



Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. Matthew 28:19-20

Post Grad Group Agenda

Lesson 4 – Week of October 19th

1. Mingling and catching up. (10 minutes) __:00 - __:10
2. Begin with a short prayer for your time together. (5 minutes) __:10 - __:15
3. Move to a time of accountability. (20 minutes) __:15 - __:35
 - i. **Accountability Questions on your Scripture Reading & Meditation**
 - ☐ How faithfully have you read and meditated on God's Word this week?
 - ☐ What passage stood out, and how did you apply it to your life?
 - ☐ Did you memorize or share Scripture with someone else?
 - ☐ How has God's Word shaped your decisions or perspective this week?
 - ii. **Homework**
 - ☐ Did you accomplish at least five devotionals this week?
 - ☐ Did you read *Union with Christ*, Chapter 1: "God at a Convenient Distance"?
 - ☐ Did you complete the Bible Study on Ephesians 2:1-10?
4. Lesson Time. (40-55 minutes) __:35 - __:15 __:35 - __:30

From the Bible study on Ephesians 2:1-10

- i. Question 3: Taken together, what do the images from verses 1–3 (dead, enslaved to "the prince of the power of the air," under wrath) communicate about the human condition apart from Christ?
Suggested answer: The images describe spiritual death, bondage, disordered desire, and exposure to judgment. The condition is one people cannot reverse by their own effort.
- ii. Question 4: Verse 4 begins with "But God" — arguably one of the great pivots in all of scripture. What is it in God's character, according to verse 4, that moves him to act on behalf of people who were dead in sin?
Suggested answer: God acts because he is rich in mercy and because of the great love with which he loved us (v. 4).
- iii. Question 5: What would it look like this week to live from the security of being raised and seated with Christ rather than trying to earn your place?

From Union with Christ

- iv. Question 1: What does Billings mean by the acronym MTD, and what are the five points of the “creed” he lists from Christian Smith’s research?
Suggested answer: MTD means Moralistic Therapeutic Deism: God created and watches the world; God wants people to be good, nice, and fair; life’s central goal is happiness and feeling good; God is not needed except to solve problems; and good people go to heaven.
- v. Question 2: Billings argues MTD is fundamentally “deistic.” Why does he think a religion focused on being “good, nice, and fair” logically implies a distant God rather than a present, saving one?
Suggested answer: If the central religious task is simply to be nice and feel good, no present saving communion is necessary. God becomes a distant observer or emergency helper rather than the Father who unites people to Christ by the Spirit.
- vi. Question 3: Billings claims MTD functions as an unspoken “American theology” cutting across denominational lines. Where have you caught traces of MTD in your own assumptions about God, prayer, or what a “good Christian life” looks like?
- vii. Question 4: If you’re honest, which of the five MTD points (a distant watching God, God-wants-you-nice, life’s goal is feeling good, God-only-for-emergencies, good-people-go-to-heaven) is most alive in your own unspoken assumptions right now? What’s one honest step this week toward a nearer, more communion-shaped view of God instead?

5. Prayer time (15 minutes)

__:15 - __:30

__:30 - __:45

- i. Ask for specific prayer requests from members.
- ii. Pray for one another as you wish.
- iii. Write down these prayer requests so you can follow up in the next meeting.

HOMEWORK

Week of October 26th

- ☐ Complete 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 Bible study.
- ☐ Read *Billings* Ch. 1, “Learning to be Children of God.”
- ☐ Decide who will be facilitating next week. The agenda can be **found online**.

** Make sure you fill out the “Weekly Feedback Form” and the “Post Grad Group Facilitator Evaluation” at <http://gracehamptons.org/postgrad>