

FALL 2023

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 34 | AUGUST 20

HOT TOPIC SERIES

P R E S T O N W O O D S T U D E N T S



main point



Obedience to God and faithfulness to Him in every circumstance is far more important than anything else.

scriptures



Matthew 21:23-27; 17:14-20; 1 Peter 5:5-7; Matthew 6:5-13; James 1: 9-12

devotional questions



- What is something of which the world is trying to convince you that goes against the Word of God? What Scripture can you use to refute this?
 - How often are we guilty of doing things on our own and not lifting our eyes to Jesus? What can you give totally to God today, not relying on yourself?
 - Who in your life have you seen embody humility? How can you show humility today to those around you?
 - How does your prayer life reflect your desires? How does your prayer life compare to the balance of requests made in the Lord's Prayer?
 - What can you say to someone who mentions manifesting in conversation after this week of devos? How can you point that person in the direction of Jesus?
-

essential doctrine



The Power of Prayer to God is Much Stronger Than Manifestation | When we attempt to do things by our own power, we are useless and working out of our own agenda. When we pray to our loving Father, He is able to do far more in a moment than we could do alone in a lifetime.

Christ Connection



This week's devos are about the topic of manifestation. This is a popular topic in today's world as the idea that you can manifest your dream and desires into reality. In Matthew 17:14-20 we see the disciples attempt to do a work of God without submitting to the power of God. They tried to do things on their own agenda and not the will of God. We discuss the biblical practice of prayer and the power behind it when you use God's authority instead of your own. We also discuss the biblical practice of humility and how manifesting puts all the power in our hands. We take on the role as "god" in our life, being full of pride and thinking we can change our lives by ourselves. Both qualities contribute to the idea of manifestation and the perverted kind of prayer that it represents.

discussion questions



- Have you heard of the term manifesting? What are some things you have heard people say surrounding this?
 - What do most of your prayers consist of? (Requests, praises, doubts, etc....)
 - How can you tell a conceited person from a humble person?
 - How does your view of God effect your prayer life? Do you see Him as more of a genie in a bottle, or a loving Father who listens to you?
 - What is the biggest difference between manifesting and prayer?
 - How could you incorporate the Gospel into a conversation about manifesting?
-

FALL 2023

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 35 | AUGUST 27

HOT TOPIC SERIES

P R E S T O N W O O D S T U D E N T S



main point



The only people who go to heaven are the ones who believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

scriptures



John 3:36; John 14:6; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; John 10:27-30

devotional questions



- Why would a person choose not to believe in Jesus and live separated from Him for eternity?
 - Are there sins in your life that you need to repent of today?
-

essential doctrine



Saving Faith: to trust in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and a living person for the forgiveness of sins and for eternal life with God.

Sin: any failure of a person to conform to the design God has for humans and the moral law of God in any act, attitude or nature.

Repentance: the changing of a person's mind where once there was no sorrow for sin; the confession of it, renouncing of it, and the sincere commitment to leave it behind in order to walk in obedience with Jesus Christ.

Christ Connection



Jesus' mission on earth had multiple facets, but the culmination of His mission was to be a sacrifice for people who would put their faith in Him to receive eternal life. So knowing who goes to heaven points people straight to the Cross, because if Jesus had never gone to the Cross then no one would be able to go to heaven.

in defense



It is important for students to understand that Christianity is based on what Jesus did on the Cross. If Jesus did not die and resurrect, then our faith is meaningless. Our faith is not based on a book, but an event. It is crucial to know that Jesus' body has never been found; no one would argue He did not exist; and there is no good explanation for the explosion of the Christian Church in Rome immediately following the Crucifixion.

discussion
questions



- Why do people on the outside of Christianity believe that the faith is so exclusive?
 - How would you explain to a person that Christianity is actually the most inclusive religion because anyone can believe in Jesus?
 - Why is it important that our God is a just God?
 - Why is John 14:6 an important verse for Christians?
 - How can you live your life differently knowing that if you are a Christian, Jesus has washed away all your former sins?
 - How can you live your life differently knowing that if you are a Christian, there is no way for you to lose your salvation?
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FALL 2023

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 36 | SEPT 3

HOT TOPIC SERIES

P R E S T O N W O O D S T U D E N T S



FALL 2023

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 37 | SEPTEMBER 10

HOT TOPIC SERIES

P R E S T O N W O O D S T U D E N T S



main point



Daily, we have to make choices to “flee” things that could make us stumble, and “pursue” things that make us more like Christ.

scriptures



Psalm 16:11; Isaiah 54:5; 1 Corinthians 7:2-4; Matthew 19:11-12; Ephesians 2:10

devotional questions



- How did Joseph respond to Potiphar’s wife? Why?
 - Think about your own life. Is there an area in your life where you aren’t “fleeing” from sexual sin?
 - Rewrite Matthew 5:29–30 in your own words.
 - Does your pursuit of purity cost you anything? If it doesn’t, why not?
 - Why does God take such a strong stance against sexual immorality?
 - What strides do you need to take today to better pursue purity in all areas of your life?
 - What does it mean for our bodies to be a temple of the Holy Spirit?
 - What does it mean for us to have an active faith?
-

essential doctrine



Sin: Sin is normally defined as anything that displeases God. Throughout the Bible, we are taught and shown what sin is. Everything from coveting someone else’s possessions to lying to get out of trouble to murdering someone in revenge. A tactic used by Satan to downplay the effects of sin is acceptance. The more and more people accept a sin as common and normal, the more a Christ-follower is apt to accept it as well. Christians fight this cultural war every single day. Our students’ friends, coworkers and followers on social media encourage this daily. We, as leaders, must be the ones who call it into the light and hold our students to a higher standard.

Christ Connection



Sin separated us from our eternal Father, destroying our relationship with God. Sexual sin is no different. It separates us from the love of God. No matter how deep you are into pornography or the physical side of your relationship with your boyfriend or girlfriend, Jesus was sent to cover that sin. His blood was shed so that sin might be forgiven. He came and died on the Cross so that you might be made whole, and your relationship might be mended.

in defense



The idea of sex within the confines of marriage is under much fire in our current culture. With the “normalization” of homosexuality and transgender identity, and the misuse of gender pronouns, we must come to the defense of what God has created sex and marriage to be. We must be rooted in the creation story in Genesis 1 and 2. We must know and trust in a God who operates out of purpose and order, not chaos. We are all beautiful and wonderful creations made by an incredibly intricate God. He didn’t leave room for interpretations. He was direct and straight-forward.

discussion questions



- What is sexual immorality to you?
 - How does it affect you in school, at work, on teams, etc.?
 - On a scale of 1-10 (1 being the least and 10 being the most), how much pressure do you feel to be involved in sexual immorality in relationships?
 - Do you struggle with this sin in your personal life?
 - What are choices that you need to make today to flee from sexual immorality?
 - How can we come alongside each other to see this happen? How can we help one another?
 - How can I, as your LifeGroup Leader, help you with this topic?
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FALL 2023

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 38 | SEPTEMBER 17

THE CHURCH GREW SERIES

P R E S T O N W O O D S T U D E N T S



main point



The Holy Spirit leads us to proclaim the Gospel so that others might be saved.

scriptures



Acts 8

devotional
questions



- When in your life have you experienced success by following someone else's plan and instructions?
 - What are some reasons we might struggle to obey the Lord's commands?
 - How have you witnessed God preparing the heart of someone to hear and believe the Gospel?
 - How is baptism a response of allegiance to Christ?
 - Why is sharing the Gospel a matter of obedience?
-

essential
doctrine



Preservation of Scripture | God has chosen to reveal Himself to humanity through the text of Scripture, having inspired it and ensured that it is free from error. God has also made sure throughout the course of history that the biblical text is faithfully preserved for future generations. Our belief in the preservation of Scripture is supported by investigation into how the canon of Scripture was formed and how manuscripts were faithfully transmitted throughout the centuries.

Christ
Connection



The Ethiopian eunuch was familiar with the Old Testament prophets but was unable to understand how their message was fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Philip was led by the Holy Spirit to help the eunuch understand how Jesus died on the Cross for our sins and was raised from the dead, in accordance with the ancient prophecies.

in defense



This is an optional category. If you have something from your week of devos that our students would need to know in defending their faith, explain it here. Don't force it, but if there is something, utilize this portion.

discussion
questions



- Why is it so important that we understand the Gospel?
 - How would you share the Gospel with someone who doesn't know Christ or who doesn't understand the Bible?
 - On a scale of 1 to 10, how much is your life characterized by obedience to God? Why?
 - When you obey God's Word, is it out of obligation or out of your love for God and others? Explain.
 - How has God called you to obey Him right now? Have you followed through? Why or why not?
 - Who is someone that needs to hear the Gospel? How can you take action in sharing the Good News this week?
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FALL 2023

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 39 | SEPTEMBER 24


THE CHURCH GREW SERIES

P R E S T O N W O O D S T U D E N T S




main point  **Jesus speaks clearly through His Word, calling all people to join Him in His mission.**


scriptures  Acts 9

devotional questions 


- When have you thought that someone may be beyond God's using him or her for His mission?
- How has God communicated to you in a clear and powerful way through His Word?
- What are some unexpected ways you have seen God work in your life or the lives of others?
- Why are we quick to discount some people God might otherwise use in a powerful way?
- How have you seen God take enemies (or those who didn't see eye to eye) and make them brothers and sisters in Christ?

essential doctrine 

Calling | The calling of God to salvation happens in two ways: externally through the proclamation of the Gospel and internally through the Holy Spirit working in the heart of the person who hears. Both of these callings are essential, and both work together to bring someone to faith in Christ. (2 Timothy 1:8-10).

Christ Connection 

The conversion and calling of Saul are demonstrations of God's power to save. Through an encounter with the crucified and risen Jesus, this once-hardened persecutor of God's people began his journey to becoming perhaps the greatest missionary the world has ever known. Only the Gospel can transform a public opponent of Christ into a fervent witness to His salvation.

in defense 

This is an optional category. If you have something from your week of devos that our students would need to know in defending their faith, explain it here. Don't force it, but if there is something, utilize this portion.

discussion
questions



- When has God called you to do something that required courage and trust in Him?
 - How have you proven that you're willing to do bold things for God?
 - How does knowing that Paul suffered for the mission of Jesus make you feel?
 - What is your gut reaction, knowing God has called you to the same mission?
 - How have you been motivated through reading about Saul's conversion?
 - When have you lived in a way you'd describe as "radical"?
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DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 40 | OCTOBER 1


THE CHURCH GREW SERIES

P R E S T O N W O O D S T U D E N T S




main point  **As believers, we are called to put off sinful behaviors and put on new behaviors that reflect Jesus.**


scriptures  Colossians 2-3

devotional questions 


- Describe the last time you put on a costume.
- What are some ways people try to find salvation apart from faith in Jesus Christ?
- What does it mean to set our minds on the things above?
- What does it mean that sin is ultimately an issue of the heart?
- Why is faith in Jesus necessary for putting to death the deeds of the flesh?
- Can a believer put on the characteristics of Christ without first putting away the characteristics of our sin nature? Why or why not?

essential doctrine 

Union with Christ | At the heart of our salvation is our union with Christ. The Bible describes salvation as entering into a covenant relationship with God and also describes the Church (which is made up of believers) as the Bride of Christ (2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:23–32). Christians believe that Christ dwells in our hearts through faith (Christ in us) and that we are simultaneously dwelling in Him. (Ephesians 3:17; Colossians 1:27; 3:1–4). This union is indissoluble; it will last for all eternity.

Christ Connection 

Those who have trusted in Christ have been given a new identity and new nature in Him. The old self and sinful behavior are put away, replaced by the new self and conduct that pleases God. Everything is to be done in the name of Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

in defense 

This is an optional category. If you have something from your week of devos that our students would need to know in defending their faith, explain it here. Don't force it, but if there is something, utilize this portion.

discussion
questions



- When have you been tempted to put off or put on things which aren't in line with what Scripture teaches?
 - What will you do this week to make sure the changes you're striving to make are in line with Scripture?
 - Which from the "put-off" list (vv. 8-9) do you struggle with? What specifically will you do to remove these from your heart?
 - Which from the "put-on" list (vv. 12-16) do you do well? Which ones need improvement? How will you work to grow in these areas?
 - How would your friends characterize your lifestyle in relation to the standard of Colossians 3? Why?
 - Describe your sense of urgency to make changes in your life.
-

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DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 41 | OCTOBER 8

THE CHURCH GREW SERIES

P R E S T O N W O O D S T U D E N T S



main point



We must know the true Gospel so clearly that we're never tempted to believe a false gospel that reflect Jesus.

scriptures



2 Corinthians 11-12

devotional questions



- When have you been tempted to engage in risky behavior?
 - What are some “other gospels” people proclaim?
 - Why are people tempted to believe in false gospels?
 - How do people in our culture often value the delivery of a message more than its content?
 - What are some ways we can recognize false teachers in the Church?
 - Why must believers confront those who would preach false messages in the Church?
-

essential doctrine



Bride of Christ | The Church is described as the Bride of Christ, faithfully waiting for the day when Christ will return and heaven and earth will be one. Made up of all believers from all tongues and nations, the Church is the Bride that Jesus redeemed. The picture of a bride also speaks to the permanence of Christ's relationship with the Church, for marriage was intended by God to be a lasting covenant between a man and a woman (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:5).

Christ Connection



Jesus proclaimed that He alone is the way a person can be saved and come to the Father. This exclusive claim is at the heart of the Gospel. As followers of Christ, we are to hold fast to the one true Gospel of Jesus and proclaim it to the world as we also confront the false gospels preached by others.

in defense



This is an optional category. If you have something from your week of devos that our students would need to know in defending their faith, explain it here. Don't force it, but if there is something, utilize this portion.

discussion
questions



- What daily steps are you taking to make sure you're familiar with the truth of Scripture?
 - When have you been tempted to believe a lie, but the truth of Scripture kept you from being deceived?
 - When have you felt protective over someone you care about?
 - Do you know someone who may be struggling to see the truth? How might God be calling you to help that person see clearly?
 - When have you felt as if you weren't equipped to fulfill God's calling on your life?
 - How have you seen God's power shine clearly through your weakness?
-

FALL 2023

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 42 | OCTOBER 15

SPIRITUAL WARFARE SERIES

P R E S T O N W O O D S T U D E N T S



main point



Jesus is victorious over the Enemy.

scriptures



Job 1:6; 1 Chronicles 21:1; Zechariah 3:1; Genesis 3:1-6; 2 Corinthians 11:3; 1 John 3:8; John 8:44; Revelation 12:7-9; Isaiah 14:12-14; Ephesians 6:11-12; 1 Peter 5:8

devotional questions



- How can you remain steadfast in God's true Word and not be easily led astray?
 - How does knowing the truth about the Devil change the way we look at sin (1 Peter 5:8)?
 - How does knowing that the alternative to being a son of God is to be a son of the Devil affect the way we evangelize?
 - We know that we are either rooted in Christ or rooted in the world, with no in-between. How should that affect the way we evangelize (John 8:44)?
-

essential doctrine



Jesus is the ultimate victor from the beginning of creation to the end. This truth allows us to have hope for today and for eternity. God has given us His Holy Spirit to give us the power to stand against temptation and say no. This allows us to live victoriously in Jesus today and forever.

Christ Connection



Jesus Reigns: God has set Jesus higher than any other being. Philippians 2:9-11 says, Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Jesus' being victorious through His death and Resurrection gives us the ability to stand with Him and combat Satan's deceiving evil ways. Our salvation in Him frees us to walk alongside God in the power of the Holy Spirit. "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:5).

discussion
questions



- Jesus will have the final say over Satan. How does this affect the way we see the world?
 - Jesus Himself claims victory over Satan. What does that mean for us as children of God?
 - How to do we share the light of Christ in a world of spiritual darkness?
 - In what ways does Satan tempt us today?
 - How can we overcome that temptation (Psalm 119:11)?
 - Jesus was tempted just as we are. How should that comfort us (Matthew 4:1-11)?
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FALL 2023

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 43 | OCTOBER 22

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

P R E S T O N W O O D S T U D E N T S



main point



Knowing the Enemy's tactics helps us to guard against them.

scriptures



2 Corinthians 4:4; John 8:44; Revelation 12:9; Psalm 106:37; Galatians 4:8

devotional questions



- Have you ever considered the Enemy's tactics to try to keep us from God?
 - How often do you think about the Gospel in your daily life outside of church?
 - What are some ways we see Satan reigning in our culture today?
 - How can we apply the truth of the Gospel to these situations?
 - What are some common lies the Enemy uses to distract you from who God says you are?
 - What truths from God's Word can you use to fight those lies?
 - In what areas of your life does Satan try to instill fear the most?
 - What does Satan use to distract you from God's Word?
 - What are some examples of temptations that offer temporary satisfaction in your life?
 - How can you remind yourself in those tempting moments of God's better plans for you?
 - How does Satan distract us from experiencing abundant life in our walk with Jesus?
-

essential doctrine



Our battle is against spiritual forces of evil. Ephesians 6:12 reminds us that "our fight is not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, and against spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places." The first step in fighting the battle is recognizing the reality of spiritual warfare that is around us. When we become aware of the Enemy's tactics against us, we can begin to fight them with the truth of God's Word.

Christ
Connection



Because of Christ's work on the Cross, we have power against Satan's tactics. Romans 6:6-7 reminds us that "our old self was crucified with him (Jesus) so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin - because anyone who has died has been set free from sin." Through a relationship with Christ, we are set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness (Romans 6:18). Therefore, we can guard against the schemes of the Enemy.

discussion
questions



- What are some ways we see Satan reigning in our culture today?
 - How can we apply the truth of the Gospel to these situations?
 - What are some common lies the Enemy uses life to distract you from who God says you are?
 - What truths from God's Word can you use to fight those lies?
 - What does Satan use to distract you from God's Word?
 - How can you practically work against these distractions and guard against them?
 - What are some action steps you can take today to replace the enemy's efforts with God's protection?
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FALL 2023

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 44 | OCTOBER 29

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

P R E S T O N W O O D S T U D E N T S



main point



Submission to God's authority brings freedom and allows us to fight our battles.

scriptures



2 Corinthians 10:3-4; Ephesians 6:10-20; James 4:7

devotional
questions



- Have you ever considered that our weapon is the Word of God?
 - How does that change the way you fight the things you are struggling with in your life?
 - How are you going to put on the belt of truth today?
 - How are you going to put on the breastplate of righteousness today?
 - Are your feet “fitted with shoes of readiness” and ready to step out in faith?
 - Whom can you share the Gospel with today? Who is your “one”?
 - Do you struggle to trust God? Read Mark 9:23-24. Journal about this or even pull up your notes app on your phone and answer these questions:
 - Do I have any unconfessed sin?
 - Is there anything or anyone that I desire more than God?
 - Am I taking time to acknowledge His presence?
 - How is my prayer life? What does my daily time with God look like?
 - Am I worshipping God or only complaining to Him?
 - Let Mark 9:24 be our prayer today.
 - How are you actively going to put on the armor of Christ as we have discussed this week?
 - Which part of the armor is hard for you to be “all-in” with?
-

essential
doctrine



We are to fight our battles by putting on the armor of God: belt of truth, breastplate of righteousness, readiness that comes from the Gospel of peace, shield of faith, helmet of salvation, and sword of the spirit.

Christ
Connection



Christ came so that we could have eternal life. Christ sent His Holy Spirit after He ascended into heaven. John 14:16-17:

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.

In our struggles and in the war that we are in each day, we have the Holy Spirit to help us.

discussion
questions



- Have you thought about the Holy Spirit as our helper?
 - Do you trust God to help you?
 - When you hear “our weapons are not worldly” what comes to mind?
 - As believers, what are practical steps we can take to “put on” the armor of Christ?
 - Have you shared the Gospel recently? If so, go to the “REVIVE” board and put a table tennis ball on it.
 - What does your prayer life look like?
 - What does your time in the Word look like? How can you increase the amount of time you spend in the Word?
-

FALL 2023

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 45 | NOVEMBER 5

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

P R E S T O N W O O D S T U D E N T S



main point



Jesus conquered sin, death and the world on our behalf.

scriptures



1 John 4:4; Colossians 2:14-15; John 16:33; 1 Corinthians 15:50-58; 1 John 5:4

devotional questions



- Do you have days when you wake up, and it just doesn't feel like "your day"?
 - Do you have moments when you feel your life is amounting to what you want it to be?
 - How will you walk through today knowing that Christ has conquered death?
 - Have you ever had moments when you felt completely alone?
-

essential doctrine



Remember: God is an advocate for us. Everything that He has done has been for us. He is a loving and gracious Father who wants what's best for us. We might not understand all that happens to us, but He knows what's best.

Christ Connection



The main point for students to understand this week is that Jesus is triumphant – over the world, death, and sin. The Cross is a reminder that we serve a God who conquered evil for our sake, and we are now conquerors of the world. The world, death and sin have lost their power because of the work Christ did on the Cross.

discussion questions



- How does Christ's conquering the world affect our daily lives?
- What is the significance of John 16:33 in the grand scheme of Jesus' life?
- Do you believe that Jesus has conquered the world, or do you look at the world around you and question that?
- Do you believe that Jesus has conquered sin, or do you look at the sin in your life and question that?
- What is the significance of 1 Corinthians 15:50-58?
- How did Jesus conquer these things through His death?
- What are some areas in your life you need to conquer?

FALL 2023

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 46 | NOVEMBER 12

THE CHURCH IS SENT SERIES

P R E S T O N W O O D S T U D E N T S



main point



God's mission sends us to all people.

scriptures



Acts 10-11

devotional
questions



- What are some ways we can guard against the tendency to be critical of others who are serving God?
 - How can we overcome the mentality that if we minister to people who aren't like us, we will become "unclean"?
 - Why is it important to be precise when defending your faith or attempting to persuade someone to switch to a certain perspective?
 - What are some obstacles within your heart that may prevent you from carrying out God's will and mission?
 - How can our doubts and shortcomings make us more compassionate and patient defenders of biblical truth?
 - What has God spoken or revealed to you that you know you need to act upon?
 - What biases and prejudices do we need to overcome so that we do not hinder that work?
-

essential
doctrine



Election | Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, justifies, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners. It is consistent with the free agency of man and comprehends all the means in connection with the end. It is the glorious display of God's sovereign goodness and is infinitely wise, holy and unchangeable. It excludes boasting and promotes humility.

Christ
Connection



God challenged Peter's tradition of "clean" and "unclean" foods to further challenge his perspective of "clean" and "unclean" people. Peter learned that God does not show favoritism but calls His people to proclaim the message of Jesus' death and Resurrection to all people, celebrate His work in their lives, and welcome believers into His family, regardless of their ethnicity.

in defense



This is an optional category. If you have something from your week of devos that our students would need to know in defending their faith, explain it here. Don't force it, but if there is something, utilize this portion.

discussion questions



- How should you think about ministering to people who aren't like you?
 - Peter needed a change in perspective in order to do God's will. In what area of life do you need to change your perspective to match what God has revealed?
 - Why is it so important to fight against having a critical spirit? How can you work on rejoicing in what God is doing in other people's lives?
 - Can you think of an area of life where God's rules may not be as strict as you think they are?
 - How can you reach out to someone who is not like you this week?
 - How can you join God's mission in this season of life instead of hindering it?
-

FALL 2023

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 47 | NOVEMBER 19

THE CHURCH IS SENT SERIES

P R E S T O N W O O D S T U D E N T S



main point



God wants His people to care for each other's spiritual and material needs.

scriptures



Acts 11

devotional
questions



- How has God used something bad in your life to accomplish something good?
 - What excuses might we make for why we aren't sharing Jesus with others?
 - When have you intended to serve someone, but God used that person to minister to you as well?
 - What role does faith play in our obedience to God when we are faced with difficult circumstances?
 - What are some ways you can put others' needs first this week?
-

essential
doctrine



Discipleship | Discipleship is a process that takes place both formally and informally to affect spiritual maturity as people follow Jesus. Informal discipleship, as passages like Deuteronomy 6:4-9 suggest, happens everywhere, in every arena of life. Growing in our faith and deepening our walk with Christ is something that requires our whole life, not just the mind. Formal discipleship refers to periods of instruction. We make disciples through our words and actions, providing verbal instruction from God's Word and non-verbal examples through our lives (Acts 20:17-24).

Christ
Connection



Jesus came back to break down the dividing wall between us and God as well as the walls that separate people. Through the atoning work of Jesus, we are joined together with Him and the Church as one people of God. As followers of Jesus, we are to celebrate, welcome, and care for all who trust in Jesus.

in defense



This is an optional category. If you have something from your week of devos that our students would need to know in defending their faith, explain it here. Don't force it, but if there is something, utilize this portion.

discussion
questions



- What excuses might you need to stop believing so that you can live for God more?
 - In which areas of your life do you need to think less about yourself and more about others?
 - Are you glad to encourage and serve, or has your heart gotten colder? Why do you think it is so common for believers to grow colder?
 - How can you "remain true to the Lord with devoted hearts" (Acts 11:23)?
 - What can you do this week to encourage and build up someone else?
 - Whom do you need to partner with in order to serve others better?
-

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DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 48 | NOVEMBER 26

THE CHURCH IS SENT SERIES

P R E S T O N W O O D S T U D E N T S



main point



The redemption anticipated by the old covenant is fully experienced in Jesus.

scriptures



Hebrews 1-10

devotional
questions



- What are some things God revealed about Himself through the Old Testament?
 - What are some ways Jesus fully reveals God and His attributes?
 - What are some new covenant promises that are better than old covenant promises?
 - Is it a struggle for you to believe that God has completely forgiven your sins?
 - What have you learned today from Hebrews that has expanded your view of Jesus?
-

essential
doctrine



Christ as Priest | As our Great High Priest, Jesus accomplishes the work of reconciling us to God. He is the One whose perfect righteousness is presented to the Father for our justification. He is the One who intercedes for us before the Father (Hebrews 7:25; 9:24) and prays for us to remain faithful (Luke 22:31-32; John 17).

Christ
Connection



Jesus is better than the ancient prophecies and institutions because He is the One who fulfills them. Jesus is the Word of God who came so that we might experience a better salvation through His perfect life, death and Resurrection.

in defense



This is an optional category. If you have something from your week of devos that our students would need to know in defending their faith, explain it here. Don't force it, but if there is something, utilize this portion.

discussion
questions



- How do you think of Jesus? How does that image of Jesus compare to what we've learned from Hebrews today?
 - If we believe that Jesus has covered our sins, why do we sometimes feel unable to come to God with our failures?
 - Our tendency is to try to be "good enough." How can we work on developing a heart of dependence and faith over self-righteousness?
 - How can God's promises anchor you and motivate you to trust Jesus more?
 - In light of all that Jesus has done to save you, what can you do to live for Him more?
 - If Jesus is so great, why don't we share Him more? How can confidence in the Gospel and a big view of Jesus motivate you to share Him more?
-

FALL 2023

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 49 | DECEMBER 3

THE CHURCH IS SENT SERIES

P R E S T O N W O O D S T U D E N T S



main point



When your faith is in Jesus, your life will show it.

scriptures



Hebrews 11-12

devotional
questions



- What are some things we put our faith in every day?
 - What does Hebrews 1:2 teach us about the role of faith before the new covenant in the Old Testament?
 - Which contrast stands out to you in verses 33-37?
 - What do these examples teach us about the relationship between our faith and our works?
 - Who in the Scriptures or in your life has inspired you to trust God and live for Jesus?
-

essential
doctrine



Faith | Biblical faith is resting, or trusting, in Christ alone for salvation (John 3:16-21). More than being simply a mental agreement of historical facts, genuine faith begins with a recognition and confession of the truth of the Gospel (1 John 4:13-16), followed by a receiving of Christ as Lord and Savior of one's life (John 1:10-13). Biblical faith is not blind faith, for it rests on the historical life, death and Resurrection of Christ.

Christ
Connection



The examples of faithful men and women in Scripture are a source of strength and encouragement, but they pale in comparison to the life of Jesus Christ, who endured the Cross and its shame with His future glory and joy in mind. Because of Christ's work, our faith and the hope of all who have believed will be fulfilled when He returns. We have assurance of the reliability of God's promises.

in defense



This is an optional category. If you have something from your week of devos that our students would need to know in defending their faith, explain it here. Don't force it, but if there is something, utilize this portion.

discussion
questions



- What are some ways we treat faith as something you only need in a crisis? How can you make faith the foundation of your life?
 - What can you do to ensure you read the stories of faith in the Scriptures more regularly to remind yourself of God's faithfulness?
 - The cost of following Jesus can be high. Why can you trust that following Jesus will be worth it in the end?
 - How can you have a heart that is willing to receive the earthly outcome of your faithfulness, whether it be success or suffering?
 - What are some ways you can demonstrate faith in Jesus to the people around you?
 - What do you need to lay aside in order to run your race for a lifetime?
-

FALL 2023

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 50 | DECEMBER 10

HAPPINESS VS. JOY SERIES

P R E S T O N W O O D S T U D E N T S



main point



Happiness is a feeling that is fleeting and provides only momentary satisfaction, but faith in Christ fills us with His never-ceasing and forever-satisfying love.

scriptures



1 John 4:4; Colossians 2:14–15; John 16:33; 1 Corinthians 15:50–58; 1 John 5:4

devotional questions



- What is something external you seek to bring you happiness?
 - What is something you've really wanted?
 - How can we remember where true prosperity lies?
 - How do we mistake pleasure for happiness?
 - How can you remember that God is the source of all?
 - What does happiness mean to you?
 - How can we keep God on the forefront of our minds?
 - What is something our culture promotes as true happiness?
 - How can you begin to walk in the way the Lord has for you?
-

essential doctrine



Happiness is a feeling we all experience. While happiness is not bad thing, it is only a fleeting, momentary thing. Happiness that is found through things will never satisfy us the way that our God can and will!

Christ Connection



People are constantly searching for happiness. They try to find happiness in various ways such as relationships, status, finances and other worldly pleasures. But in the end, we see that the happiness from these things lasts only for a moment. We must remember that true happiness will never be found in anything on this earth. The only avenue to satisfy our longing is through Jesus Christ!

discussion
questions



- What do you seek to bring you happiness?
 - How can we remember where true happiness lies?
 - How do we mistake pleasure for happiness?
 - What is a way you can remember God is the source of all happiness?
 - What does happiness mean to you?
 - How can we keep God in the forefront of our minds?
 - What is something that society promotes as true happiness?
-

FALL 2023

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 51 | DEC 17

HAPPINESS VS. JOY SERIES

P R E S T O N W O O D S T U D E N T S



main point



Joy is an essential element of the Christian life

scriptures



Hebrews 12:2; Galatians 5:22; John 10:28-29; James 1:2-4; Romans 5:3-5; John 15:11; 1 Peter 1:8-9

devotional questions



- How is joy different from happiness?
 - Where can you find selfless joy today?
 - What difficulties in your life could be looked at through the lens of joy?
 - What promises of God give you confidence?
 - How will you seek the face of God today?
-

essential doctrine



Joy is an essential element of the Christian life. It is a choice that comes from our belief that God is good regardless of our circumstances, emotions or cultural trends. Joy is a product of being a Christian and walking with the Spirit of God. When we selflessly surrender to God, we can then experience the true joy that is offered to Christians in the confidence of His love for us.

Christ Connection



Since the beginning of time, mankind has longed for true joy. In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve sought what they thought would bring them joy outside of the presence of God, and because of that, they broke the relationship God had created in His love. Out of His love, God gave a promise that their relationship would one day be fully restored, and true, sustaining joy would once again be shared between God and man. Jesus is the fulfillment of that promise, and the visual and physical manifestation of God's love for humanity. Joy is offered to all people in the confidence of God's goodness and love for us, through the person of Jesus Christ.

discussion
questions



- What things in life make you happy? What brings you lasting joy?
 - Read John 13:3-5. What happens when you trust in and walk with God?
 - Why can we have joy in the middle of something hard?
 - How have you seen God redeem pain?
 - When have you let your feelings rule over God's truth?
 - What promises of God have been fulfilled?
 - How precious is the presence of God to you?
 - Do you view your life as yours or God's?
-