

Small Group Handbook



Tips - Outlines - Attendance Forms - FAQ - Prayer Guide

For: Powerpoint Slides - Discussion Questions and MORE,

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Small Group Agreement

It's a good idea for every group to put words to their shared values, expectations, and commitments. Such an agreement will help you avoid unspoken agendas and unmet expectations. We recommend you discuss your agreement during session 1 (one) in order to lay the foundation for a healthy group experience. Feel free to modify anything that does not work for your group.

If the idea of a written agreement is unfamiliar to your group, we encourage you to give it a try.

We agree to the following VALUES:

Clear Purpose	To grow healthy spiritual lives by building a healthy small group community
Group Attendance	To give priority to the group meeting (call if I will be absent or late)
Safe Environment	To help create a safe place where people can be heard and feel loved (no quick answers, snap judgments, or simple fixes)
Be Confidential	To keep anything that is shared strictly confidential within the group
Spiritual Health	To give group members permission to help me live a healthy, balanced spiritual life that is pleasing to God
Welcome Newcomers	To invite our friends who might benefit from this study and warmly welcome newcomers
Building Relationships	To get to know the other members of the group and pray for them regularly

Frequently Asked Questions

Who may attend group?

Anybody you feel would benefit. As you begin, we encourage each attendee to invite at least one other friend to join. The best time to have people join the group is in the first or second week of a new study. Take some time at your first meeting to share names of friends with group members so that as a group you can pray that they might be open to attend.

How long will this group meet?

This series is 13 (thirteen) weeks long, and we are encouraging groups to add one additional week for a celebration. At the end of this study, each group member may decide if he or she desires to continue on for another series of study. In your final session, week 13 (thirteen), take time to discuss your *Group Agreement* and what study you might do next.

Who is the Facilitator?

Most groups have a facilitator. If you do not have a facilitator, take a few minutes to talk about who will be the facilitator in your group. We encourage you to select one or more discussion facilitators. We recommend that you rotate the job of facilitating your discussions, creating opportunities for everyone's gifts to develop. Several other responsibilities can be rotated including refreshments, prayer requests, worship, or keeping up with those who miss a meeting. Shared ownership in the group helps everyone grow.

Where do we find new group members for our group?

This can be an issue for groups, especially new groups starting with just a few people, or existing groups that lose a few people along the way. We encourage you to brainstorm a list of people from your work, church, neighborhood, children's school, family, the gym, and so on. Then pray for the people on each member's list. Have each group member invite several people on their list. No matter how you find members, it is important to continue actively looking for new people to join your group. All groups go through some healthy attrition as a result of moves, releasing new facilitators, ministry opportunities, and so forth. If the group gets too small, it runs the risk of shutting down. Remember, the next person you add just might become a friend for eternity! You never know.

How do we handle the childcare needs in our group?

Very carefully. This is a sensitive issue in groups. We suggest that you seek creative solutions as a group. One common solution is to meet in the living room with the adults and share the cost of a babysitter (or two) who can be with the kids in another part of the house. Another popular solution is to have one home for the kids and a second home (close by) for the adults. If desired, the adults could rotate the responsibility of providing a lesson for the kids. This last option is great with school age kids and can be a huge blessing to families.

What if we cannot get through all of the questions each week?

The curriculum is provided to serve you as a group and as a facilitator. Do not feel obligated to get through all of the questions in the study guide. Be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit during your group meetings. Some items will be more applicable for your group than others. Choose those items that best fit your group life. However, if an item stretches you as a group, do not ignore it. New experiences will breathe new growth and community into your small group.

Many groups are able to complete the study guides in the suggested 13 (thirteen) weeks, while others may take a few extra weeks. Please feel free to adjust your pace according to the needs of your group. If the need arises to take a week and give attention to needs in your group, do so. Then come back to the study guide the next week. We encourage you to periodically meet together specifically for the purpose of building relationships within your group.

Is it Biblically Correct for a Woman to be facilitating this small group?

As Southern Baptist we do agree with 1 Timothy 2:12. and we prohibit women from teaching Christian doctrine to men. In this study Dr. Del Tackett provides the teaching and we are asking our group facilitators to simply guide conversation. This can be a very sensitive issue and if any disagreements or concerns arise on this matter, please contact one of our Pastors to share your concern.

Facilitator Tips

Congratulations! You have responded to the call to help shepherd Jesus flock. Few other tasks in the family of God surpass the contribution you will be making. As you prepare to facilitate, whether it is one session or an entire series, here are a few thoughts to keep in mind.

Be friendly and be yourself! Be sure to greet people at the door with a big smile. This can set the mood for the meeting. Remember, THEY are taking as big a step as you are to show up at your house! In the first session, be sure to take the time to have everyone briefly introduce themselves and make a special effort to make new folks feel welcome and wanted without feeling smothered.

Remember you are not alone. God knows everything about you, and He knew you would be asked to facilitate your group. Even though you may not feel ready to facilitate, this is common. God promises, “I will never leave you; I will never abandon you” (Hebrews 13:5 TEV). Whether you are facilitating for one evening, several weeks, or a lifetime, you will be blessed as you serve.

Don't try to do it alone. Pray right now for God to help you build a healthy small group. If you can enlist a co-facilitator to help you, you will find your experience much richer. This is your chance to involve as many people as you can in building a healthy group. All you have to do is ask people to help and you'll be surprised at the response.

Just be yourself. God wants to use your unique gifts and temperament. Don't try to do things exactly like another facilitator; do them in a way that fits you. Admit when you don't have an answer and apologize when you make a mistake. Your group will love you for it, and you'll sleep better at night.

Prepare for your meeting ahead of time. Review the session and the facilitator's notes and write down your response to each question. Pay special attention to exercises that ask group members to do something other than engage in discussion. These exercises will help your group live what the Bible teaches, not just talk about it. Be sure you understand how each exercise works.

Pray for your group members by name. Before you begin your session, take a few moments to pray for each member by name. You may want to review the prayer list at least once a week. Ask God to use your time together to touch the heart of every person uniquely. Expect God to lead you to whomever He wants you to encourage or challenge in a special way. If you listen, God will surely lead.

When you ask a question, be patient. Someone will eventually respond. Sometimes people need a moment or two of silence to think about the question. If silence doesn't bother you, it won't bother anyone else. After someone responds, affirm the response with a simple "thanks" or "great answer." Then ask, "How about somebody else?" or "Would someone who hasn't shared like to add anything?" Be sensitive to new people or reluctant members who aren't ready to say, pray, or do anything. If you give them a safe setting, they will blossom over time.

Break into small groups occasionally. With a greater opportunity to talk in a small circle, people will connect more with the study, apply more quickly what they are learning, and ultimately get more out of it. A small circle encourages a quiet person to participate and tends to minimize the effects of a more vocal or dominant member. Small circles are helpful during prayer time. People who are unaccustomed to praying aloud will feel more comfortable trying with just two or three others. Also, prayer requests won't take as much time, so circles will have more time to actually pray. When you gather back with the whole group, you can have one person from each small circle briefly update anyone on the prayer requests. People are more willing to pray in small circles if they know the whole group will hear all the prayer requests.

Rotate facilitators occasionally. You may be perfectly capable of facilitating each time, but you will help others grow in their faith and gifts if you give them opportunities to facilitate. You can use the Group Calendar to fill in the names of the facilitators for each week of the study if you prefer.

One final challenge (for new or first time facilitators). Before your first opportunity to facilitate, look up each of the five passages listed below. Reach each as a devotional exercise to help prepare you with a shepherd's heart. If you do this, you will be more than ready for your first meeting.

- Matthew 9:35-38
- 1 Peter 5:2-4
- Philippians 2:1-5
- Hebrews 10:23-35
- I Thessalonians 2:7,8,11-12

Lesson 1 - Veritology: What is Truth?

- I. Introduction - A Worldview Tour
 - A. Comprehensive - The worldview compass directs us to God's design in all areas of life
 - B. Systematic - Temple structure explains the foundations and framework of course topics
 - C. Purpose of tour - To gaze upon the face of God
- II. Why was Jesus Born? Why did He come into the World?
 - A. To testify to the Truth - John 18:37
 - B. Scriptural emphasis on Truth - Sanctification and salvation connection to Truth
 - C. Man's sinful nature will suppress, distort, reject, and exchange God's truth for lies
- III. The Cosmic Battle - Spirit of Truth vs. Spirit of Falsehood - Reality vs. Illusion
 - A. Scene in heaven between God and Satan - Job 1 & 2 - "Did God really say?"
 - B. Link between salvation and truth - 2 Thessalonians 2 - "... God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the spirit and the belief in the truth."
 - C. Two Fathers - John 8:44 - "You belong to your father, the devil"
 - D. Connection between sin, lies and deceit - Every sin that besets us can be traced to a belief in a lie - Our sins take us captive to the lies of the world
 - E. Dealing with outsiders - 2 Timothy 2 and Colossians 4:5-6 - They have been taken captive and we must "gently instruct them" and let our "speech be seasoned with salt"
 - F. Battle of Worldviews - Opposition between God's truth claims and the lies of the world, the flesh, and the devil
- IV. What is Truth? - Truth as it relates to Reality
 - A. Webster's 1828 definition - "Conformity to fact or reality"
 - B. Equating an idol to a lie - Isaiah 44 - Lies are powerful and lead us to insane notions
 - C. What is Insanity? - We all suffer from "Common Insanity" - losing touch with reality
 - 1. Our actions reflect what we believe to be *really real* : Jesus' example in Matthew 6 asking "Why do you worry?...will He not care for you, O you of little faith?"
 - 2. Connecting faith with our actions and emotions: God is the object of our faith and our hope - Our actions are the most reliable indicator of our belief
 - D. God is the ultimate source of Truth - Colossians 2:2-3
- V. Conclusion - "Do you *really* believe, that what you believe is *really real*?"

Isaiah 6:1-8	John 18:33-38	Matt 5:18	Matt 10:15
Matt 13:17	Matt 16:28	Matt 17:20	Matt 18:3, 18
Matt 19:23	Matt 21:21	Matt 23:36	Matt 24:2
Matt 25:40	Matt 26:21	Matt 26:34	John 3:3
John 3:5	John 3:11	John 5:19, 24, 25	John 1:17
John 14:6	John 6:26, 32, 47, 53	John 8:34, 51, 58	John 17:17
John 4:24	John 8:32	John 14:16-17	John 16:13
1 Tim 2:3-4	Eph 6:14	Isaiah 59:4	Jer 7:28
Isaiah 59:15	1 Tim 6:13	2 Tim 4:3-4	Rom 1:18
Acts 20:30	Rom 2:8	Rom 1:25	1 John 4:6
Job 1 & 2	2 Thess 2:9-13	John 8:34-47	Rom 7:11
2 Thess 2:10	Eph 4:22	Heb 3:13	1 John 3:10
2 Tim 2:24-26	Col 4:5-6	Isaiah 44:18-20	Isaiah 44:17
Matt 6:25-34	Col 2:2-4		

Lesson 2 - Philosophy & Ethics: Says Who?

- I. Introduction - Have you been taken captive? - 2 Timothy 2:24-26
 - A. Scriptural warning against hollow and deceptive philosophy - Colossians 2:8
 - B. Carl Sagan's Worldview - "The Cosmos is all there is, or ever was, or will be"
 - C. Assumptive language - A powerful and dangerous form of knowledge
 - D. Cosmic Cube - Illustrates the naturalistic worldview belief that there is nothing outside the cosmos; reality is a closed box and all truth must be materially perceived
 - E. Biblical presuppositions - God is and He has revealed himself to us (general revelation through our world and specific revelation through His word)
 - F. God's Nature - Transcendent and immanent - He is above and works within the box
- II. Philosophy - What is it?
 - A. Webster 1828 definition vs Current definition - God has been removed from the discipline of philosophy in today's culture
 - B. Philosophical Questions - What is existence? What is the meaning and purpose of life?
 - C. Universal and Particulars - Aristotle and Plato's philosophical dilemma - How do we arrive at Truth? How do we make sense of the unity and diversity of our world?
- III. Postmodernism - Can you live it?
 - A. What is Right? What is wrong? - Ethical implications of postmodernism - There is no basis for ethical standards or ethical language in a naturalistic worldview
 - B. Plato's Question - "Is an act right because God said it, or did God know it was right and told us about it?" - His laws are an expression of His nature
 - C. Naturalistic philosophy implications - Darwin's views in non-assumptive language
 - D. Statistical Ethics - Our culture determines ethics through normalcy and survey data
- IV. Worldview - Formal worldview vs personal worldview
 - A. Lack of a personal, biblical worldview in America - We fail to see Christianity as a worldview that governs every area of life
 - B. Our worldview drives how we think, act, and feel - What we really believe
 - C. Consequences of a non-biblical worldview: We buy the lies and conform to the world
- V. Conclusion and Solution - Renewing of the Mind - Metamorphoo - Romans 12:2
"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."

2 Tim 2:24-26
2Cor 3:18

Col 2:8

Rom 12:2

Mark 9:2

Lesson 3 - Anthropology: Who is man?

- I. Introduction - The Problem of Evil and Who is man?
 - A. Primary Doctrine - Who is Man? Who is God? - The answers to these two questions form the foundation of everyone's worldview
 - B. The cosmic battle within - Galatians 5:16-17 - Our sinful nature is in constant conflict with God's Spirit - Romans 7:15-25, Romans 6:12, Romans 8:5-14
- II. Man's Essence
 - A. States of man
 - 1. Innocent - Genesis 1:27
 - 2. Fallen - Romans 5:12, Genesis 6:5
 - a. Hell - Revelation 20:15, Hebrew 9:27
 - 3. Redeemed - Revelation 5:9
 - a. Glorified - 1 Corinthians 15:42
 - B. Dualistic or Monistic - Both flesh and spirit or purely material?
 - C. Naturalistic Philosophy Implications - no gods or purposive forces, no foundation for ethics, no free will, no life after death, no meaning in life
- III. Man's moral state and Man's needs
 - A. Abraham Maslow - Hierarchy of Needs - man's ultimate objective is self-actualization - The Pernicious lie - getting in touch with your inner nature
 - B. Basically good or sinful? - Depravity of man - Man's propensity for evil
 - C. Carl Rogers - "I do not find that evil is inherent in human nature."
 - D. Scriptural Truth - Put to death your earthly nature - Romans 8:13, Colossians 3:5-10
- IV. If evil is not inherent in man, then where does evil come from?
 - A. Abraham Maslow - "Sick people are made by a sick culture ..."
 - B. Carl Rogers - "... experience leads me to believe that it is cultural influences which are the major factor in our evil behaviors."
 - C. Social institutions and authority structures are blamed for man's evil actions - provides basis for understanding the battleground over social institutions today
- V. Why should "evil" bother someone with a secular worldview? - the question of evil is more difficult for them than us

Gal 5: 16-17
Rev 20:15
Rom 6:12
Col 3:5-10

Gen 1:27
Heb 9:27
Rom 8:5-14
Rom 7:24-25

Rom 5:12
Rev 5:9
1 Cor 15:42

Gen 6:5
Rom 7:14-20
Rom 8:13

Lesson 4 -Theology: Who is God?

- I. Introduction - Theology - Who is God?
 - A. Theology: The study of the existence, nature, and attributes of God
 - B. The Ultimate Source of Truth - Colossians 2:2-3 "Christ Himself, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."
 - C. Westminster Confession - trying to capture the infinite essence of God's nature
- II. What is Eternal Life?
 - A. Scriptural emphasis on eternal life - Luke 18:18, John 3:16, John 4:13-14, John 5:24, John 5:39-40, John 6:27, John 6:54
 - B. "Now this is eternal life ..." John 17:1-3 "... that they may know you ..."
 - C. Spurgeon's and Paul's perspective - "I want to know Christ ..."
 - D. God's perspective - Hosea 6:6, Jeremiah 9:23-24 ... that he knows me ..."
 - E. Connection between knowledge of God and knowledge of self
- III. Meaning of Names
 - A. Names of God - El Qanna - A jealous God - Deuteronomy 4:23-24, Zechariah 8:2, Exodus 34:14
 - B. Jacob, Abram, Moses, Simon, Saul, John, Jesus
 - C. Your name - Your identity in Christ and as a child of God
- IV. The Attack
 - A. The Battle - 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 - "We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself against the knowledge of God ..."
 - B. On God - His nature, His character
 - C. On His Word - Throughout history men have tried to destroy God's Word
 - 1. Jesus Seminar - democratic voting process on God's Word
 - 2. Ezekiel 22:26-28 - "... her priests have done violence to my law ..."
 - 3. Joram and Jehoram - Unraveling a supposed conflict - Can you trust the Word of God? - "The Mysterious Numbers of the Hebrew Kings"
 - D. 1 Peter 1:24-25 "... the word of the Lord stands forever."
 - E. Hebrews 4:12 "For the word of God is living and active ..."
- V. Conclusion - God's word can be trusted

Key Scriptures:

Col 2:3	John 3:16	Luke 18:18	John 4:13-14
John 5:24	John 5:39-40	John 6:27	John 6:54
John 17: 1-3	Phil 3:8-10	Hosea 6:6	Jer 9: 23-24
Deut 4: 23-24	Zech 8:2	Ex 34:10-17	Gen 32:28
Gen 17:5	Luke 1:13	Psa 42:1-2	2 Cor 10:4-5
1 Pet 1:24-25	Ezek 22:26-28	1 King 16:29	2 King 8:16
2 King 1:17	2 King 3:1	Heb 4:12	

Lesson 5 - Science: What is True?

- I. Introduction
 - A. Psalm 19:1-4 - "The heavens declare the Glory of God" - General Revelation
 - B. Romans 1:18-20 - "God has made it plain to them ..."
 - C. Only two possibilities: the cosmos has always existed or the cosmos had a beginning - either one poses a serious problem for those who deny a Creator
- II. Design vs. Randomness
 - A. Earliest scientists were convinced that the universe bore evidence of design
 - B. Scrabble Example - Where does the organized information in the genetic code come from?
 - C. Wald- "Time is the hero of the plot ...the impossible becomes possible."
- III. Examining Darwin's Theory
 - A. Hypothesis, theory, law - data must confirm investigation of truth claims
 - B. Darwinian Evolution taught as "Fact" - Does his theory match reality?
 - C. Paley's Argument - Anyone who looks at a pocket watch understands that it was designed with intelligent purpose
 - D. Ignoring the obvious - Francis Crick: You've got to keep in mind that all of this was not designed
- IV. Testing Carl Sagan's Statement - "Evolution is a fact amply demonstrated by the fossil record and contemporary molecular biology."
 - A. Contemporary Molecular Biology - testing Darwin's statement that his theory would absolutely break down if it could be demonstrated that a complex organism could not come into existence without numerous, successive slight modifications
 - 1. In the 19th century, the cell was viewed as a simple glob of plasma, a black box; today, micro technology reveals a cell filled with exquisite machinery
 - 2. Irreducible complexity - The cell cannot exist if one component of the machinery is missing - Examples: mouse trap and the flagellum motor
 - 3. It is in the realm of molecular genetics where we see the most compelling evidence of design on earth - evolution fails Darwin's test
 - B. The fossil record - testing Darwin's statement that if one can't find all of the fine, graduated evolutionary steps in the fossil record, then one can rightly reject the theory
 - 1. If speciation requires many thousands of morphological changes, there should be some fossil evidence of those changes - Darwin agreed they weren't there, but only because we hadn't dug up enough fossils
 - 2. 120 years after Darwin's time we have a lot more fossil evidence than he did, but we have even less support for his evolutionary theories
 - 3. Theory of punctuated equilibrium - offered by evolutionist Gould because of the lack of evidence in the fossil record; purports immediate speciation to account for the missing links
 - 4. Icons of Evolution - used for years as "proof" of evolution - all are inaccurate and outdated
 - 5. Theory of directed panspermia - purports that the first living cell was sent to earth from another planet - offered by Crick because evidence was overwhelmingly against spontaneous generation
 - 6. Evolution again fails Darwin's own test
 - C. Lovtrup: "I believe that one day the Darwinian myth will be ranked the greatest deceit in the history of science"
 - D. This is a worldview battle - a battle that is much deeper than a scientific theory - Evolution destroys any foundation for a standard of ethics or morality - man has exchanged the truth of God for a lie (evolution) so that he may be free to follow his inner desires
- V. Conclusion

Scripture References:

Psa 19:1-4
Rom 1:25

Jer 33:22
Psa 53:1

Rom 1:18-20

Rom 1: 21-23

Lesson 6 - History: Whose Story?

- I. Introduction - Why is History important?
 - A. Gazing upon the face of God
 - 1. Isaiah 46 - "Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God ...My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please ...what I have planned, that will I do."
 - 2. Galatians 4:4-5 - "But when the fullness of time came, God sent forth His Son ..."
 - B. History Quiz - The significance of 911 and 9/11 - What you believe in the present is determined by your past - History, in this context, becomes extremely critical
- II. Historical Revisionism - The danger and power of it!
 - A. Rigoberta Menchu - Professor: "Whether her book is true or not, I don't care" - "what is important is getting students to believe what we want in the present"
 - B. Revising the Mayflower Compact - God is being left out of contemporary academia
 - C. Power of Historical Revisionism - "If you rewrite the past, you can make people believe whatever you want in the present"
 - 1. Lies about History are not new
 - a. In the garden - "Did God really say?"
 - b. The resurrection - "His disciples stole the body" - Matthew 28:11-15
 - 2. Veracity of Scripture - Dating and number of historical manuscripts
- III. God's Mandate to Remember
 - A. Memorial Stones - Joshua 4:1-7
 - B. Tassels - Numbers 15:38-39, Deuteronomy 22:12
 - C. Feasts - Ex. Passover - Exodus 12:24-27, Deuteronomy 4:9, 6:4-12
 - D. Deuteronomy 8:10-20 - "Be careful that you do not forget the Lord your God ..."
- IV. Battle over History
 - A. Nature of the Battle - Ultimately it is against the nature of God - 2 Corinthians 10:3
 - B. God's Sovereign Rule - His providential plan and sovereign control for mankind
 - 1. Acts 4:27-28 - To do whatever your plan had predestined to take place
 - 2. 1 Kings 22:28-34 - Story of Ahab and the "random arrow"
 - C. Postmodernism & Cultural rejection of metanarratives - "There is no larger story"
- V. The Larger Story
 - A. Del's Photo Album - Many little stories that weave together the story of life
 - B. Natural Myopia - Nearsightedness - We lose sight of the larger story of God
 - C. God's Photo Album - People who were caught up in the grand story of God
 - D. Pilgrim's Providential View of History - "They cherished a great hope and inward zeal of laying good foundations ...even though they should be but stepping stones to others in the performance of so great a work."
 - E. A people who are caught up in their own little story will never be willing to lay themselves down as stepping stones for others

Scripture References:

Isa 46:9-11	Matt 28:11-15	1 Cor 15:14-19	Josh 4:1-7
Jud 2:6-15	Num 15:38-39	Deut 22:12	Ex 12:24-27
Deut 4:9	Deut 6:4-12	1 Cor 13	Deut 8:10-20
Hosea 13:6	2 Cor 10:3-4, 5	Psa 33:10-11	Acts 4:27-28
1 King 22:28-34	Eph 1:11	Isa 46:8-11	Prov 16: 9-10
Acts 17:24-26	2 King 6:8-18		

Lesson 7 - Sociology: The Divine Imprint

- I. Introduction - The God of Order
 - A. Psalm 19 - "The heavens declare the glory of God ..."
 - B. Job 12 - "But ask the animals, and they will teach you ..."
 - C. Listening to a chicken egg - The exquisite design and intricacy seen in a chicken egg
 - D. Scriptural emphasis of order - Job 25:2, 1 Corinthians 14:33, James 3:16
- II. Social Order - The Divine Imprint
 - A. "It is not good" - Genesis 2:18 - Why was it "not good" for man to be alone?
 - B. Triune structure stamped upon Social Order
 - 1. God - Father, Son, Holy Spirit
 - 2. Family - Husband, Wife, Children
 - 3. Church - Christ, Leaders, Flock
 - 4. Our world - Three realms - Physical, Spiritual and Social
 - C. Relationships, Roles, Authority, Submission and Unity within social spheres
- III. Importance of relationships
 - A. What happened at the fall? - Relationships were severed and damaged - between God & man, man & man, and man & creation
 - B. Aloneness - "It is not good for man to be alone" - Aloneness is contrary to God's nature; in all eternity, there had never been aloneness before
 - C. God's design of social institutions and social laws
 - D. Intimate Three - God's design for unity, intimacy, oneness - Family, Church, God and Man
- IV. Family & Church
 - A. Ephesians 5 - Roles and relationships of members in these spheres - Authority, Submission, Oneness
 - B. Love and Respect between husband and wife
 - C. Honor between children and parents, flock and church leaders
 - D. Divorce - Malachi 2:16 - "I hate divorce ..."
 - E. Lack of respect - 1 Peter 3:7 - "... so that nothing will hinder your prayers ..."
- V. Conclusion - Pathologies of the Family

Scripture References:

Psa 18:1-4	Job 12:7-8	Job 25:2	1 Cor 14:33
James 3:16	Gen 2:18	Matt 28:19	John 10:30
John 20:21	John 14:26	John 16:7	Eph 5:22-33
Titus 1:5-6	Acts 20:28	Heb 13:17	1 Tim 5:17
Ex 20:12,14,17	Gen 1:26-28	Gen 2:18-24	Matt 19:4-8
Mal 2: 13-17	1 Pet 3:1-7	Col 3:18-21	Titus 2:4-5
Heb 13:4	Eph 6:4	Eph 6:1-3	Prov: 1:8
Deut 6:6-7			

Lesson 8 - Unio Mystica: Am I Alone?

- I. Introduction - What is a mystery?
 - A. Sphere design - review of the family and church
 - B. Scriptural themes of intimacy, union, & oneness
- II. The Mystical Union
 - A. Between a husband and wife
 - B. Between Christ and His church
 - C. Between God and man - the Unio Mystica
 1. Colossians 1:27 "Christ in you"
 2. John 15:5 "If a man remains in me and I in him"
 3. John 14:16-17 "for he lives with you and will be in you"
 4. 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 "God's Spirit lives in you"
 - D. Unique and particular social laws and the blurring of spheres
- III. Unity - The Body of Christ - Making many One
 - A. Many members - we form one body with unique gifts and roles
 - B. The Mystery of Christ - "... for you are all one in Christ Jesus"
 - C. Jesus' vision for the church
 1. John 17: 20-23 " ...that all of them may be one ...so the world may believe that you have sent me ...may they be brought to complete unity ..."
 2. Oneness - the many reciprocal or "one-another" commands
- IV. Hunger for significance
 - A. Tassels - Numbers 15 - "...so you will ...not prostitute yourselves by going after the lusts of your own hearts and eyes" Also see Deuteronomy 22 and Matthew 23
 - B. Jesus' teaching - "everything they do is for men to see" - We want to be noticed and gain recognition from others - Matthew 6 "They have received their reward in full"
 - C. Source of significance drive - from God and should be fulfilled through His covenant relationships; ultimately fulfilled only by Him
 - D. Post Game Party - Saul's jealousy of David after the victory over Goliath
- V. Conclusion - "God has made us for Himself and our hearts are restless until we find our rest in Him" - Psalm 42:1-2 "My soul thirsts for God, for the living God"

John 14:16-20	Eph 5:31-32	Titus 1:5	Eph 4:11-13, 14
1 Tim 3:15	Col 1:27	John 15:5	2 Cor 5:17
Gal 2:20	1 Cor 3:16-17	1 Cor 6:19	1 Cor 12:27
Rom 12:4-5	1 Cor 10:17	Rom 16:25-26	Eph 1:9-10
Eph 3:6	Gal 3:28-29	Eph 2:19-22	John 17:20-23
Eph 4:3-5	1 Pet 1:22	Gal 6:2	James 5:16
Eph 4:21	Eph 4:32	Col 3:16	Rom 14:19
Rom 12:10, 16	1 Thess 5:11	Eph 5:21	Gal 5:13
Rom 15:7	1 Thess 4:18	Rom 15:5	Phil 2:3
John 13:34-35	Deut 22:11-13	Numbers 15:38-39	Matt 23:1-7
1 Sam 18:6-10	Matt 6:1-18	Isa 55:1-2	John 17:3
Isa 53:5	Psa 42:1-2		

Lesson 9 - The State: Whose Law?

- I. Introduction - What is Politics? Should politics be concerned with ethics & morals?
- II. What is stealing? Can the state steal?
 - A. Story of Naboth's Vineyard - 1 Kings 21 - King Ahab committed murder and theft
 - B. Story of Nebuchadnezzar - Daniel 4 - Why is the King eating grass like cattle?
 - C. Scripture revealing God's sovereignty over kings
- III. Design of the State - God, King (the civil authority), and citizens
 - A. Why did Israel ask for a King? - 1 Samuel 8 - corruption in civil government
 - B. Sphere Sovereignty
 1. Story of Uzziah - 2 Chronicles 26 - The king entered the temple to burn incense, a seemingly "good thing" - God afflicted him with leprosy because he crossed a sphere boundary
 2. Cowboy Movies - Churches did not sit on state soil, but on God's soil
 - C. Romans 13:1-6 - Submission and authority established by God
 - D. Delegation of Authority & Submission - Divine Attributes stamped on social order
 1. Delegation - The Father delegated authority to Jesus; God delegated authority to the civil magistrate
 2. Subjection - The Son is subject to the Father; wives are subject to husbands; people are subject to their rulers
 - E. State Purpose - To punish evil and condone good - Law is based on ethics
- IV. The Rise of the State
 - A. Death by the state - Because the state holds the power of the sword, it has the capacity to become tyrannical and commit extreme atrocities
 - B. State seen as "savior" - Hegel: "the State is the march of God through the world ... "
 - C. State begins to assume roles and responsibilities within the sphere of the family
 - D. "Go Before Us" - 1 Samuel 8:19-20 "with a king who will lead us and go out before us and fight our battles" Also see Exodus 32:1, Isaiah 52:12, and Isaiah 45:2
 - E. Decline of a culture - Social disorder in America is strikingly similar to that which marked the decline of Rome
- V. Conclusion - "... but they have rejected Me as their king" 1 Samuel 8:7

1 King 21:1-9	Dan 4:29-36	Prov 16:9-10	Prov 21:1
Dan 2:21	Rom 9:17	1 Sam 8:1-18	2 Chron 26:1-23
Rom 13:1-6	John 17:1-2	1 Cor 15:24,27	1 Cor 15:28
Titus 2 & 3	Rom 13:7	1 Pet 2:17	Rom 12:17-21
Psa 2:1-3	Psa 121:1-2	Psa 62:1-2	Psa 37:39
Psa 22:28	2 Chron 20:6	Job 12:23	Isa 14:26-27
Luke 20:25	Acts 17:24-26	Isa 14:24-25	Prov 16:9-10
Deut 17:16-20	Ex 22:28	Rom 13:1	Titus 3:1
1 Pet 2: 13-17	1 Sam 8:9	1 Sam 8:19-20	Ex 32:1
Acts 7:40	Isa 52:12	Ex 13:21	Isa 45:2

Tour 10 - The American Experiment: Stepping Stones

- I. Introduction - God's design for the state - How close was the American Experiment?
 - A. Three rules: Won't deify America; won't deify Founders; won't cast stones
 - B. Basis for the three branches - Isaiah 33 - Lawgiver, Judge, and King
 - C. Early educational system - Instilling principles of Biblical Christianity
 - 1. Primer and NEA - Biblical doctrine and prayer were essential to education
 - 2. Founding and original mottos of Harvard, Princeton, and Columbia
- II. Foundations of Religion and Morality - Basis for Freedom and Liberty
 - A. Dr. Tackett's personal journey - America 101
 - 1. Murals in Capital rotunda
 - 2. Revelation 2:5 - Remember, Repent and Return
 - 3. Washington's Farwell address
 - B. Foundations of this country - Religion and Morality
 - 1. Consistent theme in virtually all of the Founder's writings
 - 2. They saw a strong connection between virtue and liberty
 - C. Purpose of Civil Magistrate - Punish evil and condone good - Romans 13
- III. Foundations of Law
 - A. Blackstone - Valid human laws must be based upon God's laws
 - B. Influence of Darwin radically changed law in America - Case study methodology
 - 1. Legal Positivism - The state is the authority for determining right and wrong
- IV. The Larger Story
 - A. Original charters and constitutions - Acknowledgment of God's authority and recognition that the state was subject to and accountable to God
 - B. Pilgrims intent - "preserving and propagating the truth and liberties of the gospel"
 - C. Historical revisionism - Founders depicted as Deists and secularists; stripping God and Christianity from all historical accounts; pursuing a secular basis for law
- V. Conclusion - How has this happened?
 - A. Men have forgotten God
 - B. Cycle of Nations - Hosea 13:6 - Judgment and destruction upon proud nations
 - C. Jesus removing the lamp stand - Our hope: Light always overtakes darkness

Scripture References

Isa 33:22

Rev 2:5

Rom 13:1-6

Hosea 13:6

Deut 8:10-20

Lesson 11 - Labor: Created to Create

- I. Introduction - The "Labor" Command
- II. God's design for this sphere
 - A. Culture's view of work - generally negative and considered a curse
 - B. Importance of this sphere, though we generally don't address it
 1. It funds everything - all material goods are produced in this sphere
 2. Yet it also produces pornography, illegal drugs, abortion, etc.
 - C. Reflection of God's nature - God worked and saw that it was good - God stamped us with his divine image and has given us the privilege of being his creative stewards
- III. General Economic Model and Seven Economic Principles
 - A. All things belong to God
 1. Our materialistic drive is a reflection of Satan's lie that more "stuff" will satisfy us
 - B. God appointed man to be a creative steward of his goods with ownership rights
 1. Definition of steward and economics: management authority of God's goods
 2. Proper, Biblical attitude of employees and employers
 - C. Theft and coveting of another's goods is wrong
 - D. Skills and abilities to work come from God
 - E. Work is profitable, good, and to be pursued; laziness is not
 - F. Love God and not your goods
 - G. Be compassionate and generous with your good to those in need
- IV. Responsibility to the poor
 - A. Scriptural mandate to show compassion to the poor
 - B. The poor need work and the sphere of labor has the primary responsibility to provide those work opportunities
 - C. God's standard - Psalm 101:3 - "I will set before my eyes no vile thing"
 - D. Overwhelming power and presence of media - "Whoever controls the media, controls the culture"
 - E. Soli Deo Gloria - For God's glory alone - We need to have this same perspective, that God would be glorified in all we do
- V. Arts and Media - Is beauty relative?

Ex 20:8-11	Mark 2:27	James 5:4	Prov 22:29
Gen 2:2	Psa 19:1	Psa 102:25	Heb 11:3
Gen 2:15	Gen 3:17-19	Ex 20:8-11	Ex 20:15, 17
Prov 10:4	Prov 14:23	Matt 6:20	Matt 25:14-30
Psa 50:7-12	Gen 1:28	Lev 25:23	Psa 50:7-12
Gen 1:26-30	1 Chron 29:10-14	Lev 19:9-10	Ex 23:11
1 John 3:17	Eph 4:28	2 Cor 8:13-15	Deut 8:17-18
Deut 24:15	Luke 12:48	Eph 6:9	Col 4:1
James 5:4	Eph 6:5-8	Col 3: 22-25	1 Tim 6:1-2
Titus 2:9-10	1 Pet 2:18-22	Eph 6:5-9	Prov 6:6-11
2 Thess 3:10	Matt 6;20-24	Prov 28:27	Ex 23:11
Prov 29:7	Psa 101:3	1 Chron 25:1-8	

Lesson 12 - Community & Involvement: God Cares, Do I?

- I. Introduction - The Greatest and Second Greatest Commandment
 - A. Matthew 22:34-40 - "And a second is like it...love your neighbor as yourself."
 - B. Luke 10:25-29 - "He wanted to justify himself, so he asked 'Who is my neighbor?'"
 - A. Story of the good Neighbor - Jesus didn't answer the question "Who is my neighbor?" but instead told us what a good neighbor is
 - B. Who are the needy? - poor, orphans, widows, sick, prisoners, outcasts, unpopular, neglected, left out, homely, last - The needy are great in a sphere we neglect
 - A. Seeing others as God sees them and recognizing that they have eternal significance
 - B. Jonah and Nineveh - Jonah running from the face of God - "Should I not have compassion on Nineveh, the great city?"
 - C. Transforming Culture - "How Christianity Changed the World"
 - 1. William Wilberforce - Abolished slavery through a deep sense of calling, band of like-minded brothers, and sustained public persuasion
 - 2. We are in good company - Hebrews 11- Cloud of Witnesses
 - D. "What do I do?" - Get your calling from the One who made you, the One who gifted you. Continue to gaze upon the face of God, pursue Him and continually be transformed into the very image of Christ. May God's truth be a fire in your bones.
- II. Who is my neighbor? - Radical design of this sphere: Christ, a neighbor, the needy
- III. Seeking the Heart of God
 - A. God's heart for the needy and lowly - He saves the poor and lifts up the lowly - Who is this God?
 - B. Foundational Presuppositions - God is and He has revealed Himself to us
 - C. What is it about the nature of God that causes Him to reveal Himself to us?
 - 1. Isaiah 65:1-2 "To a nation that did not call on my name I said, "Here am I, Here I am. All day long I have held out my hands to an obstinate people ..."
 - 2. Matthew 23:37 "... I have longed to gather your children together..."
- IV. "Tapeinos" - The humble heart of God
 - A. Matthew 11:28-29 "For I am gentle and humble in heart" - Jesus washes the feet of his disciples and in John 14:4-9 tells them "Anyone who has seen me, has seen the father." - Man of steel and velvet
 - B. Psalm 35:10 - My whole being will exclaim "Who is like you, O God!"
- V. Involvement - God's Involvement and Ours

Deut 6:4-9	Matt 19:16-17	Matt 22:33-40	Luke 10:25-29
Luke 10: 29-37	1 Sam 2:1-10	Job 5:11, 15	Psa 12:5
Psa 35:10	Psa 22:4	Psa 138:6	Isa 57:15
Lev 19:18	Gal 5:13-14	Rom 13:8-10	James 2:8
Matt 25:33-36	Matt 22:37-40	Prov 14:21	Matt 5:43-44
Prov 28:27	Deut 15:11	1 John 3:17	Deut 24:14
Job 5:15	John 17:6	Amos 4:13	Isa 65:1-2
Matt 23:37-38	Matt 11:28-29	2 Cor 3:18	Luke 1:51-52
James 4:6,10	Col 3:11	1 Pet 5:5-6	2 Cor 10:1
John 13	John 14:4-9	2 Tim 1:7	Col 4:5-6
Jonah 4:9-11	Heb 11	2 Tim 2:15	Jer 20:9