

Small Group Study Topics-Christian Education

Apologetics Series

- **Origins (4 weeks)**
A study of the science that surrounds the creation/evolution debate. Many Christians do not know what to believe about the creation story in the Bible because of what they have been taught about evolution. This study shows that there is abundant scientific proof that life and our world were designed by an intelligent being and that being is God.
- **How Did We Get the Bible? (4 weeks)**
This study answers the following questions: If a book were written by an all-powerful all-knowing God, what would be its characteristics? Can we prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that the Bible was written by God? How do we know that what we have today is what God inspired to be written? What is the difference between all of the translations?
- **How Can I Lead Someone to Christ? (2 weeks)**
God has given every believer a mission to carry out – to share the gospel with a lost and dying world. This study is a practical how-to class that explains in detail how even the shyest person can become a bold witness of the Gospel!
- **Science and the Bible (2 weeks)**
Is there any agreement between what science teaches and what the Bible says? Has science disproved what the Bible says is true? Must Christians accept what they believe based on “blind faith” and ignore what scientists say is true? These questions are examined and answered in this study.

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Doctrine

- **Eternal Security (2 weeks)**
If I am a Christian, does that mean I never have to worry again about hell? This is a study of the scriptural teaching about whether or not a person can lose their salvation once they are a Christian.
- **What Exactly Does it Mean to be A Christian? (2 weeks)**
A study of what the Bible says happens to a person when they trust Christ as Savior, and just as importantly, what doesn't happen to them.
- **Prophecy (3 weeks)**
This study is an overview of what the Bible says about the end times. This is an examination of the truths and myths about these end-time events and seeks to answer the question as to whether we can know when they will happen and what to look for.
- **Good and Evil (2 weeks)**
An examination of the role of good and evil in God's plan for humanity. We will answer the question: If God is a God of love, then why is there so much evil in the world?
- **The Afterlife (2 Weeks)**
What happens to a believer after they die? An unbeliever? What does scripture tell us about heaven and hell?

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Christian Living

- **Decision Making and the Will of God (2 Weeks)**
I know that it is the will of God for me to love others, fellowship with believers, study God's word, etc. What about the decisions I make when the Bible does not speak specifically about the decision? How can I know that the job I am in, the school I go to, or the person I marry are within God's will? How do we discern His will in those areas of life?
- **Tools for Spiritual Growth (3 weeks)**
How can I study the Bible and actually understand what I am studying? What is prayer and why doesn't God answer mine? What is Christian fellowship and are we experiencing it in our group?
- **How to Overcome Temptation (2 weeks)**
This is a biblical study of the way that temptations overcome us and how to have victory over them. We will look at the reasons why it seems that some people cannot overcome temptation and how to help them.

Advanced Apologetics (The following topics are from the video series "The Truth Project". **Each topic is two weeks long**)

- **Veritology: What is Truth?**
What is truth? Why is it important? What role does it play in the biblical view of the world, God's purpose for the cosmos, His will for mankind, His plan of salvation, and the way we live our personal lives?
- **Philosophy and Ethics: Says Who?**
The message of this lesson parallels the precept of Proverbs 23:7 – "As a man thinks in his heart, so is he." The heart of the discussion lies in the thought that there is a formal and vital connection between our ideas about the nature of the world (philosophy) and our understanding of right and wrong behavior (ethics).

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Advanced Apologetics (continued)

- **Anthropology: Who is Man?**

We engage in an in-depth examination of biblical and contemporary ideas about the nature of the human race. The focus of the discussion is *anthropology*: Who is man? Where did he come from? What is the meaning and purpose of his existence?

- **Theology: Who is God?**

The branch of study and investigation that grapples with the question, "Who is God?" *Knowing God* ought to be our passion and our highest goal; for until we look upon *His* face, we cannot rightly know ourselves or begin to grasp the meaning of our existence in the world.

- **History: Whose Story?**

We will see that a proper appreciation of *historical context* – in other words, our place in God's "larger story" – is fundamental to an accurate understanding of almost every aspect of our lives. History provides us with indispensable insights into the meaning of existence, God's plan and purpose for the ages, man's responsibility toward the Creator, and his duty toward his fellow creatures.

- **Sociology: The Divine Imprint**

The principles of order and relationship will be examined specifically as we find them manifested in three of the social systems designed by God: the family, the church, and the union between God and man ("The Intimate Three").

- **Unio Mystica: Am I Alone?**

Here, in the most intimate and profoundly mysterious sphere of the "Intimate Three" (family, church, and the God-man relationship), we have the privilege of pondering exactly what it is that Christ has purchased for us at the price of His precious blood shed on the cross for our sins: not simply salvation from hell, but an invitation into the Godhead itself, where we may experience the incomprehensible wonder of oneness with the Creator of the universe.

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Advanced Apologetics (continued)

- **The State: Whose Law?**

Special attention will be given to the design, structure, and role of the *state*, its place in God's plan for human society, and the rightful extent and limits of its power. The state, as we will see, has the capacity to exert a tremendous power for good in the affairs of mankind as long as it operates within its proper boundaries; but it also has the potential to become the most horrendously pathological and abusive of all the social spheres if not kept in check.

- **Labor: Created to Create**

We will find that creative labor is a vital element of God's plan for the social realm; that work is not a "curse," as it is often represented today, but an essential element of our humanity; that it is, in fact, rooted in the nature of God Himself, the Original Worker.

General

- **Questions and Answers with a Grace Pastor (1 week)**

Pastor Mark will come and answer any questions you might have about the Bible, Grace Church, or life in general. If you could send him a possible list of questions, it would be helpful as he can do some preparation, but it is not absolutely necessary.

Contact Information

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