

ONE LARGE GROUP

PRAYER:

PURPOSE: Provide an overview of what the Bible says about: God, man, marriage, and parenting

ASSUMPTIONS:

- God exists & He is sovereign (He is alive & active)
- God's word is truth (God revealed the Bible for our benefit & guidance)
- The Bible is all we need to understand our world, and live to please God. This allows us to help our families, neighbors, and country

THEME: "Two Paths"

- Every day we decide to either obey God or disobey (honor God or self?)
- There are consequences to each path

LESSON 4 REVIEW:

- God is holy and desires His followers to be holy
- God works to produce Christ-likeness (holiness) in the believer
- Sanctification is the process of increasing in holiness
- God's process is: put off the old (sinful habits), be renewed (think biblically), put on the new (godly habits)

OBJECTIVES OF LESSON 5:

- Christ is the head of the church (which is the body of all believers)
- The Holy Spirit empowers and motivates believers
- Sanctification is accomplished within the church (transformed lives)
- The church witnesses to the glory and grace of God in this world

BIBLE:

The Bible describes many cities, kingdoms, and kings that had been lost to modern history. As a result, many believed that the people and events described in the Bible were myths. Around 1800 several European nations (France & England especially) began excavating sites of ancient civilizations in the Middle East, and the science of archaeology began. One of Napoleon's officers discovered the Rosetta Stone. Over the past 200 years archaeology has brought to light not only the location of many biblical cities, and the chronology of their kings, but has also provided a glimpse into daily life during Old Testament times as numerous ancient languages have been decoded and thousands of texts translated.

Archaeology now relies heavily on the biblical text for clues as to the location of ancient cities, the dates of kings and kingdoms, and the location and dates of significant battles. Archaeology confirms rather than disproves the statements of Scripture.

THE CHURCH

Q – What is the church? & Who is the head of the church?

Eph 1:22-23 (1145) And He put all things under His feet, and *gave Him to be head* over all things *to the church, which is His body*, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Col 1:17-18 (1154) And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And *He is the head of the body, the church*, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

ANSWERS:

- Christ is the head of the church
- The church is the body of Christ (all believers are the church)

Q – What does the church do?

Mt 28:18-20 (967) And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. “Go therefore and *make disciples* of all the nations, *baptizing* them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, “*Teaching them to observe* all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

ANSWER 1 - Train followers of Christ (disciple, promote sanctification)

- The only command in Greek is “make disciples”
- “all nations” – salvation is not just for the Jew’s

1 Pe 2:5 (1187) You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to *offer up spiritual sacrifices* acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Rev 1:6 (1200) And has *made us kings and priests* to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

ANSWER 2 - Serve God (this is a result of training)

Eph 3:10 & 21 (1146) To the intent that now the manifold *wisdom of God might be made known by the church* to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places,....To Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

ANSWER 3 - Glorify God & Witness to God (this is a result of training)

SMALL GROUPS (each group reviews the following material)

Opening Prayer & Review Homework: (ask the following questions)

- What did you learn? Are you now thinking differently?
- Do you understand God better? Do you understand yourself better?
- Are you resolved to act differently?

Recite Prior Memory Verses: (Gen 1:1, Prov 4:23, Eph 1:3, Jn 17:17)

Q – How does the church accomplish its mission?

Acts 2:41-42 & 47b (1063) Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. And they continued steadfastly in *the apostles' doctrine* and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.....And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (1168) All *Scripture is given by inspiration of God*, and is *profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness*, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

1 Pe 2:2 (1187) As newborn babes, *desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby*. (sanctification is part of salvation)

ANSWER 1 - Study & Apply Scripture

- The NT church relied on Scripture
- Scripture provides: Teaching, reproof, correction, training
- Instructions to Peter "feed my sheep" **Jn 21:15-17** (1060)

Notes: - How was the Lord adding to their number day by day?

- People saw a change in the life of believers & they heard the Word
- The Holy Spirit gave them the faith to believe (called those predestined)

Ro 12:10 (1110) *Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another.*

Ro 15:14 (1113) Now I myself am confident concerning you, my brethren, that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to *admonish one another*.

Eph 4:32 (1148) And *be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.*

Col 3:9 (1155) *Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds.*

Malachi Men Lesson 5 "The Church" Facilitator's Notes

Col 3:16 (1156) Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and *admonishing one another* in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

ANSWER 2 - Cultivating the "one-another's"

- Help one-another
- Keep one-another accountable

Partial List of One-Another's:

Love	Jn 15:12	Be devoted to	Ro 12:10
Give preference to	Ro 12:10	Build up	Ro 14:19
Accept	Ro 15:7	Admonish	Ro 15:14
Care for	1 Cor 12:25	Bear burdens	Gal 6:1-2
Show tolerance	Eph 4:1-2	Be kind	Eph 4:32
Forgive	Eph 4:32	Be subject to	Eph 5:21
Bear with	Col 3:12-13	Comfort	1 Th 4:18
Encourage	1 Th 5:11	Confess sins to	Ja 5:16
Be hospitable to	1 Pe 4:9-10	Serve	1 Pe 4:9-10
Be humble toward	1 Pe 5:5	Don't judge	Ro 14:13
Not arrogant against	1 Cor 4:6	Don't devour	Gal 5:15
Not challenging	Gal 5:26	Not envying	Gal 5:26
Don't lie	Col 3:9	Don't complain against	Ja 5:9

Mt 18:15-17 (951) Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.

ANSWER 3 - Discipline sinning believers (to restore them, not as punishment)

ANSWER 4 - Following the lead of the Spirit (the Spirit is the power)
(What controls/motivates/leads you? The flesh or the Spirit?)

Q - What is the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the Church?

Jn 14:15-18 (1052) If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray *the Father*, and He *will give you* another Helper, that He may abide with you forever – *the Spirit of truth*, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for *He dwells with you* and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

ANSWER 1 - Christ promised to send the Holy Spirit to help keep His commandments

Jn 14:23-27 (1052) Jesus answered and said to him "*If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. "He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me. "These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, he will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*

ANSWER 2:

- Christ promised that the Holy Spirit would enable His disciples to remember all that Christ said (what Christ said is now written in the gospels)
- The Holy Spirit will help them keep His words

Jn 16:7-15 (1054) "Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but *if I depart, I will send Him to you. "And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment. "Of sin, because they do not believe in Me; "Of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; "Of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. "He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. "All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.*

ANSWER 3: The Holy Spirit addresses the conscience (convicts).

- Sin – Christ is the truth, they rejected the truth – this is sin
- Righteousness – Christ is righteousness, He is God, He went to God
- Judgment – Christ's atonement & resurrection judged Satan (cp. Gen 3:15)

Acts 1:4-5 (1061) And being assembled together with them, He commanded them *not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; "For John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."*

ANSWER 4:

- The promised Holy Spirit will come soon (at Pentecost, Acts 2)
- The disciples are to stay in Jerusalem and wait for the Spirit
- The Spirit will give them spiritual power (needed to disciple)
- The church can't function without the Holy Spirit (no sanc. w/o H.S.)

Eph 4:11-16 (1147) And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head – Christ – from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

ANSWER 5:

- The church needs the gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Spiritual gifts enable believers to grow in Christ-likeness (sanctification)
- Spiritual gifts enable the church to grow
- The church is to encourage & facilitate the use of gifts for sanctification

1 Cor 14:12 (1126) Even so you, since you are zealous for *spiritual gifts*, let it be for the *edification of the church* that you seek to excel.

ANSWER 6: Spiritual gifts are given to edify and build up the church

Q – How should the church use spiritual gifts?

Ro 12:4-8 (1110) For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so *we, being many, are one body in Christ*, and individually members of one another. *Having then gifts* differing according to the grace that is given to us, *let us use them*: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

ANSWER 1: (Use your gifts (parable of the talents) for the body to function well)

- Has anyone in the church encouraged you to use your gift?
- Do you use your gift to honor/glorify God & build up the church?

1 Cor 12:4-7 (1124) There are *diversities of gifts*, but the same Spirit. There are *differences of ministries*, but the same Lord. And there are *diversities of activities*, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is *given to each one for the profit of all*.

ANSWER 2: (Gifts are for the common good of the church)

- The Spirit give various gifts (charismaton - charismatic)
- The gifts are used in various ministries (diakonion - deacon)
- The ministries produce various results (energmaton – energy/work)

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1 Cor 12:11 & 18 (1124) But one and the same *Spirit* works all these things, *distributing* to each one individually as *He wills*....But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.

ANSWER 3: The Spirit allocates gifts as He desires (salvation is God’s plan)

1 Cor 12:15-17 (1124) If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body,” is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body,” is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling?

ANSWER 4: Don’t underestimate your gift (it is God-given)

1 Cor 12:20-21 (1125) But now indeed there are many members, yet one body. And the eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you?; nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.”

ANSWER 5: Don’t overestimate your gift (don’t be arrogant)

1 Cor 12:27-30 (1125) Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?

ANSWER 6: Use the gift God has given to build up the body of Christ & glorify God

1 Pe 4:10-11 (1189) As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

ANSWER 7: God is glorified through the use of gifts (He gives the gift and the power)

Spiritual Gift Summary: (Gifts are given by the H.S. to accomplish God’s plan)

- *H.S. gives gifts* – motivates in *ministry* – causes *effects* (believers are *discipled*) – God is *glorified*
- Gifts are given by God as He sees fit (salvation is God’s plan)
- Use your gift (remember parable of the talents)
- Don’t downplay your gift & Don’t exalt your gift
- Motivation is to build up the church (disciple, honor/glorify God)
- All gifts are needed – don’t emphasize one over others

Partial List of Spiritual Gifts

Administration, Apostle, Discernment of spirits, Exhortation, Faith, Giving, Healing, Interpretation of tongues, Leading, Mercy, Miracles, Prophet, Service, Teacher, Tongues, Word of knowledge, Word of wisdom

Titus 2:11-14 (1169) For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

This passage describes sanctification, and it is accomplished in the church.

SUMMARY:

- Christ is the head of the church (all believers)
- The Holy Spirit motivates and leads each believer
- The church cannot function without the Holy Spirit and His gifts
- The church teaches and trains believers in spirit-led obedience
- Sanctification takes place in the church

HOMEWORK:

- Memorize: 1 Corinthians 12:7
- Read: Revelation chapters 2 and 3 (ignore the symbolism)
- Answer the following questions:
 - What were the churches doing that Jesus liked?
 - How were they able to do the things that Jesus liked?
 - What were the churches doing that Jesus did not like?
 - What were the churches told to do in order to change?
- Consider the following:
 - How important is it for a believer to join a local church?
 - Are paid staffs the only people who can make a church run well?
 - Can a church function if only a few use their spiritual gifts?
 - Who suffers if believers don't use their spiritual gifts?

Memory Verse: (repeat as a group)

1 Corinthians 12:7 (1124) But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all.

Memory Hint: Pray daily that God and His Holy Spirit would aide you in memorizing God's word. Pray for wisdom and understanding. Pray for obedience that you would apply His word to your life.