

# FOUNDATIONS STUDY GUIDE

(Fold me and keep me with your foundations NOTEBOOK)

## HOW TO USE THIS STUDY GUIDE

We are so glad that you have decided to embark of this journey! This STUDY GUIDE will lead you toward building a firm foundation for your faith in Jesus Christ. Day-by-day, step-by-step, you will grow in your knowledge and understanding of God, his Word, and His plan for you and for his Church. You won't (and can't) learn everything there is to know in just a few weeks, but the goal is to get you started, point you in the right direction, and equip you to continue in a life-long journey of faith. We think the best way to learn and grow is to be part of a LifeGroup with others on the same journey. If you are not yet connected to a group, please contact [lifegroups@whoisgrace.com](mailto:lifegroups@whoisgrace.com).

We have a few suggestions for you to make the most of this journey:

- 1- Make sure you have your Bible handy. Whether a paper copy, or using one on your device, the word of God is the cornerstone of this study guide.
- 2- There is a glossary of terms at the end of this study guide. All of those "churchy" words you've wondered about? Find them here!
- 3- There is also a resource list at the end of this study guide. You'll find suggestions for Bibles, online resources, apps, and books that can help you navigate reading the Bible and growing in your faith.
- 4- We have included the Nicene Creed at the end of this study guide. It is a formal statement of faith supported by all Christian faith traditions since its writing at the Council of Nicea in 325 AD.
- 5- Finally, invite someone to join you in committing to this STUDY GUIDE!

# FOUNDATIONS: Week 1

## There's Got to be More to Life

### STUDY GUIDE

#### Day 1

##### Light in Darkness

###### Read **John 1:9-18**

- Summarize the main point of this passage.
- List some examples of how people exist in darkness. What were some dark times in your life?
- What does it imply about Jesus to call him "the light?"
- List some specific ways that Jesus has brought light into the darkness of your life. When have you received "grace upon grace?"

#### Day 2

##### The Image of God

###### Read **Genesis 1:24-31**

- Summarize this passage in your own words.
- The fact that God uses the plural "us" in verse 26 is a reference to the Trinity reminding us that God exists in relationship and He created people not because He was missing something, but because He was overflowing with love, and community and relationship, and wanted to let others in on it!
- What does it mean that we were created in the "image of God?" What does it say about our purpose in life?
- How does our identity as an image-bearers affect how you should treat, interact with, and relate to other people in your life?

### CHALLENGE:

*Find the image of God in 3 people today and encourage them either verbally or through a note or text with what you see in them (ie. trustworthiness, patience, compassion, justice)*

#### Day 3

##### The Separation of Sin

###### Read **Romans 3:9-23**

- In :9-19 what descriptions are used to communicate the desperate condition of people in their sin.
- In your own words, write down a definition of sin.
- What does 3:23 tell us about why we need to be saved? Flip over to Romans 6:23 – what is the result of sin?
- Think of sin as "separation":
  - o Spiritual death – your sins have **separated** you from God
  - o Physical death – your soul is **separated** from your body
  - o Eternal death – if you remain in your sin, you will be **separated** from God forever
- How has your life been negatively impacted by sin?

#### Day 4

##### The Power of the Cross

###### Read **Romans 5:1-11**

- Go through this passage and list the benefits that are available to Christians because of Jesus' death.

- In vss. 6-8 – what is so surprising about Jesus’ willingness to die for us?
- This passage talks of both “justification” and “reconciliation.” Why are both of these important?
  - o Justification = cleared of all guilty charges and given right-standing.
  - o Reconciliation = restore intimacy to a broken relationship
- Think of a time recently when you felt close to God. Write down some reasons for that closeness. Spend some time thanking God that it was all made possible through the cross.

## CHALLENGE:

*As you are having a conversation today with a friend or co-worker, find a way to bring up your recent example of feeling close to God.*

## Day 5

### Children of God

Read **Galatians 4:4-7**

- How did Jesus change our standing before God?
- What is the difference between approaching God as a master and God as a father? How does that truth change the way that you think about God?
- What does it mean to be an heir to God? What stands in the way of viewing yourself as an heir?
- How does a proper view of your standing before God change the way you will live today?

## FOUNDATIONS: Week 2

### Who is God?

## STUDY GUIDE

### Day 1

#### The Greatness of God

Read **Isaiah 40:12-31**

- In this passage and throughout the Bible, God is described as omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, infinite, holy and sovereign. Read through the passage again and look for descriptions of some of these attributes. What thoughts and feelings (good and bad) do you have when you think about these attributes of God? Why does God want you to know His greatness? [\*HINT: Use the glossary of terms to look up the underlined words]
- God is the Almighty Creator who formed humanity for His glory (**Isaiah 43:7**). God created you to be in relationship with Him – to know Him and be known by Him, to worship and obey Him, to love and trust Him. Similar to other relationships, your relationship with God grows stronger as you get know Him more fully. What has helped you learn about God in the past? What can you do this week to intentionally build a stronger relationship with God?
- Seeing God more fully for who He is can be thrilling and overwhelming. Our limited minds cannot fully understand God, but our souls long to know and enjoy God more and more. What attributes of God do you tend to think about most often? What attributes of God do you tend to lose sight of or struggle to comprehend?
- Praise God for one of His attributes that you are particularly grateful for today.

## Day 2

### Knowing the Trinity: God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit

#### Read **1 John 4:7-21**

- This passage describes all three persons of the Trinity: God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit. What shared attribute of the Trinity is John highlighting throughout this passage? [\*HINT: v.8 “God is \_\_\_\_\_”] Why is this attribute of primary importance in order to know God?
- Father, Son and Spirit work together to reveal their love and bring us into relationship with them. What does this passage tell us about the each of their unique roles?
- What does it mean that we “abide” in God and He abides in us? [\*HINT: See **John 15:1-8**]
- How does Jesus help us see and know our invisible God and His love for us? (v.9-10)
- How should we respond to God’s love expressed through Jesus?

## CHALLENGE:

*Talk to each member of Trinity today in prayer. Thank the Father, Son and Holy Spirit for their love for you. Choose someone who is difficult for you to love right now (family, friend, coworker, etc) and ask the Holy Spirit to help you love them the way God loves you.*

## Day 3

### The Heart of God the Father

#### Read **Luke 15:1-32**

- Jesus uses three parables (stories) to describe God the Father’s response when one sinner repents and turns back to Him. What does each parable have in common and what does that tell you about God the Father’s heart toward sinners?
- Read 15:17-24 again and imagine you’re the father waiting for your son. What painful emotions are you feeling as you think of your son being lost? What changes in you when you see your son coming home?
- Read 15:17-24 again, but this time imagine you’re the son who has hit rock bottom and decides to come home. What painful emotions are you feeling as you see the consequences of your decisions and anticipate the disappointment and possible rejection from your father? What changes in you when you experience your father’s unexpected loving reaction?
- Be still and reflect on your Father’s heart toward you in this moment. Receive His love for you personally. Tell your Father how glad you are to be His child.

## Day 4

### The Glory and Mercy of the Son

#### Read **Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:14-18, 4:14-16**

- Jesus is not merely a man – or another religious teacher. He is fully man AND fully God – sharing divinity with the Father and the Spirit. What descriptions and actions attributed to Jesus in these passages demonstrate His divine glory?
- Under the old covenant, a high priest was appointed by God to enter His presence in the temple and offer animal sacrifices for the sins of the people on their behalf. What qualifies Jesus to be our great and final high priest who makes it possible for us to be reconciled to God and draw near to him with confidence?
- We are told that Jesus was “made like his brothers in every respect” and “in every respect has been tempted as we are”. He is merciful and able to sympathize with our human weaknesses. How does that affect the way you approach Him in prayer? How is He uniquely able to help us in our time of need?

## CHALLENGE:

*Ask the Holy Spirit to give you boldness to tell someone who doesn't know Jesus why you think Jesus was/is more than just another religious teacher.*

### Day 5

#### The Help of the Holy Spirit

Read **John 14:12-28, 15:26-27, 16:5-15**

- These passages are part of Jesus' final conversation with his 12 disciples before his crucifixion. He is preparing them to continue His ministry after He ascends back to heaven. Why does He tell them that it is to their advantage for Him to go away? (16:7)
- What titles does Jesus use when referring to the Holy Spirit? (14:16-17, 14:26, 15:26, 16:7, 16:13) What do these titles tell you about the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives?
- Make a list of the different ways Jesus says the Holy Spirit will help us. Which of these have you experienced recently? Which of these are you most eager to experience?
- How does knowing the Spirit of Jesus dwells inside of you change the way you approach your day? Thank the Holy Spirit for dwelling within you and ask him to help you in a specific way today.

## FOUNDATIONS: Week 3

### What Does it Mean to Be a Christian?

#### STUDY GUIDE

### Day 1

#### Turning from Sin (Repentance)

Read **Romans 3:23** and **6:23**

- What do these passages say about the consequences of sin?

Read **Luke 24:46-47**

- Why did Jesus suffer and die, according to His own words?
- What does it mean to "turn away" from your sin?
- List some specific actions you can take to help you turn away from sin.

### Day 2

#### Turning to Christ (Faith)

Read **John 1:12** and **3:16** and **Romans 10:17**

- Growing in faith is a life-long process, but based on these three verses, how would you define what faith is, in your own words?
- What does it mean to "turn to" Christ?
- List some specific actions you can take to help you turn to Jesus.

## CHALLENGE:

*Reflect on your words, your choices, and your actions today. When was it too easy to turn to sin? How will you make a change tomorrow?*

### Day 3

#### Baptism

Read **Mark 1:9-11; Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 6:3-4**

- In Mark 1, what was God's response to the baptism of Jesus?
- In your own words, what is Jesus' command to His followers in Matthew 28?
- What does baptism symbolize, according to Romans 6?
- If you have not yet been baptized, what is holding you back? Find more information at [whoisgrace.com/salvation-and-baptism](http://whoisgrace.com/salvation-and-baptism).

### Day 4

#### Child of God (Adoption)

Read **John 1:12; Galatians 4:4-7; 1 Peter 1:4**

- How is it possible that God counts you as His child?
- What privileges come with being a son/daughter? Make a list.
- What is the inheritance awaiting the children of God?
- Take some time to write a thank you letter to *Abba*, Father.

### Day 5

#### Fully Devoted Follower of Jesus (Sanctification)

Read **Romans 12:1-2; Philippians 3:13-14; 2 Peter 1:3-8**

- We are both dependent on God to transform us and we need to actively obey him, taking steps to grow as followers. According to Romans 12, who works within us?
- Living as a follower of Jesus is a lifelong commitment to the process of growth and transformation. What does Paul say about this in Philippians 3?
- According to 2 Peter 1, what has God given us?
- Make a list of the virtues and character traits you should pursue as a follow of Jesus. Who in your life exemplifies these?

## CHALLENGE:

*Find someone in your life who is an example of following Jesus and ask them help hold you accountable to turn away from sin and turn to Jesus.*

# FOUNDATIONS: Week 4

## How will God guide me? (Part 1)

### STUDY GUIDE

#### Day 1

##### The Importance of the Holy Spirit

###### Read **John 15:26-16:15**

- How is the Holy Spirit described by Jesus in this passage? What role(s) does the Holy Spirit play?
- Reread v12-15. What is significance of Jesus saying this since the Holy Spirit resides in you?
- Inventory time: What areas of your life do you still hold "authority" over?
- In your own words now, explain the meaning of this passage as it relates to knowing how God guides through the Holy Spirit?

#### Day 2

##### Walk by the Spirit

###### Read **Galatians 5:16-25**

- The contrast between the "desires of the flesh" and "desires of the Spirit" implies that our lives should be responding moment by moment to the desires of the Holy Spirit. The word for "desires" in the original Greek is *epithymia*, which translated, refers to strong human desires, not some simple intellectual decision or things we think about, but feel and sense in a deep, profound way.
- Take a moment to list out the "desires of the flesh." Now underline which words, for whatever reason, you feel drawn to, that you easily connect with.
- Now list out the "desires of the Spirit." Where in your life do you see evidence of these?
- In v 18 the idea of being "led" by the Spirit implies an active *personal* participation in the Holy Spirit guiding you. Give praise to the Spirit for the active role He is playing in your life right now, confess where you have yielded to the flesh desires, and ask for more of His presence in your life.

### CHALLENGE:

*Ask the Holy Spirit for his guidance today and respond when you feel Him leading you. It may be through a conversation, it may be an action toward someone else, who knows! Whatever it is...trust Him and take action when he prompts you, letting Him work through you for His glory.*

#### Day 3

##### Witness & Intercession of the Holy Spirit

###### Read **Romans 8:12-27**

- Look at vv. 12-17, what assurance is provided in these verses? Flip over to 1 John 4:13. What is it contingent on?
- In your own words, write how this impacts God's desire to be your guide.
- Read through vv. 18-25. What comfort do you find in these verses?
- In vv. 26-27 there is an assurance that the Holy Spirit provides. What is it and why is that important to know when it comes to God's guidance?

#### Day 4

##### Prayer: Personal Communication with God

##### 3 Reasons Why God Wants You to Pray

- Prayer expresses our trust in God and is a means whereby our trust in Him can increase.
  - Prayer brings us into deeper fellowship with God
  - In prayer God allows us as creatures to be involved in activities that are eternally important.
- Read **Psalms 5:1-8, 86:1-11, and 143:7-10**, and identify 3 ways God provides guidance.
- How does this help and encourage you in your prayer life?

## CHALLENGE:

Practice communicating with God using the following acronym:

P.R.A.Y. The letters stand for Praise, Repent, Access and Yield, which captures the essence of prayer — to seek an audience with the King of the universe, the Holy One, who in the mystery of His character loves us and responds to our prayers.

Praise: We're to *enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise* (see **Psalm 100:4**). Sit quietly and thank God for who He is and what He has done.

Repent: A sober reminder comes from **Psalm 66:18**: *"If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened."* A spiritual cleansing is needed in order to come nearer to the throne of God.

Access: We're not telling God anything new — *"All my longings lie open before you, O Lord: my sighing is not hidden from you"* (**Psalm 38:9**). Even so, He gives us access to talk to Him about our needs and frustrations.

Yield: The fact that we have brought our prayer list before God indicates our trust that He will, in His time and in His way, show us *the way we should go* (see **Psalm 143:8**).

## Day 5

### Draw Near in Assurance

Read **2 Corinthians 3:4-6; Hebrew 10:12-24; and 1 John 5:14-15**

- What did Jesus' death and resurrection do to our ability to communicate with God?
- What is the assurance of prayer contingent on? Where does our sufficiency come from?
- How do these scripture excerpts impact your view on how God guides through prayer?
- What conclusions can you now make concerning your relationship with God in prayer?
- Come before God in this moment and use these verses from **Philippians 1:9-11** to frame your prayer. Ask Him for guidance in an area of your life that aligns to His will: *"And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God."*



# FOUNDATIONS: Week 5

## How will God guide me? (Part 2)

### STUDY GUIDE

#### Day 1

##### The truthfulness of Scripture

###### Read **2 Timothy 3:10-17**

- Summarize the main point of this passage.
- Paul makes a list for Timothy in verses 10 and 11. What has Timothy followed? How does this list support the main point of the passage?
- What image comes to your minds when you think about verse 16, that God breathed his Word?
- According to this passage, how is a man of God complete and equipped to do every good work? How does this speak to the truthfulness of Scripture?

#### Day 2

##### The Clarity of Scripture

###### Read **2 Peter 3:15-18**

- Summarize this passage in your own words.
- The Apostle Peter states in verse 16 that there are parts of Scripture written by Paul that are hard to understand. How have you personally experienced this as you read?

###### Read **2 Peter 1:20-21**

- Where does it say that prophecy does *not* come from? Where does prophecy and understanding of scripture come from?
- What perspective does this give you as you read the Bible? How does this support what Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 3:16?

### CHALLENGE:

*2 Peter 1:20 states that "no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation." This directly speaks to the role of the Holy Spirit, but it also speaks to the importance to read the Word of God with others. Who can you invite along with you to read scripture together and discuss it? Ask them this week!*

#### Day 3

##### The Necessity of Scripture

###### Read **Romans 1:19-21, 10:13-17**

- What does Romans 1:19-21 tell us about people's knowledge of God's existence? Is it necessary to have scripture to know of God's existence? Explain.
- How does Romans 10:13-17 demonstrate the necessity of Scripture for understanding and belief of the good news of Jesus?
- In **Matthew 4:4** how important is the word of God to Jesus?
- How important is Scripture to you today? What posture will you take toward God's Word? Ask God to fill your heart with a desire to know Him through His Word!

#### Day 4

##### The Sufficiency of Scripture

### Read **Proverbs 30:4-6**

- Think about advertising, social media, news, etc. How does the world teach us to be self-sufficient?
- How do these verses in Proverbs 30 let us know that the word of God is sufficient?
- What are some ways that you or others have tried to “add to His words”?
- What does the final chapter of the Bible, **Revelation 22:18-19**, tell us will happen “if anyone adds to them.... if anyone takes away from the words”?

## CHALLENGE:

*Have a conversation with a friend and tell them why you feel that the Word of the Lord is sufficient for all you need to know in life.*

## Day 5

### Children of God

Review this week’s sermon at [whoisgrace.com/sermons](http://whoisgrace.com/sermons)

- Biblical teachings is another key way that God will guide you. List the Biblical teachings from this past week’s sermon.
- RightNow Media is a great resource for Biblical teaching that you can sign up for at no cost to you. If you have not done so already sign up for free at [whoisgrace.com/rightnowmedia](http://whoisgrace.com/rightnowmedia).
- Grace Church has a sermon series on the book of Psalms from summer 2019. Listen to one or all at [whoisgrace.com/sermons](http://whoisgrace.com/sermons). OR Pastor Matt Chandler has a 10 part series on [Psalm 119](#). Use a journal to take notes and record your thoughts from this Biblical teaching.

The Bible Project has creative, short videos that give an overview of each book of the Bible. Find them on RightNow Media by searching “[Read Scripture](#)” and start by watching Genesis and John.

## FOUNDATIONS: Week 6

### How can I avoid falling back into my old life?

## STUDY GUIDE

### Day 1

#### Put on your New Self

#### Read **Colossians 3:1-17**

- In :1-4 what things are already promised to us as believers?
- Think of a time when you were able to set your mind on things above and not on earthly things. How were you able to do it?
- List the things we are supposed to put to death in :5-9. And what should we put on in its place in :12-16?
- How is letting “the Word of Christ dwell in you richly” connected to our ability to live out the rest of this passage?

### Day 2

#### Add Works to your Faith

#### Read **James 2:14-26**

- Summarize this passage in your own words.

- Give a modern example of the situation described in James 2:15-16
- What is James' point in 2:19 when he says even the demons have faith?
- How do good works help you stay strong in your faith and not fall away?
- Which is easier for you: talking about your faith with others or demonstrating your faith to them? What are the ways you can demonstrate your faith through actions to:
  - o a family member who is not a Christian
  - o a close friend who is a Christ follower
  - o a boisterous complaining person behind you on a long checkout line
  - o a co-worker who mocks "religious" people
  - o a Muslim parent at your child's school

## CHALLENGE:

*Choose one of the examples from the above list and do it today!*

### Day 3

#### Put on God's Armor

##### Read Ephesians 6:10-18

- The phrase "be strong" in verse 10 can also be translated "be strengthened". What does this mean?
- There are 4 commands Paul gives in these final verses.
  - o In verse 10: be \_\_\_\_\_.
  - o In verses 11 and 13: put on \_\_\_\_\_.
  - o In verse 14: stand \_\_\_\_\_.
  - o In verse 18: and \_\_\_\_\_.
 This is what we are supposed to be doing.
- There are 4 descriptions of enemies used in verse 12 – who are they? In what ways do you see their activity in your life? Think of specific examples.
- From verses 14-17, list each piece of armor and beside it what it is defined as (hint: there are 7). Also note what part of the body is covered by each piece. Which pieces are used to defend? Which are used for offense? What is the significance of this?

### Day 4

#### Fight Temptation with Truth

##### Read Matthew 4:1-11

- In a sentence describe what happened in this passage.
- One of the encouraging insights from this passage is that it's possible to experience profound temptation to sin while still being blameless from that sin. Many Christians go through life with a weight of guilt and shame because of temptations that *feel* like sins. Jesus showed us that it's possible to be tempted and not sin.
- Why do you think Satan tempted Jesus with food, miracles and shortcuts? What does this show us about how Satan approaches temptation with us?
- What can we learn from how Jesus handled these temptations?

## CHALLENGE:

*Write down a specific temptation you have dealt with repeatedly. Use a Bible Concordance (or Google) to find a scripture passage that speaks the truth about that temptation. Commit that bible verse to memory.*

## Day 5

### Find Accountability

#### Read Galatians 6:1-5

- In a sentence, what does this passage teach us about how to avoid falling into sin?
- What does it look like to restore someone “with gentleness?” What dangers should we be aware of?
- In Christian community, why is it important to carry each other’s burdens? Write down a time when someone did this for you? How did it strengthen your faith?
- Verse 3 talks about the dangers of the deception of thinking that you are something when you’re nothing. Having a group of friends who will be honest with you and hold you accountable is the remedy for this problem. They will remind you that you’re nothing even when you think you’re something and they’ll also remind you that you’re something even when you think you’re nothing!

Where are you finding community with people who care about you enough to tell you the truth about when you’re stagnant or stale in your faith?

## FOUNDATIONS: Week 7

### How should I talk about my faith with others?

## STUDY GUIDE

### Day 1

#### Beautiful Feet

#### Read Romans 10:12-15

- Summarize the main point of this passage.
- God’s plan for reaching people is for believers to share the good news about Jesus to them. What barriers do you see in your life that prevent you from telling people about Jesus?
- How does verse 12 illustrate that the gospel is meant to be cross cultural? Why do you think that might be important?
- What part of this passage is guaranteed by God, and what part of it is our responsibility? What encouragement can you take from the fact that if we are obedient, some people *will* be saved?

### Day 2

#### Training on the Go

#### Read Luke 10:1-23

- Summarize this passage in your own words.
- Jesus sends out 72 disciples to proclaim the good news about the Kingdom of God. He does this while they were still training, and he sent men who weren’t educated or considered scholars. What does this passage tell you about when you are ready to share your faith?
- Think of a time when were able to teach someone a skill that you weren’t an expert in or introduce someone to something that was new to you as well. Are there any benefits you can think of only being “1 or 2 steps ahead” rather than a master at something?
- Explain why it is significant that the disciples weren’t responsible for changing the people’s hearts, only proclaiming the good news.

## CHALLENGE:

*One of the most important tools you have in sharing your faith is your story. Take some time today to write out your own story of coming to faith in God. As a challenge, see if you can condense it to 3 min or less—talk about what things were like before God, how you were introduced to Jesus, and how you see God and your life now. Your group leader will ask you about this when you meet.*

### Day 3

#### Blessed to be a Blessing

##### Read **Genesis 12:1-3**

- Describe God's heart for people based on this passage.
- When God blesses us (with salvation, hope, joy, etc), how does he want to use that blessing beyond your own life?
- What sacrifices did Abram have to make in order to be obedient to God?
  
- How does this verse emphasize all of God's children and communicate the importance of cross cultural relationship?

### Day 4

#### Make Disciples of All Nations

##### Read **Matthew 28:18-20**

- In verse 19, Jesus gives a specific command. What and to whom are we commanded?
- The word "nations" in English is translated from the Greek word "*ethne*" which means "people groups", rather than geo-political countries. Why do you think Jesus focused on groups of people rather than governments or even individual people?
- What's the difference between making a convert, and making a disciple?
- Do you have much contact with people groups and cultures that are different from your own? Why or why not?
- The beginning of verse 18 and the end of verse 20 contain some truths about Jesus that are the foundation for us to go and share our faith to the whole world. How do those truths make you feel?

### Day 5

#### You Will Be My Witnesses

##### Read **Acts 1:8**

- Jesus gives the disciples four different contexts in which they will share their faith. Think of them this way:
  - o Jerusalem: Geographically and Culturally close
  - o Judea: Culturally close but geographically farther
  - o Samaria: Relatively close geographically, but culturally very far
  - o Ends of the earth: both geographically and culturally far
- What are your Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth?
- Sometimes people think of these like contexts like a sequence—first we start in our closest relationships, our Jerusalem, then move outward. But critically, Jesus doesn't use the word "then", he uses the word "and"—why is this so important, and how does it affect how we think about sharing our faith?
- Which of these contexts is easiest for you to share your faith in, and which is the hardest? What barriers to you have to overcome in each?

## CHALLENGE:

*Think about your relationships, your city, and the world—what next step do you need to take to get involved in each of them in a meaningful way? Ask God to give you opportunities.*

## GLOSSARY OF CHURCH WORDS

**Adoption** is an act of God whereby he makes us members of his family.

**Believers' Baptism** is the view that baptism is appropriately administered only to those who give a believable profession of faith in Jesus Christ.

**Born Again** is a scriptural term (John 3:3-8) referring to God's work of regeneration by which he imparts new spiritual life to us.

**Conversion** is our willing response to the gospel call, in which we sincerely repent of sins and place our trust in Christ for salvation; a spiritual turning from sin and to Christ.

**Evangelism** is the proclamation of the gospel to unbelievers.

**Faith** is trust in Jesus Christ as a living person for forgiveness of sins and for eternal life with God.

**Grace** is God's goodness and kindness extended to those who do not deserve it.

**Gospel** is the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God who gave His life for the salvation of all who would believe.

**The Great Commission** is the final command of Jesus to his disciples, recorded in Matthew 28:18-20.

**Heaven** is the place where God most fully makes known his presence to bless. It is in the heaven where God most fully reveals his glory, and where angels, other heavenly creatures, and redeemed saints all worship him.

**Hell** is a place of eternal conscious punishment for the wicked.

**Holiness** is the doctrine that God is separated from sin and devoted to seeking his own honor.

**Infinite** is a term, when used of God, referring to the fact that he is not subject to any of the limitations of humanity or of creation in general.

**Justification** is an instantaneous legal act of God in which He thinks of our sins as forgiven and Christ's righteousness as belonging to us and declares us to be righteous in his sight.

**Mercy** is God's compassion and forgiveness shown toward those whose sins deserve punishment.

**New Covenant** is the administration of the covenant of grace established after the death and resurrection of

Christ, a covenant in which Christ's atoning death covers all of the believer's sins and the Holy Spirit empowers the believer to fulfill the righteous demands of the law.

**Old Covenant** is a term referring specifically to the Mosaic covenant established at Mount Sinai, which was an administration of detailed written laws given for a time to restrain the sins of the people and to be a custodian to point people to Christ.

**Omnipotence** is the doctrine that God is able to do all his holy will.

**Omnipresence** is the doctrine that God does not have size or spatial dimensions and is present at every point of space with his whole being, yet God acts differently in different places.

**Omniscience** is the doctrine that God fully knows himself and all things actual and possible in one simple and eternal act.

**Reconciliation** is the removal of enmity and the restoration of fellowship between two parties.

**Repentance** is a heartfelt sorrow for sin, a renouncing of it, and a sincere commitment to forsake it and walk in obedience to Christ.

**Righteousness** is the doctrine that God always acts in accordance with what is right and that he is himself the final standard of what is right.

**Sanctification** is a progressive work of God and man that makes us more and more free from sin and like Christ in our actual lives.

**Scripture** is another term for the Bible. It is the writings of the Old and New Testaments, which have historically been recognized as God's words in written form.

**Sin** is any failure to conform to the moral law of God in act, attitude or nature.

**Sovereignty** is God's exercise of power over his creation.

**Sufficiency of Scripture** is the idea that Scripture contained all the words of God he intended his people to have at each stage of redemptive history, and that it now contains all the words of God we need for salvation, for trusting him perfectly, and for obeying him perfectly.

**Trinity** is the doctrine that God eternally exists as three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—and each person is fully God, and there is one God.

## RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

### Bibles:

ESV Study Bible

NIV Life Application Bible

### Online:

Grace Church Read plan

Grace Church sermon archives

She Reads Truth

He Reads Truth

Bible Hub

RightNow Media

### Apps:

YouVersion Bible

Through the Word

Bible for Kids (from YouVersion)

Operation World

### Books:

Begin, Bob Franquiz

Before You Open Your Bible, Matt Smethurst

How to Read the Bible for All its Worth, Gordon Fee

## NICENE CREED

A Christian statement of faith:

*I believe in one God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.*

*I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.*

*God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made.*

*For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.*

*For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.*

*He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.*

*He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.*

*I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.*

*I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.*

*Amen.*