

Week 1 Study Sheet

The Case for Truth

Consider

Humans are naturally inquisitive. We seem to be on a constant quest for answers. For truth. The quest for truth often leads to discovery, and yet discovery often leads to more questions. At the root of every personal inquiry is a set of universal questions about origin, identity, meaning, purpose, morality, and destiny. We call these "life's big questions." Have you found yourself face to face with these topics, wondering where to find the answers? Over the next five weeks we'll study these big questions and learn how God and his Word are truth and lead us to all of life's answers.

Review

Watch the following videos for an introduction to life's big questions. Some videos require a login to RightNow Media, get your free subscription through OHC at https://ohcnow.com/RightNow. Do We Need Truth? https://ohcnow.com/LBQvideo1 Is the Bible Reliable? https://ohcnow.com/LBQvideo2

Discover

Read John 14:1-14

- What is Jesus making clear about who he is?
- · What connection does Jesus make between belief and truth?
- What questions did Thomas and Philip have for Jesus? How are those questions like questions people are asking today?
- How does this passage contribute to our understanding of truth?

Read John 18:28-40

- · What truth is Pilate searching for?
- How does Jesus answer Pilate's questions?
- How does Pilate respond to Jesus?

Pray

Seek truth. Ask the Holy Spirit to shine his light of truth on the questions and fears that linger in your heart.

Practice

Prepare to share the truth with others. 1 Peter 3:15 (NIV) instructs us to "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." Write out the following questions and provide an answer in your own words: Where did I come from? Who am I? What is the meaning of life? How should I live my life? What happens when I die?



Week 2 Study Sheet

Origin & Identity - Who is God? Who am I?

Consider

As Paul walked the roads of Athens (Acts 17:16-34), he discovered a hunger for truth in the Athenian people. They spent years searching for truth through false gods and philosophical pursuits. They built temples, created idols, and recited pagan origin stories and constantly changing rhetoric in pursuit of truth. Paul drew their attention to their statue, "unknown god," and asserted, "you are ignorant of the very thing you worship." In their pursuit of God, they had completely missed the one true God. As you prepare for this week, read the story in Acts 17:16-34 to see the powerful answer Paul provides for the Athenians' question: "Who is God?"

Ask

Origin: Where did I come from? Am I a cosmic accident or is there a Creator God? If so, what is he like? Identity: Who am I? What does it mean to be me, the me I am meant to be?

Review

Watch the following videos for an introduction to this week's big questions. Some videos require a login to RightNow Media, get your free subscription through OHC at https://ohcnow.com/RightNow. Is There a God? https://ohcnow.com/LBQvideo3

The Kalam Cosmological Argument https://ohcnow.com/LBQvideo4

Discover

Read John 1:1-18

- · What does this passage teach us about the origin of Jesus?
- What else do we learn about Jesus from this passage?
- How does this information about Jesus influence our understanding of who God is and who we are?
- How is grace connected to truth? (The word "grace" is only used in the Gospel of John in this passage, read NIV, verses 14, 16, and 17).

Read Matthew 16:13-20

- How would our culture answer Jesus' questions? (vs. 13)
- · What is significant about Peter's understanding of Jesus' origin?
- What is the importance of Peter's confession?
- Why is confession important for us in our pursuit of truth?

Pray

Praise Jesus through prayer. Speak about his identity as revealed in Scripture and acknowledge who he is. Yield your life to him and ask him to transform areas of your life that need to reflect his identity. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you keep the truth about the identity of Jesus, and your identity in him, fresh in your mind and heart.

Practice

Dwell on the identity of God. Read <u>Psalm 145</u> and list the characteristics of God as you discover them in this passage.



Week 3 Study Sheet

Meaning & Purpose - Why am I here? What is the meaning of life?

Consider

The author of Ecclesiastes presents his first thesis thought on the meaning of life this way, "For in much wisdom is much vexation, and he who increases knowledge increases sorrow." (Ecclesiastes 1:18 ESV) In the era of "The Great Resignation," many of us are reexamining the meaning and purpose of our lives. Let the final words of King Solomon guide your discussion this week as you reflect on your purpose, "Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil." (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 NIV)

Ask

Meaning and Purpose: What is the meaning of life? What is the meaning and purpose of my life?

Review

Watch the following videos for an introduction to this week's big question. Some videos require a login to RightNow Media, get your free subscription through OHC at https://ohcnow.com/RightNow. Does Life Have a Purpose? https://ohcnow.com/LBQvideo5
The Meaning of Life https://ohcnow.com/LBQvideo6

Discover

Read John 4:7-30

- What purpose does the woman at the well have before meeting Jesus?
- · How is her identity connected to her purpose before she meets Jesus?
- How did the woman's purpose change after meeting Jesus?
- Why is worship important for us to understand our purpose?
- How does this passage help us answer the question of our purpose?

Read Luke 12:22-34

- How can worry distract us from our purpose?
- If God desires to take care of our needs, how does that free us to live out our purpose?
- How do our treasures drive our purpose?

Pray

Recall a moment of hope you experienced this past week. Ask Jesus to reveal how he was a part of that moment and show him gratitude. Ask him to guide you toward his good and perfect plan for your life. Share with others what Jesus reveals to you during this time of prayer.

Practice

Begin a conversation with God about his purpose for your life. Write the following questions in a journal and await his reply:

- 1. Where are you leading me?
- 2. Can you reveal my next steps of obedience?
- 3. Who have you placed in my life that can help me in the process of finding and fulfilling your purpose for my life?



Week 4 Study Sheet

Morality & Destiny - How should I live? What happens when I die?

Consider

In what ways can the life of a Christian serve as evidence for God's existence? Paul describes us in 2 Corinthians 5 as God's ambassadors. What if we approached our lives this way? Living as God's agents in a foreign country, representing his interests, carrying his authority, seeking to reconcile God's enemies to him. What's the consequence of not living with this sense of purpose? What do we miss out on? What do those around us miss? What happens when someone dies apart from Jesus? As followers of Jesus what responsibility do we have for representing Jesus to those who haven't yet trusted in him?

Ask

Morality: How should I live my life? What values are to guide my life, where did they come from, and how will I live them out?

Destiny: What happens to me when I die? Where will I spend forever? Can I know?

Review

Watch the following videos for an introduction to this week's big questions. Some videos require a login to RightNow Media, get your free subscription through OHC at https://ohcnow.com/RightNow. Can I Know God Personally? https://ohcnow.com/LBQvideo7

Is Jesus Really God? https://ohcnow.com/LBQvideo8

Discover

Read John 14:15-31

- What is the relationship between love and obedience?
- Is Jesus suggesting that God's love for us depends on our moral performance? Why or why not?
- What promises does Jesus make to his disciples?
- How does this passage contribute to our understanding of morality and eternity?

Read Luke 18:18-30

- Why does Jesus connect the Old Testament commandants to eternal living?
- Why does earthly treasure stand in contrast to inheriting eternal life?
- What is the cost of inheriting eternal life?

Pray

Pray the words of the hymn Take My Life and Let It Be, "Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold. Take my intellect and use every power as thou shalt choose. Take my will and make it Thine, it shall be no longer mine. Take my heart, it is Thine own, it shall be Thy royal throne."

Practice

Memorize Psalm 139:23-24. Make a habit this week of reciting this verse each morning. Let these words guide you as you discern God's plan for your life.



Week 5 Study Sheet

Engaging Culture with the Truth in Jesus

Consider

"Your truth" has become a modern cultural expression used to communicate supportiveness and tolerance. It is a personalized view, built upon an individual's subjective perspective about life. The truth is, there is no personalized truth. The world is ravaged by pain and suffering. Culture can't answer life's big questions, which is why followers of Jesus must engage culture with the hope of Jesus and introduce the One who is Truth, the One who brings healing and peace.

Review

Watch the following videos for an introduction to life's big questions. Some videos require a login to Right-Now Media, get your free subscription through OHC at https://ohcnow.com/RightNow. Why Does God Allow Pain and Suffering? https://ohcnow.com/LBQvideo9 Is Christianity too Narrow? https://ohcnow.com/LBQvideo10

Discover

Read John 16:1-16

- How does Jesus engage culture? How does this inform us on how we are to engage culture?
- Why does the world hate Jesus? Have you felt hated because of your devotion to Jesus?
- How does Jesus prepare us to engage in culture? What does he give us?

Read Matthew 22:34-40

- How does the great commandant engage our world with the hope of Jesus?
- How do we captivate the world with love?
- Why is everything dependent on these two commandments?

Pray

Personalize <u>Luke 21:14-15</u> in your individual prayer time and pray it over your biblical community this week. "I make up my mind not to worry beforehand how God will defend me. For God will give me words and wisdom that none of my adversaries will be able to resist or contradict."

Practice

Engage culture with the hope of Jesus by inviting someone to meet you for coffee to discuss life's big questions. Ask them to share their questions and perspectives. Listen intently and discern how to lovingly represent the truth found in God's Word as you share your answers.