

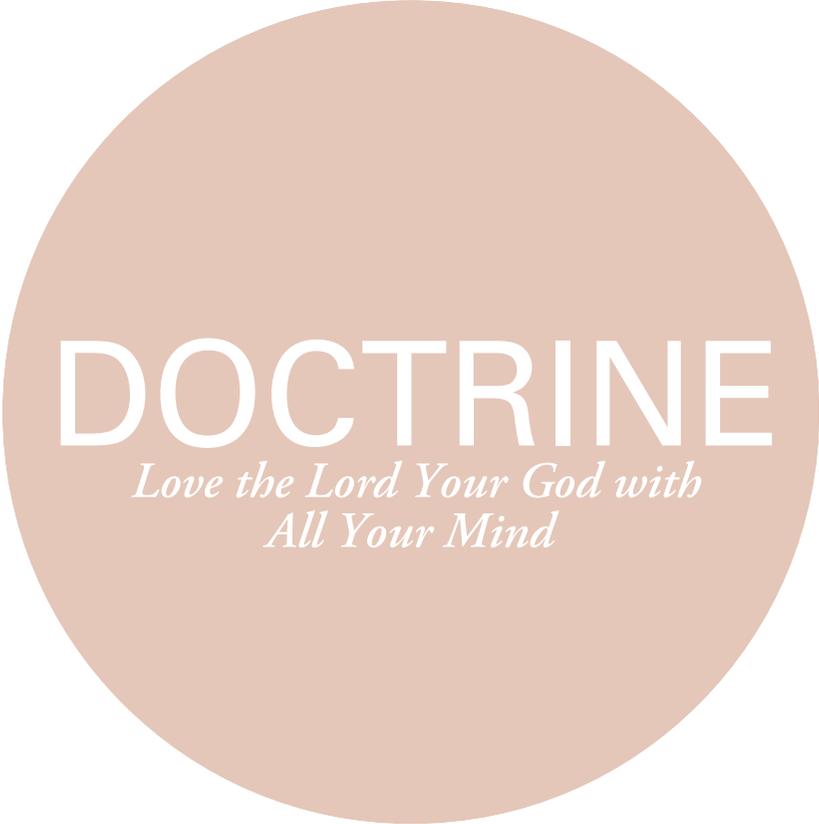
DOCTRINE

*Love the Lord Your God with
All Your Mind*

**YOU CAN'T
SEPARATE
GOD**

**FROM THE
TRUTHS
ABOUT GOD.**

**To love God
is to love
the Truths
about Him.**



DOCTRINE

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USING THE GUIDE

This guide contains 11 weeks of material that will follow the summer sermon series entitled **Doctrines - Love the Lord Your God with All Your Mind**. Throughout the guide you will see the idea that it's *together with the saints* that we strive to *comprehend what is the breadth and length and height and depth of the love of Christ*. We hope there are tremendous benefits from having everyone study the same passages during this season. The guide has both a Personal Study to be completed on your own as well as Family Discipleship Questions. The Family Discipleship section of the guide could be used together by roommates, co-workers, neighbors, and Fight Club partners as well as family units. **Questions from either section of the guide can be used to facilitate discussion at GC.**

The Family Discipleship sections of the guide are written with elementary to middle school children in mind. If you have older children, consider having them work through the Personal Study with you and then assisting you as you lead their younger siblings through the Family Discipleship section. There are portions of the Family Discipleship section that will be directed to the head of the household and portions that can be read directly to the children. We suggest that the person leading the study does a brief read through of that week's lesson in order to be familiar with the material before beginning. Completing the Personal Study prior to doing the Family section would be beneficial as well since some of its material could be adapted for use during family worship time.

Both the Personal Study and the Family Discipleship sections have a verse to memorize each week. At times the families will be memorizing a small portion of the longer verse that the whole church is memorizing. This was a deliberate attempt at having some accountability and fun **memorizing Scripture together**.

In both the Personal Study and the Family Discipleship sections, you will

find suggested songs to listen to every week. These songs are available on a playlist entitled Summer Sermon Series on our Redeemer App. We hope that you will use these for a time of prayer and praise both at home and in GC. **Because doctrine informs worship**, we also hope that this study increases your capacity for *worshipping the Father in spirit and in truth*.

You will see phrases in bold type. These are key ideas. You will also see phrases in italicized type. These are portions of Scripture. Throughout the study you will be asked to give Scriptural evidence to support your answers. If you can only vaguely remember part of a verse but not its entirety nor its address, we encourage you to google it. That's right! You can also google the italicized phrases in the lessons if you want to know the whole verse and the address.

Doctrines are tough to tackle. They can only truly be decided on once all the Scriptures have been weighed. That means we will need to apply **our whole mind to the whole Bible**. And while that's a big task, we believe that doctrine rightly understood and loved, leads to good works. As God designed it to be, **our mind and our heart work in sync**. What we know affects how we feel. What we believe determines how we behave. In other words, right living presupposes right thinking. We see this in Paul's letters. He addresses doctrine first then christian living. **So, we put our minds to studying doctrine in an effort to love God better. And we believe that in doing so, we will also love others better.**

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets. Matthew 22:36-39.

Redeemer, let's love God and love others through this study!

A WORD TO PARENTS

Dads,

God has given you a wonderful responsibility to lead your family! You don't have to have all the answers and you don't have to worry about being perfect at it. Having a humble, learning spirit is more important for your children to see. They need to see you digging for answers. This is modeling for them how to find answers for themselves in the future. You are going to be leading your children for the long haul. You will have plenty of opportunities to revisit some of these same topics so don't be so worried about getting it exactly right at this time that it keeps you from diving in and giving it a try.

Learning truth and doctrine goes beyond your "family worship time". Therefore, we encourage you to be ready to have intentional gospel conversations with your children throughout your days as you model how to connect doctrine to real life.

Moms,

Women tend to be more aware of their children's needs, attention spans, communication and learning styles. If that is the case, you can serve your husband well by helping him understand these realities as he leads your discussion. Be sure to be encouraging with your feedback and to thank him for his leadership. Together, God has given you both all you need to train your children up in the Lord!

WEEK ONE PRAYER

PERSONAL STUDY

WHAT IS PRAYER?

Begin by giving a definition of prayer in your own words, drawing from Scriptures that you are most familiar with.

If there is a God who is the Most High, Creator God of the universe and He has asked us to commune with Him, shouldn't we do it? Isn't that **an incredible invitation?**

WHY DON'T WE DO IT?

We don't make time for it. We are not disciplined about it. We are like the disciples in the garden. Sleepy, sluggish. But what about the commands to *always pray and not faint, to have effectual fervent prayer, to pray without ceasing, to cry out day and night?*

Is it because we know God to be sovereign, so we hesitate to ask Him to do anything? What would it mean if I could persuade Him to change His plans? Psalm 115:3.

Or maybe we see ourselves as more sovereign than we should, more self-sufficient than we actually are. We manage through most things in our own strength.

Is it because we feel that we have to clean up before we can come to Him? It is, after all, the prayer of a *righteous man that avails*.

Lord, teach us to pray! I do believe! Help my unbelief!

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF PRAYER?

- Prayer helps bring us into right thinking through confession, thanksgiving, worship, and agreeing with the saints in corporate prayers.
- Prayer shows our dependency on God which brings Him glory.
- Prayer is one way to be involved in the advancing of the kingdom.
- Prayer is one way to have fellowship with the Father.

PRAYER FOR OUR GOOD

Read Psalm 73:1-28.

What kind of attitude does David have in the beginning?

What causes his attitude to change?

Compare verse 3 with verse 25 and verse 5 with verse 27.

Isn't it gracious of God to give us this picture? God in His mercy meets us where we are and **brings us into right thinking!**

Have you ever had the experience of going into prayer with a temporal perspective and coming out with an eternal one?

PRAYER FOR GOD'S GLORY

Read Luke 11:1-13

Jesus compares our praying to a son asking his father for a fish or an egg. As children look to their fathers to provide for them, so God expects us to look to Him in prayer. **Prayer expresses our dependency on God. This brings glory to God.**

PRAYER AS AN ACTIVE FORCE IN THE KINGDOM

Read Mark 11:22-25

Prayer gives us an opportunity to be involved in a significant way in the kingdom of God. Do you remember the story of Abraham interceding on behalf of Sodom and Gomorrah? What about Moses interceding for Israel?

Compare Isaiah 62:6-7 with Ezekiel 22:30.

Why would God have the church be a part of expanding the kingdom through prayer?

HOW DO WE PRAY?

The disciples asked that too! Jesus answered by giving them a model prayer in Matthew 6:9-13. What do you notice about the Lord's Prayer?

Look up other Scriptures that indicate that these things are also necessary in prayer:

- in faith
- in Jesus name
- according to God's will
- in obedience
- with confession
- forgiving others
- with humility
- with praise and thanksgiving
- by the help of the Holy Spirit

PRAY THE SCRIPTURES

Psalm 16:1-2, 5-11

Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord;

I have no good apart from you."

The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup;
you hold my lot.

The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.

I bless the Lord who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.

I have set the Lord always before me;

because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices;

my flesh also dwells secure.

For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,

or let your holy one see corruption.

You make known to me the path of life;

in your presence there is fullness of joy;

at your right hand are pleasures forevermore. (ESV)

MEMORIZE THE SCRIPTURES

Hebrews 4:14-16

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (ESV)

WORSHIP

"Psalm 16 (Fullness of Joy)" - Shane and Shane, *Psalms Vol. 2*

GO

We live in a broken world with hurting people. Be a blessing this week by offering to pray for someone - a coworker, an extended family member, a neighbor. While praying in person and out loud with them is best, over the phone works as well. It is a great idea to ask non-believers if you can pray for them. This gives them the opportunity to see the power of God at work and credit it to Him when prayers are answered. It may even be the evidence they need to really consider the claims of Jesus.

WEEK ONE PRAYER

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

READ THE SCRIPTURES

Set aside time this week to read 1 Thessalonians 5:15-18.

What does it mean to pray without ceasing?

Just like we get to know our friends by talking with them, we get to know God through prayer.

Are you modeling a life of dependency through prayer? How often does your family pray together? **Before meals** - thanking God for His provision? **At the start of the day** - seeking His guidance for the day? **At bedtime** - asking Him to grant peaceful rest? Which of these should you add to your daily routine? What other time of prayer would best fit into your family's daily rhythm?

What can you do to **cultivate a habit of prayer** for your family? When you pass a car wreck, do you lead your family in prayer for the victims? When your kids are stressed about upcoming tests, do you pray over them? After siblings fight and make up, do you lead them in a time of prayer for each other? **What do you need to do so that your immediate response to more situations is to pray?**

Share with each other times that God has answered your prayers. Consider keeping a **prayer journal** as a family so that you will be sure to recognize when and how God answers prayers and you will be able to **remember what God has done.**

Pick up **Redeemer missionary prayer cards this week.** Pray for one before each meal. Christmas cards, Save the Dates and birth announcements can be used in this way as well.

PRAY

God thank you that You want us to talk to You. Thank you that You are near to us and hear us when we pray. Thank you that You care about us and watch over us.

MEMORIZE THE SCRIPTURES

Hebrews 4:14-16

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. **Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.** (ESV)

WORSHIP

"Open Our Eyes" - Rain for Roots, *For the Kingdom of Heaven Is Like This*

WEEK TWO THE INFINITE GOD

PERSONAL STUDY

Begin by reading 1 Timothy 1:17, Isaiah 45:5-7, Isaiah 25:1, Isaiah 46:9-10, Psalm 145:3, Romans 11:33, Colossians 1:15-17, Revelation 4:11, Hebrews 1:3b, Revelation 1:8.

The Most High Creator God has always been and will always be the self-sufficing, self-existing God. He is infinite and eternal. He is independently sovereign over His creation for which He has a purpose and *it cannot be thwarted*. His plan is perfectly holy, good, and right. He is all-knowing and all-powerful. He is wholly in every place at all times.

“The difference between the creature and the Creator is an immensely vast difference, for God exists in a fundamentally different order of being. It is not just that we exist and **God has always existed**; it is also that **God necessarily exists in an infinitely better, stronger, more excellent way**. The difference between God’s being and ours is more than the difference between the sun and a candle, more than the difference between the ocean and a raindrop, more than the difference between the arctic ice cap and a snowflake, more than the difference between the universe and the room we are sitting in: God’s being is qualitatively different! No limitation or imperfection in creation should be projected on to our thought of God.” - *Systematic Theology* by Wayne Grudem.

In what ways does language and experience limit us in regards to expressing and comprehending the attributes of God?

COMMUNICABLE ATTRIBUTES

While God is vastly different than us, there are some attributes of His character that we share with Him to a small degree. Love, wisdom, mercy, and justice are examples. These are ways in which we are **made in His image**.

INCOMMUNICABLE ATTRIBUTES

There are other characteristics that we do not share with God. Look at the list below. Assign a Scripture to each one. Why would it be problematic if God did not have these attributes?

For example : If God were able to change, He would have to change for better or for worse. If for better, then He was not previously the best possible being. How could you be sure that He was still not perfect and would get better again in the future? How could you ever be sure that He was a perfect God? If God could change for the worse, how could you be sure that He would not change over time to be wholly evil? So we conclude that **God’s unchangeability is necessary for our belief**.

INCOMPREHENSIBLE	OMNIPOTENT	UNCHANGABLE
INFINITE	OMNIPRESENT	ETERNAL
INDEPENDENT	OMNISCIENT	

If someone were to ask you to **reconcile** the love of God with Isaiah 45:7, what would you say? (See also Amos 3:6, Lamentations 3:37-38, Exodus 4:11, Deuteronomy 32:39, Jeremiah 14:22)

Let’s apply ourselves to the hard work of reconciling seemingly conflicting passages or ideas in the Scriptures **through diligent study, using Scripture to interpret Scripture!** Let’s not foolishly charge God or the Bible with having contradictions or errors. He *is not a God of confusion* and *it is impossible for Him to lie*. Therefore, there must be a way to resolve what seems, at first, to be **conflicting concepts**.

With regard to natural disasters, how have you explained them in the past? Who did you credit them to? What is wrong with saying “God did not cause them”? Is it possible that while trying to save God’s reputation of love we have caused Him to have a reputation of a weak God that is out of control?

For additional help on this topic, check out <http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/whence-and-why-the-earthquake-in-turkey>.

Read Job 38:1-41, Job 39:1-30, Job 40:1-5, Job 42:1-3.

PERSONAL STUDY

PRAY THE SCRIPTURES

Psalm 24:1-10

The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof,
the world and those who dwell therein,
for he has founded it upon the seas
and established it upon the rivers.
Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord?
And who shall stand in his holy place?
He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who does not lift up his soul to what is false
and does not swear deceitfully.
He will receive blessing from the Lord
and righteousness from the God of his salvation.
Such is the generation of those who seek him,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.
Lift up your heads, O gates!
And be lifted up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.
Who is this King of glory?
The Lord, strong and mighty,
the Lord, mighty in battle!
Lift up your heads, O gates!
And lift them up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.
Who is this King of glory?
The Lord of hosts,
he is the King of glory! (ESV)

MEMORIZE THE SCRIPTURES

Revelation 4:11

Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created. (ESV)

WORSHIP

"Where Were You" - Ghost Ship, *The Good King*

GO

There were a lot of Scriptures and a lot of difficult concepts in this lesson. Take some time this week to revisit these with a friend from GC. Encourage each other with the truth - believing that it is **together with the saints** that we are able to comprehend what is the breadth and length and height and depth of the love of Christ.

WEEK TWO THE INFINITE GOD

READ THE SCRIPTURES

Set aside some time this week to read Revelation 4:11, Psalm 33:6, Psalm 19:1, Jeremiah 10:10-13, Jeremiah 5:22, Psalm 148:3-6, Job 37:5-6, 14-16, Psalm 95:4-5, Psalm 104:24-25, Psalm 29:3-4.

GOD'S GLORY SEEN IN NATURE

The Most High God is the Creator God. *All things were created by Him and for Him and through Him. All things were created to bring Him glory. We love to go on vacation and see tremendously tall mountains, deep valleys, rushing waterfalls, and ocean as far as the eye can see. These remind us that **GOD IS BIG** and **we are small**. The Most High Creator God is the author of all things. We are His creation. We were created to know and enjoy Him and to bring Him glory. **Everything that He has made brings Him glory.** *The heavens rejoice, the seas resound, the fields and the forests sing for joy to the Lord.**

Spend some time remembering the most amazing things you've seen in nature. You might even want to draw or paint the beautiful things you've seen. Use your creativity to honor God's creativity!

His voice roars in the thunder. His power is displayed in the lightening. They do His bidding. Displaying His majesty. We can rejoice in the storm that our **God is powerful!** The next time your child feels afraid during a storm, take the opportunity to remind them of how powerful God is. Help them appreciate with **awe and wonder the power of God on display before them.**

What is the difference between fearing the Lord and being afraid of Him?

Creation is absolutely amazing! Unfortunately, most of us will only ever see a small percentage of it. The BBC series "Planet Earth" is a great way to enjoy more! You can watch them for free at documentary-movie.com/planet-earth/. May these spark a time of praise and worship to our great God for you and your family!

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

PRAY

God thank you that You are majestic and powerful! Thank You that You are in control of all things. We are in awe of You. Help us to see Your creativity and wisdom in nature and respond in praise.

MEMORIZE THE SCRIPTURES

Revelation 4:11

Worthy are You, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created. (ESV)

WORSHIP

"Where Were You" - Ghost Ship, *The Good King*

WEEK THREE THE INTIMATE GOD

PERSONAL STUDY

Begin by reading Deuteronomy 4:7-14, Psalm 139:7-10, Matthew 1:23, John 1:18, Hebrews 1:1-2, Hebrews 7:19, Hebrews 10:19-22.

How did God show His intimacy toward His creation -

- before the fall?
- after the fall leading up to the exodus?
- during the time under the Law?
- during the period of the judges?
- during the period under the rule of the kings?
- during the time of the prophets?
- during the time of silence between the OT and NT?
- during the time of Jesus' earthly ministry?
- after the resurrection?

What kind of intimacy with God is promised for believers in heaven?

God created man for His own glory and good pleasure. **Out of love, He created man to know and enjoy Him.** Isn't it an amazing thing that the incomprehensible God has revealed Himself to us in comprehensible ways such that we can know Him and enjoy Him?

Prior to the Fall, Adam and Eve walked together with God in the garden in perfect intimacy. But later, **sin brought separation.** Their relationship was broken. It could no longer be as intimate as it had been because God is holy and they were not. **But thankfully the story does not end there.** God had purposed still to be intimate with mankind. In fact, the fall was a part of His great purpose. We learn about God's holiness, His grace, long-suffering, faithfulness, and compassion only through the rest of the story.

We see in the covenants with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that He had a plan and was faithfully bringing it about. We see in the exodus His great power miraculously continuing His plan. We see through the Law that God provided a temporary cleansing of sin through the sacrificial system

which allowed a sinful people to draw near to a holy God. Had there been no sacrifice for sin, His presence would have proven dangerous to them. His people were protected by layers of barriers around the Holy of Holies where He dwelt. In all these things we see glimpses of His grace and foreshadows of the grace that was to come. We see in the periods of the judges and kings God's provision to guide His people. During the time of the prophets we see His patience towards Israel as He continued to hold out an invitation to a *stubborn, obstinate people*. During the time between the testaments we see God's kindness to leave His people with the promise of a Messiah that was to come. Through Jesus' earthly ministry we learn more of what God is like as we see **Emmanuel, God with us**, interact with humankind. Through His death and resurrection, God made a way for sin to be punished, our relationship with Him to be restored, and a way for us to know and enjoy Him more fully. By God's grace, we are given the gift of the Holy Spirit - a deposit of sorts - our guarantee of the future communion that we will one day enjoy with God the Father and Jesus the Son at the great wedding banquet that awaits all those who believe!

While we contend that **God is both infinite in nature and intimate with His creation**, many people reject Christianity because they do not believe that those two attributes of God could or should co-exist.

Why is it important that these two attributes co-exists when it comes to prayer?

Have you experienced a time when God felt distant? If God is intimate with us and if there is nowhere that we can go from His presence, what causes this feeling of distance?

In Job 42:5 and Psalm 40:1-3 both Job and David seem to have felt a nearness of God after a time of great suffering. Have you experienced this? How would you explain this?

Historically, persecuted Christians around the world have testified to

God's nearness during their suffering. Many would say that the peace of God and the love of God was manifested in such a way that could otherwise never have been known. They would even say that the suffering was worth the reward. What a testimony it is when Christians say with their lives that *this world is fleeting*, that their hope in the *city that is yet to come* is sure, and that *to die is gain*. The onlooking world needs to see this kind of hope!

We all need to see this kind of hope lived out as well! Have you had the opportunity to see a believer die well? It encourages our faith to read Hebrews 11, *Foxe's Book of Martyrs*, biographies of missionaries that have given their life for the kingdom of God. Which of these have you not read that you need to read?

PRAY THE SCRIPTURES

Psalms 73:25-28

Whom have I in heaven but you?

And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.

My flesh and my heart may fail,

but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

For behold, those who are far from you shall perish;

you put an end to everyone who is unfaithful to you.

But for me it is good to be near God;

I have made the Lord God my refuge,

that I may tell of all your works. (ESV)

MEMORIZE THE SCRIPTURES

Zephaniah 3:17

The Lord your God is in your midst,

a mighty one who will save;

He will rejoice over you with gladness;

He will quiet you by His love;

He will exult over you with loud singing. (ESV)

WORSHIP

"Oh God" - Citizens & Saints, *Citizens*

GO

We can learn about what God is like by looking at the various names for Him in the Bible. Here is a resource to help you look into the Hebrew names for God in the OT <https://www.gotquestions.org/names-of-God.html>. He is also called The Rock, The Holy One of Israel, The Father of Lights, The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, The King of Glory, The Ancient of days. Spend some time this week looking into the many names of God. Be sure to encourage someone in your GC or Fight Club with what you read about God and His character and His name. Consider keeping a list in the front of your Bible of the names of God. Add to the list as you run across additional names as you read the Bible throughout the year.

WEEK THREE THE INTIMATE GOD

There are many different names for God in the Bible. Can you list some of them?

These different names help us to understand different parts of His character. When we see the title “the God of Abraham” we should remember that He is a promise making and promise keeping God. “The One True God” is a title that reminds us that while there are other gods that are worshipped around the world, God is the only true God. King of Kings reminds us that His rule is the most powerful rule. He reigns high above all earthly kings. Sometimes in the Bible we see a new name for God, introduced for the first time because of something that has happened or something He has done. He is praised and honored with His new name.

The more we read the Bible and become familiar with its stories, the more we will become familiar with God and His character. The more familiar we are with God and His character the more peace, hope, and assurance we can have in any situation.

What is your favorite way to describe God? What name do you like to call Him?

READ THE SCRIPTURES

Set aside time this week to read Psalm 121:1-8. David does a great job in the Psalms of telling us what God is like and praising God for who He is in the many different situations David finds himself in. In this Psalm he calls God the Keeper of Israel. Israel had been chosen by God and kept safe from the surrounding nations by God. David had been chosen by God too. David was needing some reassurance that God would keep him safe from his enemies.

For further reading, check out [God's Names](#) by Sally Michael.

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

PRAY

Thank you God that You are my help. You made the heavens and the earth so surely nothing is too difficult for You! Since You do not sleep, You are always watching out for me. Your right hand shades me and protects me. Keep me from evil, protect my life. Keep watch over me as I come in and go out. Thank You God that I do not have to worry because I know that You love me and take care of me.

MEMORIZE THE SCRIPTURES

Zephaniah 3:17

The Lord your God is in your midst,
a mighty one who will save;
He will rejoice over you with gladness;
He will quiet you by His love;
He will exult over you with loud singing. (ESV)

WORSHIP

“Mighty to Save (Zephaniah 3:17)” - Seeds Family Worship, *Seeds of Praise*

WEEK FOUR SIN

PERSONAL STUDY

WHAT IS SIN?

Begin by giving a definition of sin in your own words, drawing from Scriptures that you are most familiar with.

To what extent does God dislike sin? Why does sin deserve punishment? How can God be consistent in being love while hating sin?

We were created to give glory to God. He is perfectly holy and pure. We are not! Sin is falling short of God's glory. When we do not honor Him as perfectly holy, we wrongly exalt ourselves. Satan wanted to be God. He did not want to honor God by submitting to His will. Adam and Eve wanted to be God. Lots of times we want to be God too.

WHERE DID SIN COME FROM?

Using as many Scripture references as possible, discuss how/when/why Satan initially rebelled. <https://www.gotquestions.org/who-Satan.html>

Did this happen apart from God's control or was it **purposed and planned by God?**

Read Romans 9:14-23.

Romans 9:15 quotes an OT passage. Do you see in the margin of your Bible where it tells you that this is a direct quote from Exodus 33:19? This is the story in Exodus where Moses is told that it is time to lead the people out of Sinai, where they have been for about 10 months while Moses received the Law, and into the Promised Land. However, Moses is not so sure he can lead the people. While he was up on the mountain receiving the Law, they quickly forgot the God who performed the 10 plagues and they built a cow made of gold. They said that the cow was their god! **This is the purpose of the OT. It shows us what man is like and what God is like.** Seeking some assurance that God would go with him and be his strength to lead this rebellious people, Moses asks God to show him His glory. And God's answer is Exodus 33:19!

Discuss these passages in your group.

HOW DOES SIN AFFECT US?

What are the effects of the Fall?

Sin is more than just doing bad things. It is also having bad thoughts, bad motivations and bad affections. **Distinguish between the act of sinning and having a sin nature.** Ephesians 2:3, Romans 14:23b.

Someone might say that it is unfair for God to consider everyone guilty in Adam. How would you respond to that?

Is there a difference between sin in the OT and sin in the NT?

JESUS AS THE ANSWER TO THE PROBLEM OF SIN

To what extent was Jesus without sin?

When reading the Bible, we always want to **connect the New Testament and the Old Testament.** One way to do this is to be looking for a problem that only Christ can solve, a promise only Christ can fulfill, a need only Christ can meet, a pattern or theme that only comes to resolution in Christ, a story that only comes to conclusion in Christ. We can also pay attention to people who prefigure an aspect of who Christ will be or what He will do by analogy or contrast. In the same way, we should notice events or symbols that picture an aspect of who Christ is or what He will do. And lastly, we can pay close attention to pre-incarnate appearances of Christ. 2 Corinthians 1:20, Luke 24:27.

Read Romans 5:19. How does the 2nd Adam **solve the problem** of the 1st Adam?

PRAY THE SCRIPTURES

Psalm 51:1-7

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!
For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you may be justified in your words
and blameless in your judgment.
Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,
and in sin did my mother conceive me.
Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,
and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.
Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. (ESV)

MEMORIZE THE SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 1:18

Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. (ESV)

WORSHIP

"Come Ye Sinners Poor and Needy" - Fernando Ortega, *Storm*

GO

Because all of us have sinned, it's likely that there is someone that you have hurt or offended. In humility, go apologize to that someone this week. As Christians we need to be quick to forgive.

You shall love the Lord your God
WITH ALL YOUR **HEART**
& WITH ALL YOUR **SOUL**
& WITH ALL YOUR **MIND**
THIS IS THE GREAT AND FIRST COMMANDMENT.
AND A SECOND IS LIKE IT:
You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

ON THESE TWO COMMANDMENTS DEPEND ALL THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS."

Matthew 22:36-39

WEEK FOUR SIN

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

READ THE SCRIPTURES

Set aside time this week to read Romans 3:23.

The Most High Creator God is perfectly holy. He created us to know Him and honor Him. But we are all sinners. We do not give Him the honor that He deserves. Because we have disrespected Him and disobeyed Him, we must be punished. This is bad news! But God, rich in love, compassion, and grace has provided Jesus to take our punishment instead. Jesus lived a perfect life, without sin, always honoring His father and always obeying Him. He died on a cross, taking our punishment. He rose miraculously from the grave three days later. He now sits at God's right side on a throne in heaven. He is our Savior who paid for our sin and mended our relationship with God. This is the Gospel, the Good News.

LOVE GOD

Out of thankfulness and as an act of worship and obedience we should want to live holy lives for God. This does not earn our salvation. And while it is not possible to be perfectly holy yet, we follow the Bible's teaching to **put off and put on as the old is becoming new.** Ephesians 4:22-24, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Colossians 3:1-17.

Take this time to share with each other what sins you are currently fighting. Pray for each other, believing that if **God desires you to live holy lives** then He will give you the strength to do so.

LOVE OTHERS

In light of the brokenness that we live in, what are you doing to cultivate an environment of repentance and forgiveness especially in your home with your family?

Is there a difference between mercy and grace? Is it possible that as a family you might be good at extending one but not the other? Which one do you need to intentionally cultivate this week? (<https://www.gotquestions.org/mercy-grace.html>)

TOGETHER WITH THE SAINTS

How does reading Ephesians 2:1-5 help us to **remember what God has done?** We are quick to forget! Remember how the Israelites quickly forgot who their God was even after they had seen 10 miraculous plagues and the parting of the Red Sea? The Bible, prayer, worship, preaching, fellowship, Fight Clubs and Gospel Communities are graces that God has given to help us remember rightly! It is **together with the saints** that we remember the things we know to be true but sometimes forget in our busyness and self-sufficiency. Thank God for these graces that He has given and make use of them this week.

How can you model for your kids a dependency on God and a leaning into these graces that He has provided? Who can you be a grace to this week? How can you be someone that *spurs others on to love and good deeds?* Hebrews 10:24.

Take every opportunity this week to remind each other of how glorious God is and how gracious it is that He forgives our sin!

PRAY

God thank You that You don't leave us in our sin, but that You have provided Jesus to pay the penalty for our sin and to restore our relationship to You. Help us to comprehend how holy You are and how offensive our sin is to You. Help us desire to live holy lives out of worship and thankfulness to You. Help us fight sin this week.

MEMORIZE THE SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 1:18

Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: **though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow;** though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. (ESV)

WORSHIP

"The Wages & the Gift (Romans 3:23, 6:23)" - Seeds Family Worship, *Seeds of Character Vol. 6*

WEEK FIVE ATONEMENT

PERSONAL STUDY

Begin by giving a definition of atonement in your own words, drawing from Scriptures that you are most familiar with.

Remember last week when we talked about **connecting the OT to the NT** and looking for ways that the OT points to Jesus? Isaiah is a book of prophecy. There are parts in Isaiah that really obviously point to Jesus, and there are parts that are a little less obvious. In today's passage you'll see how Isaiah speaks of Jesus.

The book of Hebrews does a lot of connecting the OT to Jesus for us! In Hebrews He is the **better word** spoken by the prophets, the **better priest**, the **better king**, better than the angels, better than Moses, the **better Sabbath rest**, better than Melchizedek, the better covenant, better than the law, the **better tabernacle** and more!

Have a few people in the group read Isaiah 53 and Hebrews 7:23-28.

This Hebrews passage will have more meaning if you will review the Day of Atonement in Leviticus 16.

What did the Day of Atonement accomplish for the Israelites?

What accomplished this? The holiness of the priests? The blood? The ritual? Faith in the ritual? Israel's obedience?

Why couldn't it fully cleanse their sins *for all time*? Hebrews 10:4-14.

Do you think the Israelites would have understood that the sacrificial system pointed forward to a **greater sacrifice yet to come**?

What is the problem put forward in Romans 3:25? What motivated God's forbearance?

THE CAUSE OF THE ATONEMENT

What two attributes of God ultimately led to Christ's coming to earth and dying for our sins?

THE NECESSITY OF THE ATONEMENT

Was there any other way for God to save mankind than by sending His Son to die in our place?

THE NATURE OF THE ATONEMENT

Jesus obeyed the Father and the requirements of the Law **in our place** and suffered the penalty for sins **in our place**.

Why was Christ's perfect, sinless life necessary for complete atonement?

Sometimes we focus on the **physical suffering** that Jesus endured on the cross. Sometimes we talk about the **pain of bearing our sin**. But there is a third way that Jesus suffered. Read Matthew 27:46. Describe in your own words why this third form of suffering was possibly the worst.

Look at Hebrews 2:10, 5:8, 7:28. In what way was Jesus *already perfect* but his *perfection was proven* through what He suffered?

THE RESULT OF THE ATONEMENT

Do you think that **Christ's life was good enough** to deserve God's approval? Do you think that **Christ's sufferings were good enough** to pay for your sins? Are you willing to rely on these with your **whole heart** for **complete salvation**?

PRAY THE SCRIPTURES

Romans 8:31-39

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for

us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." (ESV)

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

MEMORIZE THE SCRIPTURES

Hebrews 9:28

So Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him. (ESV)

WORSHIP

"All I Have is Christ" - Sovereign Grace Music, *The Gathering*

GO

What 3 people do you know that need to hear about the atonement of Christ? List them, pray for them this week.

2 Timothy 4:3-5

For the time is coming

when people will not endure sound teaching,
but having itching ears

they will accumulate for themselves
teachers to suit their own passions,

and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

As for you, always be sober-minded.

WEEK FIVE ATONEMENT

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

READ THE SCRIPTURES

Set aside time this week to read Hebrews 9:22b.

You know the story of Adam and Eve and their sin in the garden. Did you know that they had kids who had kids who had kids who had kids that kept on sinning against God? Eventually there were **so many people** and **so much sin** that God sent a flood to wipe them all out. But this of course did not fix the problem because Noah and his family had sin too. It did let us know that **God hates sin**. Sin must be punished.

But **God also loves His people**. Out of His great love, He provided a way for the people's sins to be paid for every year. He gave Moses instructions about the men that would be priests, the tabernacle they would serve in, and the sacrifices they would offer. The very detailed and precise instructions were to be taken very seriously. God was serious about sin. Once a year, the priest would kill a bull for himself and the tabernacle. Its blood would be sprinkled everywhere. He would also sacrifice a ram as a burnt offering. He would take two goats. One would be killed, and its blood sprinkled on the people for their sins. On the other, he would lay his hands on its head and say all the bad things the people had done. It would then be set free to run out in the wilderness, carrying away the sins of the people. This was symbolic of course. There was no way for the priest to list every sin every person had committed.

This was done **every year** until Jesus came.

Sometimes we read stories in the OT and we forget that they were **real people with real feelings**. Can you imagine having blood sprinkled all over you every year? Blood on the tabernacle, blood on the priest. Blood everywhere!

What do you think about this system that God provided?

In John 1:29, John the Baptist calls **Jesus the Lamb of God** that takes away the sins of the world. Why do you think he says this?

PRAY

God, thank You that You had a great plan in mind before You even created the foundation of the world. Thank You that we can read the OT and learn about **who You are and what mankind is like**, and what You were planning to do. By Your grace, allow us to read the OT and see how it points to Jesus. Make the OT and the NT come alive to us. Help us to love Your Word!

MEMORIZE THE SCRIPTURES

Hebrews 9:28

So Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him. (ESV)

WORSHIP

"Mediator" - Ghost Ship, *The Good King*

WEEK SIX REGENERATION

PERSONAL STUDY

WHAT IS REGENERATION?

Begin by giving a definition of regeneration in your own words, drawing from Scriptures that you are most familiar with.

WHO CAUSES REGENERATION?

Our sinful nature leaves us **dead, foolish, blind**, and unable to come to God.

Have several people read 1 Corinthians 1:18-2:14.

How then can we be saved? Read John 6:44.

It is a gift of God. Read Ephesians 2:8-9.

And the work of the Holy Spirit. Read John 3:8.

Is there anything we can do to save ourselves? Can grace be earned?

How is the circumcision done by human hands in the Old Testament different than the circumcision of the heart done by the Holy Spirit in the New Testament? Romans 2:25-29.

If a person is saved, it is truly a **gift of God**. What do you need to do to remember more often how truly amazing this gift is? It is a tragedy to think too lightly of it! In the OT, the Israelites were often guilty of believing in God right after He had done great miracles, and then quickly forgetting what He had done and wavering in their belief. After the 10 plagues, Moses was up on the mountain with God receiving the Law. While he was there, the top of the mountain was glowing with the glory of God. Even though the people could see this, they could not wait for Moses to come down! In their impatience, they built a golden calf and exclaimed that it was now their god. The god that had brought them out of Egypt! **We too would be like the Israelites were it not for the Holy Spirit!** Praise the Lord for the *sealing, convicting, reminding* work of the Holy Spirit!

TOGETHER WITH THE SAINTS

What are practical ways that a GC can encourage each other to remember and believe?

Instead of taking prayer requests this week, say aloud specific ways that God has been gracious in your life. If you are not feeling very thankful, that is okay. Perhaps hearing others' testimonies to God's goodness will remind you of His faithfulness to you as well.

While it is the Holy Spirit that brings regeneration, there is in fact a part that we play in the salvation of others. What part has God given us in saving the lost?

Continuing from last week, add two more names to your list. Be praying for these five people using the Scriptures below. Romans 10:17 tells us why being *salt and light* is not enough. **We must be telling others the Good News.** Set a goal as a group for how many people you will share with this week.

PRAY THE SCRIPTURES

Remove the veil from _____'s eyes so that she can see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. Shine your light in her heart to give her the light of the knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians 4:4-6

Open _____'s eyes so that he may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, so that he may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in Christ. Acts 26:18

I pray that _____ would confess with her mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in her heart that you have raised Christ from the dead. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. Cause _____ to call on your name, Lord, and be saved. Romans 10:9,13

I pray that _____ being rooted and established in love, may have power together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses all understanding, that _____ may be filled with all the fullness of God.
Ephesians 3:18-19

MEMORIZE THE SCRIPTURES

Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. (ESV)

WORSHIP

"Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery" - Matt Boswell, *Messenger Hymns Vol.2*

GO

Share the good news about Jesus with the five names on your list this week. You do your part and trust God to soften their heart!

BE DILIGENT IN THESE MATTERS;

give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress.

Watch your life and doctrine closely.

Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

1 Timothy 4:15-16

WEEK SIX REGENERATION

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

READ THE SCRIPTURES

Set aside time this week to read John 3:1-8.

Did you know that before God causes us to believe in Him, He first changes our heart from a **hard heart of stone** that doesn't even want to know Him to a **soft heart of flesh** that is able to love Him? Read Ezekiel 36:26-27. The Holy Spirit does this! He breathes new life into our spirit and causes us to come alive spiritually. Remember in the garden, God told Adam that he could eat of every tree except for one and that if he ate from that one, he would die? But Adam didn't immediately die, did he? He didn't die a physical death, but he did die a spiritual death. Have you ever heard someone say that they were dead in their sins? Someone who is dead cannot bring themselves back to life, can they?

Parents and older siblings, **spend some time remembering your own salvation story**. When were you presented with the gospel? Who in your life spoke Truth to you? Were *seeds planted and watered* over time? Looking back, at what point did the Holy Spirit start to *circumcise your heart*? **Share this story** with your family. Take this time to thank God for His saving grace in your life!

Using the Scriptures below, pray for each other.

PRAY THE SCRIPTURES

Put a new spirit in _____. Remove her heart of stone and give her a heart of flesh. Cause _____ to follow your decrees and keep your laws. Let her know that she belongs to You and that You are her God. Ezekiel 11:19

I will wait patiently for the Lord; be inclined to me and hear my cry. Draw _____ up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set his feet upon a rock, making his steps secure. Put a new song in his mouth, a song of praise to you, God. May he see and fear, and put his trust in You Lord. Psalm 40:1-3

I pray that _____ would put his trust in You and never be shaken. Psalm 125:1

Father, may _____ come and bow down and worship and kneel before you, her Maker, for you are her God and she is under your care. May _____ hear your voice today and not harden her heart. Psalm 95:6-8

MEMORIZE THE SCRIPTURES

Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; **it is the gift of God**, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. (ESV)

WORSHIP

"Grace (La-De-Da)" - Seeds Family Worship, *Seeds of Faith*

WEEK SEVEN JUSTIFICATION

PERSONAL STUDY

Begin by giving a definition of justification in your own words, drawing from Scriptures that you are most familiar with.

Have someone read Romans 4.

HOW IS ONE JUSTIFIED?

How was Abraham justified? **What did NOT accomplish justification for Abraham?** Why is this important for us to know?

Read James 2:14-26.

What would you say if someone were to argue that James 2:17 & 24 make a case for faith+works= justification?

James 2:21 says that Abraham was justified when he offered Isaac on the altar. How do you reconcile this with Romans 4:11 that claims he was counted righteous much earlier in life? You might need to reference Genesis chapters 15, 17, and 22. Use Abraham's age to help you order the events. What can James 2:21 mean?

Look again at Romans 4:18-22. What is "that" referencing in verse 22?

COMPARING THE OLD AND THE NEW

What is the difference in the way the people of the OT were justified and how people after Jesus' resurrection are justified?

THE TWO DECLARATIONS IN JUSTIFICATION

In justification, we are declared innocent. That gets us back to the state of Adam and Eve prior to the fall. If that's all justification did, we would no longer be morally bad, but we would not be morally good either. We would have no record of sins, but we would also have no record of righteousness. We would be morally neutral. But, **at justification we are also declared righteous.** Jesus' righteousness is imputed to us. Why is this important?

Does justification change our internal sin nature?

PRAY THE SCRIPTURES

Philippians 3:12-14, 20-21

Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me His own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. (ESV)

MEMORIZE THE SCRIPTURES

Romans 3:28

For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law. (ESV)

WORSHIP

"No Condemnation" - Anthony Evans, *Real Life, Real Worship*

GO

How did you do at sharing last week? Share with your group how it went. **If this was your first time to ever share the gospel with someone, congratulations!**

In light of the free grace that God gave to you when you did not deserve it, who do you need to show grace to? Go freely forgive someone that has wronged you, telling them that the reason you want to forgive them is because you have been forgiven of so much.

WEEK SEVEN JUSTIFICATION

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

READ THE SCRIPTURES

Set aside time this week to read Colossians 2:13-14. For older children look also at Romans 9:19-24 and Isaiah 64:8.

It is hard to understand how offensive our sin is to God. But can you imagine for a moment that you spent a lot of time making something and you had a purpose for that thing but then when the time came, the thing you made did not do what you had created it to do? Have you ever built a domino train? You line all the dominoes up carefully so that when the first one is knocked down it will knock the next one and the next one and the next one. But sometimes, it doesn't work exactly like you wanted it to. Because you created it and had a plan for it, it is disappointing when it doesn't work.

When we make a domino train and it doesn't work it is because we did something wrong. We put the dominoes too far apart. But **God did not make a mistake with His creation. We were created to worship Him and we will.** One day every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. **It is certain to happen!** God has an eternal perspective and immense patience. He knows His plan will come to fruition. He can wait. At just the right time, it will happen.

But in the meantime, **our sin is offensive to God because we were created with a purpose.** We were created to love Him and enjoy a friendship with Him. Most of all, we were created to worship Him and reflect His glory to others around us. We are His creation. He has a right to say what our purpose is.

When we do not love Him, enjoy Him, worship Him, and reflect His glory, we are not honoring the purpose He had for us. We are not honoring Him. Because He is a perfectly holy God, He deserves honor. **It is a terrible thing when we do not honor Him.**

Spend some time helping your children understand this very difficult concept. Justification cannot be rightly appreciated if we do not first

fully understand the offense. The amazing thing about God declaring that we are **forgiven** and **righteous** is the extent to which we offended the Most High Creator God who deserves honor and worship from His creation.

DEFINITION

Justify (justification) - to declare not guilty. Used to describe God's "not guilty" decision over us. God declares us guilty sinners not guilty because Jesus paid the penalty for our sin. When you see the word justified, think "no longer guilty" and "Jesus paid it all."

The Ology by Marty Machowski

PRAY

God you are so gracious to provide a way out from our sin. Thank you for forgiving us and declaring us righteous. Help me to always have a grateful heart.

MEMORIZE THE SCRIPTURES

Romans 3:28

For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law. (ESV)

WORSHIP

"Made Alive" - Citizens & Saints, *Citizens*

WEEK EIGHT SANCTIFICATION

PERSONAL STUDY

Begin by giving a definition of sanctification in your own words, drawing from Scriptures that you are most familiar with.

Have several people in the group read Colossians 3:1-10, Galatians 4:7-9, 5:16-26, Ephesians 4:21-24, Hebrews 12:1-2.

HOW IS SANCTIFICATION DIFFERENT?

Review the order of events in salvation -

- Election (**God chooses** who will receive mercy)
- Calling (Someone comes in contact with the Gospel)
- Regeneration (**God imparts** new life to us)
- Conversion (We respond in faith to the call of the Gospel)
- Justification (**God gives** us a right legal standing before Him)
- Adoption (**God adopts** us into His family as sons and daughters)
- Sanctification (We work with God to get rid of sin and become more like Christ)
- Perseverance (**God keeps** those that are justified until the end of their lives)
- Glorification (**God removes** all trace of sin and gives believers glorified bodies)

Which events are one time events? Ongoing events?

Which things on this list are done by God?

Which things are we responsible to do?

Is there anything that we work together with God to bring about?

What role does each person of the Trinity play in each event in salvation?

GOD'S PART, OUR PART

Have each person in the group look up one verse and then report whether God or man is shown to be playing a part in sanctification.

John 15:5
Romans 8:13-14
2 Corinthians 3:18
Colossians 1:28-29
1 Thessalonians 4:3
Hebrews 12:14
1 John 3:3

Romans 6:13
1 Corinthians 9:27
Philippians 2:12-13
1 Thessalonians 5:23
2 Thessalonians 2:13
Hebrews 13:20-21
2 Peter 1:5

What is the difference between the **passive role** and the **active role** that we play in sanctification?

Take some time this week to read through Psalm 119. Pay attention to what David says he will do and what he is depending on God to do.

PRAY THE SCRIPTURES

Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. (ESV)

MEMORIZE THE SCRIPTURES

Philippians 3:12-14

Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (ESV)

WORSHIP

"Thy Mercy, My God" - Sandra McCracken, *The Builder and the Architect*

GO

What do you need to do this week to do your part in sanctification? In what ways can you depend on God to do His part? *Strive for holiness!*

WEEK EIGHT SANCTIFICATION

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

READ THE SCRIPTURES

Set aside time this week to read Romans 6:6-7, Colossians 3:5-14.

Back in Week 5 we talked about the fact that as people increased on the earth, sin did too. God would punish the sin, the people would repent, but time would pass and they would sin again. The people couldn't stop sinning! It was like sin was in charge! Just like a slave isn't free to make his own choices, the people weren't free to follow God. There was no way to escape the bondage of sin and the death that came with it.

The OT shows us what God is like and what man is like. What we learn from the OT is that man was going to keep on sinning no matter what, and God was going to keep being merciful even though sin needed to be punished. The OT points to our need for Jesus.

Jesus wasn't a slave to sin. He loved God and loved others perfectly. By taking the punishment we deserved for our sins, by dying on the cross and being raised to life again, he broke the power of sin and death.

For those who trust in Jesus, sin is no longer their master, but sin is not completely destroyed yet either. We live in what we sometimes call the **already, not yet**. Jesus has already paid the penalty for our sin. But we are not sinless yet.

We can be sure that one day we will be like Christ in our thoughts and actions. We will be given a glorified body that is not broken by sin and minds that always love Christ rightly. This will happen. But not yet.

1 John 3:2

Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

Remember when we talked about **putting off and putting on?** This is what we do in between **the "already" and the "not yet"**. As believers

we have to work at this. Thankfully we have the Holy Spirit to help us, but we also have to do our part. As we study the Word and pray and depend on God, the Holy Spirit reminds us of what the Bible says we need to do. The Holy Spirit is our guide. God gives us the strength to fight sin, and He always gives us what we need to do the things He has asked us to do.

What do you need to *put off*?

What do you need to *put on*?

DEFINITION

Sanctify (sanctification) - set apart. Used to describe the way something is set apart for special use. God saves His people, setting them apart for His special use - God sanctifies those He saves. When we sin, we repent and God forgives us for Jesus' sake. The Holy Spirit makes us grow to be more like Jesus. In this way, sanctification continues throughout our lives. - The Ology by Marty Machowski

PRAY

God thank You that you are making me more like You. Help me to have more *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control*. Help me to *put off* my old sin nature and *put on* You.

MEMORIZE THE SCRIPTURES

Philippians 3:12-14

Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (ESV)

WORSHIP

"Thy Mercy, My God" - Sandra McCracken, *The Builder and the Architect*

WEEK NINE PERSISTENCE OF THE SAINTS

PERSONAL STUDY

We saw in last week's lesson that the Holy Spirit plays a crucial role in the sanctification of a believer. We will see this week that the Holy Spirit also plays a crucial role in persevering the saints as well. The Holy Spirit is extremely important in the believer's life during the **already, not yet** period. Praise the Lord for the gift of the Holy Spirit!

What do you think is meant by the idea of **perseverance of the saints**?

What Scriptures can you think of that would support this idea? Oppose this idea?

WHAT DOES EACH PERSON OF THE TRINITY PROMISE TO DO?

Read 1 Peter 1:1-5, John 6:38-40, 10:27-29, 3:36, 5:24, Ephesians 1:13-14.

WHY DO WE NEED THE SPIRIT?

How would life have been different for the Israelites if they'd had the Holy Spirit?

Were there appearances of the Holy Spirit in the OT?

Do we acknowledge our need for the Holy Spirit enough? Are we thankful for His presence in our lives?

Take some time to pray and thank God for the sealing power of the Holy Spirit in your life and confess your dependency on His prompting in your life.

CAN A BELIEVER "FALL AWAY"?

Take some time to read John 8:31-32, Matthew 10:22, Colossians 1:22-23, Hebrews 3:14.

How can you reconcile these passages with the ones mentioned before?

What passages can you think of that warn about false brothers who will have external signs of conversion but not true belief?

Is it possible that the *enduring to the end* passages are written to those false brothers that are thinking of falling away or have fallen away as a warning that if they do fall away it is a strong indication that they were never saved in the first place? Is it possible that these verses were never meant to make those who are presently trusting in Christ worry that at some time in the future they could fall away themselves?

CAN A BELIEVER HAVE ASSURANCE OF SALVATION NOW?

How would you answer these three questions about yourself?

- Do I have present trust in Christ for salvation?
- Is there evidence of a regeneration from the Holy Spirit in my heart?
- Do I see a long-term, continual pattern of growth in my Christian life?

Read 1 John 5:1-13.

PRAY THE SCRIPTURES

Ephesians 1:3-14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. In him you also,

when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory. (ESV)

MEMORIZE THE SCRIPTURES

John 10:28

I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. (ESV)

WORSHIP

"Anchor" - Beautiful Eulogy & Josh Garrels, *Selected Songs*

GO

In the same way that the Israelites lives were to look different than the pagan nations around them, we should live differently than the lost around us. We will surely persevere in this life, but this life is not all there is. It is actually very short, fleeting. **We are sojourners here, looking forward to a city that is to come.** An eternal city. What are you intentionally doing to show that your citizenship is in heaven? How are you living differently than the lost around you?

*But in your hearts
honor Christ the Lord
as holy,
always being prepared
to make a defense to anyone who
asks you for a reason for the
hope that is in you;
yet do it with
gentleness and respect.*

1 Peter 3:15

WEEK NINE
PERSISTENCE OF THE
SAINTS

READ THE SCRIPTURES

Set aside time this week to read Hebrews 12:1-2a.

Isn't it such good news to hear that **God loves you** and made a way for your sins to be forgiven and your relationship with Him to be restored? Isn't it also wonderful that God will take your *heart of stone* and give you a *heart of flesh* that is soft towards this good news?

Praise the Lord that **Jesus died to pay for your sins!**

Isn't it also gracious that the **Holy Spirit guards you and keeps you** so that after you believe, you are sure to continue believing until the very end?

Take a moment to discuss the Trinity. Remember that it is okay to not have all the answers! Overtime, this very difficult concept will become more and more clear for you and your children. The important thing is not to have all the answers now. We will know fully in heaven! For now, we can worship what we do know and be thankful for what we do see in Scripture. The rest keeps us in awe and wonder. Remember our God is infinite. He is not like us. That makes some parts of Him incomprehensible. But it is better for Him to be too big to completely understand than too simple and too small!

The Bible compares your life as a Christian to a runner in a race. You are to run hard after Jesus. It isn't a sprint. It's a marathon. Everyone runs at a different pace. The important thing is that you run hard until the very end. Everyone who finishes wins. The prize for finishing is Jesus!

When you get tired or stumble, the Holy Spirit is there to help. God promises that everyone who He calls to run this race will finish it!

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

Some days you will have a great run. Other days you may run poorly. But **forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead**, you can *press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus*.

PRAY

God thank you that I can be sure that You *began a good work in me* and *You will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ*. Thank you that *nothing can separate* me from Your love. I have so much hope knowing that you will keep me.

MEMORIZE THE SCRIPTURES

John 10:28

I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. (ESV)

WORSHIP

"This I Believe" - Shane and Shane, *The Worship Initiative*

WEEK TEN BAPTISM & THE LORD'S SUPPER

PERSONAL STUDY

Take a minute to look over the questions below. Put a star by the ones that you would have the most trouble answering with Scriptural support.

- Who should be baptized?
- What is the purpose of baptism?
- When should a person be baptized?
- Why is a person baptized?
- How should a person be baptized?
- Who takes the Lord's Supper?
- What is the purpose of the Lord's Supper?
- When does a person take the Lord's Supper?
- Why does a person take the Lord's Supper?
- How does a person take the Lord's Supper?

DOCTRINES AND DIVISIONS

Sometimes doctrines can cause division. Sometimes we feel very strongly about topics like baptism and the Lord's Supper. Sometimes these feelings are driven by Scripture. Other times they are driven by tradition, culture, or our own personal experiences. Below are three main camps of thought on baptism and the Lord's Supper. These have been generally divided for the sake of simplicity. In truth, there are numerous camps within the camps and different camps overlap in their beliefs. These camps have been around for a long time. You are most likely not going to find a fix for the division in just one week of study! But, it is still worth your time to become more familiar with the Scriptures on the Baptism and Lord's Supper, the different camps and the passages that they use to support their views. This will give you some talking points with friends, family, co-workers, and neighbors. Let's pledge to **be kind to others as we discuss** and to be good listeners and learners. There are some things that we must be **closed handed** about in an effort to **contend for the faith**. There are other things that we can be more **open handed** about. In either case, our speech must always be gracious, seasoned with salt. Let's aim **to love God and love others** well as we strive to **love Truth**. To be lopsided in any direction would not be God honoring.

THREE MAIN CAMPS OF THOUGHT

Catholics - believe that baptism causes regeneration and brings about justification and sanctification to the person being baptized without requiring faith from the person themselves. Therefore, infants are baptized. The water is prayed over by priests and it is believed that the Holy Spirit comes into the water. In the same way, the bread and the wine are prayed over and they turn into the actual body and blood of Christ. Catholics say that Christ wanted to remain present with His church and in this way He remains mysteriously in our midst. What material food produces in our bodily life, the Lord's Supper produces in our spiritual life. It preserves, increases, and renews what was started at baptism. The sacrifice of Christ and the sacrifice of the Lord's Supper are one single sacrifice. This sacrifice is not only for the members of the Catholic church here on earth, but is also offered for those who have died and are not yet wholly purified. It is offered for the sins of the living and the dead and to obtain spiritual benefits from God.

Information gathered from <http://ow.ly/TgsR30bvoPi>.

Reformed Churches - including Presbyterians and Lutherans, believe that baptism is likened to circumcision in the OT and hold a "covenant view" such that in the same way that Israel was circumcised as an outward sign of their belonging to the covenant, believing parents baptize their infant children as an outward sign that they too are a part of the covenant community. They do this by sprinkling or pouring, not immersing. Baptized children who are being nurtured and instructed in the significance of the invitation to the Table and the meaning of their response are invited to receive the Lord's Supper. Presbyterians hold that the bread and wine do not become the physical body and blood of Christ, but that Christ is present "in, with, and under" the elements by way of His Spirit.

Information gathered from <http://www.pcanet.org/beliefs/>.

Protestants - while Presbyterians and Lutherans are Protestant churches, they are mentioned above in a separate camp due to their distinct beliefs on Baptism and the Lord's Supper. In this section, we

Protestants, especially Baptists, as those who hold to “believer’s baptism” as a sign of faith that the believer already has in Christ at the time of baptism. It is a picture of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, and of the death of the sin nature and the birth of the new life in the believer. The Lord’s Supper is also a picture. The bread and wine show Christ’s body broken and His blood shed. This is eaten as a reminder of what Christ has done in the past and as a way of looking forward to the wedding feast that is to come. There is nothing special in the bread or the wine. However, since God is present when believers gather together, it is concluded that He is there. Since observing the Lord’s Supper is an act of obedience, the believer is blessed by the Spirit as he walks in the Spirit. The ordinances do not save, however, they are a means of grace in that they serve as reminders. In this way, the Lord’s Supper is similar in function to the Passover meal.

IN SUMMARY

While Catholics would say baptism causes regeneration to occur, Baptists would say baptism symbolizes a regeneration that has already occurred. Presbyterians would say baptism symbolizes a regeneration that is probable to occur at some point in the future.

While Catholics would say that eating the Lord’s Supper causes regeneration because it is the actual body and blood of Christ, Presbyterians would say that something miraculous happens because the spirit of Jesus is present in a mysterious way. Baptists would say that it is a means of grace in the believer’s life as it serves as a reminder of what Christ has done and will do.

LET THE SCRIPTURE SPEAK

Take some time to think about the different takes on the Baptism and Lord’s Supper. Can you think of **supporting Scriptures** for each view? Can you think of **Scriptures that would refute** each view? Keep in mind that those in each camp have Scriptures that they believe support their view. Sometimes Scriptures are taken out of context or minor texts are viewed as major, unclear texts are used to interpret clearer, implicit

texts are used instead of explicit. Some passages that are descriptive in nature are taken as prescriptive. These are just some of the hermeneutical errors that can be made by all camps. As you look over passages about the Baptism and Lord’s Supper, consider how each camp might be handling them.

Spend some time looking up Scriptures for the ones that you starred at the beginning of the lesson. To help get you started, look into <https://www.gotquestions.org/communion-Christian.html> and <https://www.gotquestions.org/Christian-baptism.html>

THE IMPORTANT THING

The most important thing to remember about the Baptism and Lord’s Supper is that God gave them to the church knowing that they would be **for her good and His glory**. They are to help us **see and remember** who He is and what He has done.

Check out <http://redeemerlubbock.org/about/beliefs/definitions/> to learn more about Redeemer’s beliefs on Baptism and the Lord’s Supper.

PRAY

Thank God for the many different graces that He has given you, including Baptism and the Lord’s Supper, to help you *press on, to remember*, and to think rightly about Him.

MEMORIZE THE SCRIPTURES

Romans 6:8-11

Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. (ESV)

WORSHIP

"Jude Doxology" - Ghost Ship, *The Good King*

GO

If you are a believer and you have not been baptized, what do you need to do to move forward in obedience? More study of the Scriptures? Meet with someone to discuss next steps? If there is something you need to do to make the Lord's Supper a more meaningful time for you on Sundays, commit to doing that this week.

2 TIMOTHY 3:16-18

There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.

You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that *you are not carried away* with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. But *grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord* and Savior Jesus Christ.

To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

WEEK TEN BAPTISM & THE LORD'S SUPPER

READ THE SCRIPTURES

Set aside time this week to read Romans 6:3-11, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26.

Man is quick to forget who God is and what He has done. God knows that our broken minds can get us into trouble! Thankfully, He loves us and provides some help for us. What things has He provided to correct our thinking and help us **remember** Him rightly?

His Word, the Holy Spirit, the body of believers, Sabbaths, and holidays are used to remind us.

Baptism is another thing that God has given to help us. It is a picture of what has happened in a believer's life. Going under the water is a picture of the believer dying with Christ to their old sinful way of life. Coming out of the water is a picture of the resurrection. Just like Jesus was resurrected to life, we can be sure that in Christ we will have eternal life. These pictures help us to see and **remember what God has done.**

The Lord's Supper is another picture. When we break off a piece of bread, we **remember** that the Lord's body was broken. We also **remember** with the red juice that His blood was shed on our behalf. Seeing helps us remember the details of this sacrifice that happened in the past. By eating, we also look forward to a day when we will sit at the table and dine with the Lord at the great wedding feast.

If you have older children that are ready to move forward with baptism, be sure to talk with them about that this week. Make an appointment with someone on staff at Redeemer to talk about next steps.

PRAY

God thank you that you give us things to help us **remember who you are and what you have done.** Help us to apply our **whole mind** on Sunday mornings. When we see believers getting baptized, help us rejoice with that new believer but also to **remember** what you've done in our lives as well. Thank you for Sabbaths! Thank you for Redeemer!

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

Give the elders, ministers, and staff wisdom to run the church with excellence. Thank you for all the volunteers. Thank you that you love your church, your bride. We look forward to the day when she is made perfect - *without spot or wrinkle or blemish.* Without forgetfulness!

MEMORIZE THE SCRIPTURES

Romans 6:8-11

Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. **For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.** (ESV)

WORSHIP

"Behold the Lamb" - Keith & Kristyn Getty, *Awaken the Dawn*

WEEK ELEVEN THE RETURN OF CHRIST

Have several people read these passages from Revelation 1:1-3, 7, chapters 4-5, 11:15-18, 20:1-10, 21:3-5, 22:10-13,17.

THE FINAL FULFILLMENT TO ALL THINGS

While Christ has **already** defeated Satan by breaking the power of sin and death, he is **not yet** completely, finally destroyed. He is still at work in this world. He is still the *father of lies* attempting to *kill, steal, and destroy*.

But his destiny is sure! He will be crushed once and for all on the day when Jesus returns! While for now he is the *prince and the ruler of this world*, we can be sure that Christ is ultimately the *King of Kings and Lord of Lords* and He will sit on the throne for all eternity in the greatest, most perfect of all kingdoms with everything and everyone worshipping Him. That will happen, but it has not fully happened yet.

And while we are currently being sanctified, and have **already** been declared righteous, who we presently are does **not yet** match up with who we are said to be.

But, there will be a day when we move from **already, not yet** to a final fulfillment. A glorious realization of all things foretold, promised, and hoped for is in store.

Like *on the walk to Emmaus*, we will finally see how **all things find their "yes" in Christ**. We will enjoy with 100% certainty and clarity Jesus making *all things new and bringing all things to submission unto Himself*. What the prophets spoke of, what the men of faith in Hebrews 11 looked forward to, we will no longer see *from a distance or welcome from afar*.

We will no longer see *through a veil or as if in a mirror or know in part*. We will see the *Lord high and exalted and His train filling the room* with Isaiah, His glory *flowing like the sound of many rushing waters* with Ezekiel. The vision that John had in Revelation will be ours, **no longer by faith but by sight!**

PERSONAL STUDY

And with glorified bodies and healed minds we will be in the presence of Jesus, enjoying Him for all eternity, as He reigns supreme over all! We will love God rightly, fully. We will be able to worship with pure hearts and right motivations without *growing tired or weak*.

Is it sometimes difficult for our broken minds to imagine how glorious heaven will be?

Do you believe that being in the presence of Jesus will be satisfying for all eternity?

If you do not have a very strong yearning for Christ's return, why might that be?

WHEN WILL CHRIST RETURN?

Christians differ over specific details leading up to and immediately following Christ's return. Specifically the nature and timing of the millennium, the great tribulation, and the salvation of the Jewish people.

There are Scriptures that seem to give indicators as to when the return of Christ is near, and other Scriptures that seem to say His return will be sudden and unexpected. For ideas on how to reconcile these Scriptures and further study in eschatology, check out the book [Bible Doctrine](#) by Wayne Grudem.

WHAT DOES CHRIST'S RETURN ACCOMPLISH?

Despite differing views in regards to timing and details, all Christians who hold the Bible as their final authority do agree that the ultimate **result of Christ's return** will be final judgement for unbelievers, final reward for believers, and that believers will live in the presence of the Trinity for all eternity worshipping God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as they reign in their never-ending kingdom without sin, sickness, sorrow, or suffering.

The great story will come to conclusion! All the promises fulfilled! All the problems fixed!

Without knowing the exact time of Christ's return, would you say that you are ready for it?

Were it to happen today, what would it mean *to be ready*?
Matthew 24:44.

PRAY

God teach me to have an eternal perspective.

MEMORIZE THE SCRIPTURES

Philippians 3:20-21

But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. (ESV)

WORSHIP

"I Will Not Fear" - Front Line Music, *High + Humble King*

GO

Read through Revelation. Even if you do not understand all of the imagery or in what way it is referencing OT prophecies, there is so much encouragement packed in John's vision of the end times! Your heart needs to be reminded that our King will come in power, riding on a white horse establishing His kingdom. Finally, evil will be done away with, only glorious things will remain. Our God is in control. *He does whatever He pleases.* Read and enjoy!

THIS IS HOW ONE SHOULD REGARD US, AS
*SERVANTS OF CHRIST AND STEWARDS OF THE
MYSTERIES OF GOD.* *1 Corinthians 4:1*

WEEK ELEVEN THE RETURN OF CHRIST

READ THE SCRIPTURES

Set aside time this week to read Revelation 21:3-5.

The Bible doesn't give us much information about what life was like for Adam and Eve in the garden with God, **before the fall**. And since we have never seen a world without sin and brokenness ourselves, it's hard for us to imagine what it would be like. Surely it was wonderful!

We can read lots of stories in the OT about what life was like **after the fall and before Jesus came**.

We know what it is like to live **after Jesus' sacrifice** and during the time that the Holy Spirit is here to help believers. That is the period we are in now. It is called the Church Age.

Do you know what happens **last** in this great story? Jesus comes to earth again! Do you remember when we talked about sin? We said that Jesus had taken care of the punishment for sin. We said that by dying and raising to life again, He had defeated sin and death. At that time He proved that He had power over sin and death and Satan. He has **already** done this. But we also said that we are not sinless **yet**. That Satan has not been ultimately destroyed yet. Things are not completely fixed yet. Some promises are not fulfilled yet.

When Jesus returns He will finish all things. Sin will be no more. Satan will be punished once and for all. Nothing will ever be wrong. Nothing will be broken. No one will ever be hurt. We will have new bodies. There will be a new heaven and a new earth and we will enjoy being with God without sin and sorrow and sickness and shame and suffering.

Do you think that what is in the future for us might be even better than what Adam and Eve had in the garden?

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

Take some time to discuss what you are looking forward to about Jesus' return. If you have [The Jesus Storybook Bible](#), by Sally Lloyd-Jones, check out "A Dream of Heaven" for additional reading on this topic.

PRAY

God we look forward to Your return. We can't even imagine how wonderful eternity will be with You. Help us always remember that this life is fleeting. It is not what is eternal. Thank you for all the good gifts You give us here, but **help us to remember** that they are nothing compared to what is in the future for us. **Help us to think rightly** about earthly things and eternal things.

MEMORIZE THE SCRIPTURES

Philippians 3:20-21

But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables Him even to subject all things to himself. (ESV)

WORSHIP

"Uncloudy Day" - Willie Nelson, *The Essential Willie Nelson*

DEFINITIONS

ADOPTION - An act of God in which He makes us a member of His family.

APOSTASY - The abandonment or renunciation of a religious belief.

ATONEMENT - The forgiving or pardoning of sin in general and original sin in particular through the work Christ did in his life and death and resurrection, enabling the reconciliation between God and his creation.

BAPTISM - An ordinance of the Lord by which those who have repented and come to faith express their union with Christ in His death and resurrection, by being immersed in water in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. It is a sign of belonging to the new people of God, the true Israel, and an emblem of burial and cleansing, signifying death to the old life of unbelief, and purification from the pollution of sin.

CALLING - The offering of salvation in Christ to people, together with an invitation to accept Christ in repentance and faith, in order that they may receive the forgiveness of sins and eternal life.

COMMUNICABLE ATTRIBUTES - Aspects of God's character that He shares to some measure with mankind. He is love and we have the ability to love although not to the extent that He is able to love.

CONVERSION - Our willing response to the gospel call, in which we sincerely repent of sins and place our trust in Christ for salvation.

ELECTION - An act of God before creation in which He chooses some people to be saved, not on account of any foreseen merit in them, but only because of His sovereign good pleasure.

ESCHATOLOGY - The study of "last things" or future events.

ETERNAL - Unlimited by time, without beginning or end.

GLORIFICATION - The future and final step in the application of redemption; God's final removal of sin from the life of the saints. It will happen when Christ returns and transforms our mortal physical bodies into perfect resurrection bodies like His own.

IMMUTABLE - Unchanging over time, unable to be changed.

IMPUTED - To think of as belonging to someone, and therefore to cause it to belong to that person. When Adam sinned, his guilt was imputed to us. God viewed it as belonging to us, and therefore it did. When Christ suffered and died for our sins, our sin was imputed to Christ. God thought of it as belonging to Him, and He paid the penalty for it. In justification, Christ's righteousness is imputed to us and therefore God thinks of it as belonging to us.

INCOMMUNICABLE ATTRIBUTES - Aspects of God's character that He does not share fully with mankind. We are not infinite, self-existent, sovereign.

INCOMPREHENSIBLE - God is incomprehensible in a quantitative sense. That is, God's ways are above our understanding because they are too numerous for our finite minds to comprehend.

INFINITE - God is unlimited in scope. He is not subject to the limitations of creation.

JUSTIFICATION - An instantaneous legal act of God in which He thinks of our sins as forgiven and Christ's righteousness as belonging to us, and declares us to be righteous in His sight.

LORD'S SUPPER - One of the two ordinances that Jesus commanded His church to observe. This is an ordinance to be observed repeatedly as a reminder and a sign of continuing fellowship with Christ.

OMNISCIENCE - God fully knows Himself and all things actual and possible in one simple eternal act.

OMNIPOTENCE - God is able to do all His holy will.

OMNIPRESENCE - God does not have size or spatial dimensions, and is present at every point of space with His whole being.

PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS - The doctrine that all those who are truly "born again" will be kept by God's power and will persevere as Christians until the end of their lives, and that only those who persevere until the end have been truly "born again."

PRAYER - Communion with God via supplication, thanksgiving, adoration, or confession.

REGENERATION - The spiritual change wrought in the heart of man by the Holy Spirit in which his inherently sinful nature is changed so that he can respond to God in faith, and live in accordance with His will. It extends to the whole nature of man, altering his governing disposition, illuminating his mind, freeing his will, and renewing his nature.

SANCTIFICATION - The continuing change worked by God in us, whereby we are renewed after the image of God, freeing us from the habit of sin and enabling us more and more to die to sin, and live to righteousness.

SIN - A failure to conform to the moral law of God in act, attitude, or nature.

SOVEREIGN - God is independent and supreme in power.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

BOOKS

Systematic Theology by Wayne Grudem

Bible Doctrine by Wayne Grudem

Theological Clarity and Application by Scott Thomas

Visual Theology by Tim Challies

New City Catechism Devotional by Crossway

MUSIC

Shai Linne Lyrical Theology Part 1 & 2 (Music)

Summer Doctrine Series Playlist - Redeemer App, Spotify

INFOGRAPH

<https://www.challies.com/visual-theology/visual-theology-the-order-of-salvation>

BIBLE READING PLAN

Redeemer App

FOR KIDS

BOOKS

Everything a Child Should Know About God by Kenneth Taylor

The Ology by Marty Machowski

Catechism for Young Children by G. I. Williamson

The Jesus Storybook Bible by Sally Lloyd-Jones

MUSIC

The Ology: Ancient Truths Ever New

Summer Doctrine Series - Kids Playlist - Redeemer App, Spotify

WEBSITE

NewCityCatechism.com