FORG

SESSION I



# SESSION I

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

### WATCH

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

### DISCUSS

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



#### INTRO

Besides being white and fluffy, what do you know about sheep? How would you describe sheep, and the way they behave, to someone who has never experienced sheep?

# CLICK TO WATCH

What are some key points that stuck out to you in the video?

READ

Read John 10:7-10

What is the result of entering into the sheep fold through Jesus?

Here Jesus alludes to the Old Testament prophecies of God protecting His people and providing good pasture for them. Jesus is clearly talking about a spiritual idea in that He offers salvation to all who enter through Him

Who is the thief that is described in verse 10, and what is his goal?

Jesus contrasts Himself with the evil shepherds like the Pharisees and Sadducees of the day who were, in reality, thieves and robbers.

Did the thief try to kill, steal, and destroy your life before you surrendered to Jesus?

Probably not! You were not a threat to the enemy before Christ.



How do you see the thief kill, steal, and destroy the life of people that you know?

How does this Song speak to the abundant life that Jesus provides for us?

## DIVE DEEPER

#### Read Psalm 23

According to this poem, who is the author's shepherd? What does the shepherd do?

The Lord. He provides for us, leads us, restores us, protects us, blesses us, etc.

To you, what do you find most interesting about this psalm? What stood out to you as you read?

Even in the darkest times of our lives - the valley of the shadow of death - Jesus cares for us and sustains us - He prepares a table for us.

How can this Psalm be an encouragement for those who are going through hard times, that seem to be beset on all sides by their enemies?





#### BIG IDEA

Jesus is the good shepherd who knows his sheep, cares for, and wants them to have an abundant life. Finding an Abundant Life in Christ; being a Christian doesn't mean fun is over, the abundant life is just beginning!

## BIBLE STUDY NOTES Read John 10:7-10


Many Americans who are financially comfortable may have achieved 'the good life,' but most of them have

#### GET PERSONAL

missed the abundant life that Jesus promised to all who follow Him. But what is the abundant life?

Can you envision the abundant life that Christ promises? If not, what steps do you need to take to see the blessings that He has in store for you? What steps are you taking to share that joyful message with others that need the life-changing message of the gospel so badly?





# SESSION 2 READ

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#### INTRO

How many of you remember when you were growing up you used to say the Pledge of Allegiance every day in school? Did that mean something to you then? How about now?

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#### READ

#### Read Romans 12:1-2

What is the 'therefore' there for in verse 1?

Paul transitions in chapter 12 from doctrine to duty, from creed to conduct, and from belief to behavior. Paul says, 'In light of what God has done, here is how we should live.'

Old Testament worship was manifested through animal sacrifice. What does Paul mean by 'Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice?

Paul made this connection so that people would see that your life must be FULLY committed to Jesus. There is no such thing as a partial animal sacrifice. It was always fully given.

How well have you learned the Word? Have you been applying the truths of scripture? When you study the Bible on your own, do you bring it to bear on your life?

To present your body is a is a 'call to arms.' Paul believed that you haven't



really learned the Word until you live the Word. Only when you become a doer of the Word, can you truly learn the Word.

DIVE DEEPER

#### Read Ezekiel 36:26-27

What are the possible connections between this passage and Romans 12:1-2?

The prophet Ezekiel speaks of receiving a new heart and a new Spirit from the Lord.

Paul commands believers: 'Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind' Why does the mind need to be 'renewed.'

In order to Worship God and know His will, we must have everything of this world striped away and only the things of God added to our minds and our bodies.

What could the patterns of this world be connected to in this passage?

You could connect it to the heart of stone that is removed by God and replaced with a heart of heart of flesh

How can you 'renew' your mind? Since the Holy Spirit does the renewing and transforming, what is our part in the process?





#### BIG IDÉA

These first two verses of Romans 12, give us some insight into an area of our walk with God that we must never overlook. These two verses tell us the secret of exalting God. Paul tells us what God expects from us and how we are to achieve 'our spiritual act of worship.'

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### GET PERSONAL

The secret of offering our selves as living sacrifices boils down to God having control of our minds, our bodies and our wills. Does that describe the life you are living?

Is your mind being renewed by the transforming power of the Word of God so that the new man on the inside is being permitted to live on the outside?





# SESSION 3 READ

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#### INTRO

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#### READ

#### Read John 12:23-26

What is significant about Jesus saying, "The hour has come"? What does "his hour" refer to?

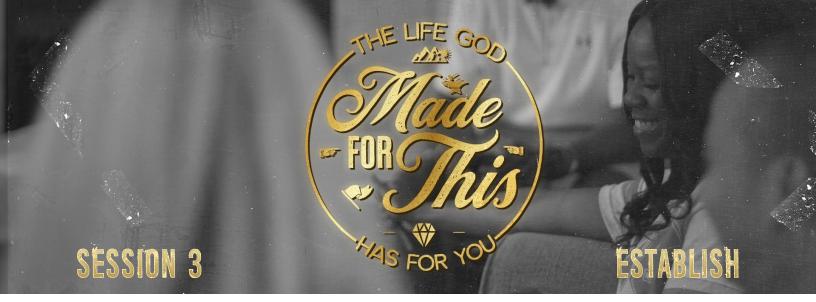
Jesus makes it clear that He is not going to be glorified in spite of his death. Jesus is going to be glorified THROUGH his death on the cross.

What does it mean that the greeks arrive at this pivotal moment in history and ask to see Jesus?

It tells us that Jesus' death can give us confidence that all are invited to look for him! Jesus' plan of salvation - His death, burial and resurrection - was for all people!

What has Jesus said about "his hour" prior to this point in the Gospel of John?

We see in John chapters 2,7 and 8 Jesus reiterated that it was not His hour. But now, Jesus' hour is no longer in the future; the time is now, the Son of Man must to be glorified.



What does Jesus say to those who would choose to follow him and be a part of his Kingdom?

"Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life." Jesus us saying that to love our life now and to do all that we can to live for ourselves now is to only lose our lives for eternity. But to those who will give their lives away to the will of the Father will keep it for eternal life.

What does it mean to lose your life? What does it mean to serve and follow Jesus? How does this show up in the life a Christian on a day-by-day basis?

If we will die to our lives, we will also bear much fruit, ending with the greatest fruit of all, eternal life with the Father.

Do we love this life? Do we care about this world above all else?

All it takes is a cursory glance at our lives to see if we love our lives in this world. Pull out your checkbooks or your calendar or even even take a look at your DVR and look at the content to see if it is kingdomminded or is it carnal and self-centered.

What are the promises that Jesus gives for those who choose to lose their life and follow Jesus?

By making these decisions every day to die to self will be the saving of your life for eternity. Forgiveness of sins, the salvation of your soul from wrath, and eternal life are being given to us for this pursuit. And, as if these things

were not enough, Jesus said that the Father will honorus.





#### BIG IDEA

'The hour has come.' This is a crucial moment in Jesus' ministry. John's concern is that, if the Greeks are to 'see' Jesus, that they 'see' him correctly; that they "see" the true Jesus.

**BIBLE STUDY NOTES** 

Read John 12:23-26

### GET PERSONAL

What is one area in which I still need to die to myself?
What changes do you need to make in order to be known as a true follower of Christ?

