

# What's Next?

*A first step on the path to becoming a fully devoted follower of Christ*



***A small group conversation  
about God and You***

  
LIFECHURCH.TV

*A conversational small  
group environment  
where you can explore  
faith and experience  
community*

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**N A M E**

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## Welcome To The *What's Next?* Class!

Congratulations on your life-changing decision to follow Christ! We're celebrating with you and can't wait to see all that God will do through you as you start your new life with Him. Now that you have made this decision, you may be thinking "What's Next"?

For most people, the initial stages of your new life as a Christian can be a little intimidating. Know that you are not alone and that we are here not only to celebrate with you but also to support you and walk alongside you.

If you haven't already noticed, the folks at LifeChurch.tv are very passionate about leading people to become fully devoted followers of Christ. In fact, that is our mission statement:

### ***To lead people to become fully devoted followers of Christ***

The ***What's Next?*** Class is designed with you and our mission statement in mind. The ***What's Next?*** Class represents a first step toward you becoming a fully devoted follower of Christ.

***What's Next?*** Is a conversational environment where people that are new to the Christian faith or those that are coming back to their faith after having been away for awhile, can explore faith and experience community.

***What's Next?*** groups are a safe place for people to come together and share their story of what God has done in their lives, to spend some time together examining who God is and what He has done for us, and to find out what it really is that God wants us to do with our lives.

***What's Next?*** groups meet for six weeks and discussion and dialogue is a priority. Your leaders will not teach or lecture, but will facilitate conversation from all members. Plan to ask good questions and share what you are learning. Be respectful of others in the group. Listen when they speak and be affirming whenever you can. Above all, trust that God has led you for a reason.

# Session 1 – What Is Your Story?

*The Story Of How Christ Has Made A Difference In Your Life*

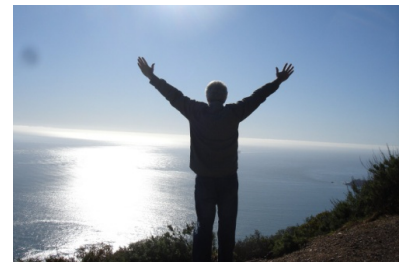


All human beings have an innate desire to hear and tell stories and to have a story to live by.

- Harvey Cox

## Your Decision for Christ

- So...you've made a decision to be a follower of Christ
- That is an awesome decision...one that you will never regret
- Sometimes, the initial stages of your new life as a Christian can be a little intimidating
- You may be thinking...
  - What do I do next?
  - Will my personality change?
  - Am I expected to follow certain rules and regulations?
  - What have I gotten myself into?
- Relax



## Growing as a Christian

- The process of growing as a Christian is as simple as getting to know someone who will soon become your best friend

- That best friend is JESUS CHRIST



- How can this be?
  - Jesus Christ is already your friend
  - He is already in love with you and has been all your life – even before you chose to be a follower of Christ

### **Jeremiah 29:11-13 (New International Version)**

<sup>11</sup> For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. <sup>12</sup> Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. <sup>13</sup> You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

## From a Decision for Jesus -- to a Disciple of Jesus

- If you haven't already noticed, the folks at LifeChurch.tv are very passionate about leading people to Christ
  - Our Mission: To lead people to become fully devoted followers of Christ
  - Our Purpose: To bring in, build up, train and send out
- This *What's Next?* class is designed with you and our mission/purpose in mind
  - It represents a 1<sup>st</sup> step toward you becoming a fully devoted follower of Christ
  - It represents a 1<sup>st</sup> step toward “building you up”

### **Colossians 2:6-8 (New International Version)**

<sup>6</sup>So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, <sup>7</sup>rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. <sup>8</sup>See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.

# What's Next? Class

- During the *What's Next?* class, we will examine the following four questions:

1. What's your story? (session 1)



2. Who is God? (session 2)



3. What did God do for me? (session 3)



4. What does God want me to do?

- Read and study God's Word – The Bible (session 4)



- Spend time with God – through Prayer (session 5)




- Be the Church (session 6)



- This *What's Next?* class is designed so that we can examine these questions together – as a group – as friends – as a family

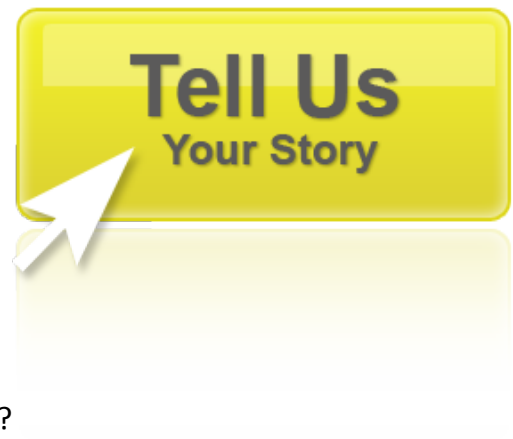
## God's Story

- Each of our stories are part of a bigger story – God’s story
- The Bible is the primary means by which God reveals Himself and His story to us:
  - The Bible is one book, one history, one story – His story
  - Behind 10,000 events stands God, the builder of history, the maker of the ages
- You can go down into the minutest detail everywhere and see that there is one great purpose moving through the ages: the eternal design of God is to redeem a wrecked and ruined world.

God's Story		
Prologue	Before Time Began	<i>From everlasting to everlasting -- you are God</i>
Act 1	Creation – The Story Begins	<i>In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth</i>
Act 2	Brokenness – The Human Tragedy	<i>Cursed is the ground because of you</i>
Act 3	Promise – The First Move	<i>In you, all families of the earth shall be blessed</i>
Act 4	Law – Rules to Live By	<i>You shall have no other gods before me</i>
Act 5	Rebellion – The Depth of the Crisis	<i>My people have exchanged their Glory for worthless idols</i>
Act 6	Grace – The Story's Hero	<i>For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith in Christ</i>
Act 7	Spirit – Intimacy with God	<i>The Spirit of truth will guide you into all truth</i>
 Prologue	Eternity – Your Place in the Story	<i>Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men</i>

## Your Story

- Your story is the story of how Christ has made a difference in your life.
- Peter tells us in 1 Peter 2:9, that we were chosen by God “to do His work and speak out for Him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you.”
- When we do this, we are simply telling our story:
  - What was my life before I met Jesus?
  - How did I realize I needed Jesus?
  - How did I commit my life to Jesus?
  - What difference has Jesus made in my life?
  - How can we as a group be praying for you?



## Dig Deeper

- Here are some other suggestions for further exploration:
  - Watch      The Hope Video – The Story of God’s Promise for all People  
[www.thehopeproject.com](http://www.thehopeproject.com)
  - Read        The story of “Amazing Grace” and the life story and conversion of John Newton, the celebrated English preacher and hymn writer  
[www.1timothy4-13.com/files/hymns/bio\\_newton.html](http://www.1timothy4-13.com/files/hymns/bio_newton.html)

## Session 2 – Who Is God?

*Holy, Holy, Holy Is The Lord Almighty*



He made us for Himself, and our hearts are  
restless until we find rest in Him

– St. Augustine

## Welcome and Introduction

- Last week:
  - Got to know each other
  - Took a quick look at God's Story
  - Shared with each other our story – the story of how Christ has made a difference in our lives
- This week:
  - Examine who God is
  - Because your relationship with God should begin with a correct understanding of who God is
    - Does God exist?
    - What is God like?
    - What about the Trinity?
    - What about Angels, Satan, and Demons?

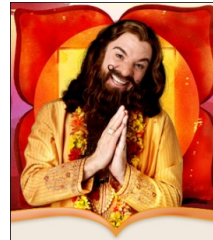
## Does God Exist?

- People have tried to discover the existence of God in many different ways:

- Study every world religion



- Find a pastor, priest, teacher, monk, guru, swami



- Look for God in nature



- Give God a test (and see if He passes)



What are some of the ways you have searched for the existence of God and what did you find?

## Does God Exist? (cont.)

- The single most useful source of information for discovering, understanding, and knowing whether God exists and who God is -- the Bible
- But what about the writings of Confucius, the Book of Mormon, the Talmud, the Koran, the Vedas?
- How do we know the Bible is true?
  - **Manuscript Evidence:** the Bible has stronger manuscript support than any other work of classical history and has been virtually unaltered since the original writings
  - **Archeological Evidence:** Pontius Pilate's historical authenticity was in doubt until 1961, when an inscription was found "Pontius Pilate, Prefect of Judea, has presented the Tiberium to the Caesareans", thus proving his existence
  - **Predictive Prophecy:** the Bible records predictions of events that could not be known or predicted by chance or common sense
    - Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14)
    - Written between 701-681 BC
    - Fulfilled about 3 BC
  - **Scriptural Synergy:** 66 books written by 40 different authors in three languages over a 1500 year period yet each book fits perfectly in place with a unique purpose as a component of the whole



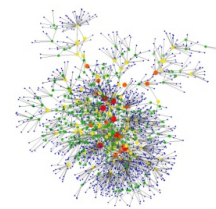
## Does God Exist? (cont.)

- The first recorded word concerning God can be found in the first verse of the first book of the Bible:

### Genesis 1:1 (New International Version)

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

- Can we be sure God exists?
  - Since every rational person has thought about God in one way or another, we can reasonably conclude that He exists
  - If the universe a beginning point, there must have been some incredibly powerful cause or person to begin it
  - There is order, harmony, purpose, and intelligence in nature and the world
  - A sense of right and wrong in the heart of every person is evidence of a moral Creator



*Ontological  
Argument*



*Cosmological  
Argument*



*Teleological  
Argument*



*Moral  
Argument*



Give an example of something (besides God) you believe but have never seen. How do you know beyond a shadow of a doubt that it exists?










## What is God Like?

- Even though God is beyond our complete understanding, we can know what He is like
- The names of God help us to understand what God is like...yes He has more than one name:
  - **Jehovah:** an Old Testament term meaning “I Am that I Am.” Used by God Himself. He is all-sufficient for every need, problem, or circumstance. Every answer is found in Him.
  - **Elohim:** an Old Testament term meaning “strong one.” God is the true God. His strength and majesty reign over all heathen gods.
  - **Adonai:** an Old Testament term meaning “lord.” A term of reverence. Used to show a master-servant relationship.
  - **God:** a New Testament term, meaning “the one true God.” He is unique; He is the Creator; and He is the Savior.
  - **Lord:** a New Testament term, meaning “sir.” The emphasis is on authority and supremacy.
  - **Father:** a New Testament term. God is a heavenly Father to those who become His children by faith in His Son, Jesus Christ.



Which of the names of God gives you the most reassurance as a Christian?

## What is God Like? (cont.)

- The Bible spends a lot of time telling us what God is like (attributes):
  - **God is eternal:** *Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.* Psalm 90:2 
  - **God is holy:** *Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of His glory.* Isaiah 6:3 
  - **God doesn't change:** *I the LORD do not change.* Malachi 3:6 
  - **God is infinite:** *But will God really dwell on earth? The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you.* 1 Kings 8:27 
  - **God is just:** *He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he.* Deuteronomy 32:4 
  - **God is love:** *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.* John 3:16 
  - **God is omnipotent (all-powerful):** *But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.* Matthew 19:26 
  - **God is omnipresent (is everywhere):** "Am I only a God nearby," declares the LORD, "and not a God far away? Can anyone hide in secret places so that I cannot see him?" declares the LORD. "Do not I fill heaven and earth?" Jeremiah 22:23-24 
  - **God is omniscient (knows everything):** *For a man's ways are full view of the LORD, and he examines all his paths.* Proverbs 5:21 



What is your image of God? Cosmic Killjoy? Santa Claus? The Man Upstairs?

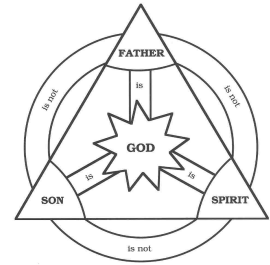
## What About the Trinity?

- The Trinity is the doctrine that there is only one God, not three, and that the one God exists in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

- There is one God

**Deuteronomy 6:4 (New International Version)**

<sup>4</sup> Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.



- God the Father is God

**2 Peter 1:17 (New International Version)**

<sup>17</sup>For he received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

- Jesus the Son is God

**John 8:58 (New International Version)**

<sup>58</sup>"I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!"

- The Holy Spirit is God

**1 Corinthians 2:10 (New International Version)**

<sup>10</sup>but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.

- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are distinct individuals

**John 14:26 (New International Version)**

<sup>26</sup>But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

## What About the Trinity? (cont.)

- I still don't get it...God is one God in three persons?

- Some analogies that may help:

- Take the sun

- The sun in the sky = Father
- The rays from the sun = Son
- The warmth from the rays = Holy Spirit



- Take a coin

- Heads side is not the tails side and the rim is neither
- They are always distinct yet they form one and the same coin
- Yet the heads, tails and rim are not mere parts of the coin, for they are inseparable



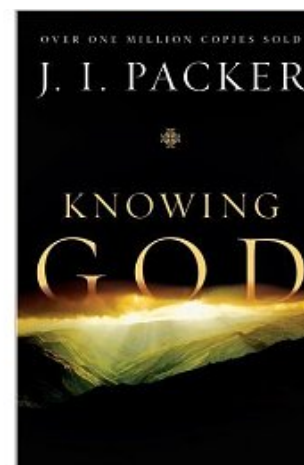
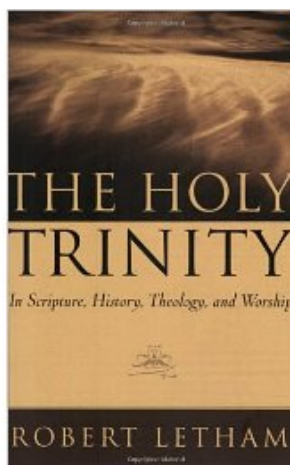
- The three dimensions of space: Length, width and height...all coincide in the same place, yet are distinct



What is your own analogy of the three-in-one concept?

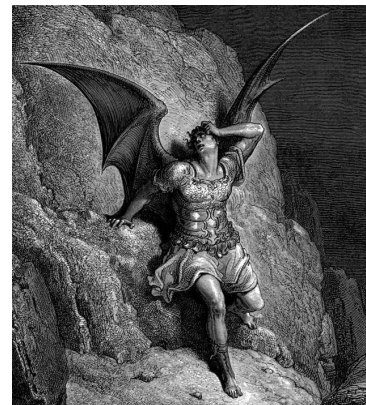
## What About the Trinity? (cont.)

- Why is understanding the Trinity so important?
  - The doctrine of the Trinity is foundational to the Christian faith
  - It is crucial for properly understanding what God is like, how He relates to us, and how we should relate to Him
  - Why?
  - Put it this way...you couldn't have been saved without experiencing the Triune God because
    - The Father who drew you
    - The Son who redeemed you
    - The Spirit who you received as God's gift and seal



## What about the Angels, Demons, and Satan?

- The spirit world of angels and demons is real
  - More than 100 references to angels in the Old Testament
  - 165 references to angels in the New Testament
  - Demons are mentioned more than 100 times in the Bible
  - Jesus and every author of the New Testament talk about Satan
- Angels do God's bidding and serve His people
- Satan and his demons oppose God, His work, and His people
- Satan's greatest asset is the doubt people have about his existence
- Christians should flee the devil and all demonic influences, choosing instead to live in God's light
  - Realize that he knows your weaknesses
  - Recognize that he is stronger than you
  - Resist the devil
  - Use prayer and the Bible
  - Remember that Satan is doomed to defeat
- The final victory will be God's



## Dig Deeper

- Here are some other suggestions for further exploration:
  - Surf
    - Who is God?  
<http://www.carm.org/Who%20is%20God>
    - The Trinity  
<http://www.carm.org/trinity>
    - Angels – Satan – Demons  
<http://bible.org/seriespage/survey-bible-doctrine-angels-satan-demons>
    - That's My King – Do You Know Him?  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2z15FITONVo>
  - Watch
    - The 4-week LifeChurch.tv message series *a.k.a. God*  
[www.lifechurch.tv/message-archive/watch/aka-god](http://www.lifechurch.tv/message-archive/watch/aka-god)
  - Read
    - Knowing God* by J.I. Packer
    - Pleasing God* by R.C. Sproul
    - Can Man Live Without God?* By Ravi Zacharias
    - The Fingerprint of God* by Hugh Ross
    - Does it Matter if God Exists?* By Millard J. Erickson
    - Understand the Trinity* by Alister McGrath
    - Why You Should Believe in the Trinity* by Robert Bowman
    - Satan is Alive and Well On Planet Earth* by Hal Lindsey
    - This Present Darkness* by Frank Peretti
    - The Holiness of God* by R.C. Sproul
    - Dinner with the Perfect Stranger* by David Gregory

## Session 3 – What Did God Do For You?




*For It Is By Grace You Have Been Saved...Through Faith*



Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me.  
I once was lost but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

- Thomas Newton

## Welcome and Introduction

- Last week:
  - Examined the question: Who is God?
    - Does God exist?
    - What is God like?
    - What about the Trinity?
    - What about Angels, Satan, and Demons?
  
- This week:
  - Examine the question: What did God do for us?
    - #1 - God has saved us forever 
    - #2 - Jesus has given us new life 
    - #3 - The Holy Spirit has equipped us with spiritual power 

## What Has God Done For You?

- When people are asked what God has done for them...you might be surprised with some of the answers:
  - He has saved me by grace
  - He has performed miracles of healing in my life
  - Nothing since He doesn't exist
  - Saved me
  - I don't know
  - All things
  - Do you mean lately?
  - He has always been my refuge, my rock, my salvation. He has always been there---when no one else is. He never falters



What about you...what has God done for you?

## #1 – God Has Saved Us Forever

- The Bible reveals God's plan to establish a relationship with mankind
- Of the 31,101 verses in the Bible, one verse sums up God's Plan beautifully...


**John 3:16 (New International Version)**

<sup>16</sup>"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

- Let's examine and discuss this verse more closely:
  - For God so loved the World
  - That He gave His one and only Son
  - That whoever believes in Him
  - Shall not perish but have eternal life

## #1 – God Has Saved Us Forever (cont.)

- John 3:16 clearly demonstrates God's Grace
- What is Grace?
  - By definition, grace means unmerited favor – God loves us...but we have done nothing to deserve His gift of salvation
- More about Grace:
  - God loves you unconditionally
  - God's salvation is a gift that none of us deserve
  - You can do nothing to make God love you more
  - You can do nothing to make God love you less

 But don't I have to do something?



## #1 – God Has Saved Us Forever (cont.)

- Our only part in the salvation process - accept God's grace through faith

**Ephesians 2:8-9 (New International Version)**

<sup>8</sup>For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— <sup>9</sup>not by works, so that no one can boast.

- The level of faith that leads to salvation involves your mind (belief), your spirit (trust), and your heart (adoration)

- Faith starts with belief
- Faith moves forward with trust
- Faith results in worship



- You exercised faith when you became a Christ Follower – but your salvation was all God - the good news is this...your salvation is secure

**Romans 8:38-39 (New International Version)**

<sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,<sup>[a]</sup> neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup>neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## #1 – God Has Saved Us Forever (cont.)

- Are you sure that I can't lose my salvation?

**John 10:28 (New International Version)**

<sup>28</sup>I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.

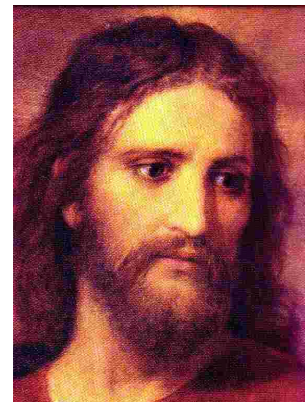
- What about Christians who have completely abandoned their faith?
  - Judging by what we're told in Scripture we can only conclude that they were never saved from the start
  - "Once saved, always saved" is true from God's perspective, man only looks at the outward appearance and cannot always accurately assess who is really saved in the first place
  - The question therefore is not whether someone lost their salvation, but whether they ever had it at all

## #1 – God Has Saved Us Forever (cont.)

- Does my eternal security give me free reign to live how I choose and sin without worry of consequence?
  - The sinning Christian is out of fellowship with the Lord and his people
  - The sinning Christian is helped and loved by the Lord Jesus Christ
  - The sinning Christian is chastened (corrected) by the Father
  - The sinning Christian loses irreplaceable opportunities for service and fruit
  - The sinning Christian can be forgiven, but he cannot regain the lost opportunities and the hurt he has caused by his sin
  - The sinning Christian will suffer loss at the judgment seat of Christ
- When we are truly saved, the grace of God actually motivates believers to serve God with a thankful heart
- The more a believer understands the unfathomable love God has for him in Christ, the more he wants to please God

## #2 – Jesus Has Given You New Life

- As your *Savior*, Jesus has literally saved you from eternal separation from God
  - As your *Lord*, Jesus now rules and reigns in your life
  - Who is Jesus?
    - God is spirit...this is hard sometimes to get our minds around
    - To help, God sent his only Son, Jesus, to be a tangible, visible presence of God on earth
    - Jesus is God in human form – the incarnation
- John 1:14 (New International Version)**  
<sup>14</sup>The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.
- Jesus was fully human
  - Jesus was fully God



## #2 – Jesus Has Given You New Life (cont.)

- What did Jesus do?
  - Jesus became human in order to save us from our sins and make us right with God

**Romans 3:22-24 (New International Version)**

<sup>22</sup>This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, <sup>23</sup>for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup>and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.



- ① How did Jesus specifically make us right with God?
- ① Wasn't there another way?

## #2 – Jesus Has Given You New Life (cont.)

- Why there wasn't another way - SIN

Sins of Commission		Sins of Omission
Wrong teaching	Insincere love	Not forgiving
Causing sin	Sexual impurity	Failing to honor others
Homosexuality	Idolatry	Failing to serve or give
Greed	Blasphemy	Failing to love God
Misusing Lord's name	Selfish ambition	Failing to love your neighbor as self
Fits of rage	Slave trading	Failing to trust God or Christ
Lying	Hypocrisy	Failing to worship God
Drunkenness	Stealing	Failing to honor God or the Son
Sorcery	Witchcraft	Failing to believe in Jesus
Divination	Inventing evil	Failing to honor one's parents
Astrology	Depravity	Failing to give thanks to God
Envy	Deceit	Failing to glorify God
Murder	Strife	Failing to fear the Lord
Malice	Gossip	Failing to share the Gospel
Slander	Hating	Failing to defend the Faith
Insolence	Arrogance	Failing to repay debts
Boastfulness	Disobeying parents	Failing to care for orphans/widows



- ❓ What do you think of God's solution for the sin of mankind?
- ❓ Do you think God should just forgive everyone?

## #2 – Jesus Has Given You New Life (cont.)

- Where is Jesus Now?
  - Forty days after His resurrection, Jesus ascended into heaven



- What is Jesus doing in heaven?

- Preparing a place for you

**John 14:2 (New International Version)**

<sup>2</sup>In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you.

- Praying for you

**Hebrews 4:15-16 (New International Version)**

<sup>15</sup>For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. <sup>16</sup>Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

- Keeping the universe going for you

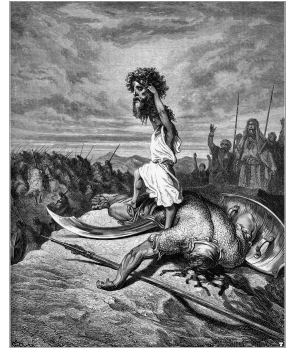
**Colossians 1:17 (New International Version)**

<sup>17</sup>He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

- When you consider how much Jesus has done for you...and continues to do for you...your response can only be worship and praise

### #3 – The Holy Spirit Has Equipped You With Spiritual Power

- As Christians, we all need some guidance and mentoring
- You may be thinking you need a spiritual advisor
  - I want to please God, but don't know what that entails...
  - I want to read the Bible, but I'm not sure where to start...
  - I want to pray, but I don't know how...
- God has provided us with a spiritual advisor...none other than God Himself...in the person of the Holy Spirit
- When you became a Christian, the Holy Spirit took up residence inside you
- Christians refer to this as the *indwelling*



### #3 – The Holy Spirit Has Equipped You With Spiritual Power (cont.)

- Your body is like a temple for the Holy Spirit

**1 Corinthians 6:19 (New International Version)**

<sup>19</sup>Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;

- Jesus told his disciples that they and all other believers would be indwelt with the Holy Spirit
- Jesus told the disciples that the Holy Spirit was a companion who counsels, comforts, instructs, and advises

**John 14:16-17 (New International Version)**

<sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever— <sup>17</sup>the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be<sup>[a]</sup> in you.

### #3 – The Holy Spirit Has Equipped You With Spiritual Power (cont.)

- What about today?...what does the Holy Spirit do for us?
  - Guarantees our salvation
  - Helps us know the mind of God
  - Helps us pray
  - Helps us worship
  - Helps us during times of stress
  - Serves as our spiritual guide
  - Transforms us
  - Has a supernatural gift for each of us
    - Prophecy, ministry, teaching, exhortation, giving, leading, compassion, wisdom, knowledge, faith, prophecy, miracles, healing, tongues, tongue interpretation
- Some people complain that they need to get more of the Holy Spirit into their life...they have it all wrong
- As a believer...we have all of Him...spiritual growth is a matter of turning over your life to the Holy Spirit and following His direction...letting Him have influence over your life



## Dig Deeper

- Here are some other suggestions for further exploration:
  - Surf      Love Letter – God Has Written You a Letter  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eBdG2hUgrRI&feature=related>  
  
Why did Jesus have to die for our sins?  
<http://www.carm.org/christianity/christian-doctrine/why-did-jesus-have-die-our-sins>  
  
Finding Your Spiritual Gifts Self-Assessment  
<http://www.makedisciples.com/spiritgifts/spiritgifts.htm>
  - Watch      The 4-week LifeChurch.tv message series *The Ghost*  
<http://www.lifechurch.tv/message-archive/watch/ghost>
  - Read      *What is so amazing about Grace?* By Philip Yancey  
*The Jesus I Never Knew* By Philip Yancey  
*Embracing the Love of God* by James B. Smith

## Session 4 – What Does God Want You To Do?

*Read His Word – The Bible*



I am a creature of a day. I am a spirit come from God, and returning to God. I want to know one thing: the way to heaven. God himself has condescended to teach me the way. He has written it down in a book. Oh, give me that book! At any price give me the book of God. Let me be a man of one book.

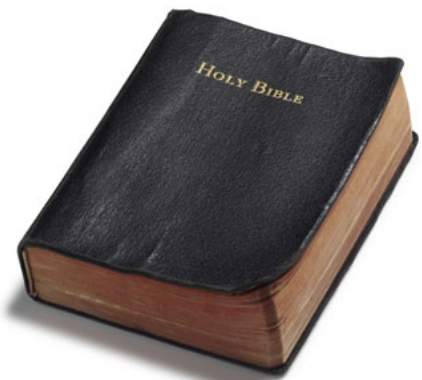
– John Wesley

## Welcome and Introduction

- Last week:
  - Examined the question: What did God do for us?
    - #1 - God has saved us forever
    - #2 - Jesus has given us new life
    - #3 - The Holy Spirit has equipped us with spiritual power
- This week:
  - What does God want us to do? Read His Word – The Bible
    - Why don't people read and study the Bible?
    - What makes the Bible so special?
    - How did God do it?
    - Can translations of the Bible be trusted?
    - How do I read the Bible?
    - What is the overall plot of the Bible?
    - What if there was no Bible?
    - Where do I start?

## Why Don't People Read And Study The Bible?

- Survey of Americans and their Bibles
  - 80% consider the Bible the most influential book in human history
  - 90% of those surveyed claimed they owned a Bible; 75% more than one Bible
  - Nearly HALF said they never or only rarely read it
  - Why is this?
    - Scripture is being touted less and less as central to the Christian life
    - It is wielded as a weapon against people
    - The Bible says things we don't like
    - "Experts" have eroded our confidence in Scripture
    - We are undisciplined and lazy
    - #1 answer – It is difficult to understand



What are some of the reasons you don't read your Bible and do you feel it is difficult to understand?

## What Makes The Bible So Special?

- The Bible is:
  - **A great story** – the story of God and man from creation to the end of the world
  - **A great literary achievement** – the plots, characters, and settings are timeless
  - **A great history book** – proven to be totally accurate historically and archeologically
  - **A great book of prophecy** – 100% accuracy in predicting future events
  - **A great Holy book** – the best seller of all time
  - **GOD'S MESSAGE** – the Bible contains the very words of God...you can know Him
- Why the written word?
  - God can communicate to the world however He chooses yet he chose the written word
  - The written word is reliable – the words remain intact



What can you think of in our society that still depends on the written word and why?

## If The Bible Is God's Word – How Did He Do It?

- God used the Holy Spirit to *inspire* 40 different writers over 1500 years to write down His words

### **2 Timothy 3:16 (New Living Translation)**

<sup>16</sup> All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.

- Church leaders recognized individual books of the Bible as being inspired by God – The Canon of Scripture -- Canon indicates the measure or the standard used to evaluate which books were inspired and which ones weren't
  - Does the book speak with God's authority?
  - Is it written by a man of God speaking to us as a prophet of God?
  - Does it impact us with the power of God?
  - Was it accepted by the people of God?
  - The total canon of Scripture that we have today (66 books) was recognized by the fourth century A.D.
- Scribes meticulously transcribed the Bible through the ages
  - No word or letter or any other mark may be written from memory
  - Between every letter, the space of a hair or thread must intervene
  - Should a king address the scribe while writing the name of God, he must take no notice of him until he is finished

## Can Translations Of The Bible Be Trusted?

- The two major original languages of the Bible are Hebrew (Old Testament) and Greek (New Testament)

יהוה

- The Old Testament was translated into Greek in the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> century B.C.

Δ Ε Ζ

- Around the 3<sup>rd</sup> century A.D, Latin became the dominate language

ℱ ℒ ℙ

- In 405 A.D., the entire Bible was translated to Latin

- About 1000 years later, the Bible was translated to English, at a very high cost

A B C



Why do you think it took so long to translate the Bible to English?

- Today, the Bible is translated into over 2000 languages; not to mention several English translations
  - King James Version, New King James Version, New International Version, New Revised Standard Version, New American Standard Version, Today's New International Version, The Message, etc.



Which Bible translation is best for you?

## How Do I Read The Bible?

- How should I study the Bible?
  - Realize the literary context:
    - Who wrote the passage of scripture?
    - To whom was the passage of scripture written?
    - What comes before and after the passage?
    - What is the purpose of the book that contains the passage?
  - Be aware of cultural context:
    - What happened? Or what was taught in the passage?
    - What was one principle or lesson the writer was trying to communicate to his original audience?
    - Why do you think God put this passage in the Bible?
    - How should the passage impact my life?
    - How can I remember this passage and application to my life?
- What kind of routine should I develop?
  - Find a place (i.e., a special chair)
  - Choose a time (i.e., schedule it and don't try to squeeze it in)
  - Read/Study (i.e., try to read through entire books of the Bible)
  - Prayer (i.e., pray about the passages you read and let the Holy Spirit help you)
  - Journal (i.e., record the things God is doing in your life)

# A Brief Overview Of The Bible

The Old Testament (39 Books)					
Pentateuch	Historical Books		Poetry & Wisdom Books	Prophets	
Genesis Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy	Joshua Judges Ruth 1 & 2 Samuel 1 & 2 Kings 1 & 2 Chronicles Ezra Nehemiah Esther		Job Psalms Proverbs Ecclesiastes Song of Songs	Isaiah Jeremiah Lamentations Ezekial Daniel Hosea Joel Amos Obadiah	Jonah Micah Nahum Habakkuk Zephaniah Haggai Zechariah Malachi
Pentateuch means "five volumes." These books include mostly narrative stories as well as the Law that God gave Israel.	These books contain narratives that follow Israel's up and down history.		What these works have in common is their artistic form. They incorporate poetic or proverbial elements.	The prophets lived during Israel's history. They were God's spokes persons who challenged the rebellious people to turn back to God.	
The New Testament (27 Books)					
Gospels and Acts	Pauline Letters		General Letters	Apocalyptic Literature	
Matthew Mark Luke John Acts	Romans 1 & 2 Corinthians Galatians Ephesians Philippians	Colossians 1 & 2 Thessalonians 1 & 2 Timothy Titus Philemon	Hebrews James 1 & 2 Peter 1, 2, & 3 John Jude	Revelation	
These historical accounts follow Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, and the rise of the early church.	Paul's letters were written to individuals or churches and often explain the nature of the Christian life.		These letters were written by others and often focus on the church in general.	Apocalyptic literature uses vivid imagery and a cosmic narrative to portray God's ultimate consummation of history; a vision of the future that gives hope in the present.	

## What's The Overall Plot Of The Bible?

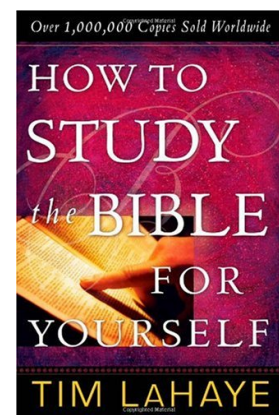
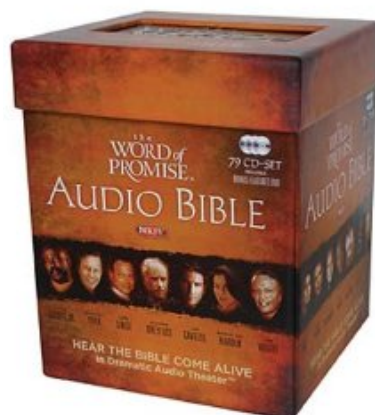
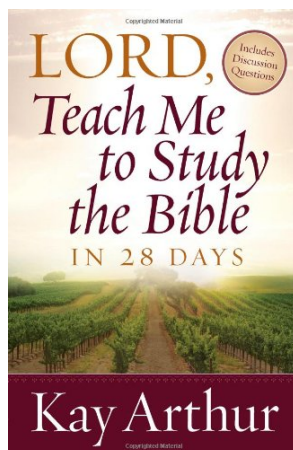
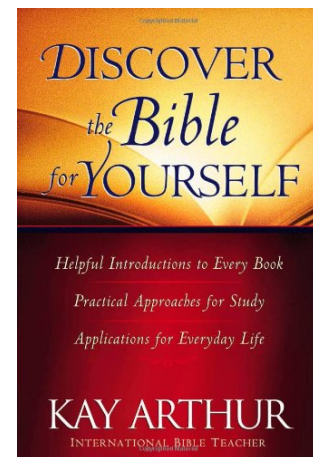
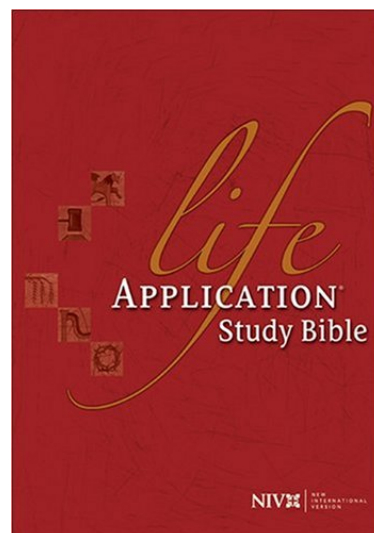
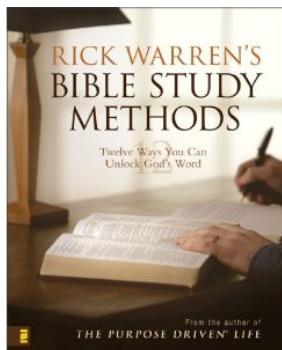
God's Story		
Prologue	Before Time Began	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Before time existed, God existed</li> <li>• Mutiny in Heaven - Satan and his angels kicked out</li> </ul>
Act 1	Creation The Story Begins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The story begins with a glorious Creator and his beautiful creation</li> <li>• Human beings were created to reflect God's image and to be in relationship with Him</li> </ul>
Act 2	Brokenness The Human Tragedy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The world is broken because humanity chose to defy God by satisfying our selfish desires</li> <li>• The result of our sinful nature is death – both physical death and death in our relationship with God</li> </ul>
Act 3	Promise The First Move	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God responded to the problem of sin with a promise that demonstrated his desire to restore his relationship with humanity</li> <li>• Like Abraham, we can trust God's promises</li> </ul>
Act 4	Law Rules to Live By	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God gave the law to the Israelites so that they could reflect his character and recognize their shortcomings</li> <li>• Keeping God's law is not a condition of a relationship with Him, but a confirmation of one</li> </ul>
Act 5	Rebellion The Depth of the Crisis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Israel's rebellion exposed the depth of the sin problem</li> <li>• When we rebel, we isolate ourselves from a relationship with God</li> </ul>
Act 6	Grace The Story's Hero	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our rebellion warrants full condemnation, but in His grace, God offers to pay the penalty for us</li> <li>• When we express faith in Jesus' death and resurrection, our relationship with God is restored</li> </ul>
Act 7	Spirit Intimacy with God	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We can grow in intimacy with God by keeping in step with His Spirit</li> <li>• God has given us the Holy Spirit to guide, correct, comfort, and encourage us</li> </ul>
Epilogue	Eternity Your Place in the Story	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each of our stories is a part of a bigger story – God's story</li> <li>• In light of eternity, your task is to find you place in the story</li> </ul>

## What If There Was No Bible?

- You might be convinced that God exists by what you see in the world...But without a Bible you would never know that...
  1. "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16)
  2. "The eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him" (2 Chronicles 16:9)
  3. "Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint" (Isaiah 40:31)
  4. You would have never heard Jesus' invitation: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28)
  5. You would never understand that "the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23)
  6. "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved," but the name Jesus (Acts 4:12)
  7. "There is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men" (1 Timothy 2:5-6)
  8. God promised "that all things work together for good to those that love God, to those who are called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28)
  9. "It is by grace that you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8)
  10. "A day is coming when God "will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning, or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away" (Revelation 21:4)

## Where Do I Start?

- Get a good Bible
- Study guides are everywhere



## Dig Deeper

- Here are some other suggestions for further exploration:
  - Surf            Bible Reading Plan Websites  
  
<http://www.youversion.com/reading-plans/all>  
  
<http://www.zondervan.com/Cultures/en-US/Product/Bible/Plans.htm?QueryStringSite=Zondervan>
  - Watch            How NOT to Read The Bible  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kFs\\_yiRxHC4&feature=fvw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kFs_yiRxHC4&feature=fvw)
  - Read            *A General Introduction to the Bible* by Norman Geisler  
  
*What the Bible is all About* by Henrietta Mears  
  
*Living by the Book* by Howard Hendricks  
  
*Adventuring through the Bible* by Ray Stedman

## Session 5 – What Does God Want You To Do?

*Spend Time With Him In Prayer*



Those persons who know the deep peace of God, the unfathomable peace that passeth all understanding, are always men and women of much prayer.

- R. A. Torrey

## Welcome and Introduction

- Last week:
  - What does God want us to do? -- Read His Word – The Bible
    - Why don't people read and study the Bible?
    - What makes the Bible so special?
    - How did God do it?
    - Can translations of the Bible be trusted?
    - How do I read the Bible?
    - What is the overall plot of the Bible?
    - What are the benefits of reading the Bible?
    - Where do I start?
- This week:
  - What does God want us to do? -- Spend time with Him in prayer
    - What does the Bible say about prayer?
    - Why should I pray?
    - Problems with prayer?
    - What are the keys to effective prayer?
    - Should I pray alone or with others?
    - What about listening?
    - Where do I start?

## What Does The Bible Say About Prayer?

- God makes it very clear in the Bible that He wants all His children to be praying because this is the primary way to talk to God

- Pray at all times

**Ephesians 6:18 (New International Version)**

<sup>18</sup>And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

- Devote yourselves to prayer

**Colossians 4:2 (New International Version)**

<sup>2</sup>Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful

- Keep on praying

**1 Thessalonians 5:17 (New International Version)**

<sup>17</sup>pray continually;

- Prayer brings you into God's presence – you are directly connected to the Creator of the universe



How would you describe your experience with prayer?



Does prayer seem like an exercise in eloquent speech that you just don't possess?

## Why Should I Pray?

- Prayer develops our relationship with God
  - If we never speak to our spouse or never listen to our spouse, our marriage relationship will quickly deteriorate; it is the same way with God

- God instructed us to pray

### **Ephesians 6:18 (New International Version)**

<sup>18</sup>And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

- You gain spiritual strength through prayer

- *Lord Jesus Christ, King of kings, you have power over life and death. You know even things that are uncertain and obscure, and our very thoughts and feelings are not hidden from you. Cleanse me from my secret faults, and I have done wrong and you saw it. You know how weak I am, both in soul and in body. Give me strength, O Lord, in my frailty and sustain me in my sufferings. Grant me a prudent judgment, dear Lord, and let me always be mindful of your blessings. Let me retain until the end your grace that has protected me till now.*

- Prayer equips you to resist temptation

- *Dear Lord, You know the temptations that I am facing today. But your Word promises that I will not be tempted beyond what I can bear. I ask for your strength to stand up under the temptation whenever I encounter it. Your Word also tells me you will provide a way out of the temptation. Please, Lord, give me the wisdom to walk away when I am tempted, and the clarity to see the way out that you will provide. Thank you, God, that you are a faithful deliverer and that I can count on your help in my time of need. AMEN.*

- God will give you wisdom if you pray for it

### **2 Chronicles 1:7 & 10 (New International Version)**

<sup>7</sup> That night God appeared to Solomon and said to him, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you." <sup>10</sup> Give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may lead this people, for who is able to govern this great people of yours?"

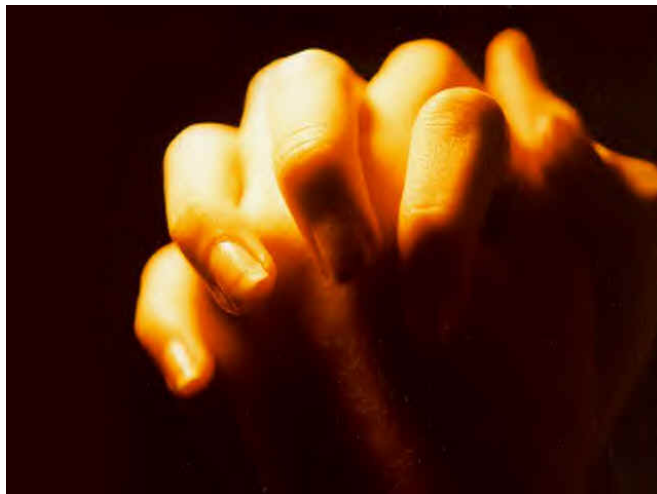
## Problems With Prayer?

- Don't know how to pray

### **Romans 8:26-27 (New International Version)**

<sup>26</sup>In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. <sup>27</sup>And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

- Don't pray at all
- Only pray when we want something – like God is a genie
- Only pray when we are in a jam
- Our prayers are self-centered and not God centered



## What Are The Keys To Effective Prayers?

- Our prayers should focus on who God is and what He wants to accomplish in our lives
- We must subordinate our needs to His desires
- Be yourself...pray the way you feel...be honest...and don't get hung up about:

- The way you speak
- You body language/posture
- What you do with your hands, eyes, or head



- Successful prayer requires:

- A humble heart
- Wholeheartedness
- Faith
- Righteousness
- Obedience

### **2 Chronicles 7:14 (New International Version)**

<sup>14</sup> if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

### **James 5:16 (New International Version)**

<sup>16</sup>Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

## Should I Pray Alone Or With Others?

- God wants us to pray together with other believers

### **Matthew 18:19 (New International Version)**

<sup>19</sup>"Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven

### **Acts 1:14 (New International Version)**

<sup>14</sup>They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers

- God also wants us to pray alone and in secret

### **Matthew 6:6 (New International Version)**

<sup>6</sup>But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you

### **Mark 1:35 (New International Version)**

<sup>35</sup>Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.

## What About Listening?

- Prayer is a two-way conversation
- God speaks to us
  - Audibly
  - Quietness of your thoughts
  - Others
  - His Word



 What has been your experience with hearing from God?

## Where Do I Start?

**A:** Adoration = praise God for who He is – our Creator, our Sustainer and our Redeemer

**C:** Confession = clear away the things in the relationship between you and God which are displeasing to Him

**T:** Thanksgiving = constantly thank God for His blessings

**S:** Supplication = our needs and the needs of others

Tip: Sometimes you will struggle with prayer – ask the Holy Spirit to help you

Let's try it together:

**A:** \_\_\_\_\_

**C:** \_\_\_\_\_

**T:** \_\_\_\_\_

**S:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Dig Deeper

- Here are some other suggestions for further exploration:
  - Surf <http://www.allaboutprayer.org/>
  - Watch
    - The Lord's Prayer  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=84nd7o1zjjA&feature=related>
    - The Prayer  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IGiQOqd\\_8EM&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IGiQOqd_8EM&feature=related)
    - The 3-week LifeChurch.tv message series *Prayer*  
[http://www.lifechurch.tv/message-archive/watch/prayer\\_2008](http://www.lifechurch.tv/message-archive/watch/prayer_2008)
    - The 1-week LifeChurch.tv message series *Whispers*  
<http://www.lifechurch.tv/message-archive/watch/whispers>
  - Read
    - Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home* by Richard Foster
    - Praying God's Word* by Beth Moore
    - How to pray when you don't know what to say* by Elmer Towns
    - The Papa Prayer: The Prayer You Never Prayed* by Larry Crabb

## Session 6 – What Does God Want You To Do?

### *Be the Church*



Church isn't where you meet. Church isn't a building. Church is what you do.  
Church is who you are. Church is the human outworking of the person of  
Jesus Christ. Let's not go to Church, let's be the church.

- Bridget Willard

## Welcome and Introduction

- Last week:
  - What does God want us to do? -- Spend time with Him in prayer
    - What does the Bible say about prayer?
    - Why should I pray?
    - Problems with prayer?
    - What are the keys to effective prayer?
    - Should I pray alone or with others?
    - What about listening?
    - Where do I start?
  
- This week:
  - What does God want us to do? -- Be the Church
    - What is Church?
    - What should you expect when you go to Church?
    - Doing Church vs. Being Church
    - Next Steps?

## First Of All – What Is Church?

- The Church is God’s great idea
  - *My church is a community of people who confess Me as their Lord. In obedience to My Word, they organize under qualified leaders, gather regularly for preaching and worship, observe the biblical sacraments of baptism and Communion, are unified by the Holy Spirit, are disciplined for holiness, all to scatter and fulfill My Great Commandment and My Great Commission as missionaries to the world for God’s glory and their joy.*
- The Church is where people, like you, who “belong to the Lord” and who have been “called out” by God gather regularly to:
  - Worship God
  - Study the Bible
  - Encourage one another
- Church is much broader than a particular location – we are the Church!!
  - LifeChurch.tv weekend experience
  - Life Group
  - Spending time with fellow believers
  - Loving, serving, and reaching the LOST



How would you describe your church experience?

## What Should You Expect When You Go To Church?

- **You will be worshipping God:** worship can include praying, reading God's Word with an open heart, singing, participating in communion, and serving others. It's not limited to one act, but is done properly when the heart and attitude of the person is in the right place
- **You will be hearing the Word of God:** the Word of God, which is living and active, calls each of us individually and all of us together for a response that affects our daily lives, leading us to engage fully in the task of making Christ known to the world by all that we do and say
- **You will be participating in Baptism:** water Baptism is an act of obedience for the believer. It should be preceded by repentance, which simply means “change.” It is turning from our sin and selfishness to serve the Lord. It means placing our pride, our past and all of our possessions before the Lord. It is giving the control of our lives over to Him.
- **You will be participating in Communion:** unlike Baptism, which is a one time event, Communion is a practice that is meant to be observed over and over throughout the life of a Christian. It is a holy time of worship when we corporately come together as one body to remember and celebrate what Christ did for us.
- **You will be giving tithes and offerings:** When you give tithes and offerings you are aligning your attitude and actions with universal principles originating with God, the great Giver. Tithing reflects the unselfish, giving nature of our Creator and Provider. Through willing and cheerful giving, we honor God while supporting the physical means of preaching the gospel.
- **You will be putting your spiritual gifts that God has given you to work:** God has given all of us spiritual gifts and it is our responsibility to use them to help others and build up and benefit the entire church.

## Doing Church Vs. Being Church

- Doing Church:
  - Church becomes an event
  - It is another activity in the week, a club that we participate in, a reminder on our calendar, a building where we gather and sing and learn
  - It could be connected to other activities in life, but that is not a necessity
  - Doing church means people need to look good and fit in
  - When I invite someone to doing church, I'm inviting them to an experience on the weekend because that's where we talk about spiritual things
  - Church is something we do
  - It is action unattached to character
- Being Church:
  - The church becomes an identity; it is a lifestyle, a moment-by-moment movement that we're always participating in
  - We gather and sing and learn and eat meals together and play sports and make music and listen to our hurting friends and serve the marginalized and clean up a park and travel to other countries because we are the church
  - Means tearing down facades of perfection and being authentic about our brokenness
  - When I invite someone to being church, I'm inviting them into an ongoing relationship with myself because Jesus loves them and I love Jesus
  - Church is something we are; it is action flowing from identity.

## Dig Deeper

- Here are some other suggestions for further exploration:
  - Watch
    - What is the Church?  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ifnJtkAnBq4&feature=related>
    - What is Church? (Note: only one person gets it right at 1:25)  
<http://vimeo.com/7058227>
    - The 2-week LifeChurch.tv message series *A Place for Everyone*  
<http://www.lifechurch.tv/message-archive/watch/place-for everyone>
    - The 2-week LifeChurch.tv message series *Stop Acting Like a Christian and Be One*  
<http://www.lifechurch.tv/message-archive/watch/stop-acting-like-a-christian>
    - The 3-week LifeChurch.tv message series *Behind the Curtain*  
<http://www.lifechurch.tv/message-archive/watch/behind-the-curtain>
    - The 3-week LifeChurch.tv message series *Unstoppable*  
<http://www.lifechurch.tv/message-archive/watch/unstoppable>
  - Read
    - Being the Body* by Chuck Colson
    - How Now Shall We Live* by Chuck Colson
    - Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis
    - The Purpose of Man* by A.W. Tozer
    - So You Don't Want To Go To Church Anymore?* by Wayne Jacobson

## Summary

- Over the past six weeks, we have examined together the following questions:
  - What's Your Story?
  - Who is God?
  - What Did God Do For You?
  - What Does God Want You To Do? (Read the Bible, Pray, Be the Church)
- You may be wondering why God wants us to do these things
  - He knows that these are the disciplines that transform us into a person “after God’s own heart” (1 Samuel 13:14 speaks of David as being a man after God’s own heart)
  - What does having a heart like God even look like?
    - It means your life is in harmony with the Lord
    - What is important to God is important to you
    - What burdens God burdens you
    - When He says, “go to the right,” you go to the right
    - When He says, “stop that in your life,” you stop it
    - When He says, “this is wrong and I want you to change,” you come to terms with it because you have a heart for God
  - But why and how?

## Summary (cont.)

- First the Why?
  - Our growth as a Christian depends upon a continuing and deepening relationship with Jesus
  - Our growth is not solely for our benefit...it provides collateral benefit to others; we are God's witnesses...this is what we exist for
  - Just as Jesus had compassion for you...as you become more like Him...you will have more compassion for others
  - As much as for others as for yourself, you need to reflect the love of Christ to those you know and don't hesitate to share the change in your life

### **Colossians 3:17 (New International Version)**

<sup>17</sup>And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

- But how...how can I have a heart like God's?

- Loving one another

### **John 13:35 (New International Version)**

<sup>34</sup>"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

- Becoming a disciple and making disciples – commit to the person of Christ...pray to Him...serve Him...get to know His teachings...pray for discernment...do what He says
- Sharing your faith – simply telling and showing someone else the story of what God has done for you personally

- And remember...it takes the power of God to produce the character of God

## Next Steps? Baptism

- What is Baptism?
  - Baptism is an outward showing of what has already taken place in the heart of someone who has received Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior
  - Through baptism we identify with the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ
  - Symbolically, we die to our old ways, and we rise out of the water in newness of life
- Why should I be Baptized?
  - Obedience – the last thing Jesus told His disciples: *“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*
- Is there anything “special” about Baptism?
  - The simple answer to the question is no -- there is no magic, special water, or secret ceremony
  - It is an outward demonstration of your inward transformation
- Does Baptism save me?
  - Our salvation is God’s gift that we receive through our trust in Christ and what He did -- In Scripture, baptism is closely linked with salvation but it is never requirement of salvation
- Baptism info and points of contact go here



## Next Steps? LifeGroups

### *What are LifeGroups?*

God is a God of community. This is first exemplified in the Triune expression of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Through eternity, God has never been alone. He is a God of relationships. Understanding this part of His divine nature, then, we can deduce that God's creation is designed with this same imprint. The family design is all about relationship between husband, wife, and children. Church design is about relationship between the Trinity and the body of Christ. Yes, even government design is about relationship between God, elected officials, and the people. There is no direction in which we can turn where we do not see God's design for community. Therefore, being part of a LifeGroup where you can grow (spiritually and relationally) is a key element to becoming a fully devoted follower of Christ.

### *Types of LifeGroups*

Men's  
Women's  
Married  
Everyone Welcome  
Singles  
College-age  
Points of Contact

***Ready? Go to [findalifegroup.tv](http://findalifegroup.tv) or  
E-mail us at [suzi.hanson@lifechurch.tv](mailto:suzi.hanson@lifechurch.tv)***

## Next Steps? Missions

### *How do I Make a Difference?*

At LifeChurch.tv, we believe that our spiritual lives will soon become self-centered and anemic without stepping into the community and making an impact for God. We believe the difference you can make happens best when you see as many of these characteristics as possible come together:

1. Know your own passions and gifts
2. Identify a work that you can partner long-term with
3. Try to make this a regular part of your LifeGroup to serve together

At the info area in the lobby, you can find details on the missions groups we have built a strong relationship with and funnel many groups and individuals to. Or, visit [www.signpostokc.com](http://www.signpostokc.com) to find another missions group you are passionate about.

***Always be on the lookout for seasonal micro-mission projects we hold for the entire campus! These are a great way to get to know people, meet great missions partners, and even find a LifeGroup!***

## Next Steps? Service

### *Serving at LifeChurch.tv*

Imagine a member of your family who takes but never gives back. There's no question in our families that we each have a responsibility to give as well as receive. The same goes for your church family. When we each use our passions, skills, and gifts within the church, it becomes a place of greater effectiveness and health. There's a place for you at LifeChurch.tv. How do you get started? Just start serving...somewhere...anywhere! Preferably something you'll enjoy!

### *Opportunities*

LifeKids: [lisa.urrutia@lifechurch.tv](mailto:lisa.urrutia@lifechurch.tv)

SWITCH youth: [whitney.cowan@lifechurch.tv](mailto:whitney.cowan@lifechurch.tv)

Greeters, ushers, etc.: [cari.kelley@lifechurch.tv](mailto:cari.kelley@lifechurch.tv)

LifeGroup leadership: [suzi.hanson@lifechurch.tv](mailto:suzi.hanson@lifechurch.tv)

Missions leadership: [suzi.hanson@lifechurch.tv](mailto:suzi.hanson@lifechurch.tv)

Office work: [cari.kelley@lifechurch.tv](mailto:cari.kelley@lifechurch.tv)

Facilities care: [arthur.smith@lifechurch.tv](mailto:arthur.smith@lifechurch.tv)

Information Area: [suzi.hanson@lifechurch.tv](mailto:suzi.hanson@lifechurch.tv)