

“The Fundamentals” Week 3 – God, The Holy Spirit

This small group Bible study is designed to explore a variety of core or “fundamental” aspects of our faith. Oftentimes these are big theological ideas that have lots of complexity and depth. However, this study is designed to challenge us to personally consider the different weekly themes. Through the words of scriptures, stories from the pastoral staff, and conversation in your small group we hope that this study can allow you to discover new insights and understandings of some of our most essential beliefs.

This week’s fundamental topic - “I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord”

Scripture Study – Romans 5:1-5

Have 2 people volunteer to read the scripture passage below.

Before reading, have someone open the group in prayer, then allow for at least 15 seconds of silence before the first person reads. The first person reads the passage aloud for the group while others follow along. After the reading leave a good 15 seconds of silence. Then, the 2nd volunteer reads the same passage a second time.

While the scripture is being read, people should make note of any words or phrases that caught their attention. After the passage has been read aloud twice, share as a group any words or phrases that stood out. What captured your imagination? What questions do you have about the text?

Video Discussion

Take time to watch the weekly video together. These short videos share personal stories from members of pastoral theme as they reflect on some of the Fundamental beliefs of our faith.

You can watch the videos on bethanylive.org under the Bible Study tab. Group members can watch the videos separately on their own or

have the Host of the meeting share their screen and show the video to the entire group that way.

Questions about Video

- ✚ In Pastor Nate's reflection he talks about understanding the Holy Spirit as the breath of God. What do you think about the Hebrew scholars idea that every breath we take speaks the name of God? How could paying attention to your own breath better connect you with God?

- ✚ In his video Pastor Gary's talks about his experiences of the Spirit of God as moments that are hard to fully understand or articulate but that are clearly powerful. If you are comfortable, share an experience from your own life where you felt God's presence in a way that you can't fully describe. What do these moments teach us?

- ✚ Intern Rachel talked about the Holy Spirit as the Advocate. What do you think it means to say that God is our Advocate? How have you experienced the Holy Spirit as an Advocate in your life?

A word for the Road

Group members are encouraged to recite and memorize the theme verse below throughout the week as a way of keeping the Conversation with God going throughout the week.

“and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.” – Romans 5:5

“The Fundamentals” Week 2 – Jesus Christ, God’s only Son

This small group Bible study is designed to explore a variety of core or “fundamental” aspects of our faith. Oftentimes these are big theological ideas that have lots of complexity and depth. However, this study is designed to challenge us to personally consider the different weekly themes. Through the words of scriptures, stories from the pastoral staff, and conversation in your small group we hope that this study can allow you to discover new insights and understandings of some of our most essential beliefs.

This week’s fundamental topic - “I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord”

Scripture Study – Colossians 1:15-23

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While the scripture is being read, people should make note of any words or phrases that caught their attention. After the passage has been read aloud twice, share as a group any words or phrases that stood out. What captured your imagination? What questions do you have about the text?

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Questions about Video

- ✚ In Pastor Nate's reflection he shares a modern-day parable that aims to help people understand God's desire to be human. How did this parable help you think about the mission of Jesus differently? What do you think the parable leaves out in terms of understanding Jesus' mission?
- ✚ Pastor Gary's video focuses on Jesus as Rabbi and Messiah, when you think about what Jesus means to you, which of these titles do you find more important? Why? Pastor Gary speaks about Jesus the Savior making everything right. How does this idea affect and influence the way you approach your life?
- ✚ Intern Rachel talked about the humanity of Jesus and the ways that the human nature of Jesus helps create a deeper connection. Why do you think it is important for Christians to believe that Jesus was both fully human and fully divine? What would be lost if we said Jesus was just human or just divine?

A word for the Road

Group members are encouraged to recite and memorize the theme verse below throughout the week as a way of keeping the Conversation with God going throughout the week.

17 Christ himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. – Colossians 1:17-18

“The Fundamentals” Week 1 – God the Father and Creator

This small group Bible study is designed to explore a variety of core or “fundamental” aspects of our faith. Oftentimes these are big theological ideas that have lots of complexity and depth. However, this study is designed to challenge us to personally consider the different weekly themes. Through the words of scriptures, stories from the pastoral staff, and conversation in your small group we hope that this study can allow you to discover new insights and understandings of some of our most essential beliefs.

This week’s fundamental topic - “I believe in God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth”

Scripture Study - PSALM 33:6-22

Have 2 people volunteer to read the scripture passage below.

Before reading, have someone open the group in prayer, then allow for at least 15 seconds of silence before the first person reads. The first person reads the passage aloud for the group while others follow along. After the reading leave a good 15 seconds of silence. Then, the 2nd volunteer reads the same passage a second time.

While the scripture is being read, people should make note of any words or phrases that caught their attention. After the passage has been read aloud twice, share as a group any words or phrases that stood out. What captured your imagination? What questions do you have about the text?

Video Discussion

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Questions about Video

- ✚ In the video stories, Pastor Nate talks about the importance of seeing God as a parent, Intern Rachel talks about the importance of understanding God's creative nature, and Pastor Gary told a story about the beauty of the created world. What story resonates most with you? When we confess that we believe in "God The Father, The Creator of Heaven and Earth", what characteristic of God is most important to you?

- ✚ Saying that God is our Father and that God is the Creator are big theological ideas, but what practical implications do these beliefs have for our life? What do these beliefs mean for how you live your life each and everyday?

- ✚ Why do you think people often point to times in nature as moments when they have experienced God? What is important about these types of experiences? What would be lacking if that was the only way of experiencing and understanding God?

A word for the Road

Group members are encouraged to recite and memorize the theme verse below throughout the week as a way of keeping the Conversation with God going throughout the week.

"Our soul waits for the Lord; God is our help and shield." - Psalm 33:20

