

# Preparing for the Journey

## Week 1: The Map

### Scripture:

Various

### Motivation (Why You Need to Know It):

Illustration – Jeff is lost

We're taking a life-changing journey through the Bible and are inviting you.

But before we leave, we want to talk about a map and the tools needed (two weeks).

### Information (What You Need to Know):

#### *Three Parts of Any Journey...*

#### **The Starting Point (Where are you?)**

As you may know, our mission at The Summit is *leading people from where they are to where God wants them to be*. Where you are now is your starting point!

If you're going on a journey, it is vital to know your starting point.

**Psalm 139:23 (ESV)** Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! **24** And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!

*Here are spiritual markers (questions) for you to diagnose where you are...*

- Am I growing in the faith and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ?
- Do I confess and forsake sin regularly? Am I sensitive to wrongdoing?
- Is loving people in action something that characterizes my life?
- Am I eager and active in sharing what Christ has done with others?
- In my relationships, is there harmony and peace (not perfection)?
- Do I value/prioritize gathering with God's people in worship and fellowship?
- Do I enjoy expressing worship through singing, giving, serving, and fellowshiping?

**Let's sum these markers up by giving you three ways to label where you are:**

- ✓ **Apathetic** (not really committed to growing in faith)
- ✓ **Active** (maturing in faith)
- ✓ **Active, but Struggling** (maturing in faith, but fighting through deep struggles)

## The Path (What's out there?)

We want to move you from *hearing about* to *experiencing God* (you can't sit at the trail entrance and not get on the path).

Contrast God's Revelation of Himself with Job's Response – Hearing vs. Seeing  
**Job 38:1 (NLT)** Then the Lord answered Job from the whirlwind: **2** “Who is this that questions my wisdom with such ignorant words? **3** Brace yourself like a man, because I have some questions for you, and you must answer them. **4** Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth. Tell me, if you know so much.

**Job 42:4 (NLT)** You said, “Listen and I will speak! I have some questions for you, and you must answer them.” **5** I had only **heard** about you before, **but now I have seen you with my own eyes.** **6** I take back everything I said, and I sit in dust and ashes to show my repentance.”

*“Job had only heard of God's doings. [he] ...was not an eyewitness of the act of Creation. His perspective of God's total workings was therefore limited and secondhand. But now that Job was addressed directly by God, this experience exceeded his previous knowledge. This thrilling view of God, probably spiritual insight, not physical vision, deepened his perspective and appreciation of God. What Job now knew of God was incomparable to his former ideas, which were really ignorant. This personal confrontation with God silenced his arguing and deepened his awe.” – Bible Knowledge Commentary*

Some of you have *heard about God* but you've *never seen (experienced) Him*.

## Five Stops Along the Journey...

- **Creation** (a glimpse of God's power, purpose, and glory in creation)
- **Corruption** (a glimpse at the catastrophic actions of mankind as they chose to live independent of God)
- **Covenants** (a glimpse of God's promises to demonstrate how He would bring redemption to mankind)
- **Christ** (a glimpse of the ultimate fulfillment of God's promise to send a Savior)
- **Cross** (a glimpse of the great price paid for the redemption of mankind)

**Ending Point (Should I keep it to myself? How COULD I keep this to myself?)**

Once you've experienced this journey, the natural response should be – I want others to experience this journey.

If God has done this for me, how can I keep silent about it?

**Romans 10:13 (NLT)** For “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” **14** But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?

There really is no end to this journey. It's about you, having *heard* and *seeing* God, and then making sure that everyone else has an opportunity to hear about Him and see Him.