

Truth.

People are looking for hope in uncertain times.

But there is no hope without truth.

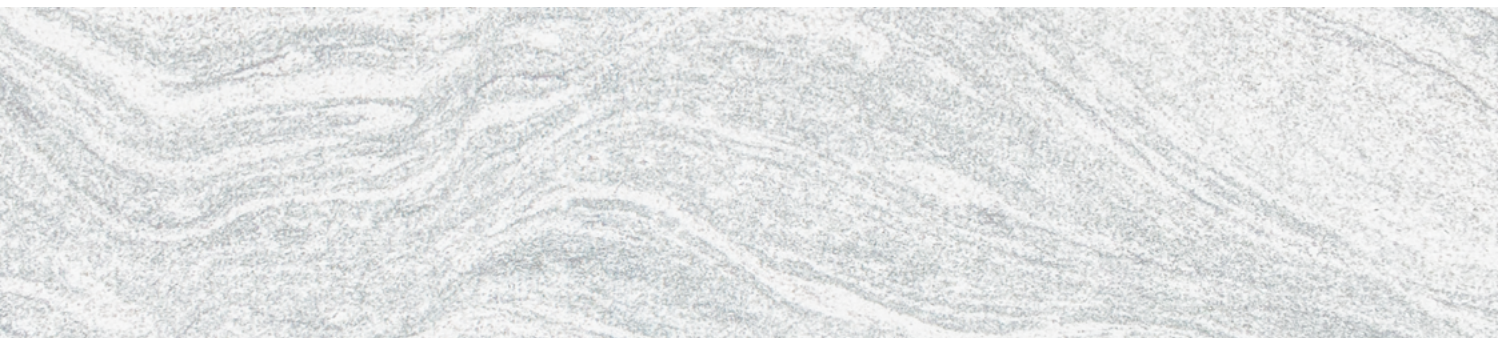
This thirteen week foundational/doctrinal pursuit of scriptural truth will allow us to see clearly the rock hard foundation on which we stand.

Olive Baptist Church
Discipleship Curriculum
Summer 2020

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Teaching Notes

TERMINAL LEARNING OBJECTIVE

To develop the foundation for Christians to continue the charge to grown in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:17). The goal is to develop mature leaders, empower each person to successfully lead a Scripture-centered group and establish a Biblical foundation for each Olive Baptist Church member.

HOW TO APPROACH EACH LESSON

Make the process as natural as possible. Incorporate this into your family's or connection group's routine when and where it fits. Begin each session by explaining the purpose of why "we are doing this to grow in the knowledge of Christ," then transition into the question posed for the week. This discussion is designed around one subject and supported with Scripture references. Each item provides an introduction and context. This is offered to give you a deeper understanding of the question and may help answer or provide clarity to any problems that may come out of the lesson. Given keywords will help facilitate the direction of the conversation about the passage. Additionally, each verse contains a hint for teachers to interpret the passage directly to the question being introduced. As you progress in weeks ahead, refer back to previous lessons. These are laid out to continuously build upon each other or be used as stand alone lessons.

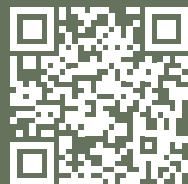


INSTRUCTIONAL DELIVERY

Introduce the question and begin a discussion contrasting what the Biblical and secular answers may be. Each week has context provided to give you additional information regarding the subject matter. It is highly recommended to review verses and understand the direction and goal for each question. The purpose of this format is to provide you the framework to adapt content to your specific group. Feel free to add additional verses that fit the discussed question. Encourage each person to answer and remember to praise for their thoughts. After the initial inquiry and answers, assign each person a passage of Scripture. Highlight and emphasize keywords relating to the posed question. Each verse gives different approaches to coming to a logical answer introduced at the beginning of each lesson.

The hint sections after each verse provide a brief interpretation and practical application for each Scripture reference. This format is designed to be a discussion. Also, there are additional video and written resources to assist you. At the end of each week, you will be provided with a prayer time. This will help you teach others how to pray and reflect on the question and Scripture (Psalm 1:2).

**SCAN THIS QR CODE
FOR INTRO VIDEOS + STUDENT PAGES
OR VISIT [OLIVEBAPTIST.ORG/RESOURCES](https://olivebaptist.org/resources)**



Sample

QUESTION: HOW MANY GODS ARE THERE?

INTRODUCTION

This question deals with the beginning of the Christian understanding of God. He is the first and the last. Revelation 22:13 highlights this fact where the Apostle John writes God is the beginning and the end of the world. It sounds like a simple point, but understanding there is no other God besides the one true God and He is eternal and everlasting.

TIPS BEFORE TEACHING:

Review each verse and look for the keywords. Highlight these words and engage your group with prompting and directing questions for hints. Allow each person the ability to contribute a word within the verse and ask how that relates to the question posed at the beginning of the lesson.

SCRIPTURE

- 1. Isaiah 44:6** "Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: "I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god."

KEYWORDS: first, last, besides me

HINT: there is a clear statement in this passage, the Lord is the first, and only one, there is no other god except for him

- 2. Psalm 8:1** "O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens."

KEYWORDS: your name, all the earth, your glory, above the heavens

- 3. 1 Samuel 2:2** "There is none holy like the Lord: for there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God."

KEYWORDS: none, none besides you, no rock like God

HINT: look at how the writer attributes character traits unique to God

ANSWER: GOD IS THE FIRST AND ONLY GOD.
THERE IS NONE LIKE HIM.

SUMMARY

This question introduces us to the critical fact that Scripture is the source of answers to life's problems. This question provides the correct lens for how Christians view the world and how God relates to His creation. We are laying the foundation for building a proper and biblical worldview.

PRAYER TIME

Use this prayer as a template as you lead your family/group into prayer time.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for what you have done on earth and through creation. We give honor and praise to you as the one and only true God.

You have set your name and glory over the heavens, O Lord, you are most high over all the earth, and we thank you. Help us to understand and continue to grow in our knowledge of who you are.

We love you. Amen.

Lesson 01

“*Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds rest in thee.*”

- Augustine of Hippo

QUESTION: WHAT IS MAN'S PURPOSE?

INTRODUCTION

Why am I here? What is the purpose of my life? This is a fundamental question most people confront at some point in their life. It is crucial for a correct understanding of the reasons for why we were created, and to what end. Other religions offer several reasons: for instance, Buddhism does not claim in a deity or a god, rather the point and purpose of man's life is to reach inner peace and enter into a state of nirvana. Buddhists believe an individual can be reincarnated an endless amount of time until they finally, “get it right” on reaching an inner peace. However, Christianity stands in stark contrast to this, and the Bible provides the purpose of mankind's existence. 1 Peter 2:9 says, “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.” The answer begins to become clear to this week's question. We are God's possession that proclaims His excellencies. Understanding who we are in Christ ensures our focus and identity are founded upon God and His word.

TRANSITION QUESTION

According to the world, what is our purpose (be your own person, just do you, etc.)?

CONTEXT

When you see “glorify” in the answer, this means we as God's creation reflect the glory of God. It does not mean we make God glorious, but we merely reflect an attribute of God. Paul writes in Ephesians 4:24, “and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.” Upon conversion, Christians are given a “new self”, one

that is a reflection of God, and His righteousness that is given to each of us because of His son Jesus. Additionally, we see in Micah 6:8, "He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" Man needs to walk humbly with God, so how is this done? By bringing glory, honor, and praise to our heavenly father. As you begin to look at the Scripture references for this week, look for how the writers describe mankind's response and expected behavior to God. Additionally, look at how reverence is offered to Him.

TIPS BEFORE TEACHING

Review each verse, and look for keywords to indicate the emphasis of each question. Highlight these words and engage your group with prompting and directing questions that hint the answer. Allow each person the ability to contribute a word within the verse and ask how that relates to the question posed at the beginning of the lesson.

SCRIPTURE

1. 1 Corinthians 10:31 "So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."

KEYWORDS: Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God

HINTS: This verse written by the Apostle Paul highlights even mundane tasks can bring glory to God in every aspect of our lives, everything from eating and drinking, even into your job, or whatever else you do with your life, all things done by the Christian should bring God glory. This Christ-like characteristic should demonstrate how one interprets life situations. If we do everything to bring glory to God, then there is never a job or task too small that we should not be happy to conduct.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean to glorify God?
2. How can you glorify God in everything you do?

2. Isaiah 43:7 "everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

KEYWORDS: I created for my glory, I formed and made)

HINT: If we are called by His name, we are to glorify Him. The verse points to two factors of mankind:

1) This promise is only for believers. Where we see the beginning of this verse, "everyone who is called by name," details this is specifically for those who follow God. We know this because the latter portion of this verse says so, "...whom I created for my glory."

2) Notice “my” is emphasized. God did not create man for our own pleasure or purpose, but for His glory because he formed and made us. The Apostle Paul continues this thought in Ephesians 1:3–6, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.” Christians are to bring glory to God and will share in eternal life with Him forever!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. God created us for a purpose. What is that purpose? (to bring him glory)
2. Why is it important for us to know that our purpose in life is to glorify God? (we understand that life is not about us, but about God)

3. 1 Timothy 1:17 “To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

KEYWORDS: honor & glory

HINT: this verse provides the authority of God and the purpose for man’s primary goal for glorifying God. He is the King of ages, immortal, and deserves honor and glory forever. Additionally, this will be built upon in upcoming weeks as we learn more about the acts of Jesus, the Son of God, and the importance of why He is called the “King of ages”.

DISCUSSION QUESTION

All glory belongs to God. How are you tempted to glorify yourself and not God?

4. Ecclesiastes 12:13 “The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.”

KEYWORDS: end of the matter, duty of man)

HINT: look at how King Solomon describes man's purpose, fear God, and keep His commandments. This obedience that mankind should follow then reflects the glory back to the one who is worthy, God. Also, Solomon says, “the end of the matter.” This is a clear statement from the author that this statement sums up, and answers any questions one could have pertaining to man's purpose.)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Click or scan the QR codes, or go to olivebaptist.org/resources to view the full list of links.



brief article explaining the duty of man based on the book of Ecclesiastes



article explaining what it means to live for the glory of God, and how this provides true freedom

ANSWER: MAN'S PURPOSE IS TO GLORIFY GOD AND ENJOY HIM FOREVER.

APPLICATION

- 1. How can you glorify God in your home, work, school, and church?**
- 2. One of the best ways to enjoy God is by spending time with Him. How do you spend time with God daily? What are you reading?**
- 3. What can you do today to enjoy God?**
- 4. How can you help others glorify God?**

PRAYER TIME

Below are suggestions to incorporate into your prayer for thoughtful reflection on the lesson.

God, you are worthy of all our honor and praise.

You are righteous.

Thank you for what you have done for us.

Lesson 02

“ I choose to believe the Bible because it is a reliable collection of historical documents, written by eyewitnesses during the lifetime of other eyewitnesses, reporting supernatural events that took place in fulfillment of specific prophecies and claimed their writings are divine and not of human origin.”

- Voddie Baucham

QUESTION: HOW DO WE KNOW THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD?

INTRODUCTION

This week introduces the source for Christians in determining the will of God. The purpose is to provide answers to questions that often arise in one's life. Skeptics who find out you're a Christian may question you concerning scripture-the source of truth. 1 Peter 3:15 tells us this will happen, and we must be prepared to give an answer. This week will undoubtedly bring about some great discussions. It may even lead to further questions that you will need to find solutions for.

TRANSITION QUESTION

Why is it important for Christians to know that the Bible is God's Word?

CONTEXT

The word Scripture, as it is used in the New Testament is γραφή (graphe) and is used to describe the writings of the Old Testament and in the New Testament to refer to the writings that were currently being written. Scripture is the inspired, infallible word of God written down for man's knowledge and understanding (2 Timothy 3:16-17; Isaiah 40:8; 2 Peter 1:20-21) and is the source of reliance for Christians for understanding and living. Often in the Bible, you will see the term Word. This is the identifier with Christ, His work on the Earth, and His divine utterance.

TIPS BEFORE TEACHING

Review each verse, and look for the keywords to indicate the emphasis of each question. Highlight these words, and engage your group with prompting and directing questions that hint towards the answer. Allow each person the ability to contribute a word within the verse and ask them how that relates to the question posed at the beginning of the lesson.

SCRIPTURE

1. **John 17:17** "Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth."

KEYWORDS: truth, the word is truth)

HINT: John indicates that the word = Scripture is truth. "Sanctify them in your truth" means a continual cleansing and making new. This cleansing and making new is Christians living their lives in subjugation to God. We know what He wants us to do because of the details in His word.)

DISCUSSION QUESTION

1. In John 17, Jesus is praying for his disciples and those who will believe in him. Why is it significant that Jesus says God's Word is truth?
2. What does it mean to be sanctified in the truth?

2. **John 1:1** "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

KEYWORD: word

HINT: This verse demonstrates the trinity of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit has been around since the beginning. The Word identifies with God and God with the Word, so if the Scriptures consist of the sayings and teaching of Jesus, it comes from God; therefore, the Scriptures are divinely inspired. If the Scriptures are divinely inspired, and if God is perfect, then the Scriptures are infallible, meaning without error.)

3. John 7:16–17 “So Jesus answered them, ‘My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me. If anyone’s will is to do God’s will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority.’”

KEYWORDS: My teaching, who sent me, God’s will, from God

HINT: This is Jesus talking. Look how he connects himself directly with the Father and indicates that He and the Father are one; therefore the words He speaks are divine. Also, look at the implication Jesus gives us, “...if anyone’s will is to do God’s will.” Christians can know and understand what the will of God is if we hear, read, and understand the teaching’s found within the Bible. In Colossians 1:9, it says, “And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding.” This verse, written by Paul to the church in Colossae, outlines the results of the Christian who seeks the Bible. Also, we see that the Scriptures contain the will of God.)

DISCUSSION QUESTION

How does knowing God’s Word help us to do His will?

ADDITIONAL VERSE

2 Timothy 3:16–17 “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.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does this verse help us to defend the truth of scripture?
2. What does it mean for scripture to be breathed out by God?
3. How can scripture equip you for every good work?

2 Peter 1:20–21 “Knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”

ANSWER: THE BIBLE IS THE INSPIRED, INFALLIBLE DIVINE WORD FROM GOD GIVEN TO MAN FOR OUR UNDERSTANDING.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Click or scan the QR codes, or go to olivebaptist.org/resources to view the full list of links.



6 Proofs of Bible Authenticity

simple explanation of six main truths used to prove the authenticity of Scripture



Canon of Scripture

How did we get our Bible?



Biblical Reliability

one minute explanation of how the historical reliability of the Bible points to its authenticity

APPLICATION

- 1. In what areas of your life do you need to be sanctified by God's Word?**
- 2. In what specific ways has the Bible taught you, corrected you, reproved you, or trained you in righteousness?**
- 3. What scriptures has God used to sanctify you?**
- 4. How would you defend God's Word as truth? What scriptures would you use?**

PRAYER TIME

Below are suggestions to incorporate into your prayer for thoughtful reflection on the lesson.

Thank you for your Scripture,

Your Word is truth.

Lesson 03

“ I would say much of religious heresy is the result of a misunderstanding of the basic nature of God. And once we have a proper understanding of God, then usually most of the areas of our life coincide with who God is and what He desires for each one of us.”

- Josh McDowell

QUESTION: WHO IS GOD?

INTRODUCTION

This week deals with God, who He is, what His attributes are, and why this is important to us. In these past two weeks, we have already seen some of His attributes. That is the beauty of the Bible, as Romans 11:33 describes, “Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!” As we study who God is, you will see how different He is than other so-called gods as He is the best and ultimate being.

QUESTION TO CONSIDER

A.W. Tozer said, “What comes to our mind when we think about God is the most important thing about us (*The Knowledge of the Holy*).” Why is it so important for Christians to have a right view of God?

CONTEXT

Something that is important to bring up within your group is, what does infinite and eternal mean? Are they different? Also, why is it important God is unchangeable? These are essential questions to ask, and we need to know the answers. Infinite means that God is without limitations, and there is no limit to what He can do. Scripture confirms this in Psalm 147:5, “Great is the Lord, and abundant in power; His understanding is beyond measure.”

He is eternal means God has no beginning and no end. This truth is supported in 1 Peter 3:8 which states "...with the Lord one day is as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day." He is unchanging, meaning He will not change His mind on anything that He says. Therefore, if He never changes, what He has done, and what He reveals to us in the Bible is acceptable and relevant forever. The writer in Hebrews brings this point up in Hebrews 13:8, which simply states "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."

TIPS BEFORE TEACHING

Review each verse, and look for the keywords to indicate the emphasis of each question. Highlight these words, and engage your group with prompting and directing questions that hint towards the answer. Allow each person the ability to contribute a word within the verse and ask them how that relates to the question posed at the beginning of the lesson.

SCRIPTURE

1. **Isaiah 40:28** "Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grows weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

KEYWORDS: everlasting, creator, unsearchable

HINT: This verse states God is the Creator of the ends of the earth. He is the one who sustains and controls the events that occur on the earth. Additionally, God does not grow weary, meaning He helps those who suffer in this life, because He knows and understands (omniscience.)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean for God to be everlasting?
2. How does knowing God does not faint or grow weary encourage us as believers?

2. 1 Timothy 6:16 “Who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen

KEYWORDS: immortal, eternal dominion

HINT: This verse describes God is not able to be seen from mankind. We see why in Exodus 33:20, “But,” he said, “you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live.” His glory and power are too mighty for us mortal, finite creatures to be able to see in all of its glory. God contains limitless power, as Luke 1:37 says, “For nothing is impossible with God.” God, therefore, has limitless power (omnipotent.)

DISCUSSION QUESTION

How does it help our faith to recognize God is omnipotent or all powerful?

3. Psalm 139:7 “Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?”

KEYWORD: where

HINT: This verse uses these questions to imply there is nowhere we can go God is not present. He everywhere (omnipresent), meaning He is able to be everywhere at the same time. It’s comforting to know there is nowhere we can go in this life in which God is unable to be there and help us.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How is it comforting to know that God is always near?
2. How does God’s omnipresence help us to live with greater conviction and purpose?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Click or scan the QR codes, or go to olivebaptist.org/resources to view the full list of links.



*short simple explanation of what
God's infinity means*



short video on Who God is

ANSWER: GOD IS A SPIRIT, INFINITE, ETERNAL, AND UNCHANGEABLE, IN HIS BEING, WISDOM, POWER, HOLINESS, JUSTICE, GOODNESS, AND TRUTH.

APPLICATION

- 1. How does knowing who God is help us to live everyday?**
- 2. What can you do to be more sensitive to God's presence today?**
- 3. How has God shown his power in your life?**
- 4. In what ways have you seen God's everlasting faithfulness played out in your life?**

PRAYER TIME

Below are suggestions to incorporate into your prayer for thoughtful reflection on the lesson.

Thank you for never changing.

You are all-knowing.

You are the only God.

Lesson 04

“There is a mutual delight in each other in the persons of the blessed Trinity, so that each divine person delights to glorify the rest. God even thus glorifies himself.”

- CH Spurgeon

QUESTION: WHAT IS THE TRINITY?

INTRODUCTION

This week, we are looking at the Godhead, also known as the Trinity. The word trinity is derived from the Latin word “Trinitas”, which means a state of being three. In the Bible, we see these three distinct persons encapsulated within the Godhead. The term Godhead is used to demonstrate that although these are three distinct persons within one. They are equal, yet they each work in different ways. There is one God, not three separate gods within one being. This is critical to understand; otherwise, this leads to a distorted and incorrect view of Holy God. One God, in three distinct persons who interact with creation in different ways.

TRANSITION QUESTION

How is the Trinity unique within the Christian faith (compared with other religions)?

CONTEXT

This topic is challenging to understand, and as Christians, our finite minds will never reach a complete understanding of how this works. A good verse to keep in mind as we cover some of these complex questions is Deuteronomy 29:29 “The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.” God has revealed Himself to His creation throughout Scripture, and into this day, we see Him continuing to speak to us through His perfect word. Throughout the Bible we see the different roles of the trinity and the reference of each of them. As students of the Bible, it is vital to understand these roles and accept what we read from the Bible. The Godhead is three distinct persons, co-equal, co-eternal, and having the same nature and attributes, and they work within perfect harmony with one another. As you

read the Scripture references, pay close attention to the correlation of the words and how they point to one another. This week is by far one of the more difficult weeks, as our minds simply cannot understand this complexity. However, we can trust enough has been revealed to have confidence in our faith.

TIPS BEFORE TEACHING

Review each verse, and look for the keywords to indicate the emphasis of each question. Highlight these words, and engage your group with prompting and directing questions that hint towards the answer. Allow each person the ability to contribute a word within the verse and ask them how that relates to the question posed at the beginning of the lesson.

SCRIPTURE

1. **Matthew 3:16** "And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

KEYWORDS: Jesus, Spirit,

HINT: See how this verse demonstrates the Trinity. Jesus (God the Son) is being baptized on Earth. As this happens, the heavens open up, and the Spirit descends, and God (the Father) speaks concerning Jesus. This is a clear illustration of the unity of the trinity, and the three distinct persons. This unity can be traced all the way back to Genesis

DISCUSSION QUESTION

How do we see the unity of the trinity represented?

2. **Matthew 29:19** "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,"

KEYWORDS: Father, Son, Holy Spirit

HINT: We see the equal power they all share regarding salvation and baptizing. Additionally, we know the authority for Christians to go and make disciples comes from each one of the Godhead. The command to continually make disciples, and in whose authority demonstrates the need to recognize the distinct yet unifying traits the trinity demonstrates to us for our understanding.)

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

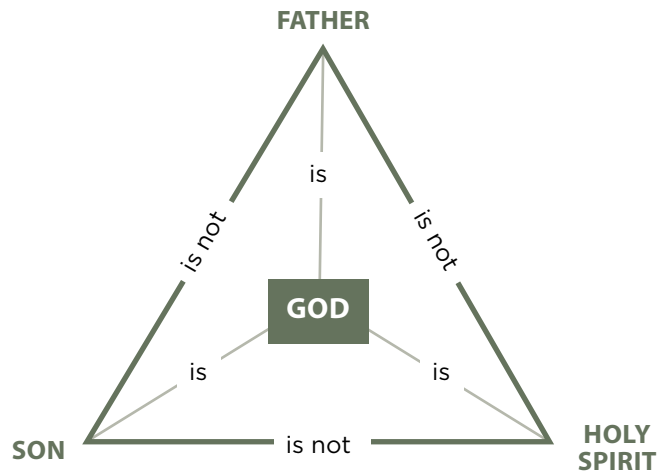
1. Why must a disciple be baptized in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit?
2. How do they play a role in the believer's life?
3. John 1:14 "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

KEYWORDS: Word, Flesh, His glory, Son, Father

HINT: This verse continues John's writing from John 1:1, In the beginning, was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. In order to fully grasp what John writes in verse 14, we need to unpack what he writes in verse 1. In verse one, the term, "word" is associated with the Greek word λόγος (logos) which can mean speech or saying. In this context, it refers to Christ. So, when the term "Word" with a capital "W" is used, it relates directly to Christ. So, in the passage of verse 14, this demonstrates that God the Son, became flesh (human) and displayed the glory from the Father, which is full of grace and truth.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. Who is the Word?
2. How does John 1:1-3 help us understand John 1:14?



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Click or scan the QR codes, or go to olivebaptist.org/resources to view the full list of links.



video explaining seeming contradictions and confusion regarding understanding the trinity



article explaining how the Trinity is found even in Genesis 1; shows how the trinity is a doctrine found throughout the entire scripture

ANSWER: THE TRINITY IS GOD IN THREE PERSONS. THEY ARE EQUAL AND ETERNAL, WORTHY OF EQUAL PRAISE AND WORSHIP AND DISTINCT YET WORK IN PERFECT HARMONY..

APPLICATION

- 1. Who are the three persons of the Godhead?**
- 2. How would you explain the biblical evidence for the trinity?**
- 3. How does this knowledge deepen your love for God?**

PRAYER TIME

Below are suggestions to incorporate into your prayer for thoughtful reflection on the lesson.

Thank you for sending your Son into the world.

Help us to accept, and understand the mysteries found in Scripture.

Give us the wisdom to trust in your secrets.

Lesson 05

“We’ve been given the covenant community because we need each other, and together we’ll be more mature, experience more life, and know more joy than we ever would apart from one another.”

– Josh McDowell

QUESTION: WHAT IS CREATION, AND HOW DID GOD CREATE?

INTRODUCTION

This week we examine the first miracle in the Bible: creation. Many theories are debated as to how the world came to be. However, as Christians, we must derive our conclusion from God’s Word. His scriptures speak to us and create the bedrock foundation for how we view the world around us. The idea of creation sparks within each individual a different picture of how the world came into being. Certain secular scientists suggest the world was created as a matter of chance and certain conditions. Christians believe creation has a creator and the world was not created by chance, but by choice. Another term for God’s creation is “intelligent design.”

TRANSITION QUESTION

What worldviews do not consider “intelligent design” as an option to the earth / mankind’s origin?

CONTEXT

Secular science continues to inundate schools and media with information of the world’s origin. But, if we believe Scripture is the infallible, inspired word of God, then Genesis 1 and 2 must be true: God created the world and everything in it. We cannot allow a secular, evolutionary worldview to dictate how the world came into being. Rather, we point the world

to what the Bible says and stand on its truth. As the writer of Hebrews 4:12 explains, “For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.” We must allow the Word of God to penetrate and discern our thoughts and our views on the world and how it came into being.

TIPS BEFORE TEACHING

Review each verse, and look for the keywords to indicate the emphasis of each question. Highlight these words, and engage your group with prompting and directing questions that hint towards the answer. Allow each person the ability to contribute a word within the verse and ask them how that relates to the question posed at the beginning of the lesson.

SCRIPTURE

1. **Genesis 1:1** “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep.”

KEYWORDS: beginning, God created, earth, without form & void

HINT: In this passage, God created the world from nothing. Before God, we see the earth is described as being formless and void of anything, not even light! So, we see that there was nothing, and looking back at week 3, we are reminded God is infinite. Nothing is before Him and nothing after Him. So, this verse demonstrates that God created the universe (heavens and earth), and He did so from nothing.

FUN FACT: When looking at describing the idea of out of nothing, the Latin phrase *creatio ex-nihilo* means that God created the universe out of nothing!

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. After reading Genesis 1:1, how did God create the world and everything in it? How might someone find it difficult to believe this? Why do you believe this?
2. What are the days of creation? (Families will have a good time with this one).

2. Jeremiah 32:17 “Ah, Lord God! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you.”

KEYWORD: You have made, heavens, earth, your, power

HINT: Look at how the prophet Jeremiah describes the attributes of God with the act of creation. If you need a refresher to refer to Week 3. The word “you” directly relates to God, which is supported by the qualifier; power. The potential for misunderstanding is God needed something to exist in order to create something new. However, this passage demonstrated that by God’s power and his outstretched arm, He made the heavens and the earth.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

List the attributes of God by his creation. How has his divine nature been clearly seen?

3. Isaiah 40:28 “Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grows weary; his understanding is unsearchable.”

KEYWORDS: Lord, everlasting, creator, earth

HINT: The prophet Isaiah is demonstrating the fact God is not only the creator of the universe but creation of the world did not make Him tired or faint. Again, this verse not only testifies to the act of creation being orchestrated by God but again points to His attributes. The Bible is incredible and meticulous. It helps us interpret other portions of Scripture and understand more about God.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

How can man comprehend an everlasting God?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Click or scan the QR codes, or go to olivebaptist.org/resources to view the full list of links.



longer length of article, but very good and detailed breakdown of the doctrine of creation



Fine Tuning
video breakdown the argument for a creator through the fine-tuned design of creation

ANSWER: GOD CREATED THE UNIVERSE OUT OF NOTHING.

APPLICATION

- 1. What do schools teach about the world / mankind's origin?**
- 2. As parents / grandparents, how do we teach our children a biblical worldview of creation?**
- 3. How must Christians speak truth and love to those with different creation worldviews?**
- 4. What are additional scriptures supporting "God created the universe out of nothing"?**

PRAYER TIME

Below are suggestions to incorporate into your prayer for thoughtful reflection on the lesson.

Thank you for creating the universe.

Help us to understand and grasp your mighty power.

Thank you for giving us the Bible to understand the origins of our universe.

Lesson 06

“Sin is a deliberate treason against the majesty of God, an assault upon His crown, an insult offered to His throne.”

- CH Spurgeon

QUESTION: WHAT IS SIN?

INTRODUCTION

This week's topic covers the question and origin of sin. The account of creation in Genesis introduces God's creation of man in His image. As God created man in Genesis 1:27, "He made man perfect and flawless. He gave Adam the law that of every tree of the garden they can eat, except for the one of knowledge of good and evil." Genesis 1:7 states, "And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." Then, Satan took the form of a serpent and subtly deceived Eve, who then took the fruit and gave it to Adam. In Genesis 3, we see the fall of mankind, the banishment from Eden, and the entrance of sin into the world. So, as we look at this week's question, we will come to a Biblical view of what sin is and how this affects us.

TRANSITION QUESTIONS

1. Are we inherently good or bad? Why?
2. Why is it important to understand the origin of sin?
3. Does the origin of sin matter to mankind today? Why?

CONTEXT

Adam was the representative for mankind and his actions imputed sin upon every person, man and woman, born onto the earth. As God had created the world perfectly, man disobeyed the commandment of God and thus ushered into the world sin.. The consequence of Adam's action is now all mankind born onto the earth will face physical death. This corrupted man's understanding and ability to do good in the sight of God. The consequences of Adam's actions condemned the entire earth under the fall and curse of sin. As Romans 3:23

highlights, “for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.” When we are born into this world, we immediately inherit the sinful nature of Adam. However, as we will see in future weeks, as bleak as this is, God had orchestrated a plan immediately following the fall for mankind to be redeemed (Genesis 3:15).

TIPS BEFORE TEACHING

Review each verse, and look for the keywords to indicate the emphasis of each question. Highlight these words, and engage your group with prompting and directing questions that hint towards the answer. Allow each person the ability to contribute a word within the verse and ask them how that relates to the question posed at the beginning of the lesson.

SCRIPTURE

1. **Colossians 3:5-6** “Put to death therefore, what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming.”

KEYWORDS: earthly, immorality, impurity, evil desire, covetousness, idolatry

HINT: The Apostle Paul highlights actions mankind commits that qualify as sin. Note how he describes these actions as “earthly,” which attests to the fact that unless we have something coming from outside the earth, we will receive the wrath of God. There is no hope for sin found on earth. Unlike other religions, Christianity’s hope comes from outside our universe, from God taking on the likeness of man to pay the penalty for our sin.)

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. How does Paul define sin in this passage? Are you able to identify sin in your life?
2. According to scripture, what must happen to sin?

2. **Romans 5:12** “Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned.”

KEYWORDS: sin, into the world, one man, death, spread to all)

HINT: This verse highlights the concept of sin inheritance from Adam and supports the fact that Adam was a representative for all mankind, and everyone born into the world after him inherits the fallen nature of mankind, namely sin. This verse also demonstrates the result of sin is death and that all men are guilty of this. Sin entered into the earth through Adam.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. What was the penalty of sin for Adam in the Garden?
2. What is the penalty of sin for us?

3. 1 Corinthians 15:21-22 “For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.”

KEYWORDS: a man, Adam, all die

HINT: This verse explains the concept of Adam being the representative for all mankind. For by one man (Adam) death entered into the world; however, we now see a comparison for the redemptive plan God had promised mankind going all the way back to Genesis 3:15, “...your offspring, and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.” This passage immediately follows the condemnation that Adam brought into the world; however, we immediately see that God has a plan to bring mankind back into proper alignment with Himself. The “he” being referred to here as bruising the head of Satan is Jesus, who is from the offspring of Eve.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. What does Paul mean when he says, “in Adam, all die”?
2. How does Christ make us “alive”?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Click or scan the QR codes, or go to olivebaptist.org/resources to view the full list of links.



Missing the Mark
definition of sin



Root Issue of Sin

ANSWER: A SIN IS AN ACT AGAINST GOD AND DISOBEDIENCE TO HIS COMMAND. ADAM WAS MANKIND'S REPRESENTATIVE, AND THROUGH HIM, SIN ENTERED INTO THE WORLD, INHERITED BY ALL MANKIND.

APPLICATION

- 1. Who is responsible for sin?**
- 2. Why would God allow sin to happen?**
- 3. What are examples of sin?**
(those with children can utilize engaging 10 commandment activities)
- 4. If sin has entered the world, what is its cure?**
- 5. How can a sinful man be reconciled to a holy God?**

PRAYER TIME

Below are suggestions to incorporate into your prayer for thoughtful reflection on the lesson.

Forgive us of our sins that we commit to against you.

Thank you for providing a redemptive plan through your Son Jesus.

Lesson 07

“Two things happen when we are saved: our sin is imputed to Jesus, and His righteousness is imputed to us.”

– RC Sproul

QUESTION:

WHAT DOES IMPUTED RIGHTEOUSNESS MEAN?

INTRODUCTION

This week continues the thought process from Week 6 in which we came to an understanding of how sin entered the world and the results of the fall of mankind. As sin from Adam is imputed onto all mankind, so comes the redeeming story of Jesus. The word “imputed” can intimidate you, but don’t let it bother you. This word, when used with righteousness, is a word of hope and joy. “Imputed” simply means to pass on or to substitute one thing for another. Whereas the imputation of sin by Adam brings about death, the imputation of righteousness from Jesus brings us hope.

CONTEXT

As we know and understand, sin entered into the world and destroyed mankind’s holiness in the sight of God. God created us to bring Him glory (Week 1) and gave us a perfect place to call home, Eden. However, as we know, Adam and Eve changed this and brought about a curse and the fall of creation. We then see that death has entered into the world (Romans 5:12), and a need for a savior has been established. A question then arises: how can a man stand before a holy and righteous God? If God is perfect, which He is, then He must judge the disobedience of His law and ruling. For if death is the consequence of sin (Romans 6:23) and if God promised a savior (Genesis 3:15), then there is an answer for how mankind can stand before God and how God will bring about redemption for His creatures and creation. This is where the imputation of the righteousness of Jesus comes into play. 2 Corinthians 5:21 provides a beautiful account of this: “For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” As you look at the verses for this week, ask yourself the question: how and from who does this righteousness come?

TRANSITION QUESTION

What does imputed mean? How does it apply to both sin and righteousness?

TIPS BEFORE TEACHING

Review each verse, and look for the keywords to indicate the emphasis of each question. Highlight these words, and engage your group with prompting and directing questions that hint towards the answer. Allow each person the ability to contribute a word within the verse and ask them how that relates to the question posed at the beginning of the lesson.

SCRIPTURE

1. **Philippians 3:9** “and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—”

KEYWORDS: found in him, of my own, through faith, in Christ, righteousness from God

HINT: Look at how Paul demonstrates how the imputation happens. It does not come from the law or actions of man. It comes from faith placed in Christ which then gives us unity with Him. This verse provides the means for how creatures can stand before a Holy God. His righteousness is reflected onto us as a result of the action of Christ and of having faith in Him.)

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. Why can't our righteousness be found in the law?
2. What does our righteousness depend on?

2. 1 Peter 2:24 "He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed."

KEYWORDS: bore our sins, die to sin, live to righteousness, his wounds

HINT: Look at how this verse tells us that we are not the ones who have given ourselves righteousness, but it is because of the wounds of Christ on the cross that we are able to live to righteousness. The sins we inherited from Adam, the sins we have done, and the sins we will continue to do were what Christ Himself bore on the cross.

QUESTION TO CONSIDER

How did Jesus satisfy the wrath of God?

3. Romans 4:1-4 "What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness." Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness,

KEYWORDS: justified by works, counted to him, righteousness, faith

HINT: This passage parallels a verse from the Old Testament. Genesis 15:6 says, "And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness." This verse refers to Abraham and his belief in the Lord, which then resulted in God counting righteousness to Abraham. Faith results in the righteousness of God being imputed onto us because of Jesus. This occurs immediately and is not something you can work towards or earn. The gift of salvation is the righteousness of God being given to us immediately upon conversion and profession of faith and belief in Jesus.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. What made Abraham justified?
2. What makes us justified?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCE

Click or scan the QR code, or go to olivebaptist.org/resources to view the full list of links.



Abraham Believed God

*one minute video from R.C. Sproul
explaining imputed righteousness*

**ANSWER: IT IS THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF CHRIST
GIVEN TO THOSE WHO BELIEVE THROUGH FAITH..**

APPLICATION

- 1. In life, what or who do people place their faith in?**
- 2. How does the imputed righteousness of Christ bring us hope and confidence?**
- 3. How does this confidence in Christ encourage us to share our faith with others?**

PRAYER TIME

Below are suggestions to incorporate into your prayer for thoughtful reflection on the lesson.

Thank you for your son Jesus.

Thank you for providing us a savior and paying the debt for our sins.

Help us to not take for granted the actions of your son, Jesus.

Lesson 08

“*The Christian church is not a building, but a body of believers united in Christ. Its role is to worship God, nurture and edify and reach out to a suffering world with the saving message of the gospel as well as the practical compassion and mercy exemplified in Christ. To this end, ecclesiology is not some ivory-tower, academic discipline removed from the reality of daily life. Instead, learning more about the church helps us make a real difference in the world, not just temporarily, but for all eternity.*”

– CS Lewis

QUESTION: WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

INTRODUCTION

When one hears the word “church,” one typically thinks about the place where people gather to worship. In other words, the building itself is normally the first thing that comes to mind. However, there is another meaning to this word that Christians need to understand; the church is a biblical doctrine and is demonstrated throughout the Bible, specifically within the book of Acts. Also, there is another church outside of the local church that is typically associated with this word. That is the universal church. The universal church is not referring to all of the local churches around the world combined together to form a mega-universal church. No, the universal church is in reference to what Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 12:13, “For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.” The universal church is identified as all believers sharing in the same Holy Spirit.

TRANSITION QUESTION

1. What typically comes to mind when someone hears the word “church”?
2. Why is the church important to the Christian faith?

CONTEXT

The universal church refers to the unification all believers have in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Colossians 1:18 beautifully illustrates this as Paul writes, "And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent." Jesus is the head of the church, and the church is everyone who places their faith in Him. Paul continues this thought process in his epistles, and in 1 Corinthians 12:27 he writes, "Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it." So, look at the verse in Colossians. It describes Jesus as being the head of the body in 1 Corinthians 12:27 by saying we (Christians) are of the body of Christ and are individually members of it. So, as you begin your study this week (looking at the question: what is the church?), keep this in mind: we will be speaking only of the universal church this week, the beautiful picture demonstrated in Scripture of how Christians around the world are united in our Savior, Jesus Christ.

TIPS BEFORE TEACHING

Review each verse, and look for the keywords to indicate the emphasis of each question. Highlight these words, and engage your group with prompting and directing questions that hint towards the answer. Allow each person the ability to contribute a word within the verse and ask them how that relates to the question posed at the beginning of the lesson.

SCRIPTURE

1. **Galatians 6:10** "So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith."

KEYWORDS: to everyone, household of faith

HINT: This passage written by Paul is a clear example of the unity that must be shared and demonstrated not only to those not in Christ but specifically to those who are Christians. The church is described here as the household of faith. This is a beautiful example of the unity shared by Christians everywhere; it is being compared to a family's living place, namely a household. Here, the church is described as being a household, and the foundation of that household is faith!

QUESTION TO CONSIDER

Who is in the "household of faith," and how might we treat them?

2. 1 Corinthians 12:12-13 “For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.”

KEYWORDS: body, one, many members, all, Spirit

HINT: Look at how many times the word “one” is repeated in this verse. Also, the qualifier “all” is directly related to describing the body. This verse highlights the importance of the unity of the church and the unity of Christians regardless of culture or geographic location. The unity of Christians has no border, nor does it discriminate against anyone. The church is unified together as one. Why? Look at the last portion of the verse: “..all were made to drink of one Spirit.” This is the way God created us, to all share in the delights of salvation together, unified.

QUESTION TO CONSIDER

Think about the physical body and all its parts. How important is it that the physical body and the body of Christ work in unity?

3. Romans 12:4-5 “For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.”

KEYWORDS: one body, many members, same function, individual, one of another

HINT: This verse explains that even though there are no borders on the church, we should recognize that each individual within the church has different roles and functions. We are of one body in Christ; we are individual in respects to giftings and enabling functions as believers. “Individually” is such an encouraging word; it helps the Christian to not compare himself with other Christians because each person has different giftings and a unique personality that make up the church. This means we are not robots all looking, acting, and talking the same; however, as different as each person is, we are still one body acting in different functions in Christ.

QUESTION TO CONSIDER

How might the glory of God be revealed through every member of the church?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Click or scan the QR codes, or go to olivebaptist.org/resources to view the full list of links.



**What is This Thing
Called Church?**



Christ as Community

**ANSWER: THE CHURCH CONSISTS OF CHRISTIANS
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, UNITED IN THE SAVING
ACT OF JESUS CHRIST.**

APPLICATION

- 1. Who is the church? Why is it important for the church to meet?**
- 2. What responsibilities do each member of the church hold?**
- 3. What is the importance of each member of the church?**
- 4. How should we treat each member of the church?**
- 5. How can the disunity of the church harm the effectiveness of the gospel?**

PRAYER TIME

Below are suggestions to incorporate into your prayer for thoughtful reflection on the lesson.

Thank you for the local church that we can attend.

Thank you for the unification of believers around the world.

Help us to not compare ourselves with each other.

Lesson 09

“The word “believe” in the Bible means more than simply agreeing in our minds that something might be true. It means “trust”—that we believe so strongly in God that we are willing to commit our lives to Him and live the way we know He wants us to live.”

– Billy Graham

QUESTION: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO HAVE FAITH IN JESUS?

INTRODUCTION

The lesson this week deals with the act of salvation and what it actually means to have faith in Jesus. It is not enough to only believe in God and the actions of Jesus on the cross; an act of faith in the life of the individual must transpire for true salvation to occur. James 2:19 makes this point perfectly clear by saying, “You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!” This verse is a strong reminder that belief is not enough, but rather faith in Jesus is what is required for salvation. Throughout Scripture, the evidence is given to us on this difference between authentic faith and only belief. When Jesus began His ministry, individuals were coming to Jesus with intentions on following Him, only to later make up excuses as to why they couldn’t. A perfect example of this is seen in Luke 9:57-62. As Jesus outlines the cost of following Him, He says that many will not due to a lack of faith.

TRANSITION QUESTION

What are the differences between someone believing and following Jesus?

CONTEXT

Now that the introduction has outlined the problem of having only belief in Christ, let’s shift our focus to what a saving faith in Jesus is. A clear example of what this faith looks like is seen in Hebrews 11:1-3 “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation. By faith, we

understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.” As this verse describes, faith gives us sight into the unseen. This is not a blind leap of faith, as many suggest, but rather a thought-through decision that occurs in the heart of the individual toward a trust in Jesus and in His actions. The writer of Hebrews continues in Hebrews 12:2- “looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.” Our faith is made perfect through Jesus, our faith’s foundation. As we look at the verses this week, look for how faith is described in the Bible. These clear examples offer us an assurance of our own faith and the ability to help each other come to a deeper understanding and appreciation of saving faith.

TIPS BEFORE TEACHING

Review each verse, and look for the keywords to indicate the emphasis of each question. Highlight these words, and engage your group with prompting and directing questions that hint towards the answer. Allow each person the ability to contribute a word within the verse and ask them how that relates to the question posed at the beginning of the lesson.

SCRIPTURE

1. **1 Thessalonians 2:13** “And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.

KEYWORDS: received the word, accepted it, word of God

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does the word of God work in us to help us believe?
2. In what ways have you seen God’s Word work in your life

HINT: Look back at week 2 where we discussed and understood Scripture being the Word of God. In this passage, we see that faith comes from receiving the Word of God and accepting the source of the Word, God. This demonstrates that faith comes from God through His Word, the Bible.

2. John 3:18 "Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God."

KEYWORDS: believes, believed in

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why is belief in Christ necessary for salvation?
2. If you believe in Christ what does it mean to not be condemned day to day?
(Romans 8:1)

HINT: Look at verses 16-17 along with this verse. These verses compare the differences between someone who has the belief that leads to salvation and one who has the belief that does not lead to salvation. An ultimatum is given in this text. There is a requirement for what to believe for this faith, and that is believing in the Son of God. Focus on the word "believes." This word in Greek is πιστεύω (pistevo) which means "believe", but also "to place confidence in." In this verse, the word "belief" means to put confidence into something, which is like faith.

3. Romans 10:17 "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."

KEYWORDS: faith, hearing, word

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When did you hear and receive the gospel?
2. Why is telling others the gospel necessary?

HINT: Did you notice the common occurrence for each of these verses that we have been looking at? The repetition of the word "faith" is directly linked to the action of hearing the word of Christ. This verse demonstrates that to have faith in Christ, we need to first hear the word of Christ.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Click or scan the QR codes, or go to olivebaptist.org/resources to view the full list of links.



What Does it Mean to Believe?



**What Do You Mean by
'Have Faith'?**

ANSWER: FAITH IN JESUS MEANS THAT WE HEAR,
RECEIVE, AND BELIEVE GOD'S WORD.

APPLICATION

- 1. In what ways can you bring the word of Christ to someone this week?**
- 2. Who's your one?**

PRAYER TIME

Below are suggestions to incorporate into your prayer for thoughtful reflection on the lesson.

*Thank you for giving us the ability to have faith and belief in
You and Your word.*

Thank you for allowing us to share Your Word with others.

Help give us the strength to share this message with those who need it.

Lesson 10

“You stand before God as if you were Christ, because Christ stood before God as if he were you.”

– CH Spurgeon

QUESTION:

WHAT IS THE DOCTRINE OF JUSTIFICATION?

INTRODUCTION

This is a term used to describe how the perfect work of Christ allows sinners to stand before a righteous and holy God. How can a man stand before a perfect and holy God? Why did Jesus come to the earth? Was this necessary? When looking at the actions of Adam that resulted in sin, we understand that he was the representative for all mankind. When Jesus came to earth and became 100% man and 100% God, He was put to the same test as Adam. In Matthew 4:1-11, Jesus was tempted in the wilderness and was put to the test, like Adam. The difference is that Jesus prevailed over the temptation.

TRANSITION QUESTION

What comes to mind when you hear the word “justification”?

CONTEXT

Now that we understand the full implications of the fall of mankind, we must look at what is necessary to be able to stand before a holy and perfect God. We must be righteous and perfect, but how can we be perfect? Well, the life that Jesus lived and His actions on the earth are what makes the act of justification possible. In the Old Testament, a sacrifice was continually needed over and over again. This was not the answer to God’s redemptive plan. In Genesis 3:15, God gave a promise that He would bring about a way to save mankind and allow man to be able to live again in communion with God. This is referring to the life Jesus lived while on earth and His actions on the cross. Hebrews 9:26 says, “for then he would have had to

suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself."The sinless life that Jesus lived and His sacrifice for us is enough to satisfy God's wrath on disobedience and to justify us to a perfect and holy God. As you look at the Scripture for this week, think about how each verse answers the question, "How can a man stand before a holy and perfect God?"

TIPS BEFORE TEACHING

Review each verse, and look for the keywords to indicate the emphasis of each question. Highlight these words, and engage your group with prompting and directing questions that hint towards the answer. Allow each person the ability to contribute a word within the verse and ask them how that relates to the question posed at the beginning of the lesson.

SCRIPTURE

1. **Hebrews 10:11-14** "And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified."

KEYWORDS: same sacrifices, never take away, single sacrifice, perfected

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do we need a sacrifice to be in communion with God?
2. Why did those of the Old Testament have to continually offer more sacrifices?
3. How is Christ the ultimate sacrifice?

HINT: this verse shows a beautiful comparison between what occurred in the Old Testament and the sacrifice Christ gave in the New Testament. Christ's action was enough for a single sacrifice, not one that needed to be repeated over, and over again. The single sacrifice of Christ is made perfect for all of us who are being sanctified.

2. Romans 3:24-26 “and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.”

KEYWORDS: justified by his grace, redemption, received, faith, be just, and justifier

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does the word “propitiation” mean?
2. How does trying to earn our justification before God bring insecurity?
3. How was God’s righteousness shown through forgiveness for our sins?

HINT: this ties in what we learned in week 7 about righteousness. As this verse highlights, the righteousness is directly related to our justification to God. We are justified by the grace given to us from Christ. God gave Christ to be the perfect representative for mankind so that this sacrifice would only need to be accomplished one time. If God is righteous and just, then He must judge the sins of mankind. Jesus is the just one who took the punishment of mankind upon Himself, meaning He (being God) is just and the justifier for our belief in Christ. To put this simply, the life Jesus lived paid the due penalty for our sins; therefore, when Jesus died and the wrath of God was poured out onto Jesus for our sins, the sacrifice was accomplished on the cross. This is what Jesus is referring to in John 19:30 when He says, “it is finished.”

3. Romans 5:9 “Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.

KEYWORDS: justified, his blood, saved, wrath

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the wrath of God?
2. How does the blood of Christ satisfy the wrath of God?

HINT: as we saw in the previous verse, this lends additional verification to the conclusions we drew about the actions of Jesus regarding our sin and the need for paying the price for our transgressions. The blood Jesus spilled on our behalf allows us to stand before God, justified and righteous.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Click or scan the QR codes, or go to olivebaptist.org/resources to view the full list of links.



**Justification:
An Amazing Declaration**



**Faith in the Finished
Work of Jesus Christ**



God's Glory

ANSWER: JUSTIFICATION MEANS THAT UPON PLACING OUR FAITH IN CHRIST, GOD SEES THE INDIVIDUAL AS RIGHTEOUS AND FREE FROM THE PENALTY OF SIN.

APPLICATION

- 1. Since God immediately forgives and forgets our sins, how can this be encouraging for us?**
- 2. Why is it important that God is just and must punish sin?**
- 3. How is an understanding of justification encouraging to the believer?**

PRAYER TIME

Below are suggestions to incorporate into your prayer for thoughtful reflection on the lesson.

Thank you, God, for giving your Son, Jesus, as the perfect sacrifice.

Help us understand the significance of the sacrifice of Jesus and what we are saved from.

Lesson 11

“All things as they move toward God are beautiful, and they are ugly as they move away from Him.”

- AW Tozer

QUESTION: WHAT DOES "SANCTIFICATION" MEAN?

INTRODUCTION

This week we will discuss and look at what the word “sanctification” means. Sanctification, like justification, is rooted in a reliance upon the gospel. While justification is an event where, once and for all, believers are made righteous before God, sanctification describes the process. While justification describes the union, sanctification describes the communion.

CONVERSATION

What does it mean to grow in “Christlikeness”?

CONTEXT

Let’s talk about personal application. When you became a Christian, you were much different than who you are now. The Apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 5:17 writes, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” This explains that after we become a Christian and place our faith in Christ, we become a new creation, our old self passes away, and we are now made new in the eyes of God and even in the eyes of man. Looking back on your conversion, you should be able to identify certain changes in behavior, thoughts, or desires because of your faith in Christ. This is what the process of sanctification is. Justification brings us into right standing before a holy God, and sanctification is the continuing work of Christ in our lives. As you look at the Scripture for this week, identify what the process of sanctification looks like and what characteristics should become apparent in our lives.

TIPS BEFORE TEACHING

Review each verse, and look for the keywords to indicate the emphasis of each question. Highlight these words, and engage your group with prompting and directing questions that hint towards the answer. Allow each person the ability to contribute a word within the verse and ask them how that relates to the question posed at the beginning of the lesson.

SCRIPTURE

1. **Galatians 2:20** "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

KEYWORDS: crucified with Christ, no longer I, in me, flesh, faith

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean to "crucify" the flesh?
2. How does faith in Christ lead you to live in practical holiness?
3. What does it look like to put our sinful habits to death?

HINT: look at the comparisons in this verse. A clear before / after is demonstrated here. Before Christ, I lived in the flesh; now I live in faith. Our former selves (our flesh) were crucified on the cross with Christ. Our old selves lived by the flesh, whereas our new selves live by faith.

2. **Hebrews 10:14** "For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified."

KEYWORDS: single offering, perfected, being sanctified

HINT: the words "being sanctified" tell us that this is an ongoing process in the life of the Christian. Christ gave Himself as a single perfect offering for us, and we, then, are being sanctified. This word "sanctified" means that we are continually being made or becoming holy. This is not something that starts and ends upon conversion but is ongoing throughout the life of the Christian. Additionally, read John 17:17 to look at defining factors that influence and change this process in each individual.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What ways in your life has the Word of God shaped you?
2. When in your life has the Word of God convicted you to change?

- 3. 1 Peter 1:2** “according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

KEYWORDS: sanctification of the Spirit, grace, and peace

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are ways to pursue holiness in your personal life? (give examples)
2. Can someone claim to be a christian and not grow in Christ? If not, why?

- 4. 2 Corinthians 3:18** “And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

KEYWORDS: changed, image, glory

DISCUSSION QUESTION

What is the image that we are being transformed into?

HINT: this passage, written by the Apostle Paul, contrasts the sanctification process in the life of the Christian believer from Moses' experience in the Old Testament. In Exodus 34:29-25, Moses comes down from the mountain after being in the presence of God, and his face glowed with radiance. However, after some time, this radiance began to fade away. Moses did not want the Israelites to see the fading away of the glory so Moses wore a veil over his face so that the Israelites would not know that he no longer possessed the reflections of God's glory. In this passage in 2 Corinthians, Paul tells us that the glory we are being made into is not like the glory Moses beheld. Moses' glory passed away, whereas ours will be permanently changed.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Click or scan the QR codes, or go to olivebaptist.org/resources to view the full list of links.



What is Sanctification?



The Sanctification Gap

**ANSWER: SANCTIFICATION IS THE ONGOING
PROCESS OF BEING MADE IN THE IMAGE OF CHRIST.**

APPLICATION

- 1. After our confession and profession of faith should we continue sinning as we have done previously? If not, why? (Romans 6:1-2)**
- 2. What changes have you seen in your own life?**

PRAYER TIME

Below are suggestions to incorporate into your prayer for thoughtful reflection on the lesson.

Thank you for promising to make me new.

Help me to understand that apart from Christ I can do nothing good.

Allow me to obey your guidance and will for my life.

Lesson 12

“Christ’s work allows us to directly and confidently enjoy God’s presence”

– Al Mohler

QUESTION: HOW DID CHRIST EXECUTE THE OFFICE OF PROPHET, PRIEST, AND KING?

INTRODUCTION

In the Old Testament, God interacted with His people by using three different offices. During Jesus’ ministry on earth, we see that he often referenced, quoted, and fulfilled Old Testament prophecy about the coming Messiah. These three offices that occurred in the Old Testament were prophet, priest, and king. The office of the prophet was used to foretell certain events or actions that would transpire should the people of Israel not turn back to God. In Jonah 1:2, the Word of the Lord came to Jonah, and his job as a prophet was to tell the people of Nineveh of their impending destruction should they not repent and turn back to God. Also, within the Old Testament, came the office of the priests. They were the mediators between God’s people and God Himself. In Numbers 18, the role of the priests was created and given initially to Aaron and the Levites. Their role was to offer up sacrifices for the nation of Israel to God as payment for their sins. The priests were the only ones able and worthy to perform these sacrifices in the sanctuary. Finally, we come to the role of the king. In 1 Samuel 8, the priest Samuel received a request from the children of Israel for a king to rule over them. The kings were God’s direct instruments of leadership and justice for His people.

TRANSITION QUESTION

What role in the Old Testament did the prophets, priests, and kings perform for the people of Israel?

CONTEXT

Let’s now shift our focus to the question at hand: how did Christ execute all three of these offices? The answer goes back to our understanding of the concepts covered in week 6, the implications of the fall of mankind and of sin entering into the world. The three offices were

created in order to reconcile people back to God. However, when reading through the Old Testament, each of the individuals who held these different offices were not perfect people because they all fell under the curse of sin. The need then becomes apparent for a perfect prophet, priest, and king. However, it is impossible for a simple man to perform all of these different offices. That's where Jesus comes into play. You may remember reading that people asked Jesus if He was a prophet. In John 1:21, they asked him, "...What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the Prophet?' And he answered, 'No.'" This could be confusing; however, Jesus was not a prophet in the aspect in which the Israelites were accustomed to, same with the office of priest and king. Jesus held these offices in a much different way, a perfect way. This week as you look at the Scripture, look for how the way Jesus held these roles was different than those in the Old Testament, and look at the other verses offered in the "hint" section. These verses are all important to understanding how Jesus held these offices.

TIPS BEFORE TEACHING

Review each verse, and look for the keywords to indicate the emphasis of each question. Highlight these words, and engage your group with prompting and directing questions that hint towards the answer. Allow each person the ability to contribute a word within the verse and ask them how that relates to the question posed at the beginning of the lesson.

SCRIPTURE

1. **Acts 3:22** "Moses said, 'The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you.'

KEYWORDS: raise up, prophet, like me

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was the primary role of a prophet?
2. How does Jesus operate in the office of prophet for us?
3. What impact does this have on your spiritual life?

HINT: this verse is being spoken by Peter, and he is telling those in Solomon's Portico the fulfillment of prophecy from Deuteronomy 18:15: "The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—" This passage demonstrates the key to understanding that Jesus came as a fulfillment of the office of the prophet. Jesus tells us about what the future will hold for those who believe in Him and the condemnation and judgment that will occur for those who do not.

2. Hebrews 5:7-10 "In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek."

KEYWORDS: prayers, supplication, perfect, source of salvation, high priest

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How is Christ our High Priest?
2. Why do we need a High Priest?
3. How does Jesus' sacrifice compare to the Old Testament sacrifices?

HINT: this passage needs to be broken down into sections, so we can clearly see how Jesus performed the function of priest. As you recall, a priest was completely separate from the people and chosen by God (Numbers 18), and the priests would offer up prayer and supplications for the forgiveness of sins. Hebrews 7 describes the priestly order for the role of priest, descended from the Levites (those God set apart to be priests). However, the good priests could not hold that office for ever due to their passing. Jesus holds this office permanently (Hebrews 7:24) and perfectly as this verse describes. His offering that He gave on the cross was needed only once."

3. Psalm 103:19 "The Lord has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.

KEYWORDS: throne, kingdom, over all

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How did Jesus establish the Kingdom of God?
2. In what ways do we get to experience the Kingdom now?
3. What part of the Kingdom are we still waiting to experience?

HINT: when Jesus began His ministry, many asked if He is the Messiah. He told them that He, in fact, was the Messiah (John 10); however, many assumed the Messiah would be establishing a physical kingdom on earth. In John 18:36, Jesus tells them that His kingdom is not of the earth but is a kingdom in heaven. The Psalmist in this verse describes to us that Jesus' throne is in the heavens where He sits at the right hand of God (Mark 16:19). Christ is the king, ruling over His church through the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:30-33). Also, as a king would in the Old Testament, He holds the power of forgiveness and mercy for those who repent and judgement for those who do not"

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Click or scan the QR codes, or go to olivebaptist.org/resources to view the full list of links.



Respond to the Gospel like a Prophet, Priest, and King



What does it mean that Jesus is Prophet, Priest, and King?

ANSWER: CHRIST EXECUTED THE OFFICE OF PROPHET BY TELLING US TO REPENT, PRIEST BY OFFERING HIS BODY AS THE PERFECT SACRIFICE TO GOD, AND KING BY RULING OVER HIS CHURCH AND OFFERING FORGIVENESS TO THOSE WHO ASK.

APPLICATION

- 1. Since we do not need a priest to confess to God, what does that mean for us?**
- 2. Since Jesus was the perfect fulfillment of all of these offices, how is this good for us?**

PRAYER TIME

Below are suggestions to incorporate into your prayer for thoughtful reflection on the lesson.

Thank you for being a perfect prophet, priest, and king.

Thank you for your perfect bodily sacrifice for our sins.

Help us to understand the significance of your offering.

Lesson 13

“The first truth we need to understand is that Jesus is one Person who has two natures: a divine nature and a human nature. In other words, Jesus is both God and man.”

– Matt Perman

QUESTION:

HOW WAS JESUS FULLY GOD AND FULLY MAN?

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the last week of our study on key doctrinal truths for Christians. This week we are looking at Jesus, God the Son, coming down onto the earth and becoming fully God and fully man. This is a very complex topic, and some of what we discussed in week 4 of the trinity will come into play when discussing this topic. As Deuteronomy 29:29 says, “The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.” Jesus coming down onto earth as man while maintaining His divinity is summarized in the theological term, “hypostatic union.” Again, do not let this word intimidate you. This word means that there was a perfect union between Jesus being the Son of God and also being man at the same time. If you recall in week 10, we discussed how Jesus was tempted as Adam was. Jesus needed to be man to endure the same temptations Adam (mankind) endured, but He needed to be divine for His sacrifice to pay the ultimate price for our sin. If Jesus was only a man, then His sacrifice would be no different than any other sacrifice because He would not have had the ability to defeat death, the curse of sin. If Jesus was only His divine self, then He would not have endured the same temptation that Adam went through in the garden.

TRANSITION QUESTION

Why is it difficult to understand Jesus being both fully God and fully man?

CONTEXT

“Hypostatic union” simply means that Jesus had both divine and human nature in Himself. As you read in the Bible, you will see various mentions of Jesus being the second Adam or the last Adam. Again, this is due to the nature of Christ while He was on the earth, the life that He lived, and the sacrifice that He gave for all mankind. The action of Jesus becoming man is also known as “incarnation.” Incarnation is the act of Jesus becoming and taking human flesh. As Hebrews 2:14 says, “Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil.” Jesus had to take on an earthly body so that He could partake of the same trials, tribulations, and temptations that we as humans endure. He did so perfectly, and became the ultimate standard and sacrifice for all mankind. In 2 Corinthians 5:21, Paul explains the importance of this incarnation by saying, “For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” This week, look for the ways that the Bible describes Jesus’ unique nature of remaining fully God but also fully man.

TIPS BEFORE TEACHING

Review each verse, and look for the keywords to indicate the emphasis of each question. Highlight these words, and engage your group with prompting and directing questions that hint towards the answer. Allow each person the ability to contribute a word within the verse and ask them how that relates to the question posed at the beginning of the lesson.

SCRIPTURE

1. **Galatians 4:4** “But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law,

KEYWORDS: God, sent his Son, born of a woman, born

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does this verse show that Jesus was both God and man?
2. Why is it so important that Jesus was born of a woman?

HINT: this verse shows us that Jesus was born as anyone else is born on earth, yet He was sent directly from God the Father. This shows the divine nature of Jesus, born in the same manner as mankind enters into the world

2. Philippians 2:5-8 “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.

KEYWORDS: form of God, form of servant, likeness of men, human form

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How can we have the mind of Christ?
2. What does it mean that Christ emptied himself?

HINT: this verse brings up an important discussion on the humility of Christ. He came to earth and took on the likeness of man, yet He did not count Himself to be equal with God. He humbled and emptied Himself to become a servant, the answer for God’s redemptive plan which He promised in Genesis 3:15 to Eve directly after the fall. This verse also verifies that Jesus did take on human form, was tempted as a human, and obeyed God’s plan unto death.

3. John 1:14 “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

KEYWORDS: Word, flesh, dwelt

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

How does knowing that Jesus was both God and man help you in your understanding of God?

HINT: do you remember what “Word” means from week 4? “Word” is referring to Christ. This verse shows us that Christ became flesh and dwelt among us. “Dwelt” means that He lived with us and shared in our temptations, emotions, and feelings. As Hebrews 4:15 says, “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.” Jesus, therefore, endured the same temptations that we endure, but He did not give in to them.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Click or scan the QR codes, or go to olivebaptist.org/resources to view the full list of links.



**What is the
Hypnostatic Union?**

ANSWER: GOD SENT HIS SON, JESUS, BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, TO BE CONCEIVED FROM THE VIRGIN, MARY, TO BE FULLY GOD AND FULLY MAN, AND TO BECOME THE PERFECT SACRIFICE WITHOUT SIN.

APPLICATION

- 1. Through Christ's example of servanthood, how is the Christian to serve others?**
- 2. Does the knowledge that Jesus had the same experiences that we do help you love him more? Explain.**

PRAYER TIME

Below are suggestions to incorporate into your prayer for thoughtful reflection on the lesson.

Thank you for being the perfect sacrifice for all mankind.

Help us to humble ourselves the way you humbled yourself.

Thank you for sending your Son, Jesus, on our behalf.

