

 C·S· LEWIS INSTITUTE

Journey

*Foundations for Discipleship
and Mission*



Journey
Foundations for Discipleship and Mission

**A C.S. Lewis Institute
Study Course ©2023**

A CSLI Press Publication



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Dear Fellow Traveler,

As President of the C.S. Lewis Institute (CSLI), I'd like to welcome you to *Journey: Foundations for Discipleship and Mission*.

When Jesus began His earthly ministry two thousand years ago, He called His disciples to join Him on a journey with these words, "Come, follow me and I will make you fishers of men!"

Today, Jesus is offering a similar invitation to you and to me to follow Him and be made into "fishers of men." Our hope is that the C.S. Lewis Institute's *Journey* program will play a role in helping you discover the same joy, empowerment and equipping which the early disciples experienced in community as they followed Jesus.

This discipleship program was developed by CSLI after a number of pastors and believers asked us for a more comprehensive discipleship program that could be easily facilitated over a 9-month period (e.g., a fall and spring semester) in local churches, neighborhood small groups or campus ministries. Thus, CSLI consulted with pastors and ministry leaders from biblically orthodox churches to create an approach that would be useful to Christians who are looking for a way to be more intentional about their spiritual growth within their local congregation.

A lot of prayer has gone into the creation of the *Journey* Program as we know that it is through the working of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers that people are transformed into faithful disciples. Thus, I encourage you to cover every aspect of your *Journey* adventure with prayer.

CSLI began its discipleship ministry of heart and mind in 1976 in Washington, DC and has since opened Institutes in cities around the United States, Canada, and Northern Ireland. The mission of CSLI is to develop wholehearted disciples of Jesus Christ who will articulate, defend, share, and live their faith in personal and public life.

Our hope and prayer are that as you participate in the *Journey* program you will be better equipped to invite others to join you in your journey of faith in Jesus Christ and become multiplying disciple-makers.

Interestingly, in many languages, when a person departs on a trip they are often sent off with words of blessing. For example, in Spanish, "Vaya Con Dios!" which means "Go with God." Or in French, "Adieu!" which means, "We entrust you to God."

So, as you embark on this *Journey* program, may "God be with you" as you explore, discover, and reach new destinations in your walk with Jesus along with your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Your brother in Christ,

Joel S. Woodruff, Ed.D.

President, C.S. Lewis Institute

Journey

Welcome to *Journey: Foundations for Discipleship and Mission* | Introduction

Introduction

Overview

This nine-month small-group program¹ is designed to help thoughtful believers become better-grounded disciples of Jesus Christ who faithfully follow and actively serve Him. It focuses on a number of key biblical themes that Jesus taught His disciples. An apologetics element provides insights about how to share the gospel in today's world in a respectful, winsome, and effective manner. This learning and growth take place through study, small-group processing, fellowship, prayer, and obedient response.

The *Journey* Program Experience

If you choose to start up or join a *Journey* small group, you will need to gather the required materials and make time for the program in your schedule. Once the program kicks off, you will spend nine months actively engaged in study, discussion, and fellowship, as outlined in the *Journey* guidebook. More specifically:

- Each small group meets together for nine months, with two meetings each month. The program focuses on a different key theme each month. Members commit to regular attendance and to doing the assignments between meetings to enable them to fully participate in the group meetings.
- A small group leader acts as a facilitator.
- Each session includes group discussion and prayer.
- *Reading, Study and Teaching Videos.* Between group sessions, participants read from designated articles and books. The total reading each month is about 120 pages, divided between the two sessions. There is also a Bible Study for participants to complete between each session. Participants are encouraged to set aside about two hours each week to complete these readings and studies. Participants also watch a teaching video that is approximately 1 hour long between the first (Meeting A) and second (Meeting B) sessions of the month, focusing on the primary theme of the month.
- The time for each group meeting can be varied according to the needs of the group. We recommend at least one and a half to two hours for each meeting (the two-hour meeting includes time for a simple meal such as a potluck).

The nine biblical themes of the *Journey* program are:

- The Grace of God and True Conversion
- Following Jesus Christ
- Walking in the Holy Spirit
- Living a Life of Love and Obedience
- Walking in Humility
- Growing in Prayer and Faith
- Being Transformed by Scripture
- Pursuing God's Call on Your Life
- Sharing and Defending the Gospel

¹ While you could certainly benefit from the *Journey* materials on your own, experience has shown that fellowship is central to effective discipleship.



Needed Resources

- (1) *The Internet*. You will need access to the Internet in order to obtain many of the specified readings and the teaching videos.

An electronic version of this guidebook is available on the CSLI website, which provides links to the videos and other CSLI resources (articles, *Broadcast Talks*, and *Reflections*). There is no charge for the electronic guidebook or other CSLI resources. You may find it helpful to also **print a copy of the guidebook**. A Leader's Guide for the *Journey* program is also available on the CSLI website.

- (2) *Books*. You will need to purchase or otherwise obtain the following six books, all of which are available from Amazon and two of which are also available as free downloads.² Consider obtaining the reading materials in advance to be sure you are ready for your first reading.

3 2 1: The Story of God, The World and You by Glen Scrivener (10 Publishing)³

Don't Waste Your Life by John Piper (Crossway)⁴

Habits of Grace: Enjoying Jesus through the Spiritual Disciplines by David Mathis (Crossway)⁵

Have No Fear: Being Salt and Light Even When It's Costly by John Lennox (10 Publishing)⁶

How to be Filled with the Holy Spirit by A.W. Tozer (Moody Publishers)⁷

Taking God at His Word by Kevin DeYoung (Crossway)⁸

- (3) *Booklets*. You will also need to read the following two booklets, both of which can be downloaded for free:

The Holy Spirit by Kevin DeYoung (The Gospel Coalition Booklets)⁹

Two Ways to Live: The Choice We All Face by Phillip D. Jenson and Tony Payne (Matthias Media)¹⁰

You may also purchase paper copies of *Two Ways to Live* from the publisher.¹¹

- (4) *Study Bible*. A number of good Study Bibles are available, and you might consider asking your pastor for a recommendation. Three that we recommend are:

ESV Study Bible (Crossway; Wayne Grudem, General Editor)

NIV Biblical Theology Study Bible (previously published as the Zondervan NIV Study Bible) (Zondervan, D.A. Carson, General Editor)

² A free download of *Habits of Grace* by David Mathis is available from [desiringgod.org](https://www.desiringgod.org) at <https://www.desiringgod.org/books/habits-of-grace>.

A free download of *Don't Waste Your Life*, by John Piper, is available from [desiringgod.org](https://www.desiringgod.org); <https://www.desiringgod.org/books/dont-waste-your-life>.

³ <https://www.amazon.com/Story-God-World-You/dp/1909611948>

⁴ <https://www.amazon.com/Dont-Waste-Your-Life-Redesign/dp/1433555506>

⁵ <https://www.amazon.com/Habits-Grace-Enjoying-Spiritual-Disciplines/dp/1433550474>

⁶ <https://www.amazon.com/Have-No-Fear-Being-Costly/dp/1912373610>

⁷ <https://www.amazon.com/How-Be-Filled-Holy-Spirit/dp/1600667996>

⁸ <https://www.amazon.com/Taking-God-His-Word-Paperback/dp/1433551039>

⁹ A free download of *The Holy Spirit*, by Kevin DeYoung, is available from [thegospelcoalition.org](https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/publication/the-holy-spirit/): <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/publication/the-holy-spirit/>. A paper edition was published by Crossway, but it is now out of print.

¹⁰ A free download of *Two Ways to Live: The Choice We All Face* is available at: <https://www.matthiasmedia.com.au/2wtl/>.

¹¹ <https://www.matthiasmedia.com/two-ways-to-live-the-choice-we-all-face>

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Life Application Study Bible (Tyndale House Publishers; available in several translations).

(5) *Notebook*. We also recommend that you have a notebook to record your insights and other significant information during your reading, video viewing, Bible study, and small group sessions.

How to Use This Guidebook

The *Journey* guidebook provides the framework for the *Journey* experience. It organizes the program into eighteen small group meetings (two per month), where participants interact and engage in small group discussions on the nine key biblical themes.

Small group meetings

The following guidelines are included for each meeting:

1. Opening prayer

2. Scripture Reading

Taken from the Bible Study that was completed prior to the meeting.

3. Group Discussion

Includes several questions for each session to facilitate group discussion.

4. Prayer Requests

5. Closing Prayer

Assignments to complete before the next meeting

The specific assignments are listed at the end of the section for each meeting, under the heading “Prepare for the Next Meeting.” Links are provided for the videos and other CSLI resources (articles from *Knowing & Doing*, issues of *Broadcast Talks*, and *Reflections*), which are included on the CSLI website. (The books and booklets which participants need to purchase or otherwise obtain are listed above, in the section titled “Needed Resources.”)

A table showing the readings, Bible studies, and teaching videos to be completed between sessions is included in Appendix A. You may find it helpful in understanding how the assignments are organized.

The designated readings, Bible studies, and teaching videos were carefully selected as integral parts of the program. In order to get the most out of *Journey*, participants are strongly encouraged to complete all of the assignments and attend all of the small group meetings. You will find it easier to complete the assignments if you spread them out over the two-week period between sessions. In addition, when planning your schedule please allow enough time for thoughtful, reflective engagement with the assignments. Rushing through the assignments will limit the life-changing impact they can have. However, if you are not able to complete the assignments for a meeting, come anyway. Lastly, if you are not able to come to a meeting, try to let the small group leader know in advance and keep up with the assigned readings, Bible studies, and teaching videos.

How to Grow Through the *Journey* Program

Although this program has been designed to foster significant transformation of life and preparation for engaging the world for Christ, that outcome is not automatic. *The program’s impact on your life is directly proportional to*



the depth of your commitment to and engagement with it. Or, to put it slightly differently, you will only get out of it what you put into it. It is therefore essential for you to reorder your life to seek God more earnestly in the days ahead. This is chiefly a matter of the heart's desire for intimacy with God. However, to be realized, this desire must be expressed in concrete ways.

- If we want to know God more intimately, we must make time for God and give attention to God. He does not give Himself to casual seekers but rather to those who earnestly seek Him in faith, for “without faith it is impossible to please him” (Heb. 11:6). Therefore, you will want to commit yourself to a full engagement of mind and heart in the pursuit of God and make the time necessary to do so. On the critical issue of time, it is important to recognize that life in today's world is far too busy, pressured, and stressful to be healthy for the soul. While God expects us to give a day's work for a day's pay, He also expects us to devote time to seeking to know Him. Through daily quietness before Him in prayer, study, and meditation, we can come to know Him better. Therefore, *manage your schedule ruthlessly or it will manage you.* Reorder priorities to eliminate things of lesser value. This will almost certainly mean that you need to give up certain things in your life to create the time you need for this pursuit. Remember, anything you say yes to means that you are saying no to something else. Everyone in the program is expected to be an active member of a local church.
- God wants us to be truthful before Him in our innermost being (Ps. 51:6). To grow we must open ourselves to Him and remain open, asking Him often to free us from self-deception, to enlighten our ignorance, and to search our hearts and reveal anything we must change or forsake, especially our sins (Ps. 139:23–24). Hidden resentment, bitterness, anger, greed, pride, selfish ambition, sexual lusts and viewing pornography, and any kind of sexual activity outside of marriage are often considered minor issues by us, but they are not minor to God. Indeed, such things grieve the Holy Spirit, hinder our relationship with God and keep us spiritually stagnant. It is therefore especially important to accept God's definition of sins and to be completely honest with ourselves about where we are violating His will—then turn from our particular sins back to God and His standards for us. Otherwise, we will experience little spiritual growth.
- We will only grow as we respond to whatever truth God shows us with “the obedience of faith.” Obedience is the fruit of loving Jesus Christ (John 14:15) and a “key that opens all doors” (C.S. Lewis). To be sure, our obedience must flow from love for God and not from *servile fear and dread*. But we must obey, nonetheless, lest by contenting ourselves with un-lived truth we become increasingly self-deceived (James 1:22–25). If you are living in deliberate disobedience to God's word in any area of your life, you will not grow until you deal with that sin.
- **As you go through the program, pray often for the Holy Spirit to teach you.** Pray before you read the Bible, books, or articles, and before watching the teaching videos. Pray before each small group meeting. Ask God to help you have “ears to hear.” Also pray often that God will work into you (and your group) a genuine desire and determination to do His will from the heart, a courage to face and forsake all that is displeasing to Him, a readiness to embrace all that is good, a prompt, cheerful and trusting obedience, and a passion to see His purposes for your life fulfilled for His glory. If you do this, you can be sure that God will answer you because you will be praying His will (Matt. 7:7–11) and asking for the good things He wants to give you (1 John 5:14–15).

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Before the First Meeting

1. Article to Read Prior to Theme 1, Meeting A:

Prior to Theme 1, Meeting A, participants are asked to read the article “The Call to Discipleship,” by Tim Keller, found on the CSLI website (from *Knowing & Doing*, Winter 2011 (~5 pages)).

<https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources/the-call-to-discipleship>

2. Obtaining the first five (or more) designated books or booklets

To enable you to begin reading the assigned books/booklets immediately after the first meeting, you may want to purchase (or download) the first five (or more) designated materials in advance. The first five are:

3 2 1: The Story of God, The World and You by Glen Scrivener (10 Publishing)

Habits of Grace by David Mathis (Crossway)

How to be Filled with the Holy Spirit by A.W. Tozer (Moody Publishers)

The Holy Spirit by Kevin DeYoung (The Gospel Coalition)

Two Ways to Live: The Choice We All Face by Phillip D. Jenson and Tony Payne (Matthias Media)

Once you have the books, why wait? Begin reading.



A person with a backpack stands on the peak of a mountain. The sky is filled with many white birds in flight. The mountain's slope is covered in green and yellow brushstrokes, suggesting a vibrant, natural setting. The overall scene is bright and inspiring.

Theme 1

The Grace of God and True Conversion

Meeting A

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

—EPHESIANS 2: 8-10 (ESV)



This study will help you understand the biblical basis of salvation by grace through faith and also the nature of true conversion. This will provide a framework for examining your life and becoming more aware of how God has been at work in you over the years. It will also help you move toward an assurance of salvation, if you lack it. Further, it will give you valuable perspective and insights for evangelizing and discipling others.

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer

Small group leader welcomes everyone to the meeting and offers an opening prayer.

2. Introductions

Group members are encouraged to introduce themselves.

3. Introductory Video

Watch the Introductory Video by Joel Woodruff, President of the C.S. Lewis Institute (14 min).

<https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources-category/introduction-to-journey/>

(Note: This is the only video you will watch during a *Journey* meeting, as participants watch the teaching videos during the time between meetings, typically at home)

Scripture Reading

Read aloud the Bible passage at the beginning of this section (Ephesians 2: 8-10).

4. Group Discussion

(1) In Tim Keller's article, "The Call to Discipleship," he states that being a disciple of Jesus Christ means:

Setting a new priority

Finding a new identity

Living a new mercy

What does each of things mean in a person's life?

Why, according to Keller, is each of these critical?

How do they fit together?

(2) Why did you decide to participate in this *Journey* program? What are your hopes and expectations for the program?

5. Leader's Notes

Small Group Leader may give a brief explanation of the assignments to be completed before the next meeting (see the section titled "Prepare for Next Meeting" below).

6. Prayer Requests

7. Closing Prayer

Journey

Welcome to *Journey: Foundations for Discipleship and Mission* | Theme 1 | Meeting A

Homework

1. Reflect

Within a day or two after the meeting, prayerfully reflect on the meeting and its content. Pray for the other group members and their families. Ask that God would use the *Journey* small group program to help each member grow as a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ.

Prayerfully commit to spending daily, disciplined time with God, reading the Bible, praying and resting in His presence. If this is new for you, consider one of the two daily guides offered by Scripture Union, *Discovery* or *Encounter with God*.

(<https://scriptureunion.org/>)

2. Prepare for the Next Meeting

Coming Next: Theme 1: The Grace of God and True Conversion—Meeting B

(1) Read *Habits of Grace*, by David Mathis, pp. 11-33 (Forward, Preface, and Introduction: Grace Gone Wild) (~23 pages).

(2) Read article, “True Conversion,” by Tom Tarrants, found on CSLI website (from *Knowing & Doing*, Spring 2014, ~5 pages).

<https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources/true-conversion/>

(3) Read *Reflections*, “Finding Our True Selves” (1 page).

<https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources/reflections-september-2011/>

(4) Watch Teaching Video, *The Grace of God and True Conversion*, with Randy Newman, Senior Fellow for Apologetics and Evangelism at the C.S. Lewis Institute.

<https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources/video-grace-of-god-and-true-conversion/>

As you watch the video, consider: What are Randy Newman’s primary points? What support does he provide for each of these points? Which one (or ones) do you find most relevant to your life at this time? What from the video might you like to share with family members and friends? What about the video might you like to discuss in the next small group meeting? (You may find it helpful to take notes as you watch the video.)

(5) Complete Bible Study, Ephesians 2:1-10 and Titus 2:11-14.

a. *Read.* Carefully read these Bible passages. As you do so, consider: What does the text say? What was the original intent? What do the passages mean? How do the passages apply to my life, and the lives of others, today?

(To help you do this, consider the notes included in your Study Bible. For example, you may want to read about the background of the relevant book of the Bible or read the notes included for specific verses/passages.)

b. *Reflect.* What is the significance of grace in the Christian life? How is it significant in your life?

A person with a backpack stands on a mountain peak, surrounded by flying birds against a blue sky. The scene is rendered in a painterly style with vibrant colors and visible brushstrokes. The person is silhouetted against the bright sky, and the mountain slopes are painted in shades of green and yellow. Numerous white birds are scattered across the sky, some in flight and some as simple white shapes.

Theme 1

The Grace of God and True Conversion

Meeting B

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

—TITUS 2:11-14 (ESV)

Journey

Welcome to *Journey: Foundations for Discipleship and Mission* | Theme 1 | Meeting B

1. Opening Prayer

Small group leader welcomes everyone to the meeting and offers an opening prayer.

2. Scripture Reading

Read aloud the Bible passage at the beginning of this section (Titus 2:11-14).

3. Group Discussion

- (1) What struck you the most about Randy Newman’s teaching in the video, “The Grace of God and True Conversion”? If you were telling a friend or family member about it, what would you highlight? What will you remember?
- (2) According to Tom Tarrants’ article “True Conversion,” what is “godly repentance”? (See section titled “A Closer Look at Repentance.”) What is “saving faith”? (See section titled “A Closer Look at Saving Faith.”)
- (3) What is grace? Why is it so significant?
- (4) In light of the reading in *Habits of Grace*, what is the relationship between grace and the spiritual disciplines? Why does David Mathis describe spiritual disciplines as “means of grace”?)
- (5) The concluding paragraph of Reflections, “Finding Our True Selves,” (which follows a passage from C.S. Lewis’s *Mere Christianity*) reads as follows:

Giving ourselves wholly to Christ is the only way to discover who we are, the only way to become who Christ means us to be, the only way to experience his riches in this life and the only way to fulfill the purpose for which he made us. It may seem frightening, but once you do it, your only regret will be that you didn’t do it sooner.

How is this related to conversion? How is it related to discipleship?

4. Prayer Requests

5. Closing Prayer



Homework

1. Reflect

Within a day or two after the meeting, prayerfully reflect on the meeting and its content.

2. Change

As you consider the Bible studies, readings, teaching video, and other activities for this month are there changes you would like to make in your life, or other actions you would like to take at this time?

3. Prayer

Gracious Father, through Jesus Christ you have extended grace to me. By grace, through faith I have been saved. Day by day, help me to comprehend Your grace more and more in my life. Give me an increase of grace this day so that I can respond to Your love by my good deeds. Amen.

4. Prepare for the Next Meeting

Coming Next: Theme 2: Following Jesus Christ—Meeting A

(1) Read 3 2 1—*The Story of God, The World and You*, by Glen Scrivener, pp. 7-64 (chapters 1-3: Welcome; JESUS: The Way into the Story; THREE: God is a Loving Union of Three) (~58 pages).

(2) Read booklet *Two Ways to Live: The Choice We All Face*, by Phillip D. Jenson and Tony Payne (~16 pages).

Read on-line for free at: <https://www.matthiasmedia.com.au/2wtl/>

To purchase copies, go to: <https://www.matthiasmedia.com/two-ways-to-live-the-choice-we-all-face>

Pay close attention to the material in this booklet. Consider the most important question in everyone's life: Have you accepted what Jesus Christ has done on your behalf through His death on the cross and His resurrection, and have you asked Him to be your Lord and Savior? If you are not sure about this, we urge you to consider the following resources:

- “Begin Your *Journey* to Peace,” from the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (<https://peacewithgod.net/>)
- “Invitation to Follow Jesus: The Invitation C.S. Lewis Accepted and You Can Too,” by Randy Newman (<https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources/the-invitation-c-s-lewis-accepted-and-one-you-too-can-accept/>)

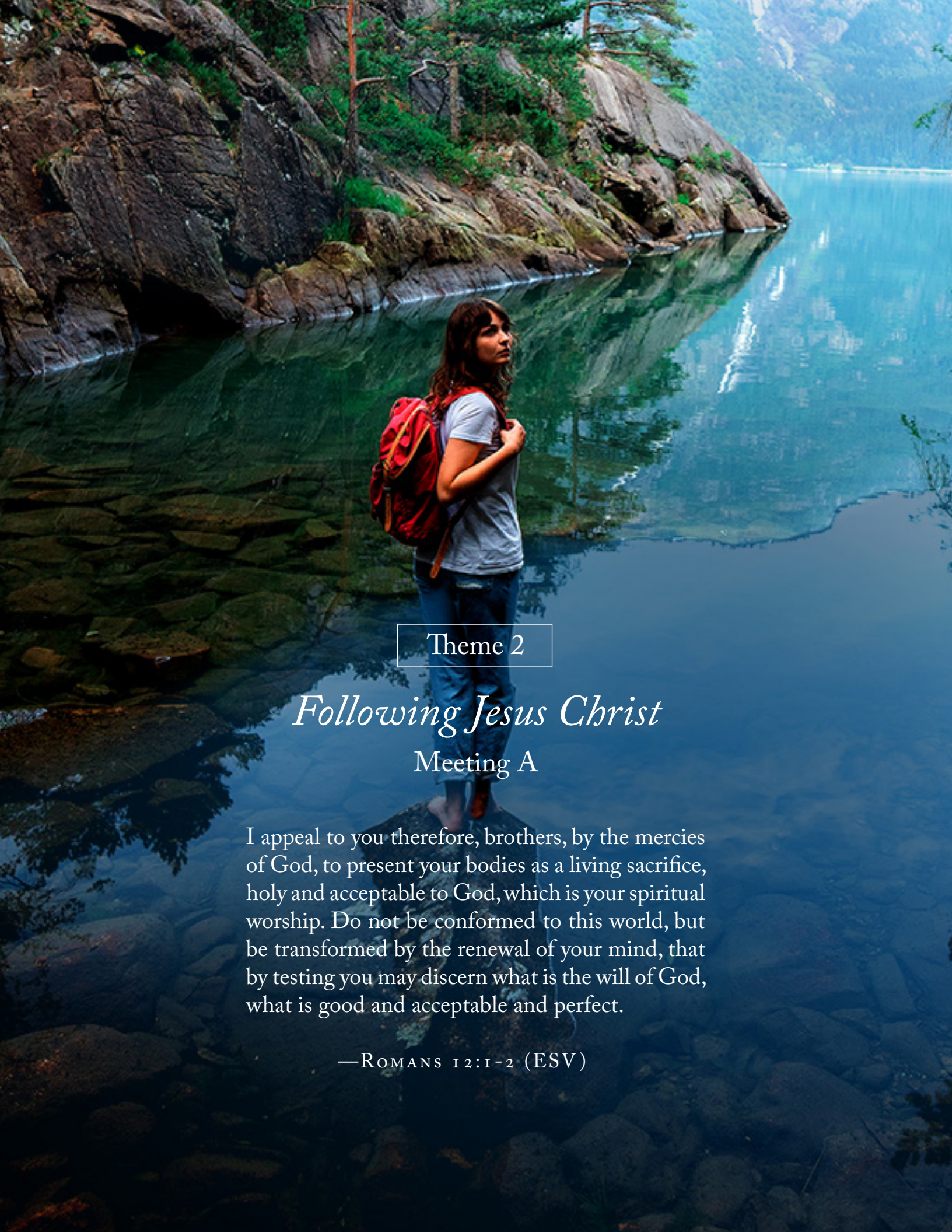
You may also wish to familiarize yourself with these resources above to consider using them with other people.

(3) Read article, “Following Jesus Christ,” by Tom Tarrant, found on CSLI website (from *Knowing & Doing*, Fall 2011, ~5 pages)

<https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources/following-jesus-christ/>

(4) Complete Bible Study, Romans 12:1-2.

- Read.* Carefully read this Bible passage. As you do so, consider: What does the text say? What was the original intent? What does the passage mean? How does the passage apply to my life, and the lives of others, today?
- Reflect.* What does this passage tell us about what it means to follow Jesus Christ?

A woman with long brown hair, wearing a white t-shirt, blue jeans, and a red backpack, stands on a rocky shore. She is looking out over a calm, clear blue lake that reflects the surrounding green forest and rocky cliffs. The scene is peaceful and scenic.

Theme 2

Following Jesus Christ

Meeting A

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

—ROMANS 12:1-2 (ESV)



This study will help clarify the nature and implications of Jesus' call to discipleship, its relationship to conversion, and its cost. Here we see the path everyone is called to follow when he or she accepts God's grace and love—the lifelong pursuit of Christlikeness.

Our goal is to make a total commitment of ourselves to Jesus Christ and His purposes for our lives. Or, if we have already made that commitment, to reaffirm it.

1. Opening Prayer

2. Scripture Reading

Read aloud the Bible passage at the beginning of this section. (Romans 12:1-2)

3. Group Discussion

- (1) According to Tom Tarrants' article "Following Jesus Christ," what does it mean to follow Jesus?
- (2) In his article, Tarrants observes, "Some people today mistakenly equate obedience with legalism and see it as the enemy of grace." How would you respond to someone arguing that obedience is legalism? What Scriptures would you cite?
- (3) What is the meaning and significance of the confession "Jesus is Lord"? (See 3 2 1—The Story of God, The World and You, pp. 41-43.)
- (4) How might you use the booklet, *Two Ways to Live*, to share the goodness of Jesus Christ with a friend? With someone you meet on a plane?

4. Prayer Requests

5. Closing Prayer

Journey

Welcome to *Journey: Foundations for Discipleship and Mission* | Theme 2 | Meeting A

Homework

1. Reflect

Within a day or two after the meeting, prayerfully reflect on the meeting and its content.

2. Prepare for Next Meeting

Coming Next: Theme 2: Following Jesus Christ—Meeting B

(1) Read *Habits of Grace*, by David Mathis, pp. 37-60 (chapters 1-3: HEAR HIS VOICE (WORD): Shape Your Life with the Words of Life; Read for Breadth, Study for Depth; Warm Yourself at the Fire of Meditation) (~23 pages)

(2) Read article “The Resurrection of Jesus Christ as Christianity’s Centerpiece,” by Benjamin R. Shaw and Gary R Habermas, found on CSLI website (from *Knowing & Doing*, Spring 2016, ~6 pages)

<https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources/the-resurrection-of-jesus-as-christianitys-centerpiece/>

(3) Read *Reflections*, “The Risk of Love” (1 page)

<https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources/reflections-february-2012/>

(4) Watch Teaching Video, *Following Jesus Christ*, with Bill Kynes, Senior Fellow for Pastoral Theology at the C.S. Lewis Institute, and retired Senior Pastor of Cornerstone, an Evangelical Free Church, in Annandale, Virginia, where he served from 1986-2022.

<https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources/video-following-jesus-christ/>

As you watch the video, consider: What are Pastor Kynes’ primary points? What support does he provide for each of these points? Which one (or ones) do you find most relevant to your life at this time? What from the video might you like to share with family members and friends? What about the video might you like to discuss in the next small group meeting?

(5) Complete Bible Study, Mark 8:27-38.

a. *Read.* Carefully read this passage. As you do so, consider: What does the text say? What was the original intent? What does the passage mean? How does the passage apply to my life, and the lives of others, today?

b. *Reflect.* How does the way of the cross affect your understanding of Christian discipleship?

A woman with long brown hair, wearing a white t-shirt and blue jeans, stands on a rocky shore next to a clear blue lake. She has a red backpack on her back and is looking out at the water. The lake is very clear, reflecting the surrounding green trees and the blue sky. The rocks are dark and jagged, and the water is a vibrant blue. The overall scene is peaceful and scenic.

Theme 2

Following Jesus Christ

Meeting B

And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul?"

—MARK 8:34-37 (ESV)

Journey

Welcome to *Journey: Foundations for Discipleship and Mission* | Theme 2 | Meeting B

1. Opening Prayer

2. Scripture Reading

Read aloud the Bible passage at the beginning of this section (Mark 8:34-37).

3. Group Discussion

- (1) What struck you the most about Pastor Kynes' teaching in the video, "Following Jesus Christ"? If you were telling a friend or family member about it, what would you highlight? What will you remember?
- (2) The article, "The Resurrection of Jesus Christ as Christianity's Centerpiece," by Benjamin C. Shaw and Gary R. Habermas, begins with the sentence, "Jesus' resurrection is at the very core of the message preached by His disciples." What verses from Scripture are cited by the authors in support of this statement. (See first paragraph of article.) After considering the article, how does this event influence the present lives of believers?
- (3) In light of the reading in chapter three of *Habits of Grace*, what is Christian meditation? How does it differ from the meditation practiced in non-Christian systems? What are the benefits of Christian meditation?
- (4) Considering Reflections, "The Risk of Love," what are some of the temptations we face that may lead us to protect ourselves from real relationships—with others and with God?
- (5) What struck you when reading Mark 8:27-38? As you were doing the Bible Study for this passage, did you find the notes included in your Study Bible to be helpful? If so, in what ways?

4. Prayer Requests

5. Closing Prayer



Homework

1. Reflect

Within a day or two after the meeting, prayerfully reflect on the meeting and its content.

2. Change

As you consider the Bible studies, readings, teaching video, and other activities you have completed over the last month in studying the theme—*Following Jesus Christ*—are there changes you would like to make in your life, or other actions you would like to take at this time?

3. Prayer

Lord, you are so good to me. I don't deserve your love and grace but I am so thankful for it. Your ways are higher than my ways and your thoughts are higher than my thoughts. Please help me submit fully to your lordship in my life. Help me to continue to pursue this goal every day, and to help others do the same. I give my entire self over to you Lord. Amen.

4. Prepare for Next Meeting

Coming Next: Theme 3: Walking in the Holy Spirit—Meeting A

- (1) Read booklet, *The Holy Spirit*, by Kevin DeYoung, pp. 7-25 (~18 pages)
- (2) Read book, *How to be Filled with the Holy Spirit*, by A.W. Tozer, pp. 5-64 (~59 pages)
- (3) Read article, "Being Led and Transformed by the Holy Spirit," by Tom Tarrants, found on the CSLI website (from *Knowing & Doing*, Winter 2017, ~5 pages).

<https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources/being-led-and-transformed-by-the-holy-spirit/>

- (4) Complete Bible Study, John 14:15-31.

- a. *Read.* Carefully read this passage. As you do so, consider: What does the text say? What was the original intent? What does the passage mean? How does the passage apply to my life, and the lives of others, today?
- b. *Reflect.* According to this passage, what would Christians be missing without the ministry of the Holy Spirit?

The background of the entire page is a photograph showing the silhouettes of two people rappelling down a dark, craggy cliff. They are positioned against a bright, hazy sky at sunset or sunrise, with the sun low on the horizon. The person higher up is leaning forward, holding a rope that extends across the top of the frame. The person lower down is reaching up, grasping the rope. The overall mood is one of struggle, teamwork, and reaching a goal.

Theme 3

Walking in the Holy Spirit

Meeting A

If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

—JOHN 14:15-17 (ESV)



It is impossible to live as a disciple of Jesus Christ unless you are empowered to do so by the Holy Spirit. The New Birth, fellowship with God, inner transformation, gifts for ministry and power for mission are each the work of the indwelling Spirit. In some circles the Holy Spirit is overemphasized and in others He is largely ignored. As a result, many believers lack the understanding and power to live as faithful and fruitful disciples of Jesus. In this section, we will seek to understand what the Bible teaches about the Holy Spirit and experience all that is offered by the Holy Spirit.

Our goal is to recognize the necessity of the Holy Spirit's indwelling presence to empower us for obedient living and effective ministry and to be filled with the Spirit.

1. Opening Prayer

2. Scripture Reading

Read aloud the Bible passage at the beginning of this section. (John 14:15-17))

3. Group Discussion

- (1) After considering Kevin DeYoung's booklet *The Holy Spirit*:
 - a. Who is the Holy Spirit?
 - b. What is the Work of the Holy Spirit?
- (2) What does a person need to do to be filled with the Holy Spirit?
- (3) After considering Tom Tarrants' article "Being Led and Transformed by the Holy Spirit," what are some of the works of the flesh? What is the fruit of the Holy Spirit? What part do we play in the blossoming of the Spirit's fruit in our lives?
- (4) What insights did you gain from the Bible Study of John 14:15-31?

4. Prayer Requests

5. Closing Prayer

Homework

1. Reflect

Within a day or two after the meeting, prayerfully reflect on the meeting and its content.

2. Prepare for the Next Meeting

Coming Next: Theme 3: Walking in the Holy Spirit—Meeting B

- (1) Read *Habits of Grace*, by David Mathis, pp. 61-89 (chapters 4-6: HEAR HIS VOICE (WORD): Bring the Bible Home to Your Heart; Memorize the Mind of God; Resolve to Be a Lifelong Learner) (~28 pages)
- (2) Read article "Knowing God Personally," by Tom Tarrants, found on CSLI website (from *Knowing & Doing*, Summer 2016, ~5 pages)
<https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources/knowning-god-personally/>
- (3) Read *Reflections*, "Feelings or Faith for Foundations?" (1 page)
<https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources/reflections-march-2006/>

Journey

Welcome to *Journey: Foundations for Discipleship and Mission* | Theme 3 | Meeting A

- (4) Watch Teaching Video, *Walking in the Holy Spirit*, with Tom Holliday, Pastor of Alexandria Presbyterian Church in Alexandria, Virginia.

<https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources/video-walking-in-the-holy-spirit/>

As you watch the video, consider: What are Pastor Holliday's primary points? What support does he provide for each of these points? Which one (or ones) do you find most relevant to your life at this time? What from the video might you like to share with family members and friends? What about the video might you like to discuss in the next small group meeting?

- (5) Complete Bible Study, Romans 8:1-17.

a. *Read.* Carefully read this passage. As you do so, consider: What does the text say? What was the original intent? What does the passage mean? How does the passage apply to my life, and the lives of others, today?

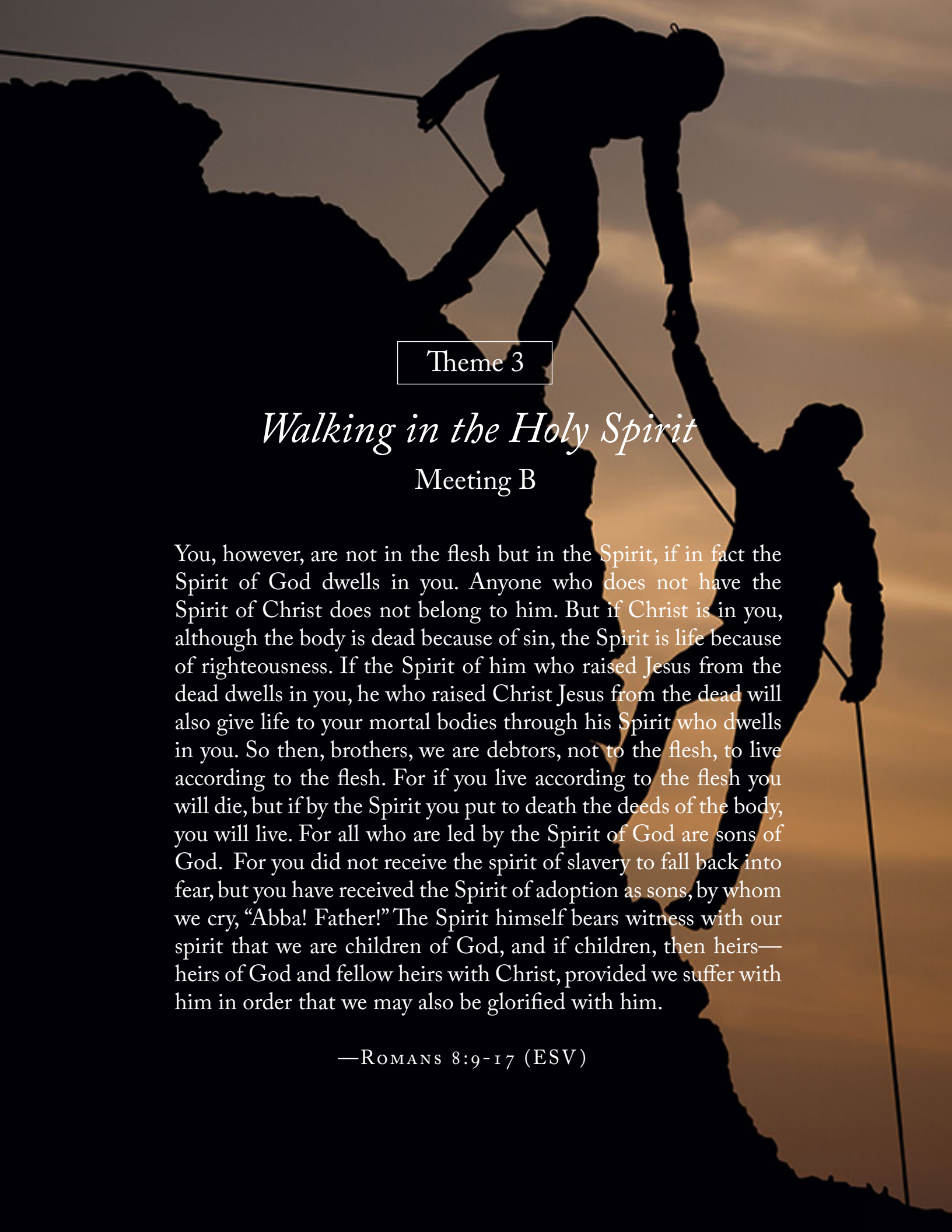
b. *Reflect.* What are the chief characteristics of a person who lives in the freedom of the Spirit (vv. 5, 6, 15)? What are the chief characteristics of a person who lives in slavery to the sinful nature (vv. 5, 6, 7)?

- (6) If you have not yet done so, consider purchasing or otherwise obtaining the rest of the designated books. You will want to be able to begin reading each book at the specified time and may want to read ahead. The books are:

Don't Waste Your Life by John Piper (Crossway)

Have No Fear: Being Salt and Light Even When It's Costly by John Lennox (10 Publishing)

Taking God at His Word by Kevin DeYoung (Crossway)



Theme 3

Walking in the Holy Spirit

Meeting B

You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs— heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

—ROMANS 8:9-17 (ESV)

Journey

Welcome to *Journey: Foundations for Discipleship and Mission* | Theme 3 | Meeting B

1. Opening Prayer

2. Scripture Reading

Read aloud the Bible passage at the beginning of this section. (Romans 8:9-17)

3. Group Discussion

- (1) What struck you the most about Pastor Holliday’s teaching in the video, “Walking in the Holy Spirit”? If you were telling a friend or family member about it, what would you highlight? What will you remember?
- (2) In the introduction to chapter four of *Habits of Grace*, David Mathis writes:
The key question we need to answer in this chapter is what effect should regular Bible intake have on our hearts and lives—and how does it happen?
In light of the reading, how would you answer this question?
- (3) What insights into life in the Spirit did you gain from the Bible Study of Romans 8:1-17?
- (4) Considering Reflections, “The Risk of Love,” what are some of the temptations we face that may lead us to protect ourselves from real relationships—with others and with God?
- (5) After considering Tom Tarrants’ article “Knowing God Personally,” how would you explain the distinction between the new birth and growing to know God more deeply *after* the new birth? How can we know God more deeply?

4. Prayer Requests

5. Closing Prayer



Homework

1. Reflect

Within a day or two after the meeting, prayerfully reflect on the meeting and its content.

2. Change

As you consider the Bible studies, readings, teaching video and other activities you have completed over the last month in studying the theme—*Walking in the Holy Spirit*—are there changes you would like to make in your life, or other actions you would like to take at this time?

3. Prayer

O God, Spirit of the Eternal God! Help me to decrease and you to increase in my life. Do not let me hinder the work of your Holy Spirit in my life. Teach me to trust in you ever more deeply and to rely more completely each day on you. In Jesus' name, Amen!

4. Prepare for Next Meeting

Coming Next: Theme 4: Living a Life of Love and Obedience—Meeting A

(1) Read booklet, *3 2 1—The Story of God, The World and You*, by Glen Scrivener, pp. 65-124 (chapters 4-5: TWO: The World is Shaped by **Two** Representatives; ONE: You are **One** with Adam—Be **One** with Jesus) (~60 pages).

(2) Read article, “Loving God and Neighbor,” by Tom Tarrants, found on CSLI website (from *Knowing & Doing*, Fall 2014, ~5 pages)

<https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources/loving-god-and-neighbor/>

(3) Complete Bible Study, Matthew 22:34-40, 25:31-46.

(a) Read. Carefully read this passage. As you do so, consider: What does the text say? What was the original intent? What does the passage mean? How does the passage apply to my life, and the lives of others, today?

(b) Reflect. The command to love God is for a whole-hearted, not a half-hearted love. Religion elicits a great deal of emotion on the one hand and a great deal of coldness on the other. What is the difference between a religion of love and a religion of duty?

A person with a backpack is walking away from the camera on a dirt path through a dense forest. Sunlight filters through the trees, creating a dappled light effect on the path and foliage. The person is wearing a dark jacket and a large green backpack. The path leads into the distance, flanked by tall trees and thick undergrowth.

Theme 4

Living a Life of Love and Obedience
Meeting A

Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?”
And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart and with all your soul and with all
your mind. This is the great and first commandment.
And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as
yourself. On these two commandments depend all the
Law and the Prophets.

—MATTHEW 22:36-40 (ESV)



Jesus Christ lived a life of perfect love toward God and others. As Christ's disciples, we are called to follow His example and make love of God and our neighbor the great goal of our lives. As we do so, the Holy Spirit empowers us to become increasingly like Jesus. In this section we will distinguish agape love from the sensuous and the sentimental ideas of love that permeate American culture. We will explore how agape is manifested in grateful obedience toward God and the humble service of our neighbor, and how we grow in this love.

Our goal is to commit ourselves to loving God wholeheartedly and loving our neighbor as the proper expression of discipleship.

1. Opening Prayer

2. Scripture Reading

Read aloud the Bible passage at the beginning of this section (Matthew 23:36-40).

3. Group Discussion

- (1) According to Glen Scrivener, the phrase “in Jesus” is probably the most important two-word phrase in the Bible. (See 3 2 1—*The Story of God, The World and You*, p. 103.) What does this phrase mean, and what are the implications?
- (2) What is the relationship between loving God and obedience? (See Tom Tarrants' article, “Loving God and Neighbor,” section titled “Loving God.”)
- (3) What is the biblical meaning of love?
- (4) What insights did you gain from the Bible Study of Matthew 22:34-40 and 25:31-46?

4. Prayer Requests

5. Closing Prayer

Journey

Welcome to *Journey: Foundations for Discipleship and Mission* | Theme 4 | Meeting A

Homework

1. Reflect

Within a day or two after the meeting, prayerfully reflect on the meeting and its content.

2. Prepare for the Next Meeting

Coming Next: Theme 4: Living a Life of Love and Obedience—Meeting B

(1) Read *Habits of Grace*, by David Mathis, pp. 93-116 (chapters 7-9: HAVE HIS EAR (PRAYER): Enjoy the Gift of Having God’s Ear; Pray in Secret; Pray with Constancy and Company (~23 pages)

(2) Read article “How Will They Know? They Will Know Them by Their Love,” by Art Lindsley, found on CSLI website (from *Knowing & Doing*, Fall 2016, ~5 pages)

<https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources/how-will-they-know/>

(3) Read *Reflections*, “Trust and Obey” (1 page)

<https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources/reflections-february-2006/>

(4) Watch Teaching Video, *Living a Life of Love and Obedience*, with Chris Sicks, Pastor of One Voice Fellowship in Northern Virginia.

<https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources/video-living-a-life-of-love-and-obedience/>

As you watch the video, consider: What are Pastor Sicks’ primary points? What support does he provide for each of these points? Which one (or ones) do you find most relevant to your life at this time? What from the video might you like to share with family members and friends? What about the video might you like to discuss in the next small group meeting?

(5) Complete Bible Study, 1 John 4:7-21.

a. *Read.* Carefully read this passage. As you do so, consider: What does the text say? What was the original intent? What does the passage mean? How does the passage apply to my life, and the lives of others, today?

b. *Reflect.* Why is it important to keep the correct order of love (God is love, God loves us in Christ; therefore, we are to love God and others) in mind?

A person with a backpack is walking away from the camera on a dirt path through a dense forest. Sunlight filters through the trees, creating a bright, hazy atmosphere. The person is wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt and a green backpack. The path is surrounded by lush green foliage and trees.

Theme 4

Living a Life of Love and Obedience
Meeting B

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

—1 JOHN 4:7-12 (ESV)

Journey

Welcome to *Journey: Foundations for Discipleship and Mission* | Theme 4 | Meeting B

1. Opening Prayer

2. Scripture Reading

Read aloud the Bible passage at the beginning of this section (1 John 4:7-12)

3. Group Discussion

- (1) What struck you the most about Pastor Sicks' teaching in the video, "Living a Life of Love and Obedience"? If you were telling a friend or family member about it, what would you highlight? What will you remember?
- (2) What, according to David Mathis, is "the great purpose of prayer"? (See *Habits of Grace*, p. 95.)
- (3) What is the "ACTS" pattern of prayer? (See *Habits of Grace*, pp. 105-106.) What are some of the potential benefits of incorporating this pattern as a part of one's prayer life?
- (4) What does 1 John 4:7-12 tell us about living a life of love?
- (5) What prayer could you pray on a daily basis to grow in love for God and others?
- (6) What light does C.S Lewis shed on the relationship between God's free grace and the many Scriptural exhortations to self-surrender, obedience, and the vigorous pursuit of holiness? (See *Reflections*, "Trust and Obey".)

4. Prayer Requests

5. Closing Prayer



Homework

1. Reflect

Within a day or two after the meeting, prayerfully reflect on the meeting and its content.

2. Prayer

Father, help me to love you enough to eagerly obey you. In Jesus' name, Amen!

3. Change

As you consider the Bible studies, readings, teaching video and other activities you have completed over the last month in studying the theme—*Living a Life of Love and Obedience*—are there changes you would like to make in your life, or other actions you would like to take at this time?

4. Prepare for Next Meeting

Coming Next: Theme 5: Growing in Humility—Meeting A

(1) Read *Don't Waste Your Life*, by John Piper, Chapters 1-5 (pp. 9-91 in 2018 paperback edition) (~82 pages)

(2) Read article "Pride and Humility," by Tom Tarrants, found on CSLI website (from *Knowing & Doing*, Winter 2011, ~5 pages)

<https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources/pride-and-humility/>

(3) Complete Bible Study, Philippians 2:3-11.

a. *Read.* Carefully read this passage. As you do so, consider: What does the text say? What was the original intent? What does the passage mean? How does the passage apply to my life, and the lives of others, today?

b. *Reflect.* Whatever our relational difficulties, Christ Jesus is our standard. What is there about Him that addresses our hesitations and reservations about valuing others above ourselves?



Theme 5

Walking in Humility

Meeting A

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name...

—PHILIPPIANS 2:3-9 (ESV)



Humility is the path to deeper fellowship with God and others, as well as true Christlikeness and fruitful ministry. Christ's love was expressed in humble servanthood—in deliberately taking upon Himself the role of a servant—and those who would follow Him are called to do the same. However, forsaking pride is essential in order to embrace humility and servanthood. In this section we will explore the nature of pride and how to grow in humility.

Our goal is to discover at least some of the pride that infects our lives and commit ourselves to forsaking it and pursuing a lifestyle of humility, following the example of Jesus.

1. Opening Prayer

2. Scripture Reading

Read aloud the Bible passage at the beginning of this section (Philippians 2:3-9).

3. Group Discussion

- (1) Early in Tom Tarrants' article "Pride and Humility," he states, "Make no mistake about it; pride is the great sin. It is the devil's most effective and destructive tool." How would you explain the meaning of "pride" to someone else? Why is it so destructive? How does the good kind of pride, e.g., pride in one's children, differ from arrogant or self-exalting pride?
- (2) What is humility? How is it different from weakness? How did Jesus Christ model humility in His life?
- (3) In light of the reading in John Piper's *Don't Waste Your Life*, what are some of the ways in which a person might waste their life? What, according to Piper, is the "opposite of wasting your life"? (See *Don't Waste Your Life*, chapter three.)
- (4) What insights did you gain from the Bible Study of Philippians 2:3-11?

4. Prayer Requests

5. Closing Prayer

Journey

Welcome to *Journey: Foundations for Discipleship and Mission* | Theme 5 | Meeting A

Homework

1. Reflect

Within a day or two after the meeting, prayerfully reflect on the meeting and its content.

2. Prepare for the Next Meeting

Coming Next: Theme 5: Walking in Humility—Meeting B

(1) Read *Habits of Grace*, by David Mathis, pp. 117-142 (chapters 10-12: HAVE HIS EAR (PRAYER): Sharpen Your Affections with Fasting; Journal as a Pathway to Joy; Take a Break from the Chaos) (~25 pages)

(2) Read article, “Discipleship or Grace: Must it be One or the Other?,” by Bill Kynes, found on CSLI website (from *Knowing & Doing*, Fall 2011, ~5 pages)

<https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources/discipleship-or-grace-must-it-be-one-or-the-other>

(3) Read *Reflections*, “Jesus Christ” (1 page)

<https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources/reflections-september-2004/>

(4) Watch Teaching Video, *Walking in Humility*, with Pastor Parker Williamson.

<https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources/video-walking-in-humility/>

As you watch the video, consider: What are Pastor Williamson’s primary points? What support does he provide for each of these points? Which one (or ones) do you find most relevant to your life at this time? What from the video might you like to share with family members and friends? What about the video might you like to discuss in the next small group meeting?

(5) Complete Bible Study, Luke 14:7-11; 18:9-14.

a. *Read.* Carefully read this passage. As you do so, consider: What does the text say? What was the original intent? What does the passage mean? How does the passage apply to my life, and the lives of others, today?

b. *Reflect.* What do these passages tell us about humility?



Theme 5

Walking in Humility

Meeting B

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.

—LUKE 18:9-14 (ESV)

Journey

Welcome to *Journey: Foundations for Discipleship and Mission* | Theme 5 | Meeting B

1. Opening Prayer

2. Scripture Reading

Read aloud the Bible passage at the beginning of this section (Luke 18:9-14).

3. Group Discussion

- (1) What struck you the most about Pastor Williamson's teaching in the video, "Walking in Humility"? If you were telling a friend or family member about it, what would you highlight? What will you remember?
- (2) In his article, "Discipleship or Grace, Must It Be One or the Other?", Bill Kynes states that he hopes "to show that the gracious invitation of the gospel and the costly call to discipleship are not in contradiction but in sublime harmony when certain misperceptions are swept away." What are some of the misperceptions Kynes identifies, and what is the right understanding in these areas?
- (3) What, according to David Mathis, are some of the possible benefits of journaling? (See *Habits of Grace*, chapter eleven.)
- (4) Considering the reading in *Reflections*, "Jesus Christ," what was C.S. Lewis's response to people who say, "I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God"? What would be your response?
- (5) What insights did you gain from the Bible Study of Luke 14:7-11; 18:9-14?

4. Prayer Requests

5. Closing Prayer



Homework

1. Reflect

Within a day or two after the meeting, prayerfully reflect on the meeting and its content.

2. Change

As you consider the Bible studies, readings, teaching video and other activities you have completed over the last month in studying the theme—*Walking in Humility*—are there changes you would like to make in your life, or other actions you would like to take at this time?

3. Prayer

Living God, please mold my heart and mind so that my thoughts, and my desires, reflect your will. In Jesus's name, Amen!

4. Prepare for Next Meeting

Coming Next: Theme 6: Growing in Prayer and Faith—Meeting A

(1) Read *Don't Waste Your Life*, by John Piper, chapters 6-10 (pp. 93-177 in 2018 paperback edition) (~84 pages)

(2) Read article, "Growing in Prayer, Part 1: Hindrances to Prayer," by Bill Kynes, found on CSLI website (from *Knowing & Doing*, Winter 2016, ~5 pages)

<https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources/growing-in-prayer-part-1-hindrances-to-prayer/>

(3) Complete Bible Study, Matthew 6:5-15 (The Lord's Prayer), 7:7-11.

a. *Read.* Carefully read this passage. As you do so, consider: What does the text say? What was the original intent? What does the passage mean? How does the passage apply to my life, and the lives of others, today?

b. *Reflect.* In what ways does the Lord's Prayer give us a sense of identity, mission, provision, and protection?

A photograph of two hikers, a woman and a man, standing on a grassy mountain ridge. They are both wearing backpacks and are high-fiving each other. The woman is on the left, wearing a yellow backpack and orange shorts. The man is on the right, wearing a black backpack and red shorts. They are both smiling. The background shows a vast mountain range under a clear sky.

Theme 6

Growing in Prayer and Faith

Meeting A

Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

—MATTHEW 7:7-11 (ESV)



God calls us to grow in grace and has provided certain means through which we can do so. Prayer is one of the primary means of grace He has given to us and is a great and powerful privilege. To live without prayer is to live without God; to be content with little prayer ensures a weak spiritual life. Because many believers struggle with prayer, in this section we will explore the pathway to a deeper and more effective prayer life.

Our goal is to be better equipped for a life of prayer.

1. Opening Prayer

2. Scripture Reading

Read aloud the Bible passage at the beginning of this section (Matthew 7:7-11).

3. Group Discussion

- (1) Considering Bill Kynes' article, "Growing in Prayer, Part 1: Hindrances to Prayer," why is prayer so hard? What are the biggest hindrances to your prayer life? What strategies might help you to overcome these hindrances?
- (2) How can you use the Lord's prayer as an outline for prayer?
- (3) In what ways does the Lord's Prayer give us a sense of identity, mission, provision, and protection?
- (4) In light of the reading in chapter nine of *Don't Waste Your Life*, what are God's priorities with respect to missions?

4. Prayer Requests

5. Closing Prayer

Journey

Welcome to *Journey: Foundations for Discipleship and Mission* | Theme 6 | Meeting A

Homework

1. Reflect

Within a day or two after the meeting, prayerfully reflect on the meeting and its content.

2. Prepare for the Next Meeting

Coming Next: Theme 6: Growing in Prayer and Faith—Meeting B

(1) Read *Habits of Grace*, by David Mathis, pp. 145-171 (chapters 13-15: BELONG TO HIS BODY (FELLOWSHIP): Learn to Fly in the Fellowship; Kindle the Fire in Corporate Worship; Listen for Grace in the Pulpit) (~26 pages)

(2) Read article, “Growing in Prayer, Part 2: Learning to Pray to Your Father,” by Bill Kynes, found on CSLI website (from *Knowing & Doing*, Spring 2017, ~5 pages)

<https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources/growing-in-prayer-part-2-learning-to-pray-to-your-father/>

(3) Read *Reflections*, “What is God’s Plan for Your Life?” (1 page)

<https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources/reflections-june-2009/>

(4) Watch Teaching Video, *Growing in Prayer and Faith*, with Stuart McAlpine, Teaching Fellow at the C.S. Lewis Institute and the founding pastor of Christ our Shepherd Church located on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC.

<https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources/video-growing-in-prayer-and-faith/>

As you watch the video, consider: What are Pastor McAlpine’s primary points? What support does he provide for each of these points? Which one (or ones) do you find most relevant to your life at this time? What from the video might you like to share with family members and friends? What about the video might you like to discuss in the next small group meeting?

**Notes to supplement this Teaching Video are located at the end of this section.*

(5) Complete Bible Study, Luke 18:1-8.

a. *Read.* Carefully read this passage. As you do so, consider: What does the text say? What was the original intent? What does the passage mean? How does the passage apply to my life, and the lives of others, today?

b. *Reflect.* What does this parable tell us about God’s willingness to hear the prayers of His people and give justice?

Notes to Supplement Teaching Video, *Growing in Prayer and Faith*, by Stuart McAlpine

Effective Prayer

1. Knowing Jesus as personal Lord and Savior

“Believe me when I say that I am in the Father, and the Father is in me ... I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing ... And I will do whatever you ask in my name.” (John 14:11-13)

2. Knowing God’s acceptance

“... so that you may know that you have eternal life. This is the confidence we have in approaching God ... that if we ask” (1 John 5:13).

3. Confessing sin

David knew that if there was *“iniquity in my heart”* (Psalm 66:18)

4. Humility

Asking that is a true confession of need requires humility. If people will *“humble themselves”* then God says that He *“will forgive their sins”* (2 Chronicles 7:14). *“But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God have mercy on me a sinner’ ... this man went home justified”* (Luke 18:13-14).

5. Believing

“Whatever you ask for, believe that you have received it” (Mark 11:24). *“If you believe you will receive whatever you ask for”* (Matthew 21:22). *“He who believes in Me, the works that I do shall he do also ... Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do”* (John 14:12-14). *“When he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord”* (James 1:6).

6. Faith

“According to your faith be it unto you ... If you have faith as small as a mustard seed ... if you have faith and do not doubt ... Have faith in God ... whatever you ask ... Increase our faith” (Matthew 9:29; 17:20; 21:21; Mark 11:22; Luke 17:5). *“Let us draw near to God ... in full assurance of faith”* (Hebrews 10:22).

7. Abiding in Him

“I am the vine, you are the branches ... If you abide in me ... ask what you wish” (John 15:5-7).

8. Forgiving

“And when you stand, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him” (Mark 11:25).

9. Knowing He hears

“And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have what we asked of Him” (1 John 5:15).

10. Knowing His Word

“Preserve my life according to your Word ... Direct my footsteps according to your Word ... May my cry come



before you O Lord; give me understanding according to your Word” (Psalm 119:25, 28, 41, 58, 133, 169). “If ... my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish” (John 15:7).

11. Waiting and listening

“Those who wait on the Lord will renew their strength” (Isaiah 40:31). This is perhaps the best-known verse about waiting but it is addressed to people who are tempted to give up praying and asking and waiting for an answer: “My cause is disregarded by God” (40:27). “See, the sovereign Lord comes in power ... Lift your eyes and look to the heavens” (40:10, 26). All the people can hear are the sounds of war and the cries of helplessness, but they are told to listen to something else: “A voice of one calling ... Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God” (40:3-4, 9, 21, 28).

12. Asking in Jesus’ Name

John 14: 13-14: *“And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.”*

John 15:16: *“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.”*

John 16:23, 24, 26: *“In that day you will no longer ask me anything. I tell you the truth, My Father will give you whatever you ask in my name... Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete ... In that day you will ask in my name. I am not saying that I will ask the Father on your behalf.”*

- **Advocacy:** Indeed, *“we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous”* (1 John 2:1-2).
- **Association:** When we ask in His name we are identifying ourselves with Jesus as the Son of the Father, and accepting our identity as sons and daughters of the Father.
- **Access:** We have access to the Father by the blood of Jesus. We have access in His name.
- **Approach:** Because Jesus is the great High Priest who has gone before us, we not only have access, but we have the invitation and authority to boldly approach the throne of grace itself.
- **Acceptance:** We know that the only ground of our acceptance is *“in the Beloved”* (Ephesians 1:6.)
- **Assurance:** As John put it so clearly, our assurance is our belief *“in the name of the Son of God”* (1 John 5:13-15) and in asking *“according to His will.”*
- **Appropriateness:** Obviously if Jesus’s name is on it we cannot be asking for something that is not in keeping with who He is.
- **Agreement:** We ask in agreement with Jesus, according to the Father’s will in heaven
- **Authority:** There is authority in Jesus’s name.
- **Audacity:** Asking in the name of Jesus gives us the same boldness that Jesus Himself has.
- **Approval:** *“On Him God has placed His seal of approval.”* John 6:27
- **Anticipation:** Asking *“in His name”* is both the sign and the sigh for His return.

13. Not depending on our own understanding

“lean not on our own understanding” (Proverbs 3:5). “If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously” (James 1:5).

14. Fasting

“When you pray ... When you fast” (Matthew 6:5, 16).

To be heavenward: *“He answers him from His holy heaven” (Psalm 20:6).*

To be holy: *“They stood and confessed their sins” (Nehemiah 9:1-3).* The sense of heavenly presence brings conviction of sin: As a result of a “chosen” asking-fast *“your righteousness will go before you” (Isaiah 58:8).*

- **To be humbled:** *“I humbled my soul by fasting” (Psalm 69:10). “I proclaimed a fast ... that we might humble ourselves before our God” (Ezra 8:21).*
- **To be heard:** *“So we fasted and petitioned our God about this, and He answered our prayer” (Ezra 8:23).*
- **To be helped:** *“You will call and I will answer” (Isaiah 58:9) and this is affirmed by the avalanche of active verbs that describe his response: “I am sending ... I will drive out ... I will repay ... I will pour out ... I will gather ... your light will break forth ... the Lord will guide ... He will satisfy ... you will be like ... you will be called ... you will find ... I will cause you to” (Joel 2-3, Isaiah 58).*
- **To be healed:** Asking with fasting is sometimes necessary for healing and deliverance. *“Your healing will quickly appear” (Isaiah 58:8). “This kind can only come out by prayer and fasting.” (Mark 9:29).*
- **To hear:** Daniel pleads with God: *“In prayer and petition, in fasting” (9:3).* He asks to be heard: *“Hear the petitions of your servant ... Give ear O God ... O Lord listen” (9:17-19). “As soon as you began to ask an answer was given, which I have come to tell you ...” (9:23).*

15. Desiring

“May He give you the desire of your heart ... May the Lord grant all your requests” (Psalm 20:4-5). “Whatever things you desire, when you ask ...” (Mark 11:24). “My heart’s desire and prayer to God ...” (Romans 10:1)

16. Seeking and submitting to His will

“If we ask anything according to His will He hears us” (1John 5:13). “Your will be done” (Matthew 6:10). “He listens to the godly man who does His will” (John 9:31).

17. Loving the believers

“If our hearts do not condemn us we have confidence before God and receive from Him anything we ask because we do His commands ... and this is His command ...to love one another as He commanded” (1 John 3:21-23).

18. Unity in agreement:

In John 17 Jesus asks His Father *“by the power of Your name –the name You gave Me – so that they may be one as we are one” (17:11).*



19. Boldness

“We may approach God with freedom and confidence” (Ephesians 3:12). *“And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask”* (1 John 5:14-15). *“Having therefore boldness to enter the holiest by the blood of Jesus”* (Hebrews 10:19).

20. Expectation

“Ask and it shall be given you” (Matthew 7:7). *“To Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine”* (Ephesians 3:20).

21. Experience of the Holy Spirit:

Paul says that God can do more than we pray for *“According to His power that is at work within us”* (Ephesians 3:20).

22. Pleasing Him with uncondemned hearts:

“I will do the very thing you have asked because I am pleased with you” (Exodus 33:17); *“If our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from Him anything we ask, because we obey His commands and do what pleases Him”* (1John 3:22).

23. Importunity – unceasing prayer

“Ask and keep on asking ... knock and the door will be opened ... to show them that they should always pray and not give up” (Matthew 7:7; Luke 18:1). *“Give him no rest”* (Isaiah 61:2). *“Pray without ceasing ... Prayer was made without ceasing”* (1Thessalonians 5:17; Acts 12:5).

24. Personal holiness

We cannot ask God for His name to be hallowed if there is no place for holiness in our lives.

25. Being specific

“What do you want me to do for you?” (blind man in Jericho - Luke 18:41)

A photograph of two hikers, a woman and a man, standing on a grassy mountain peak. They are both wearing backpacks and are high-fiving each other. The woman is on the left, wearing a yellow backpack and a light-colored top. The man is on the right, wearing a blue shirt and red shorts. The background shows a vast, hazy mountain range under a clear sky.

Theme 6

Growing in Prayer and Faith

Meeting B

And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Give me justice against my adversary.’ For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, ‘Though I neither fear God nor respect man, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.’” And the Lord said, “Hear what the unrighteous judge says. And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

—LUKE 18:1-8 (ESV)

Journey

Welcome to *Journey: Foundations for Discipleship and Mission* | Theme 6 | Meeting B

1. Opening Prayer

2. Scripture Reading

Read aloud the Bible passage at the beginning of this section (Luke 18:1-8).

3. Group Discussion

- (1) What struck you the most about Pastor McAlpine's teaching in the video, "Growing in Prayer and Faith"? If you were telling a friend or family member about it, what would you highlight? What will you remember?
- (2) In the introductory section of his article "Growing in Prayer Part 2: Learning to Pray to Your Father," Bill Kynes argues that "the key to praying like Jesus is found in our relationship with God as our Father." What is the basis for this argument?
- (3) What struck you about the passage by C.S. Lewis in Reflections, "What is God's Plan for Your Life?"
- (4) What insights did you gain from the Bible Study of Luke 18:1-8?
- (5) What, according to David Mathis, are the twin texts of fellowship? (See *Habits of Grace*, pp. 146-148.) What is fellowship, and why is it important?

4. Prayer Requests

5. Closing Prayer



Homework

1. Reflect

Within a day or two after the meeting, prayerfully reflect on the meeting and its content.

2. Change

As you consider the Bible studies, readings, teaching video and other activities you have completed over the last month in studying the theme—*Growing in Prayer and Faith*—are there changes you would like to make in your life, or other actions you would like to take at this time?

3. Prayer

Heavenly Father what a privilege it is to come to You in prayer. Your Word invites us to ask of You and it assures us that You know and understand our needs. May my prayers be pleasing to you and may you fulfill them for Your purposes, honor, and glory through Jesus Christ.

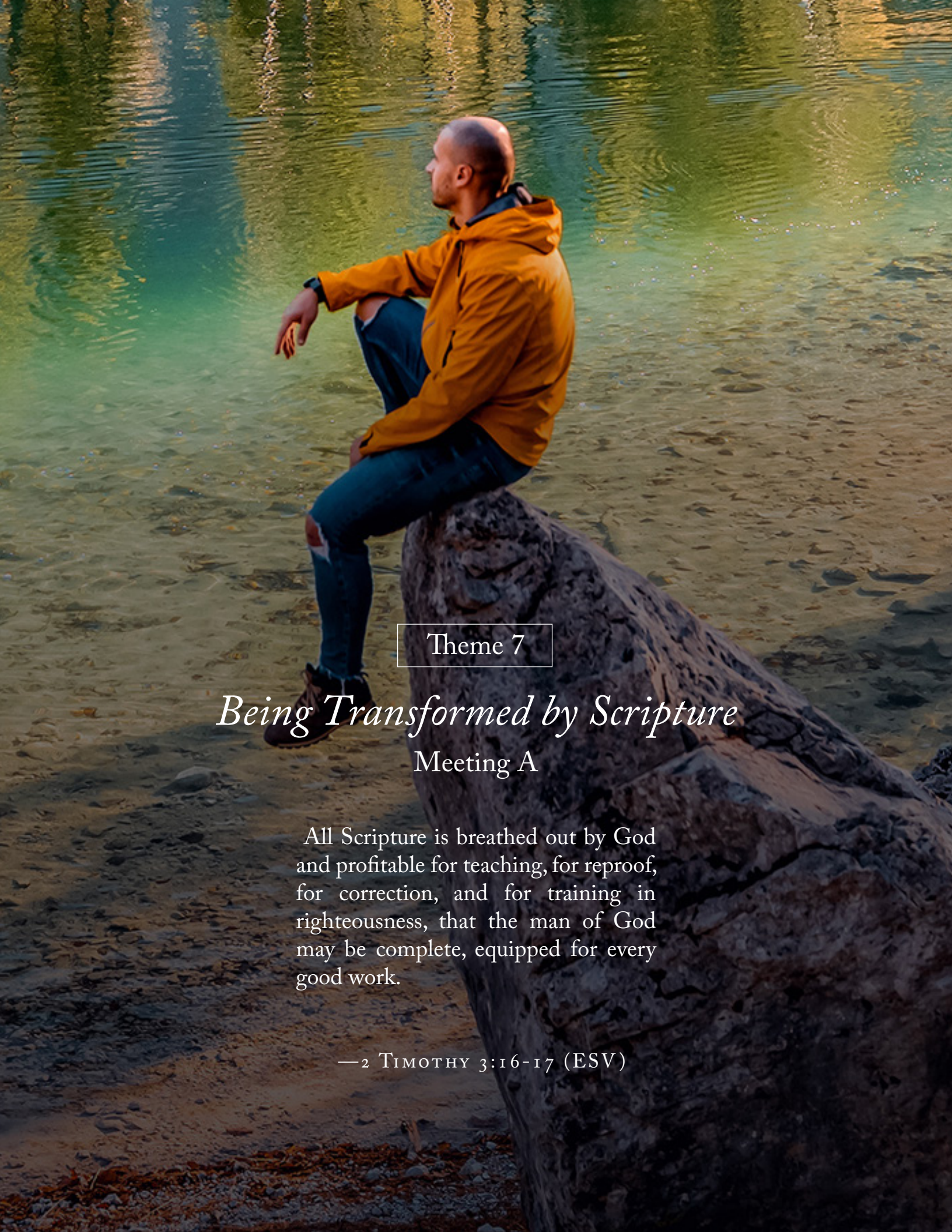
4. Prepare for Next Meeting

Coming Next: Theme 7: Being Transformed by Scripture—Meeting A

- (1) Read *Taking God at His Word*, by Kevin DeYoung, pp. 11-93 (82 pages)
- (2) Read article “Christ and the Bible,” by Art Lindsley, found on CSLI website (from *Knowing & Doing*, Summer 2007, ~5 pages)

<https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources/christ-and-the-bible/>

- (3) Complete Bible Study, 2 Timothy 3:10-17.
 - a. *Read.* Carefully read this passage. As you do so, consider: What does the text say? What was the original intent? What does the passage mean? How does the passage apply to my life, and the lives of others, today?
 - b. *Reflect.* Do you accept and submit to the teaching of Scripture in all areas of your moral life?

A man with a shaved head, wearing a bright yellow hooded jacket and dark blue jeans, is sitting on a large, dark grey rock. He is looking towards the left, towards a body of water. The water is calm and reflects the surrounding greenery and sky. The scene is peaceful and contemplative.

Theme 7

Being Transformed by Scripture

Meeting A

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

—2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17 (ESV)



This section will examine why we can trust Scripture, the role of Scripture in our transformation, and suggest ways to grow in a knowledge of truth and to encounter God in His Word. Our goal is to pursue spiritual transformation by committing ourselves to regular reading, study, and meditation on God's Word.

1. Opening Prayer

2. Scripture Reading

Read aloud the Bible passage at the beginning of this section (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

3. Group Discussion

- (1) Considering Art Lindsley's article "Christ and the Bible," what was Christ's doctrine of Scripture? Why is this significant?
- (2) In *Taking God at His Word*, Kevin DeYoung argues that "the Bible is without error," and that the doctrine of inerrancy "is at the heart of our faith." (See *Taking God at His Word* at pp. 38-40.) What basis does DeYoung offer for his arguments?
- (3) In his book, Kevin DeYoung discusses four attributes of Scripture: God's Word is Enough, God's Word is Clear, God's Word is Final, and God's Word is Necessary. What difference do these attributes of Scripture make for everyday life and godliness? (See discussion in the last section of chapter six.)
- (4) What insights did you gain from the Bible Study of 2 Timothy 3:10-17?

4. Prayer Requests

5. Closing Prayer

Homework

1. Reflect

Within a day or two after the meeting, prayerfully reflect on the meeting and its content.

2. Prepare for the Next Meeting

Coming Next: Theme 7: Trusting the Bible—Meeting B

- (1) Read *Habits of Grace*, by David Mathis, pp. 173-194 (chapters 16-18: BELONG TO HIS BODY (FELLOWSHIP): Wash in the Waters Again; Grow in Grace at the Table; Embrace the Blessing of Rebuke) (~21 pages)
- (2) Read article "How to Read the Bible, Part 4: How is the Bible Useful?", by Bill Kynes, found on CSLI website (from *Knowing & Doing*, Summer 2020, ~7 pages)
<https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources/how-to-read-the-bible-part-4-how-is-the-bible-useful/>
- (3) Read *Reflections*, "What God Wants of You" (1 page)
<https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources/reflections-february-2011/>

Journey

Welcome to *Journey: Foundations for Discipleship and Mission* | Theme 7 | Meeting A

- (4) Watch Teaching Video, *Being Transformed by Scripture*, with Scott Redd, President and Stephen B. Elmer Professor of Old Testament at Reformed Theological Seminary, Washington DC.

<https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources/video-being-transformed-by-scripture/>

As you watch the video, consider: What are Professor Redd’s primary points? What support does he provide for each of these points? Which one (or ones) do you find most relevant to your life at this time? What from the video might you like to share with family members and friends? What about the video might you like to discuss in the next small group meeting?

**Notes to supplement this Teaching Video are located at the end of this section.*

- (5) Complete Bible Study, Psalm 19.

- a. *Read.* Carefully read this passage. As you do so, consider: What does the text say? What was the original intent? What does the passage mean? How does the passage apply to my life, and the lives of others, today?
- b. *Reflect.* According to Psalm 19, how does God speak to us through both His creation and His Law?

- (6) *(Optional)* The article by Bill Kynes listed above, “How to Read the Bible, Part 4: How is the Bible Useful?”, is the final article in a series of four articles on how to read the Bible. In introducing the series, Kynes explains:

In this series of four articles, I want to help people who want to read the Bible but aren’t sure how to do it. I begin with a general introduction, considering what the Bible is, providing an overview of its central story line and its central message. In the next two articles, we’ll delve into the subject of interpretation: how can we rightly interpret the Bible in its various literary forms? Finally, we’ll address the way in which God can work through the Bible to change our lives. My goal is to help you become avid Bible readers so that you can grow as lovers of God.

While Kynes includes summaries of the first three articles at the beginning of Part 4, if you would like to read the first three articles, they are:

“How to Read the Bible, Part 1: Introduction and Overview of the Bible” (~6 pages)

<https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources/how-to-read-the-bible-part-1-introduction-and-overview-to-the-bible/>

“How to Read the Bible, Part 2: The Science and Art of Interpretation” (~7 pages)

<https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources/how-to-read-the-bible-part-2-the-science-and-art-of-interpretation/>

“How to Read the Bible, Part 3: The Bible’s Center Is Jesus Christ” (~ 6 pages)

<https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources/how-to-read-the-bible-part-3-the-bibles-center-is-jesus-christ/>

Notes to Supplement Teaching Video, *Being Transformed by Scripture*, by Scott Redd

A Word about Divine Authority

1. Be careful of having a permanent apologetic stance
2. The unique nature of divine authority
3. The importance of recognizing standards (reason, empiricism, “gospel-centeredness,” etc.)
4. Self-Attestation and the cause of faith
5. Cause of faith vs. reason for faith (Romans 1)

The Reliability of Scripture

1. Centrality of Jesus’ witness
 - a. Jesus as word (John 1:1; Heb 1:1-4)
 - b. Old Testament as divine word (Matt 22:31; 2 Tim 3:16)
 - c. Jesus’ and Apostles’ extensive use of the OT (Matt 5:17-20; Luke 24:27, 44)
 - d. Jesus’ interest and trust in the OT is without exception.

Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

—MATT 5:17-20 (ESV)

2. New Testament witnesses
 - a. Textual reliability (5700 Grk mss)
 - b. Transmission, scribal practice, and textual variants (Matt 6:13; Mark 16:9-20; John 7:53-8:11; etc.)
 - c. Historical concerns within writings (Bauckham, *Jesus and the Eyewitnesses*)
 - d. Early canonical lists and widespread agreement (Mike Kruger, *The Question of Canon*)
3. Old Testament reliability
 - a. Canonical agreement over millennia (few exceptions: 2 versions of Jeremiah)
 - b. Importance of the Dead Sea Scrolls (excursus: why is Esther absent?)
 - c. Corroboration with ancient texts and archaeological findings
4. Problematic Questions
 - a. Are the Scriptures consistent? What about apparent contradictions?
 - b. Do the authors use sources?
 - c. What about linguistic change, updates or neologisms? (example of LXX)



- d. What about conflicting archaeological findings?
- e. Can we speak of an “autograph” or final form of biblical texts?
- f. Why such disagreement among scholarly communities?

Those who make their doctrine of Scripture dependent on historical research into its origination and structure have already begun to reject Scripture’s self-testimony and therefore no longer believe that Scripture. They think it better to build up the doctrine of Scripture on the foundation of their own research than by believingly deriving it from Scripture itself.

Herman Bavinck, *Reformed Dogmatics: Prolegomena* (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2003), 425.

Since regeneration enables us to see the kingdom of God and to stop repressing the truth that he has revealed, it comes before our faith, bringing it about. People sometimes say, “Believe in Jesus, and you will be born again.” This expression is biblically inaccurate. It’s true that believing in Jesus is the path to blessing. But the new birth is the cause of faith, rather than the other way around. Again, you can’t give birth to yourself, even by faith. Rather, God gives new birth to you and enables you to have faith.

John Frame, *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Christian Belief* (Phillipsburg, N.J.: P&R, 2013), 949.

The internal testimony of the Spirit has frequently been construed as consisting in illumination or in regeneration on its noetic side. It is illumination because it consists in the opening of our minds to behold the excellence that inheres in Scripture as the Word of God. It is regeneration on the noetic side because it is regeneration coming to its expression in our understanding in the response of the renewed mind to the evidence Scripture contains of its divine character.

John Murray, “The Attestation of Scripture.”

A man with a shaved head, wearing a bright yellow hooded jacket and dark pants, is sitting on a large, dark, textured rock. He is looking out over a body of water that reflects the surrounding greenery and sky. The water is calm with gentle ripples. The overall scene is peaceful and contemplative.

Theme 7

Being Transformed by Scripture

Meeting B

The law of the Lord is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the testimony of the Lord is sure,
making wise the simple;
the precepts of the Lord are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is pure,
enlightening the eyes;
the fear of the Lord is clean,
enduring forever;
the rules of the Lord are true,
and righteous altogether.
More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey
and drippings of the honeycomb.
Moreover, by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.

—PSALM 19:7-11 (ESV)

Journey

Welcome to *Journey: Foundations for Discipleship and Mission* | Theme 7 | Meeting B

1. Opening Prayer

2. Scripture Reading

Read aloud the Bible passage at the top of this section (Psalm 19:7-11).

3. Group Discussion

- (1) What struck you the most about Professor Redd's teaching in the video, "Being Transformed by Scripture"? If you were telling a friend or family member about it, what would you highlight? What will you remember?
- (2) Considering Bill Kynes article, "How to Read the Bible, Part 4: How is the Bible Useful?", what is the Bible for? In what ways do we read the Bible as we would no other book?
- (3) What struck you about the chapters in *Habits of Grace* titled "Wash in the Waters Again" and "Grow in Grace at the Table"?
- (4) What insights did you gain from the Bible Study of Psalm 19?

4. Prayer Requests

5. Closing Prayer



Homework

1. Reflect

Within a day or two after the meeting, prayerfully reflect on the meeting and its content.

2. Change

As you consider the Bible studies, readings, teaching video and other activities you have completed over the last month in studying the theme—*Being Transformed by Scripture*—are there changes you would like to make in your life, or other actions you would like to take at this time?

3. Prayer

Our Father, how precious is Your Word to us. Help us daily to realize its value and to treasure its truths. Thank You, Father, for the way You speak to us through Scripture. May we realize its relevance and appreciate how often Your Word addresses the needs of our lives. In Jesus' name, Amen!

4. Prepare for Next Meeting

Coming Next: Theme 8: Pursuing God's Call on Your Life—Meeting A

- (1) Read *Taking God at His Word*, by Kevin DeYoung, pp. 95-124 (29 pages)
- (2) Read article, "Work: A Holy Calling," by Jerram Barrs, found on CSLI website (from *Knowing & Doing*, Fall 2008, ~3 pages)

<https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources/work-a-holy-calling/>

- (3) Read "Praying the Bible" by Don Whitney, found on CSLI website (Volume 4 Number 4 issue of *Broadcast Talks*, ~8 pages).

<https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources/praying-the-bible/>

- (4) Complete Bible Study, Romans 1:6-7, 8:28, 8:30; 1 Peter 2:9-10.
 - a. *Read.* Carefully read this passage. As you do so, consider: What does the text say? What was the original intent? What does the passage mean? How does the passage apply to my life, and the lives of others, today?
 - b. *Reflect.* What are the implications of our general calling (Romans 1:6-7, 8:28, 8:30)?
 - c. *Change.* Now that you have a deeper understanding of what it means to be transformed by Scriptures, what will you do differently?



Theme 8

Pursuing God's Call on Your Life

Meeting A

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

—1 PETER 2:9-10 (ESV)



Our first and foremost calling from God is to form a relationship with Himself. Contained within that call is a call to His service in the world.

Our goal is to recognize God's call on our lives and commit ourselves to following His will and purpose for us above all else.

1. Opening Prayer

2. Scripture Reading

Read aloud the Bible passage at the beginning of this section (1 Peter 2:9-10).

3. Group Discussion

- (1) What four reasons does Paul give in 2 Timothy 3:14-17 for “sticking with the Scriptures”? (See *Taking God at His Word*, chapter eight). In what ways do you find the reasons to be helpful?
- (2) What struck you about Don Whitney’s talk (transcribed in *Broadcast Talks*) on “Praying the Bible”? Have you tried praying the Bible in the manner he describes?
- (3) Considering Jerram Barrs’ article, “Work: A Holy Calling,” what is the basis for his statement: “Whatever job you do, it is a holy calling”? What are the implications for how you live the portion of your life in the workplace? How might the principles he discusses be relevant to someone who is retired?
- (4) What insights did you gain from the Bible Study of Romans 1:6-7, 8:28, 8:30; 1 Peter 2:9-10?

4. Prayer Requests

5. Closing Prayer

Homework

1. Reflect

Within a day or two after the meeting, prayerfully reflect on the meeting and its content.

2. Prepare for the Next Meeting

Coming Next: Theme 8: Pursuing God's Call on Your Life—Meeting B

(1) Read *Habits of Grace*, by David Mathis, pp. 197-223 (chapters 19-21: CODA: The Commission; The Dollar; The Clock; Epilogue: Communing with Christ on a Crazy Day) (~26 pages)

(2) Read article, “The Importance of Vocation,” by Mark Talbot, found on CSLI website (from *Knowing & Doing*, Summer 2018, ~10 pages)

<https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources/the-importance-of-vocation/>

(3) Read article, “The Importance of Calling,” by Mark Talbot, found on CSLI website (from *Knowing & Doing*, Fall 2018, ~5 pages)

<https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources/the-importance-of-calling/>

(4) Read *Reflections*, “Our Vocation Encompasses All of Life” (1 page)

<https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources/reflections-may-2013/>

(5) Watch Teaching Video, *Pursuing God's Call on Your Life*, with Steve King, Senior Pastor Emeritus of Cherrydale Baptist Church in Virginia..

<https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources/video-pursuing-gods-call-on-your-life/>

As you watch the video, consider: What are Pastor King's primary points? What support does he provide for each of these points? Which one (or ones) do you find most relevant to your life at this time? What from the video might you like to share with family members and friends? What about the video might you like to discuss in the next small group meeting?

**Notes to supplement this Teaching Video are located at the end of this section.*

(6) Complete Bible Study, 1 Corinthians 7:17-24; Nehemiah chapters 1-2 (see 2:12).

a. *Read.* Carefully read this passage. As you do so, consider: What does the text say? What was the original intent? What does the passage mean? How does the passage apply to my life, and the lives of others, today?

b. *Reflect.* What is the difference between “general calling” and “particular calling”? How did Nehemiah find the unique calling (burden of concern) for his life?

Journey

Welcome to *Journey: Foundations for Discipleship and Mission* | Theme 8 | Steve King

Notes to Supplement Teaching Video, Pursuing God's Call on Your life, by Steve King

Grasp the framework and follow the path of God's call on your life.

Without God's revelation we cannot know God or what His call on our lives might be.

Creation (Romans 1:20)

Conscience (Romans 2:14-15)

Culture (Acts 17:26-27)

Christ as revealed in Scripture (2 Timothy 3:16-17; John 5:39; John 14:6).

The Story Line of the Bible

Creation Genesis 1-2

Fall Genesis 3

Redemption Genesis 4 – Revelation 18

Restoration Revelation 19-22

God is always working His redemptive and restorative purposes.

He calls us into a love relationship with Him and joining Him in His work (John 3:16; 5:17).

As a follower of Christ, you are on first string on God's Redemption and Restoration team!

Follow the path of God's call on your life

1. God calls us to Himself.

Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh, who was declared the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness by the resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles in behalf of His name, among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ; to all who are beloved of God in Rome, called as saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 1:6-7)

2. God conforms us to His image.

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters; and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified. (Romans 8:28-30)

The Big Six of God's Will

Saved (1 Timothy 1:3-4; 2 Peter 3:9)

Spirit-Filled (Ephesians 5:17-21)

Sanctified (1 Thessalonians 4:3-7)



Suffering (1 Peter 3:17-18; 4:19)

Submissive (1 Peter 2:13-15)

Thankful (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart. Psalm 37:4

3. God provides us a new identity, power, and purpose in Christ.

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. (1 Peter 2:9-10)

God does not call us in isolation but in the context of community.

4. God enables us to bloom where He plants us.

Only, as the Lord has assigned to each one, as God has called each, in this way let him walk. And so, I direct in all the churches. Was any man called when he was already circumcised? He is not to become uncircumcised. Has anyone been called in uncircumcision? He is not to be circumcised. Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but what matters is the keeping of the commandments of God. Each person is to remain in that state in which he was called. Were you called as a slave? Do not let it concern you. But if you are also able to become free, take advantage of that. For the one who was called in the Lord as a slave, is the Lord's freed person; likewise, the one who was called as free, is Christ's slave. You were bought for a price; do not become slaves of people. Brothers and sisters, each one is to remain with God in that condition in which he was called. (1 Corinthians 7:17-24)

5. God calls us to join Him in His work. (Nehemiah 1-2)

Nehemiah modeled the traits of effectively following God's call to join him in his work.

He was a persistent intercessor not an accuser.

His faithfulness in blooming where God had planted him in Susa was foundational to opening the door to his next call to Jerusalem.

He wedded prayer and planning – prayer without planning is superficial and planning without prayer is presumptuous.

He motivated others to join him in God's work by,

1. through evaluation,
2. telling them the truth,
3. inviting them to work together, and
4. reminding them they are joining God in His work.

Pursuing God's Call on Your Life

Can you share with someone from memory the framework of God's call on our lives?

Do you know and are you motivated to follow the biblical path of God's call on your life?

Knowing God changes me into His image and enables me to bloom where He plants me and join Him in His work.



Theme 8

Pursuing God's Call on Your Life

Meeting B

Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him.

—1 CORINTHIANS 7:17A (ESV)

1. Opening Prayer

2. Scripture Reading

Read aloud the Bible passage at the beginning of this section (1 Corinthians 7:17a).

3. Group Discussion

- (1) What struck you the most about Pastor King’s teaching in the video, “Pursuing God’s Call in Your Life”? If you were telling a friend or family member about it, what would you highlight? What will you remember?
- (2) Considering Mark Talbot’s article, “The Importance of Vocation,” how would you describe the concept of vocation to a Christian friend? Why, according to Talbot, is it important to understand the book of Genesis to “really understand the gospel,” and to be “what God means you to be”?
- (3) What does the Bible have to say about time management? (See *Habits of Grace*, chapter 21, “The Clock.”)
- (4) What insights did you gain from the Bible Study of 1 Corinthians 7:17-24; Nehemiah chapters 1-2?

4. Prayer Requests

5. Closing Prayer

Homework

1. Reflect

Within a day or two after the meeting, prayerfully reflect on the meeting and its content.

2. Change

As you consider the Bible studies, readings, teaching video and other activities you have completed over the last month in studying the theme—*Growing in Prayer and Faith*—are there changes you would like to make in your life, or other actions you would like to take at this time?

3. Prayer

O Lord, my God, help me to trust you with my decisions and my future. Let me lean on you with all my heart instead of relying on my own imperfect understanding. In Jesus’ name, Amen!

4. Prepare for Next Meeting

Coming Next: Theme 9: Sharing and Defending the Gospel—Meeting A

- (1) Read *3 2 1—The Story of God, The World and You*, by Glen Scrivener, pp. 125-175 (chapters 6-13) (~50 pages).
- (2) Read article “Learning to Make Disciples of Jesus: *The Calling of Every Believer*,” by Tom Tarrants, found on CSLI website (from *Knowing & Doing*, Fall 2013, ~5 pages)

<https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources/learning-to-make-disciples-of-jesus-the-calling-of-every-believer/>



- (3) Complete Bible Study, Matthew 28:16-20, Acts 1:8, 2:1-47.
 - a. *Read.* Carefully read this passage. As you do so, consider: What does the text say? What was the original intent? What does the passage mean? How does the passage apply to my life, and the lives of others, today?
 - b. *Reflect.* The Holy Spirit, the gift of the Father sent by Jesus, lit the flame of mission in the fireplace of the church. What is your role in tending the flame of mission in the fireplace of the church?

5. Consider Steps After the *Journey* Program

The *Journey* small group program you are taking will be concluding after two more sessions. Consider the following questions:

What will you do next? Consider these options and be prepared to discuss them in the next meeting.

- (1) Would you like to lead a *Journey* small group program, or ten-week *Heart & Mind Discipleship*¹² small group program in the near future?
- (2) If you are a parent, grandparent, or otherwise have children in your life, would you like to participate in an Aslan Academy small group as part of the *Keeping the Faith* program?¹³ This program is designed to equip parents, grandparents and other caring adults for intentional discipleship of their children and teens. *The Keeping the Faith* guidebook leads participants through an eight- or nine-month series of high-quality books, group discussions and family activities, with an emphasis on a vibrant relationship with Jesus, fellowship with other believing families, prayer, Bible study and practical application.
- (3) Would you, or perhaps the group you are part of, like to take CSLI's Conversational Apologetics Course,¹⁴ or use one of CSLI's other small group discipleship resources?¹⁵
- (4) If you live in an area where the CSLI Fellows Program is offered, would you like to consider this full year program?¹⁶
- (5) What other steps might you consider after completing *Journey*?

¹² For more information, see <https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources-category/csli-resources/series-heart-and-mind-discipleship/>

¹³ <https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/keeping-the-faith/>

¹⁴ For more information, see <https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources-category/study-courses/apologetics-evangelism/conversational-apologetics/>

¹⁵ For more information, see <https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/study-courses>.

¹⁶ For more information, see <https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/fellows-program/>

A person in a dark jacket stands on the peak of a large, dark rock formation. The background is a dramatic sunset or sunrise over a mountain range, with a sea of clouds in the valley below. The sky is filled with soft, colorful light in shades of purple, pink, and orange, transitioning into a dark, starry night sky at the top.

Theme 9

Sharing and Defending the Gospel

Meeting A

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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 28:16-20 (ESV)



This section focuses on sharing Jesus with others, with courage, and learning to make disciples of Jesus. The goal is for us to be better equipped fulfilling our calling in these areas.

1. Opening Prayer

2. Scripture Reading

Read aloud the Bible passage at the beginning of this section (Matthew 28:16-20).

3. Group Discussion

- (1) Considering Tom Tarrants' article "Learning to Make Disciples of Jesus: *The Calling of Every Believer*," why is making disciples important? How do we make disciples?
- (2) In chapter eight of *3 2 1—The Story of God, The World and You*, Glen Scrivener addresses the question, "How does a good God fit with evil and suffering?" What do you think of Scrivener's response? How would you respond to the question?
- (3) What insights did you gain from the Bible Study of Matthew 28:16-20, Acts 1:8, 2:1-47?
- (4) What steps might individual group members, or perhaps several members or the group as a whole, like to take after the *Journey* program? Would individuals like to lead a *Journey* small group program, or 10-week *Heart & Mind Discipleship* small group program in the near future? Would individuals who are parents, grandparents, or otherwise have children in their lives like to participate in an Aslan Academy small group as part of the *Keeping the Faith* program? Would individuals or the group as a whole like to take CSLI's *Conversational Apologetics Course*, or use one of CSLI's other small group discipleship resources? Other steps? (See <https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/study-courses>)

4. Prayer Requests

5. Closing Prayer

Homework

1. Reflect

Within a day or two after the meeting, prayerfully reflect on the meeting and its content.

2. Prepare for the Next Meeting

Coming Next: Theme 9: Sharing and Defending the Gospel—Meeting B

(1) Read *Have No Fear: Being Salt and Light Even When It's Costly*, by John Lennox, pp. 1-70 (~70 pages)

(2) Read “Nuggets of Wisdom” by John Lennox, found on CSLI website (Volume 5 Number 2 issue of *Broadcast Talks*, ~8 pages).

<https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources/nuggets-of-wisdom/>

(3) Read article “Having a Conversation about the Conversation: A Strategy for Pre-Evangelism in an Antagonistic Age,” by Randy Newman, found on CSLI website (from *Knowing & Doing*, Fall 2019, ~5 pages)

<https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources/having-a-conversation-about-the-conversation-a-strategy-for-pre-evangelism-in-an-antagonistic-age/>

(3) Read *Reflections*, “The Purpose of the Church” (1 page)

<https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources/reflections-march-2008/>

(4) Watch Teaching Video, *Sharing and Defending the Gospel*, with Jesse Johnson, Lead Teaching Pastor at Immanuel Bible Church in Springfield, Virginia.


<https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources/video-sharing-and-defending-the-gospel/>

As you watch the video, consider: What are Pastor Johnson’s primary points? What support does he provide for each of these points? Which one (or ones) do you find most relevant to your life at this time? What from the video might you like to share with family members and friends? What about the video might you like to discuss in the next small group meeting?

(5) Complete Bible Study, Acts 17:16-34, 1 Peter 3:15-16.

a. *Read.* Carefully read this passage. As you do so, consider: What does the text say? What was the original intent? What does the passage mean? How does the passage apply to my life, and the lives of others, today?

b. *Reflect.* What steps would you like to take, with God’s help, to make you better “prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you”?

A person in a dark jacket stands on the peak of a large, dark rock formation. The background features a dramatic sunset or sunrise with a sky transitioning from deep purple to bright orange and yellow. The sky is filled with numerous stars, suggesting a clear night or a high-altitude environment. In the distance, a range of mountains is visible, partially shrouded in mist or low clouds. The overall mood is contemplative and majestic.

Theme 9

Sharing and Defending the Gospel

Meeting B

But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.

—1 PETER 3:15-16 (ESV)

Journey

Welcome to *Journey: Foundations for Discipleship and Mission* | Theme 9 | Meeting B

1. Opening Prayer

2. Scripture Reading

Read aloud the Bible passage at the beginning of this section (1 Peter 3:15-16).

3. Group Discussion

- (1) What struck you the most about Pastor Johnson's teaching in the video, "Sharing and Defending the Gospel"? If you were telling a friend or family member about it, what would you highlight? What will you remember?
- (2) What, according to John Lennox, is the difference between religion and Christianity? (See *Have No Fear*, chapter six.) How would you summarize what Lennox said about explaining salvation? (See chapter seven.)
- (3) What struck you about John Lennox's answer to the question, "What final words of wisdom would you leave for your children and grandchildren?" (See the last section of "Nuggets of Wisdom.")
- (4) Considering Randy Newman's article, "Having a Conversation about the Conversation: A Strategy for Pre-Evangelism in an Antagonistic Age," what does he mean when he says, "We need to have a conversation about the conversation"? How might we go about having such a conversation?
- (5) What did C.S. Lewis have to say about why the church exists? (See *Reflections*, "The Purpose of the Church.")
- (6) What insights did you gain from the Bible Study of Acts 17:16-34, 1 Peter 3:15-16?

4. Prayer Requests

5. Closing Prayer



Homework

1. Reflect

Within a day or two after the meeting, prayerfully reflect on the meeting and its content.

2. Change

As you consider the Bible studies, readings, teaching videos and other activities you have completed over the last month and over the course of the *Journey* program as a whole, are there changes you would like to make in your life, or other actions you would like to take at this time?

3. Prayer

Today, oh loving Father, I will step out in faith and not fear. I will boldly profess Your victory in my life. I will not let shyness get the better of me. Break every chain, Oh Lord, that hinders my confidence, and keeps me from telling others about You. In Jesus' name, Amen!

4. Spiritual Check Up

After completing this program, we encourage you to take the Spiritual Check Up, available on the CSLI website at <https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/annual-spiritual-checkup/>.

5. Steps after the *Journey* program

Prayerfully consider what next steps you would like to take now that the *Journey* program has come to an end.

6. Feedback

Please send your feedback to the C.S. Lewis Institute. We would love to hear from you. Email us at staff@cslewisinstitute.org.

Congratulations on completing the Journey Adventure!

Please take our short survey and [get your official Certificate](https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources/survey-how-is-your-journey-adventure/) for participating in this Study Course:

<https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources/survey-how-is-your-journey-adventure/>

Appendix A

Readings, Teaching Videos, and Bible Studies to be Completed Between Sessions

Note: Information about where to obtain the listed resources is provided in the main part of the *Journey* guidebook.

Teaching Video	Book: <i>Habits of Grace</i> (David Mathis) (this book is read over the course of the <i>Journey</i> program)	Other Book/ Booklet Reading	Bible Study	<i>Knowing & Doing</i> article	<i>Reflections</i> (one page)
<i>Read in advanced of first meeting (Theme 1—The Grace of God and True Conversion—Meeting A:</i>					
				Tim Keller— The Call to Discipleship	
<i>Assignments to complete in preparation for Theme 1—The Grace of God and True Conversion—Meeting B:</i>					
Video: The Grace of God and True Conversion (Randy Newman)	David Mathis— <i>Habits of Grace</i> Foreword, Preface, and Introduction: Grace Gone Wild (pp. 11-33)		Ephesians 2:1-10; Titus 2:11-14	Tom Tarrants— True Conversion	<i>Reflections:</i> Finding Our True Selves



<i>Assignments to complete in preparation for Theme 2—Following Jesus Christ—Meeting A:</i>					
		Glen Scrivener—3 2 1— <i>The Story of God, The World and You</i> (pp. 7-64) AND Booklet: Phillip D. Jenson and Tony Payne— <i>Two Ways to Live: The Choice We All Face</i>	Romans 12:1-2	Tom Tarrants— Following Jesus Christ	
<i>Assignments to complete in preparation for Theme 2—Following Jesus Christ—Meeting B:</i>					
Video: Following Jesus Christ (Bill Kynes)	David Mathis— <i>Habits of Grace</i> Ch 1-3—Hear His Voice (Word) part 1 (37-60)		Mark 8:27-38	Benjamin R. Shaw and Gary R Habermas— The Resurrection of Jesus Christ as Christianity’s Centerpiece	<i>Reflections:</i> The Risk of Love
<i>Assignments to complete in preparation for Theme 3—Walking in the Holy Spirit—Meeting A:</i>					
		Kevin DeYoung— <i>The Holy Spirit</i> (pp. 7-25) AND A.W. Tozer— <i>How to be Filled with the Holy Spirit</i> (pp. 5-64)	John 14:15-31	Tom Tarrants— Being Led and Transformed by the Holy Spirit	
<i>Assignments to complete in preparation for Theme 3—Walking in the Holy Spirit—Meeting B:</i>					
Video: Walking in the Holy Spirit (Tom Holliday)	David Mathis— <i>Habits of Grace</i> Ch 4-6—Hear His Voice (Word) part 2 (pp. 61-89)		Romans 8:1-17	Tom Tarrants— Knowing God Personally	<i>Reflections:</i> Feelings or Faith for Foundations?

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<i>Assignments to complete in preparation for Theme 4—Living a Life of Love and Obedience—Meeting A:</i>					
		Glen Scrivener—3 2 1— <i>The Story of God, The World and You</i> (pp. 65- 124)	Matthew 22:34- 40, 25:31-46	Tom Tarrants— Loving God and Neighbor	
<i>Assignments to complete in preparation for Theme 4—Living a Life of Love and Obedience—Meeting B:</i>					
Video: Living a Life of Love and Obedience (Chris Sicks)	David Mathis— <i>Habits of Grace</i> Ch 7-9—Have His Ear (Prayer) part 1 (93-116)		1 John 4:7-21	Art Lindsley-- How Will They Know? They Will Know Them by Their Love	<i>Reflections:</i> Trust and Obey
<i>Assignments to complete in preparation for Theme 5—Walking in Humility—Meeting A:</i>					
		John Piper— <i>Don't Waste Your Life,</i> Chapters 1-5 (pp. 9-91 in 2018 paperback edition)	Philippians 2:3-11	Tom Tarrants— Pride and Humility	
<i>Assignments to complete in preparation for Theme 5—Walking in Humility—Meeting B:</i>					
Video: Walking in Humility (Parker Williamson)	David Mathis— <i>Habits of Grace</i> Ch 10-12— Have His Ear (Prayer) part 2 (pp. 117- 142)		Luke 14:7-11; 18:9-14	Bill Kynes-- Discipleship or Grace: Must it be One or the Other?	<i>Reflections:</i> Jesus Christ



<i>Assignments to complete in preparation for Theme 6—Growing in Prayer and Faith—Meeting A:</i>					
		John Piper— <i>Don't Waste Your Life</i> , Chapters 6-10 (pp. 93-177 in 2018 paperback edition)	Matthew 6:5-15 (The Lord's Prayer), 7:7-11	Bill Kynes— <i>Growing in Prayer</i> , Part 1	
<i>Assignments to complete in preparation for Theme 6—Growing in Prayer and Faith—Meeting B:</i>					
Video: Growing in Prayer and Faith (Stuart McAlpine)	David Mathis— <i>Habits of Grace</i> Ch 13-15— <i>Belong to His Body (Fellowship)</i> part 1 (pp. 145-171)		Luke 18:1-8	Bill Kynes— <i>Growing in Prayer</i> , Part 2	<i>Reflections:</i> What is God's Plan for Your Life?
<i>Assignments to complete in preparation for Theme 7—Being Transformed by Scripture—Meeting A:</i>					
		Kevin DeYoung— <i>Taking God at His Word</i> (pp. 11-93)	2 Timothy 3:10-17	Art Lindsley— <i>Christ and the Bible</i>	
<i>Assignments to complete in preparation for Theme 7—Being Transformed by Scripture—Meeting B:</i>					
Video: Being Transformed by Scripture (Scott Redd)	David Mathis— <i>Habits of Grace</i> Ch 16-18— <i>Belong to His Body (Fellowship)</i> part 2 (pp. 173-194)		Psalms 19	Bill Kynes— <i>How to Read the Bible</i> , Part 4: <i>How Is the Bible Useful?</i>	<i>Reflections:</i> What God Wants of You

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<i>Assignments to complete in preparation for Theme 8—Pursuing God’s Call on Your Life—Meeting A:</i>					
		Kevin DeYoung— <i>Taking God at His Word</i> (pp. 95-124) AND Don Whitney— Praying the Bible (Volume 4 Number 4 issue of <i>Broadcast Talks</i>)	Romans 1:6-7, 8:28, 8:30; 1 Peter 2:9-10	Jerram Barrs— Work: A Holy Calling	
<i>Assignments to complete in preparation for Theme 8—Pursuing God’s Call on Your Life—Meeting B:</i>					
Video: Pursuing God’s Call on Your Life (Steve King)	David Mathis— <i>Habits of Grace</i> Ch 19-21 Coda and Epilogue (pp. 197-223)		1 Corinthians 7:17-24; Nehemiah chapters 1-2 (see 2:12)	Mark Talbot—The Importance of Vocation AND Mark Talbot—The Importance of Calling	<i>Reflections:</i> Our Vocation Encompasses All of Life



<i>Assignments to complete in preparation for Theme 9—Sharing and Defending the Gospel—Meeting A:</i>					
		Glen Scrivener— <i>3 2 1—The Story of God, The World and You</i> (pp. 125-175)	Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 1:8, 2:1-47	Tom Tarrants— Learning to Make Disciples of Jesus: The Calling of Every Believer	
<i>Assignments to complete in preparation for Theme 9—Sharing and Defending the Gospel—Meeting B:</i>					
Video: Sharing and Defending the Gospel (Jesse Johnson)		John Lennox— <i>Have No Fear: Being Salt and Light Even When It's Costly</i> (pp. 1-70) AND John Lennox— <i>Nuggets of Wisdom</i> (Volume 5 Number 2 issue of <i>Broadcast Talks</i>)	Acts 17:16-34; 1 Peter 3:15-16	Randy Newman— <i>Having a Conversation about the Conversation: A Strategy for Pre-Evangelism in an Antagonistic Age</i>	<i>Reflections:</i> The Purpose of the Church

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