

Lesson 1: One Great Creator

Psalms 33:6-9,13-15; Colossians 1:15-17

Conversation Starter: When has an invention or discovery blown your mind?

Psalms 33:6-9

6 By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, And all the host of them by the breath of His mouth. **7** He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap; He lays up the deep in storehouses. **8** Let all the earth fear the LORD; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him.

Group Discussion #1-2

- What thoughts or emotions surface when you read these verses?
- What are the implications of accepting the reality of a Creator?

Psalms 33:13-15

13 The LORD looks from heaven; He sees all the sons of men. **14** From the place of His dwelling He looks on all the inhabitants of the earth; **15** He fashions their hearts individually; He considers all their works.

GOD IS ALL KNOWING

Reference scriptures: Genesis 50:20; John 9:3-5; 1 Peter 3:18

Group Discussion #3

- Where do we see evidence of God's care and concern in the world today?

Colossians 1:15-17

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. **16** For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. **17** And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

Group Discussion #4

- How do these verses influence your understanding of what it means to follow Jesus?

Live It Out

Your Creator is real, and He really knows everything about you. How will these truths influence your life this week?

- **Evaluate.** Does your life say you know God personally, or just know about Him? Ask some of your friends and family members to answer this question about you.
- **Study.** Broaden your understanding of the scientific view of creation by reading a book such as the Holman Quick Source Guide to further understanding of creation.
- **Invest.** All people are created by God, which means all people have value. Be intentional about spending time with someone this week in order to bless that person and reflect God's care for His creation.

We live in a world that is increasingly reliant on science and the scientific method. Don't let that scare you. The more science reveals to us about creation, the more we will learn about our wondrous Creator who loves us.

Lesson 2: One Great Purpose

Isaiah 43:1-7

Conversation Starter: Have you ever asked yourself the question, "What am I doing here?"

Isaiah 43:1-2

1 But now, thus says the LORD, who created you, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine. **2** When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, Nor shall the flame scorch you.

Group Discussion #1-2

- How can these verses be seen as both good and bad news?
- How as God used specific trials in your life to teach you more about Himself?

Isaiah 43:3-4

3 For I am the LORD your God, The Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I gave Egypt for your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in your place. **4** Since you were precious in My sight, You have been honored, And I have loved you; Therefore I will give men for you, And people for your life.

Group Discussion #3

- What steps can we take to recognize and more fully enjoy God's love?

Isaiah 43:5-7

5 Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your descendants from the east, And gather you from the west; **6** I will say to the north, 'Give them up!' And to the south, 'Do not keep them back!' Bring My sons from afar, And My daughters from the ends of the earth— **7** Everyone who is called by My name, Whom I have created for My glory; I have formed him, yes, I have made him."

Group Discussion #4

- What does it look like to glorify God in our everyday lives?

Unvarnished Truth

Life's Greatest Story

Live it out

You have a purpose. How will that Truth influence your actions and attitudes this week?

- **Reflect on** the grace of God in your own life. Write down specific things God has done for you. Spend time in prayer thanking and praising Him.
- **Display the** character of God in your life this week. Look for opportunities to display the character of Jesus toward others. Perhaps you need to offer someone forgiveness. Or you can offer an act of kindness to a stranger in need.
- **Talk.** With someone this week about a specific way God has shown His grace to you. Be prepared to share the gospel with them if the conversation moves in that direction.

The true meaning of your life, the true purpose, is to glorify God through your life. That's a difficult decision to make, and you must make it each day. Thankfully, it's a decision that allows you to enjoy God's presence for all time.

Lesson 3: One Great Problem

Romans 3:9-12,19-20,23

Conversation Starter: If you had the power to fix one problem, what would you fix?

Romans 3:9-12

9 What then? Are we better than they? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin. **10** As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one; **11** There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. **12** They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one."

Group Discussion #1

- What evidence points to sin as a universal problem?

Romans 3:19-20

19 Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. **20** Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

Group Discussion #2

- What are some ways people try to explain away God's judgements?

Romans 3:23

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Group Discussion #3-4

- When have you felt the reality of sin in your own life?
- How does sin prevent us from living in a way that glorifies God?

Unvarnished Truth

Life's Greatest Story

Live It Out

Without Christ, you are condemned forever because of your sin. How will you respond to that truth in the days to come?

- **Confess.** Ask God to reveal any area of sin in your life that have not been dealt with. Confess those sins and do whatever is necessary to turn away from them.
- **Pray.** Pray daily for three people that you know are dealing with sin in their life.
- **Worship.** Spend 30 minutes this week praising God for His offer of grace and forgiveness. Thank Him for the work of Christ in your life and in the lives of those you love.

The city of Vancouver spent the equivalent of \$100,000 in an effort to saves lives. Christ paid a much greater price to save those who had no hope of saving themselves, including you and I.

Lesson 4: One Great Savior

Romans 5:6-11

Conversation Starter: What's one of your favorite rescues from history, film, or literature?

Romans 5:6-6

6 For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. **7** For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. **8** But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

- **The just person.** Paul is not using a theological term at this point, but describing a person others see as morally upright or exemplary in his or her conduct.
- **The good person.** This person is generous, kind, and loving toward others. While the just person appears to never do anything wrong, the good person is simply someone everyone likes to be around. It's conceivable that someone might possibly die for that kind of person.
- **The sinner.** The one Jesus died for are neither upright nor good. They are corrupted by sin. "Christ died for the ungodly" and this title fits all of us.

Group Discussion #1

- What do these verses teach us about God's character?

James 5:9

9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

Group Discussion #2

- To what degree do you feel at peace in your relationship with God?

Romans 5:10-11

10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. **11** And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

Group Discussion #3-4

- What are we offered in a relationship with Christ?
- In what ways does your life reflect joy in God?

Live It Out

How will you respond to God's offer of hope and forgiveness for all people?

- **Write your testimony.** Write out the story of your on salvation. Focus on three questions:
 - (1) What was your life like before salvation?
 - (2) How did you come to Jesus?
 - (3) What is your life like now since you've been saved?
- **Share your testimony.** Pray for the opportunity to share your testimony with someone who needs to hear it. Commit to sharing the truth of the gospel with at least one person this week.
- **Invite five people.** Take steps to connect with the five people you listed in the "My Hope In Christ" activity. Invite them to visit our bible study for week 5.

Drifting alone and frightened in the Gulf of Mexico is bad. But drifting through life in the spiritual darkness of sin is much, much worse.

Lesson 5: One Great Commitment

Romans 10:-3, 8-13

Conversation Starter: What are some decisions you have enjoyed making?

Romans 10:1-3

1 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. **2** For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. **3** For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.

Group Discussion #1

- Where in our culture do we often see zeal without knowledge?

Romans: 8b-10

8 "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): **9** that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. **10** For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Group Discussion #2-3

- What are the implications of confessing Jesus as Lord?
- What makes salvation both easy and difficult?

Romans 10:11-13

11 For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." **12** For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. **13** For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

Group Discussion #4

- How has the gospel changed your life?

Live It Out

What actions will you take this week in light of the truth that salvation comes through faith in Jesus Christ alone?

- **Accept.** If you have not yet believed in Jesus and confessed Him as Lord, do so now. Trust Him for forgiveness from your sin. Turn to Him for a new life.
- **Examine.** Make time this week to assess your relationship with Jesus. Are you growing closer to Him? Are you studying His Word. Are you sharing the truth of the gospel with others?

You are going to make around 70 decisions today. Be sure to make one that has the potential to be life changing, either for you or for someone you know.

Lesson 6: One Great Task

2 Timothy 2:1-10

Conversation Starter: When have you been trusted with an important task?

2 Timothy 2:1-2

1 You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. **2** And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

Group Discussion #1

- Who has been faithfully teaching you the truth about God and the gospel?

2 Timothy 2:3-7

3 You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. **4** No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier. **5** And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. **6** The hardworking farmer must be first to partake of the crops. **7** Consider what I say, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things.

Group Discussion #2-3

- What can we learn from Paul's word pictures in these verses?
- What excuses do we make for not sharing Christ?

2 Timothy 2:8-10

8 Remember that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David, was raised from the dead according to my gospel, **9** for which I suffer trouble as an evildoer, even to the point of chains; but the word of God is not chained. **10** Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

Group Discussion #4

- What steps can we take this month to share the gospel message?

Live It Out

What will you do to share the good news of Jesus?

- **Pray.** Learn about the different cultures of the people in your community. Ask about their customs, heritage, and beliefs. Become a student of different cultures in an effort to start discussions.
- **Learn.** Follow Paul's example by attending a worship service within a different culture. Seek out common ground in order to build bridges between that culture and Christ.

Sharing the gospel is a massively important endeavor because eternity is at stake. Sharing the gospel is also incredibly urgent, since none of us are guaranteed tomorrow. Let these two truths frame every decision you make in the days and weeks to come.