trying to answer every question in order to discuss each topic in the time allowed. Each type plays an important role in our walk and growth as followers of Christ.



Head Questions: What we believe and think (Psalm 119:130)

- "Intellectual" questions that help us to understand the teaching points in the passage
- Discuss our thoughts and understanding of what the passage says
- Think of it as: What do you understand in this passage?

Heart Questions: What we love and desire (Romans 12:1-2)

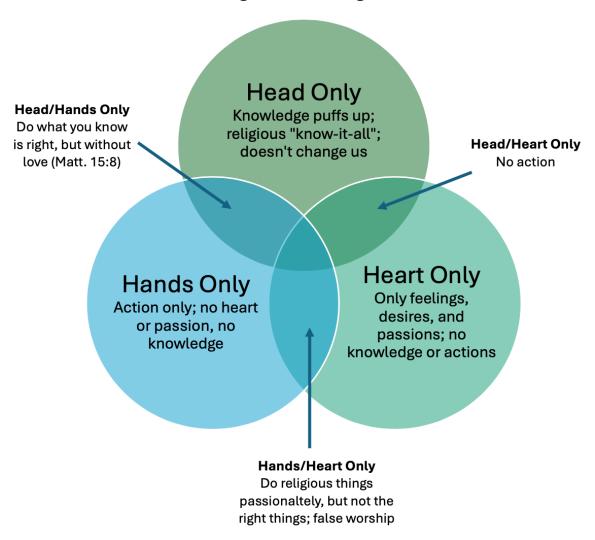
- "Emotional" questions that help us to understand the importance of the passage and to be affected by it, not just informed by it
- Examine our desires, feelings, will, and choices, as well as our passions
- Think of it as: What moves and motivates you in this passage?

Hands Questions: What we choose and do (Titus 3:1-8)

- "Practical" questions that help us to see the implications of what the passage teaches, and to be determined to act on it.
- As our mind and values change, our actions should follow!
- Think of it as: What will you do with this passage?

It isn't enough to just have one or two of these areas in our lives. It is important and necessary that we have a balance of all three!

The Dangers of Not Using All Three



As we allow God to work in our lives in all three of these aspects, we grow in our relationship with Him and allow Him to transform our lives. As a result, we can develop Habits that honor and glorify Him!

Habit Questions help us answer the question, "Now what?" Once our head, heart, and hands are working well together, we can move forward to develop consistent practices, regular rhythms, and routines that help us turn our knowledge, emotions, and actions into a way of life that honors God and draws people to Him!

They help us to make our faith an active part of our everyday lives, building spiritual disciplines that will sustain our faith and testimony over time. Without these habits, it is easy for the other areas to get out of sync and break down, and for us to lose sight of why we do what we do!



WEEK 1

WATCH

Make sure everyone can see the screen and the audio is at a comfortable level.

READ

Take some time in advance to read and consider the Bible study questions and come up with personal examples to encourage discussion.

DISCUSS

We hope those who participate in the study walk away knowing, feeling, and doing differently as a result of amazing discussion.



SCRIPTURE: THE WORD OF GOD & THE GOSPEL: A TESTIMONY TO CHRIST

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BIG IDEA

Proofs are a part of many aspects of life, from mathematics, sciences, computer science, and even law. They provide evidence of logical arguments that establish the truth of a statement or belief. In mathematics, proofs are built around logical conclusions that are based on other proven facts, or axioms. In law, proofs provide sufficient evidence to persuade someone of a certain claim or belief. This evidence can come from experiences, observations in the world around us, or from already proven concepts.

Proofs are often necessary in our spiritual lives as well. Before choosing to believe strongly and completely in something, we usually require hard evidence that proves its truth. Many people today question the validity of the Bible as the inspired, inerrant, infallible word of God, as well as the gospel message that Jesus is the only way to salvation. They claim that it takes great "faith" to believe such things. However, as followers of Christ, we know these claims to be true and essential to our lives. Horace Mann once stated: "Keep one thing forever in view - the truth; and if you do this, though it may seem to lead you away

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OF GOD & THE GOSPEL: A TESTIMONY TO CHRIST

from the opinion of men, it will assuredly conduct you to the throne of God." This week we will examine the authority and reliability of the Bible as the Word of God and the good news of the gospel as a testimony to Christ.

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Passages we'll review:

2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:21; Hebrews 4:12; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

OPENING

What stood out to you from the message this week? What led you to really think? Did anything challenge you?

WATCH

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What jumped out at you from the video in this session? What are some of the key points that impacted you more than others?

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SCRIPTURE: THE WORD OF GOD & THE GOSPEL: A TESTIMONY TO CHRIST

READ

PART 1 - Scripture: The Word of God!

Big Idea: The Bible is divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself. It is authoritative and sufficient for all of life and godliness. The Bible is the inspired, inerrant, infallible word of God!

Key Points: Not man's opinions about God, but God's Word to man.; Sixty-six books, one unified story; Why it matters that we see it as our ultimate standard.

Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:21, and Hebrews 4:12

Choose the question(s) that will most benefit your LifeGroup from each section rather than trying to answer every question in order to discuss each topic in the time allowed. Each type plays an important role in our walk and growth as followers of Christ.



SCRIPTURE: THE WORD OF GOD & THE GOSPEL: A TESTIMONY TO CHRIST

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HEAD:

What does it mean for all scripture to be "Godbreathed"? How does this description of the Bible's origin provide a foundation for trusting in the Bible's reliability and authority?

(Open for discussion. The Bible isn't simply a collection of stories, fables, myths, or ideas about God. It is the infallible, inspired, complete Word of God that reveals His personhood and His plan to us, given to us from God by His Spirit through those chosen by God to be used as His instruments to proclaim it through the written word. God was in control of it from beginning to end, and as a result, we can count on it being trustworthy and the standard for which we base everything else.)

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WEEK



SCRIPTURE: THE WORD OF GOD & THE GOSPEL: A TESTIMONY TO CHRIST

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What are the purposes of scripture according
to these passages? Why is it so important that
we know the Bible is "living and active"?

(Open for discussion. Scripture is meant to help us guard against false teaching, test to determine what is truth, tell us how to be saved, and help us to live for Him. It gives us the instructions we need to live as God intended, pointing out our sin and disobedience and guiding us back to the way God commanded. It also tells us how to live in a way that brings glory and honor to God. It is important to understand that God's Word is living and active and not just facts, as it is meant to cause us to act on it!)

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SCRIPTURE: THE WORD OF GOD & THE GOSPEL: A TESTIMONY TO CHRIST

HEART:

NOTES

God's Word is living and active. It is life-changing and dynamic for those who follow it and become more Christlike as it reveals what is inside, both good and bad. When you think of His Word being intended to rebuke and correct you, how does it make you feel? Do you welcome that aspect of scripture, or do you resist it? Why?

(Open for discussion. When we welcome the rebuke and correction of God's Word, we allow Him to reveal our thoughts, intentions, and motivations for all that we do - our true nature. In doing this, God reveals our need for a Savior and points us to Jesus and His power as our source of strength and forgiveness.)



SCRIPTURE: THE WORD OF GOD & THE GOSPEL: A TESTIMONY TO CHRIST

NOTES

How does the knowledge that Scripture comes from God, not man, affect your reverence and respect for the Bible? Do you see it as simply as a book of old stories or as a tool God uses in your life? How can it help you to trust in the truth of Scripture, even when you face doubt or confusion?

(Open for discussion. God uses His Word to show us how to live for Him. He reminds us of what He has done in the past to help us depend on Him for the present and trust Him with our future. We may not understand what is going on around us or even know what is coming in the future, but we know that God does, and that He controls all things and will guide us as He has in the past.)



SCRIPTURE: THE WORD OF GOD & THE GOSPEL: A TESTIMONY TO CHRIST

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HANDS:

How can you use the Word of God to help and encourage others on their spiritual journey?

What practical steps can you take this week to allow the Word of God to penetrate and guide your daily decisions more effectively?

(Open for discussion. Because the Bible is inspired by God and trustworthy, we should read it and apply it to our lives daily. It gives us comfort, insight, warnings, and promises that can help us know how to live godly lives. We can use these truths to help others as well, but we must make the effort to look for opportunities to build relationships with those God brings in our path!)

What is one good work God is calling you to, - and how will you intentionally use scripture to _ prepare for it?

(Open for discussion)

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SCRIPTURE: THE WORD OF GOD & THE GOSPEL: A TESTIMONY TO CHRIST

HABITS:

God's Word is not just for attaining knowledge or to defend arguments. It is intended to show us how to live for Him and do His work in the world around us. It is only truly useful if we allow it to strengthen our faith and lead us to do good for Him.

In what ways should your life be different because you believe the Bible is from God and not of human origin?

(Open for discussion)

PART 2 - The Gospel: A Testimony to Christ!

Big Idea: The gospel is the good news that Jesus died for our sins, was buried, and rose again, according to the Scriptures.

Key Points: The gospel is news, not advice. It is rooted in historical reality and biblical prophecy, and for salvation and life.



SCRIPTURE: THE WORD OF GOD & THE GOSPEL: A TESTIMONY TO CHRIST

Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

Choose the question(s) that will most benefit your LifeGroup from each section rather than trying to answer every question in order to discuss each topic in the time allowed. Each type plays an important role in our walk and growth as followers of Christ.

HEAD:

What is the "gospel", or central message, that Paul is reminding the Corinthians of? According to this passage, why did Christ die, and why is this important to note?

(Paul was reminding the Corinthians of the good news of God's salvation through Jesus Christ by His death, burial, and resurrection. Christ died for our sin. This is important because, while many people had been crucified by the Romans, only Jesus Christ was crucified for the sins of the world.)

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SCRIPTURE: THE WORD OF GOD & THE GOSPEL: A TESTIMONY TO CHRIST

What is the significance of "according to the Scriptures" that Paul stated in verses 3 and 4?

(Open for discussion. While there were many false teachers other religions, Paul and reminded the Corinthians that this gospel message wasn't simply his own interpretation of what had taken place. Paul was simply God's messenger, receiving God's message passing it along to others. Paul reminded them that everything that had taken place was a fulfillment of God's prophecies throughout the Old Testament, Jesus had become the sacrificial Lamb that would take away the sins of the world. He was the fulfillment of the promised Savior!)

HEART:

How does the message that Christ died for your sins make you feel? Do you feel humility for your sins or profound gratitude for God's grace or something else?

(Open for discussion)



SCRIPTURE: THE WORD OF GOD & THE GOSPEL: A TESTIMONY TO CHRIST

How does the reality of the gospel affect your **NOTES** worship of God? How should these truths _____ awaken your love for Christ?

(Open for discussion. As we see the fulfillment of all of the Old Testament prophecies through the gospel message, our response ought to be to worship the Living God. Sin separated us from God because of our unholiness, but through Christ Jesus, we were made holy. He was the perfect sacrifice, holy and blameless. He had nothing to gain through His crucifixion, but He gave His life for our sake. When we see His sacrificial love for us, we should be drawn to love Him more!)

HANDS:

What practical steps can you take to hold firmly to this gospel message in your daily life? What actions can you take to reinforce this truth in your mind and heart? How does the truth of Christ's resurrection motivate you to turn from sin?

(Open for discussion)



SCRIPTURE: THE WORD OF GOD & THE GOSPEL: A TESTIMONY TO CHRIST

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In this passage, Paul reminded the Corinthian believers of the message He had preached to them of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. What practical steps can you take to share this same gospel message with others?	
(Open for discussion)	
HABITS: Paul reminded the Corinthian believers that if they did not hold firmly to the gospel message, then their belief was in vain.	
What are some specific ways we can demonstrate in our daily lives that the gospel is the firm foundation on which we stand? (Open for discussion)	
How does centering your life on the gospel message of Jesus Christ impact your priorities and your work?	
(Open for discussion)	



SCRIPTURE: THE WORD OF GOD & THE GOSPEL: A TESTIMONY TO CHRIST

PRAY

Consider the following as you pray together:

- Do you believe scripture is sufficient to equip you for every good work, or do you look for other sources of wisdom and guidance? How can you approach Bible Study with a renewed purpose, knowing that it is profitable for equipping you to do God's work?
- What changes do you need to make in your life in order to be fully equipped for good works inspired by the Word of God?
- Is the gospel the unshakable foundation of your life? Are you truly relying on the gospel or are you leaning on your own works and efforts?
- Who can you commit to sharing the message of the gospel with this week?

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WEEK 2

WATCH

Make sure everyone can see the screen and the audio is at a comfortable level.

READ

Take some time in advance to read and consider the Bible study questions and come up with personal examples to encourage discussion.

DISCUSS

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GOD: THE SOVEREIGN CREATOR & GOD THE FATHER: LORD OF HEAVEN AND EARTH

a theologically edifying discourse

BIG IDEA

There are many psalms and songs that speak of God's creation and His rule over it. In the song "God of Wonders", we read:

Lord of all creation - of water, earth, and sky
The heavens are Your tabernacle
Glory to the Lord on high
God of Wonders beyond our galaxy
You are Holy, Holy
The universe declares Your majesty
You are Holy, Holy
Lord of Heaven and Earth

In Acts 17, Paul entered the city of Athens and addressed the Council of Aeropagus, a group of philosophers who were over religion education. The Greeks were known for their architecture, arts, and knowledge, and though they worshiped many gods, they did not know the One True God. And yet, among all of the altars in their places of worship, they had an altar dedicated "TO AN UNKNOWN GOD". As Paul his message to the Athenians, he began introduced them to the God they didn't know personally. In Acts 17:24-25, he declared: "The

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GOD: THE SOVEREIGN CREATOR & GOD THE FATHER: LORD OF HEAVEN AND EARTH

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God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything." Paul then told them of living God, who wasn't distant powerless, not caring about His creation. He told them of God who was not only the Creator of all things, but also rules over all things. He didn't "need" mankind, but He created man in order that he might have a personal relationship with Him, and this same God is the one who cares for and desires a personal relationship with us, as well. In this week's study, we will look at what it means to know God as both our Sovereign Creator and the Lord of Heaven and Earth.

Passages we'll review

Psalm 90:2; Genesis 1:1; Exodus 34:5-7;

Matthew 6:7-14

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as He is, not as we imagine.



GOD: THE SOVEREIGN CREATOR & GOD THE FATHER: LORD OF HEAVEN AND EARTH

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OPENING	NOTES
What stood out to you from the message this	
week? What led you to really think? Did anything challenge you?	
WATCH	
Make sure everyone can see the screen and the audio is at a comfortable level.	
What jumped out at you from the video in this session? What are some of the key points that	
impacted you more than others?	
READ	
PART 1 - God: The Sovereign Creator!	
Big Idea: God is the sovereign creator of the	
universe! He has revealed Himself in Scripture so that we may know Him truly, though never	
exhaustively.	
Key Points: God's sovereignty is a natural	
consequence of His omniscience, omnipotence,	
and omnipresence, and His attributes are worth celebrating. The importance of worshiping God	

of eternity.)



GOD: THE SOVEREIGN CREATOR & GOD THE FATHER: LORD OF HEAVEN AND EARTH

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Read Psalm 90:2, Genesis 1:1, and Exodus 34:5-7	NOTES
Choose the question(s) that will most benefit your LifeGroup from each section rather than trying to answer every question in order to discuss each topic in the time allowed. Each type plays an important role in our walk and growth as followers of Christ.	
HEAD:	
In Psalm 90, Moses wrote "from everlasting to everlasting you are God." What does everlasting to everlasting reveal to us about God's nature? What is so significant about God existing before the earth and the world?	
(Open for discussion. Other versions say from beginning to end. This reminds us that God has always been in existence, even before the creation of the world, and He will remain for all	



GOD: THE SOVEREIGN CREATOR & GOD THE FATHER: LORD OF HEAVEN AND EARTH

a theologically edifying discourse

Genesis 1:1 tells us God "created". What does this show us about His nature and His power?

(Open for discussion. The Hebrew word used for created in this passage is "bara". This is important because it implies building or producing something out of nothing, not merely making something out of what already exists - something only God could do. The universe was not made from randomness or chaos, but by an all-powerful God. God exists outside of His creation. It establishes God's creative authority and power and is the foundation of everything else that follows in the Bible, from Genesis through Revelation!)

After preparing the second set of stone tablets containing the Ten Commandments, Moses had an encounter with God, in which He revealed more of Himself to Moses as He passed in front of him. What does this revelation tell us about God's nature and character?

(Open for discussion. In this passage, God revealed His glory to Moses, showing how He related to his creation - through His love, grace, and mercy.)

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GOD: THE SOVEREIGN CREATOR & GOD THE FATHER: LORD OF HEAVEN AND EARTH

HEART:

How does believing and understanding that God existed before creation and that He created and is sovereign over everything affect the fears and anxieties we may face in life?

(Open for discussion. We can trust in the faithfulness of God. He existed before creation, He created all things, and nothing takes Him by surprise. As His creation, He loves and cares for us and He will never leave us or forsake us.)

How does knowing that God has no beginning or end make you feel? Does it bring comfort, awe, or something else? In what ways do we tend to forget or doubt this foundational truth in our daily lives?

(Open for discussion)

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GOD: THE SOVEREIGN CREATOR & GOD THE FATHER: LORD OF HEAVEN AND EARTH

When we reflect on all that God has done for us as our Sovereign Creator, how does it - deepen your love for God?

(Open for discussion)

HANDS:

How should this truth - that God is the Sovereign Creator - influence our daily decisions and priorities? How should it affect how we approach problems and challenges in life?

(Open for discussion. We must remember that we are to be caretakers of all that God has created. We should serve Him with our own creativity and abilities, bringing glory to Him in all that we do. We can have faith in knowing that the same God who created everything desires a relationship with us, and He will guide and direct us through all of life if we trust and follow Him.)

NOTE



GOD: THE SOVEREIGN CREATOR & GOD THE FATHER: LORD OF HEAVEN AND EARTH

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	NOTES
How can we demonstrate God's love and unchanging, faithful character through words and actions towards others?	
(Open for discussion)	
How should the revelation of God's character affect our worship? What practical changes can you make to worship God for who He is?	
(Open for discussion. When we see all that God has done for us as our Sovereign Creator, we should be filled with praise for His majesty and power. We can rest confidently in His promises and purposes, trusting Him even when we don't understand. Because of our relationship with Him, we have hope for the future and for a new creation. As a result, we can live out HIs purpose for us and delight in all He has made!)	



GOD: THE SOVEREIGN CREATOR & GOD THE FATHER: LORD OF HEAVEN AND EARTH

HABITS:

How can we live more intentionally knowing that this life is but a moment compared to God's everlasting nature?

(Open for discussion)

PART 2 - God the Father: Lord of Heaven and Earth

Big Idea: God the Father is the Creator, Ruler, and loving Father who calls His children into intimate relationship.

Key Points: We should view our Father as the source of life and authority. His fatherly care for His people is unmatched. Understanding God as your Father transforms your prayer and trust in Him.

Read Matthew 6:7-14

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WEEK



GOD: THE SOVEREIGN CREATOR & GOD THE FATHER: LORD OF HEAVEN AND EARTH

Choose the question(s) that will most benefit your LifeGroup from each section rather than trying to answer every question in order to discuss each topic in the time

allowed. Each type plays an important role in our walk and growth as followers of Christ.

HEAD:

What does it mean for God to be Lord of ALL of heaven and ALL of earth? What biblical evidence supports this?

(Open for discussion. God is the Lord of EVERYTHING that has been created! This is supported by the fact that He is the Sovereign Creator [Genesis 1:1 in Part 1 - God:The Sovereign Creator!] He reigns over all things and is the Sustainer of all things.)



GOD: THE SOVEREIGN CREATOR & GOD THE FATHER: LORD OF HEAVEN AND EARTH

How does God's Lordship distinguish Him from all other religions? How does this truth impact your view of daily events?

(Open for discussion. Unlike any other religion, God reigns supreme over everything that has been created. He is mighty and powerful. He is omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent. He needs nothing from us. Yet He chooses to have a relationship with us. No other god from any other religion can claim this! We can trust Him rather than giving in to anxiety and surrender our plans to His purpose.)

When you consider the majesty of God as Lord of heaven and earth, what emotions do you feel?

(Open for discussion)

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GOD: THE SOVEREIGN CREATOR & GOD THE FATHER: LORD OF HEAVEN AND EARTH

How does knowing that God is Lord of heaven and earth affect your motivation for worshiping Him?

(Open for discussion. As Lord of heaven and earth, He reigns supreme and sovereign over everything. He has ultimate authority over all things, both in heaven and on earth, spiritual and physical. His Lordship requires us to surrender our dreams and desires to Him and trust in Him alone.)

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How can trusting God's Lordship affect our relationships with others and impact how we treat them?

(Open for discussion. We should remember what God has provided for us and live with generosity and respect towards others.)

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GOD: THE SOVEREIGN CREATOR & GOD THE FATHER: LORD OF HEAVEN AND EARTH

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	NOTES
How can your understanding of God's complete authority over everything change your prayer life from simply requesting to surrender? How can you share this with others who are searching for meaning and purpose in life?	
(Open for discussion)	
HABITS:	
How can our personal plans be surrendered to God's will, particularly in areas we seek to have control?	
(Open for discussion)	



GOD: THE SOVEREIGN CREATOR & GOD THE FATHER: LORD OF HEAVEN AND EARTH

a theologically edifying discourse

 PRAY Consider the following as you pray together: Are you in the habit of seeking God only for what He can do for you? How can you build a habit of seeking Him and worshiping Him for who He is, and not just for His blessing? 	NOTES
How can you be a better steward of the resources God has entrusted to you?	
 Do your daily interactions with coworkers, family, and even strangers reflect that you are an image-bearer of God and a representative of His kingdom, or your own personal power? 	



WEEK 3

WATCH

Make sure everyone can see the screen and the audio is at a comfortable level.

READ

Take some time in advance to read and consider the Bible study questions and come up with personal examples to encourage discussion.

DISCUSS

We hope those who participate in the study walk away knowing, feeling, and doing differently as a result of amazing discussion.



JESUS: THE SON OF GOD & THE HOLY SPIRIT: OUR GUIDING HELP

a theologically edifying discourse

BIG IDEA

God the Father created mankind to have an intimate relationship with Him, but when sin entered the world through Adam and Eve, that relationship with God was severed. There was no way that mankind could repair the relationship with God, and so we became enslaved: to sin, to fear, to our own desires. But that wasn't the end. God didn't just forget about us or leave us on our own. He loved us so much that He wanted to reclaim that relationship with His children. So much so that He provided the perfect sacrifice to restore that relationship and redeem His people from their sin. Jesus, the Son of God, became the perfect sacrifice for our sin.

When we experience the saving grace of Jesus Christ and choose to follow Him, we trade our slavery for freedom. We are no longer slaves to sin, but free in Christ. However, that freedom comes with a cost. As we choose to follow Christ, we are called to walk in His ways and to live as He lived. But we can't do this on our own! In order to help us become more like Christ, we must rely on His Spirit to help us. In this week's study, we will see the importance of Jesus, the Son of God, and the Holy Spirit as we seek to live a life that glorifies God and carries out His mission.

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JESUS: THE SON OF GOD & THE HOLY SPIRIT: OUR GUIDING HELP

Passages we'll review:

John 1:1-4; John 19:7; Philippians 2:5-11; John 14:16-26; Galatians 5:16-25; Acts 1:8

OPENING

What stood out to you from the message this week? What led you to really think? Did anything challenge you?

WATCH

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What jumped out at you from the video in this session? What are some of the key points that impacted you more than others?

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JESUS: THE SON OF GOD & THE HOLY SPIRIT: OUR GUIDING HELP

READ

PART 1 - Jesus: The Son of God!

Big Idea: Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became fully human without ceasing to be fully God, to redeem us from sin..

Key Points: Jesus's deity is foundational to the Christian faith (John 1:1-3). Even Jesus Himself did not deny who He was (John 19:7). He came with a mission to save, reveal God, and reign forever.

Read John 1:1-4, John 19:7, and Philippians 2:5-11

Choose the question(s) that will most benefit your LifeGroup from each section rather than trying to answer every question in order to discuss each topic in the time allowed. Each type plays an important role in our walk and growth as followers of Christ.

NOTES



JESUS: THE SON OF GOD & THE HOLY SPIRIT: OUR GUIDING HELP

HEAD:

Who is "the Word" and what does John tell us about Him in John 1:1-4? Why did He choose to come to earth as a man?

(The Word is Jesus, the Son of God. John tells us that Jesus existed at the beginning, before creation, because He is eternal - He is God and He was with God before creation! He came to earth as a man in order to redeem us, because only the Creator of all things can redeem them.)

What does it mean that Jesus "did not consider equality with God a thing to be grasped"?

(Open for discussion. Jesus did not lose His deity. Rather, He chose to set aside His position, humbly laying aside His glory and power, in order to come down to earth and serve the creatures He had created, in order that we might be saved.)

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JESUS: THE SON OF GOD & THE HOLY SPIRIT: OUR GUIDING HELP

HEART:

How does the revelation that God became flesh in order to dwell among us affect you emotionally? How do you feel when you consider that the Creator of "all things" entered into His own creation with a mission to save?

(Open for discussion)

When you focus on Jesus as the Son of God, how do you respond? How does knowing that Jesus was with God and was God from the very beginning influence your reverence and worship of Him?

(Open for discussion)

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WEEK THREE



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HANDS:

These passages were written in order to communicate the truth about Jesus. What are specific, practical ways we can reflect Jesus' character and mission in our own lives through our actions and interactions with others?

(Open for discussion. When Jesus came to earth, He did not think of Himself; He unselfishly and willingly thought of others, to the point of laying aside HIs own privileges and power for the sake and salvation of others. We can make the decision to lay aside our own "rights" and privileges to serve others as Jesus did. We can do this by encouraging one another, bearing each other's burdens, not judging others, loving one another and choosing to "outdo one another in showing honor [Romans 12:10].)

How does the ultimate reality of Christ's Lordship and His mission as the Son of God transform your priorities in life?

(Open for discussion)

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JESUS: THE SON OF GOD & THE HOLY SPIRIT: OUR GUIDING HELP

HABITS:

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If we align our habits with Christ, our lives will reflect God's glory!

How can Jesus' sacrifice change our perspective on the inconveniences and sacrifices we are asked to make in our lives?

(Open for discussion. If Jesus was willing to lay aside His glory and power for a sinful people, how much more should we be willing to lay aside our comfort, convenience, and control for Him, in order to make Him known!)

What habits or actions can you develop or carry out that are not for your benefit, but solely for the glory of God?

(Open for discussion)



JESUS: THE SON OF GOD & THE HOLY SPIRIT: OUR GUIDING HELP

PART 2 - The Holy Spirit: Our Guiding Help!

Big Idea: The Holy Spirit is fully God, sent to dwell in believers, empower the church, and glorify Christ. The Spirit transforms believers to reflect Christ in character, power, and mission.

Key Points: His personhood and deity; His role in conviction, regeneration, and sanctification; His power for mission and ministry; Being filled with the Spirit; Bearing the fruit of the Spirit; Relying on the Spirit daily.

Read John 14:16-26, Galatians 5:16-25, and Acts 1:8

Choose the question(s) that will most benefit your LifeGroup from each section rather than trying to answer every question in order to discuss each topic in the time allowed. Each type plays an important role in our walk and growth as followers of Christ.

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JESUS: THE SON OF GOD & THE HOLY SPIRIT: OUR GUIDING HELP

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HEAD:

What are the specific functions of the Holy Spirit in these passages?

(Open for discussion. The Holy Spirit lives with us and in us forever. He teaches us the truths of God's Word and will remind us of all that Jesus said. The Spirit will lead us as we follow in the steps of Jesus and exhibit the Fruit of the Spirit. He will also empower us to proclaim the message of salvation and do the work God has called us to do.)

Why was it so important for the disciples to wait for the Holy Spirit rather than immediately going out to witness? How is the power of the Holy Spirit different from natural human ability?

(Open for discussion. The disciples would face many obstacles and difficulties as they ministered and witnessed to others. Zechariah 4:6 reminds us: "Then he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of hosts." They would only be able to do the task God was calling them to with the help of His Spirit.)

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JESUS: THE SON OF GOD & THE HOLY SPIRIT: OUR GUIDING HELP

HEART:

The Holy Spirit is our paraclete, meaning comforter, counselor, and advisor. Which of these aspects is most meaningful to you and why?

(Open for discussion)

As followers of Christ, we have the assurance of the Holy Spirit living in us! How does this promise of God's intimate and permanent presence in your life affect your feelings of security and identity?

(Open for discussion. As children of God, we can find confidence in knowing that we belong to Him. We are no longer orphans, but followers of Christ! Because of His Spirit living in us, we can find security in knowing that He will be with us always and forever. We will never be alone, no matter what we face!)



JESUS: THE SON OF GOD & THE HOLY SPIRIT: OUR GUIDING HELP

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HANDS:	NOTES
How has the Holy Spirit helped you put God's truth into action? What specific actions, habits, and choices are a direct result of being led by the Spirit?	
(Open for discussion)	
How can you lean on the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit to accomplish tasks, instead of relying on your own personal strength?	
(Open for discussion)	

WEEK THREE



JESUS: THE SON OF GOD & THE HOLY SPIRIT: OUR GUIDING HELP

HABITS:

How can you intentionally keep in step with the Holy Spirit each day?

(Open for discussion. In order to follow the Spirit each day, we must be transformed to be more like Christ! We can only do this by cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit in our lives, aligning our values and actions with His will and guidance. As we spend time in God's Word, in prayer, and in fellowship with other believers, we can be pruned and strengthened to produce a bountiful harvest that brings glory to God and draws others to Him.)

What habits can we cultivate that will intentionally feed our "new" nature and starve _ our old sinful nature?

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(Open for discussion. We must develop habits
such as spending time in His Word, prayer, and
fellowship with other believers. We also must be
sure to look to His Spirit to guide us in ALL
situations, including the seemingly small,
unimportant ones. Any desires that reflect our
old sinful nature must be put aside. We must
seek the things that God desires and that honor
Him. We can only do this by trusting the
guidance and direction from the Holy Spirit to
strengthen us against the things of our old sinful
nature.)

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Consider the following as you pray together:

 Jesus chose to set aside His divine privileges of glory and power in order to redeem us. In what areas of your life do you struggle with selfishness or grasping for advantage? Spend time in prayer asking God to help you set these things aside in order to serve and honor Him, just as Jesus did. As you go through life, make a habit of asking yourself, "Did this bring glory to God?"

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JESUS: THE SON OF GOD & THE HOLY SPIRIT: OUR GUIDING HELP

John 1 reminds us that Jesus came to earth to give life, and this "life was the light of men". How can you demonstrate the light of Christ to others this week? Share the story of Jesus, the Son of God with others and invite them to be a part of God's Story!

• Do you truly believe that the Holy Spirit is your source of power, or do you rely on your own abilities, education, or personality? Do you depend on the Holy Spirit for the desire and strength to do God's will? What is one thing you can do this week to live in a way that points to and glorifies Jesus with the help of the Holy Spirit?

 What gifts has the Holy Spirit given you for the building up of the church? Are you using them?

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