



# CONNECT

SERIES

CONNECT TO GOD

CLASS II



# KNOWING THE ONE WE WORSHIP

## IS THERE MORE TO LIFE THAN THIS?

For thousands of years philosophers have debated the meaning of life without reaching a consensus. What is the meaning of life? Life has meaning when we are fulfilling God's purpose.

### CLASSICAL PHILOSOPHERS



And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

- *Philippians 4:7*

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

- *Ephesians 2:10*

For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ.

- *2 Corinthians 1:5*

In Connect to Mount Pisgah, you learned about PLACE assessment to explore your personality type and spiritual gifts, gain insight into your abilities, find your area of passion, and see how your life experiences have shaped you into Kingdom service. It is not too late to learn more about your gifts and abilities for God. Take the assessment and ask for a coach to help you unpack the results.

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# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Ecclesiastes 3:11 says, “He has set eternity in the human heart.” We are eternal creatures, made for eternity. How does this explain man’s continual quest for purpose and meaning?



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Jesus says, “I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. . . I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.” Sometimes circumstances in our lives cause us to doubt we’re experiencing a “full life.” What did Jesus mean?



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# TAKE AWAY

1

While worldly things are fine to enjoy, they won't bring happiness and satisfaction

2

God made you for a purpose during your life which is specific to you and pleasing to Him

3

Fulfilling God's purpose brings ultimate happiness and satisfaction

## SERENITY PRAYER

God, give me grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed, Courage to change the things which should be changed, and the Wisdom to distinguish the one from the other. Living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time, accepting hardship as a pathway to peace, taking, as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it, trusting that You will make all things right, if I surrender to Your will, so that I may be reasonably happy in this life, and supremely happy with You forever in the next. Amen

*Written by the American theologian Reinhold Niebuhr (1892-1971)*

# WHO IS GOD?



<sup>7</sup>Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup>This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and His love is made complete in us.

## LOVE

<sup>13</sup>This is how we know that we live in Him and He in us: He has given us of His Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. <sup>16</sup>And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. <sup>17</sup>This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

<sup>19</sup>We love because He first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup>And He has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

- 1 John 4:7-21 New International Version (NIV)







<sup>1</sup>Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

To the church of God in Corinth, together with all His holy people throughout Achaia:

<sup>2</sup>Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>3</sup>Praise to the God of All Comfort

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort,

<sup>4</sup>who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. <sup>5</sup>For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ. <sup>6</sup>If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. <sup>7</sup>And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.

*- 2 Corinthians 1:1-7 New International Version (NIV)*

# COMPASSION

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

How would you have described God to someone when you were a child?



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How would you describe God now as an adult?



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What is the biggest barrier for people to study theological questions like, “Who is God?”



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JESUS TAUGHT US THE STEPS WE TAKE IN PRAYER;  
INCLUDE **THESE STEPS** WHEN YOU **TALK WITH GOD.**

<b>PRAISE</b>	Matthew 6:9	“Pray then in this way: ‘Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.’”
<b>REPENT</b>	Matthew 6:12	“And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.”
<b>ASK</b>	Matthew 6:11&13	“Give us this day our daily bread.” “And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. [For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen]”
<b>YIELD</b>	Matthew 6:10	“Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.”

“GOD SEES US WITH THE EYES OF A FATHER.  
HE SEES OUR DEFECTS, ERRORS AND  
BLEMISHES. BUT HE ALSO SEES OUR VALUE.”

— Max Lucado





THE WAY WE  
SEE GOD  
MAKES ALL  
THE  
DIFFERENCE  
IN HOW WE  
LIVE  
OUR LIVES.



All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the

Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal Him.

- *Matthew 11:27*  
*New International Version (NIV)*



The student is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like their teacher.

- *Luke 6:40*  
*New International Version (NIV)*

# WHO IS JESUS?

<sup>9</sup>This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him. <sup>10</sup>This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

- *1 John 4:9-10*  
*New International Version (NIV)*



# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Why did we need God to come to earth in a human form?



If Jesus could live sinless as a human on earth, is it possible for us to become like Christ? Why or why not?



If Jesus is our model/teacher for Christian life, what are the steps we should take to learn from Him?



If we see Jesus as just a man and not God, we will not see the significance of his life and sacrifice. It won't create gratitude and acceptance of salvation. If we see Jesus as only a Savior, we will not allow Him to become our teacher and transform our lives. Our personal application is both a savior and teacher. He saves us for a new life that is started now while we live in this world.



# THE NAMES OF JESUS



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## TAKE AWAY

1

Jesus came  
to reveal God's  
love and  
character to us

2

Jesus is the Son  
of God with all  
the authority  
of God

3

Jesus is the  
master teacher  
which is why  
you should  
follow Him



# WHY DID JESUS HAVE TO DIE?



Because on this day atonement will be made for you, to cleanse you.

Then, before the Lord, you will be clean from all your sins.

– *Leviticus 16:30*

*New International Version (NIV)*

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!



– *John 1:29*

*New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>17</sup>Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!<sup>18</sup>All this is

from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: <sup>19</sup>that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them.

And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

<sup>20</sup>We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s

behalf: Be reconciled to God.

<sup>21</sup>God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

– *2 Corinthians 5:17-21*

*New International Version (NIV)*



# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What does the word sacrifice mean to you?



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What is the greatest example of human sacrifice you have ever heard or experienced?



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EVERYTHING HAS A PRICE.

**JESUS PAID THE PRICE** FOR OUR  
**ETERNAL LIFE** THROUGH HIS SACRIFICE.

IT WAS **A DEBT WE COULD NOT PAY**, AND  
IT WAS **A DEBT HE DID NOT OWE**.



Why are sacrifice and redemption important parts of the human story?



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How would you explain Jesus' sacrifice to the world?



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# TAKE AWAY

OUT OF HIS GREAT LOVE FOR US,  
**GOD CREATED US, LOST US THROUGH SIN**  
AND **BOUGHT US BACK THROUGH CHRIST.**

THE INVITATION TO  
ETERNAL LIFE IS EXTENDED, IT IS **NOW**  
**UP TO US TO RSVP.**

# HOW DOES GOD GUIDE US?

**A GREAT PLACE  
TO BEGIN IS THE  
BOOK OF ROMANS  
AND THE GOSPELS.**

**[MATTHEW, MARK,  
LUKE, & JOHN]**

We know we should read the Bible, but often aren't sure where to start or how to do it. A great place to begin is the book of Romans and the gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John). If you recognize similarities in your circumstances and those of a Bible figure, read their story to learn how they responded and how God delivered them. Don't worry about where to start or following a particular reading plan, just pick a place and start reading regularly. Gradually your Bible reading can become a time of personal worship as you begin to study passages systematically and slowly, asking God how he wants you to apply what you're reading and learning to your life.

When looking for godly counsel, examine the fruit of a Christian's life—their relationships, the decisions they make, and their priorities. Jesus says his disciples are known by their love—how someone treats others and speaks about others are indicators of a disciple's love. Those who love well are certainly people we can go to for godly advice.



For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

– Hebrews 4:12

*New International Version (NIV)*

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

– 2 Timothy 3:16

*New International Version (NIV)*

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.

– Romans 8:26

*New International Version (NIV)*

The way of fools seems right to them, but the wise listen to advice.

– Proverbs 12:15

*New International Version (NIV)*

**GOD**

**ORCHESTRATES**

**CIRCUMSTANCES**

**IN OUR LIFE**

**TO ANSWER OUR PRAYERS**

**AND GUIDE US**

—

**WE LIVE IN A TIME OF**

**OVERWHELMING CHOICES.**

**KNOWING HOW GOD**

**GUIDES US BRINGS PEACE**

**TO A LIFE CONSTANTLY**

**BEING ASKED,**

**“WHAT DO YOU  
CHOOSE?”**

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Jesus described the Holy Spirit as The Comforter. How is it comforting to know the Holy Spirit is interceding for you as you pray?



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Do you find the Bible helpful for navigating daily life? Do you see how consistent Bible study keeps you in the center of God's will?



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Whom would you go to for godly counsel? What makes this person a “godly Christian with wisdom and experience”?



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God uses scripture, the Holy Spirit, and advise from Christians to guide us, and often this guidance appears in our circumstances. Have you ever prayed for guidance then seen evidence of God’s answer in circumstances in your life?



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# TAKE AWAY

GOD HASN'T LEFT YOU  
WONDERING AND HOPING YOU'RE DOING LIFE RIGHT.  
HE HAS GIVEN YOU **PART OF HIMSELF**, THE HOLY SPIRIT,  
TO LIVE IN YOU AND COMMUNICATE WITH YOU.  
**HE'S WRITTEN YOU THE BIBLE,**  
A 66 BOOK LOVE LETTER TO TELL HIS STORY  
OF **REDEMPTION AND LOVE,**  
AND HE'S GIVEN YOU A  
**COMMUNITY OF CHRISTIANS**  
TO ADVISE YOU.

# HOW DO YOU RESIST EVIL?



<sup>11</sup>The word of the Lord came to me: <sup>12</sup>“Son of man, take up a lament concerning the king of Tyre and say to him: ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says:

“You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

<sup>13</sup>You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you: carnelian, chrysolite and emerald, topaz, onyx and jasper, lapis lazuli, turquoise and beryl.

Your settings and mountings were made of gold; on the day you were created they were prepared.

<sup>14</sup>You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones.

<sup>15</sup> You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you.

<sup>16</sup>Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones.



<sup>17</sup>Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings.

<sup>18</sup>By your many sins and dishonest trade you have desecrated your sanctuaries. So I made a fire come out from you, and it consumed you, and I reduced you to ashes on the ground in the sight of all who were watching.

<sup>19</sup>All the nations who knew you are appalled at you; you have come to a horrible end and will be no more.”

– *Ezekiel 28:11-19 New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>8</sup>Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

<sup>9</sup>Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. <sup>10</sup>And the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will Himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. <sup>11</sup>To Him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

– *1 Peter 5:8-11 New International Version (NIV)*

## THE ARMOR OF GOD

<sup>10</sup>Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power.

<sup>11</sup>Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. <sup>12</sup>For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. <sup>13</sup>Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. <sup>14</sup>Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, <sup>15</sup>and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup>In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup>Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

<sup>18</sup>And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

– *Ephesians 6:10-18 New International Version (NIV)*

# HOW SATAN WORKS

1

**He plants doubts and lies**

*Genesis 3*

2

**He will tempt you with sexual immorality**

*1 Corinthians 7:5*

3

**He will try to take you down through pride and sin**

*1 Peter 5:6-8*

4

**He will try to make you captive with addictions**

*2 Timothy 2:26*

5

**He will try to sidetrack you with worldly things**

*1 John 2:15-16*

6

**He will try to cause disunity amongst Christians**

*2 Corinthians 11:13-15*

7

**He will slander you before God**

*Revelation 12:10*

8

**He fights against your faith**

*Ephesians 6:12*

## WE RESIST THE TEMPTATION BY TAKING BOTH THE DEFENSIVE AND THE OFFENSIVE

- Know Biblical Truth
- Through Prayer
- Do Good Works
- Tell Others About Jesus
- Put On The Armor Of God
- Remember Satan Can Never  
Take Away Our Salvation
- Set Your Eyes On The Things  
Above – *Colossians 3:2*

# REMEMBER

**GOD IS POWERFUL.**

**SATAN IS LIMITED.**

**STAY CLOSE TO GOD**

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Did God create this evil tempter we call Satan?



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Why should we not become preoccupied with Satan?



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How do YOU resist evil?



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# PUT ON THE ARMOR

## EPHESIA



MEDITATE  
ON TRUTH

—

### The Belt of Truth

*Verse 14*

God's truth, found in the Bible, will protect against Satan's lies. Read, study and meditate on Scriptures/truths in the Bible.



GUARD  
YOUR HEART

—

### Breastplate of Righteousness

*Verse 14*

We have been made holy because God is Holy and he has adopted us to be His child. The breastplate protects our vital organs, including our heart, which is to be pure to God.



ACCEPT  
GOD'S PEACE

—

### Boots of the Gospel Peace

*Verse 15*

The ability to show the world we will respond with the fruits of the Spirit. We do not need to live in fear with God's promises.



### DON'T FORGET PRAYER

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. Stay faithful in prayer.

# ARMOR OF GOD

1 PETER 6:11-18

WEEK 6

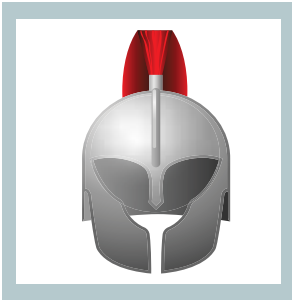


HAVE  
FAITH

—  
**The Shield  
of Faith**

*Verse 16*

Faith is trusting God and trusting what He says in the Bible. It is having faith in what we cannot see but know to be true.

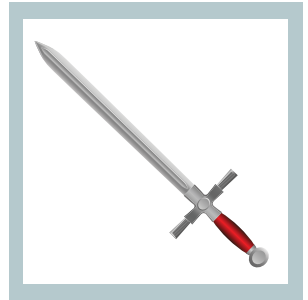


REMEMBER  
YOUR SALVATION

—  
**Helmet of  
Salvation**

*Verse 17*

The forgiveness of all sins, past, present and future. We shall live in the kingdom of God for eternity! The helmet of salvation protects the mind and heart against doubt and the accusations of the devil.



MEMORIZE  
SCRIPTURE

—  
**The Sword of  
the Spirit**

*Verse 17*

The word of God, the Bible. Note how Jesus used Scripture against Satan, during his temptation in the wilderness.

*Matthew 4:1-11*

# TAKE AWAY

1

Satan is real and because of that, there is good and evil in the world

2

We can expect to be tempted by Satan

3

We can resist temptation with the methods God has given us

## NOTES



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# NOTES



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# GET CONNECTED



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