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*May the God of hope
fill you with all joy and
peace in believing,
so that by the power
of the Holy Spirit you
may abound in hope.
Romans 15:13*

COURSE OVERVIEW

Welcome to "Let's Get Started", a 9-week course with video teaching and discussion, designed to give you an encouraging space to talk about who God is and what having a relationship with Jesus really means. It's designed to be a safe space where no question is off the table and anyone is welcome!

This course is a place to explore faith and experience community. The success of this group depends on your participation. The group is designed to be conversational, not a lecture. Over the next 8 weeks, we will have 8 specific conversations:

- A Conversation About God
- A Conversation About Us
- A Conversation About Eternity
- A Conversation About Salvation
- A Conversation About the Bible
- A Conversation About Prayer
- A Conversation About Community
- A Conversation About My Next Step

Each week includes a 10-12 minute teaching video followed by 45-60 minutes of a guided discussion. We will close each week in a time of prayer.





INTRODUCTION

Let's Get Started!

MY SPIRITUAL STORY:

1. What were your spiritual beliefs growing up?



2. Who or what has influenced your spiritual beliefs the most?

MY SPIRITUAL STORY CONTINUED:

1. How have your spiritual beliefs changed? What caused these changes?

2. Describe where you are at in your spiritual journey right now.

3. One day, you will attend your own funeral. What do you hope others will say about you, including your spiritual journey?

NOTES:





***He is before all things, and in
Him all things hold together.
Colossians 1:17***



SESSION 1

A CONVERSATION ABOUT
GOD

Watch Session 1 Video

Video Notes:

SESSION 1

A CONVERSATION ABOUT
GOD



This week, we're talking about who God is. There is nothing more important than knowing God. God is personal, powerful, and perfect. He wants to have a relationship with you.

We see the personal aspect of God in the Trinity - the Father, the Son (Jesus), and the Holy Spirit. The Father loves us and created us, the Son (Jesus) lived among us and died for our sins and rose again, and the Holy Spirit dwells within us. He comforts us. He leads and guides us. These are not three gods, but one God in three persons, showing how God relates to us.

There is nothing God cannot do. He is all-powerful. God spoke the world into existence. He created everything, and He also sustains all things.

God is also perfect. Because He is perfect, we can trust Him completely. We can be sure that His promises are true. In a sinful and uncertain world, we can still know that God is good. He is faithful and never-changing, and He loves you.

Was what you learned in this session different than what you previously believed about God? If so, how?

What does it mean to know God?

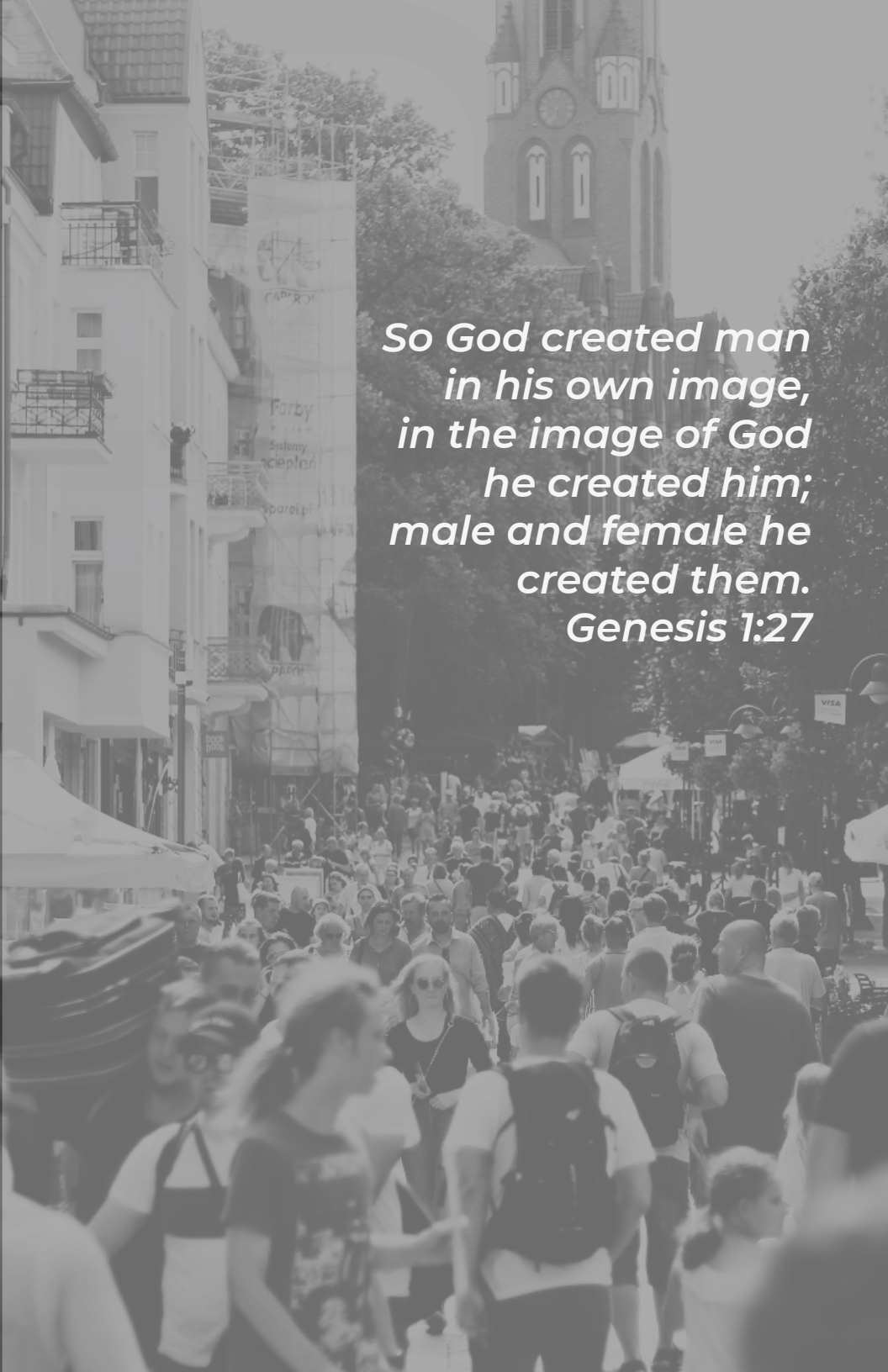
Name some attributes of God.

How does your view of God change how you live?



NOTES:



A black and white photograph of a crowded city street. In the background, a tall, ornate church tower with a clock face and arched windows rises above the trees. The street is filled with a dense crowd of people walking in various directions. On the left, there are multi-story buildings with balconies and scaffolding. A sign for 'FARBY' is visible on one of the buildings. On the right, there are trees and a 'VISA' sign. The overall scene depicts a busy, urban environment.

*So God created man
in his own image,
in the image of God
he created him;
male and female he
created them.
Genesis 1:27*

SESSION 2

A CONVERSATION ABOUT
US

Watch Session 2 Video

Video Notes:



Who are we? What is our purpose? These are all questions you may have heard or even asked yourself. This week we've been having a conversation about who we are as humans.

Today we learned about three truths:

1. All people are created by God.
2. All people are broken by sin.
3. All people can be restored.

When God created everything, he created humans. He made us in His image (Genesis 1:26-27). We have intrinsic value given by God. He created each of us, and gave us the ability to make our own choices.

The first humans God created, Adam and Eve, started in a perfect relationship with God, but they ended up choosing to walk outside God's plan for them by doing the one thing He asked them not to do (Genesis 3). Because of this, sin entered the world and we were separated from God.

But it doesn't end there! We all have the opportunity to be restored back to God, He made a way for us to be right with Him.





SESSION 2

A CONVERSATION ABOUT
US

Have you ever questioned your purpose? How does it feel to know your value and worth are given by God?


What does it mean to sin?

How have your desires destroyed your life? How has sin (both your own and others) ruined your life?



NOTES:





*He has made everything
beautiful in its time. He
has also set eternity in the
human heart; yet no one
can fathom what God has
done from beginning to
end. Ecclesiastes 3:11*

A graphic for Session 3 featuring a dark blue rounded rectangle with a white border. The text "SESSION 3" is in large white bold letters, "A CONVERSATION ABOUT" is in smaller white italicized letters, and "ETERNITY" is in large white bold letters. The graphic is surrounded by colorful arrows in orange, blue, and yellow that form a circular path around the text.

SESSION 3

A CONVERSATION ABOUT
ETERNITY

Watch Session 3 Video

Video Notes:

SESSION 3

A CONVERSATION ABOUT
ETERNITY

Something within us longs for more than this world offers. We were created to have a relationship with God and spend eternity with Him.

Matthew 25:46 gives us the description of 2 places: one of eternal punishment called Hell and the other of eternal life called Heaven. Each person has a decision to make and whether they choose to follow Jesus determines where they will spend eternity.

Heaven is an incredible place that God has prepared for everyone who has placed their faith in Jesus. Our human minds cannot begin to understand what it will be like, but we know there will be no more sickness, pain, or death (Revelation 21:4).

Hell is an eternal place of torment, separated from the presence of God. Scripture tells us that the payment of sin is death. That death is eternal separation from God. But God is so loving, He sent his son Jesus to this earth and He died on the cross to set us free and whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. Hell doesn't have to be our destiny, because Jesus has already done everything necessary for us to receive eternal life in heaven. He offers it to anyone who believes.



Was what you learned in this session different than what you previously believed about Heaven and Hell? If so, how?

How does an awareness of eternal life, shift your focus or perspective in everyday life?

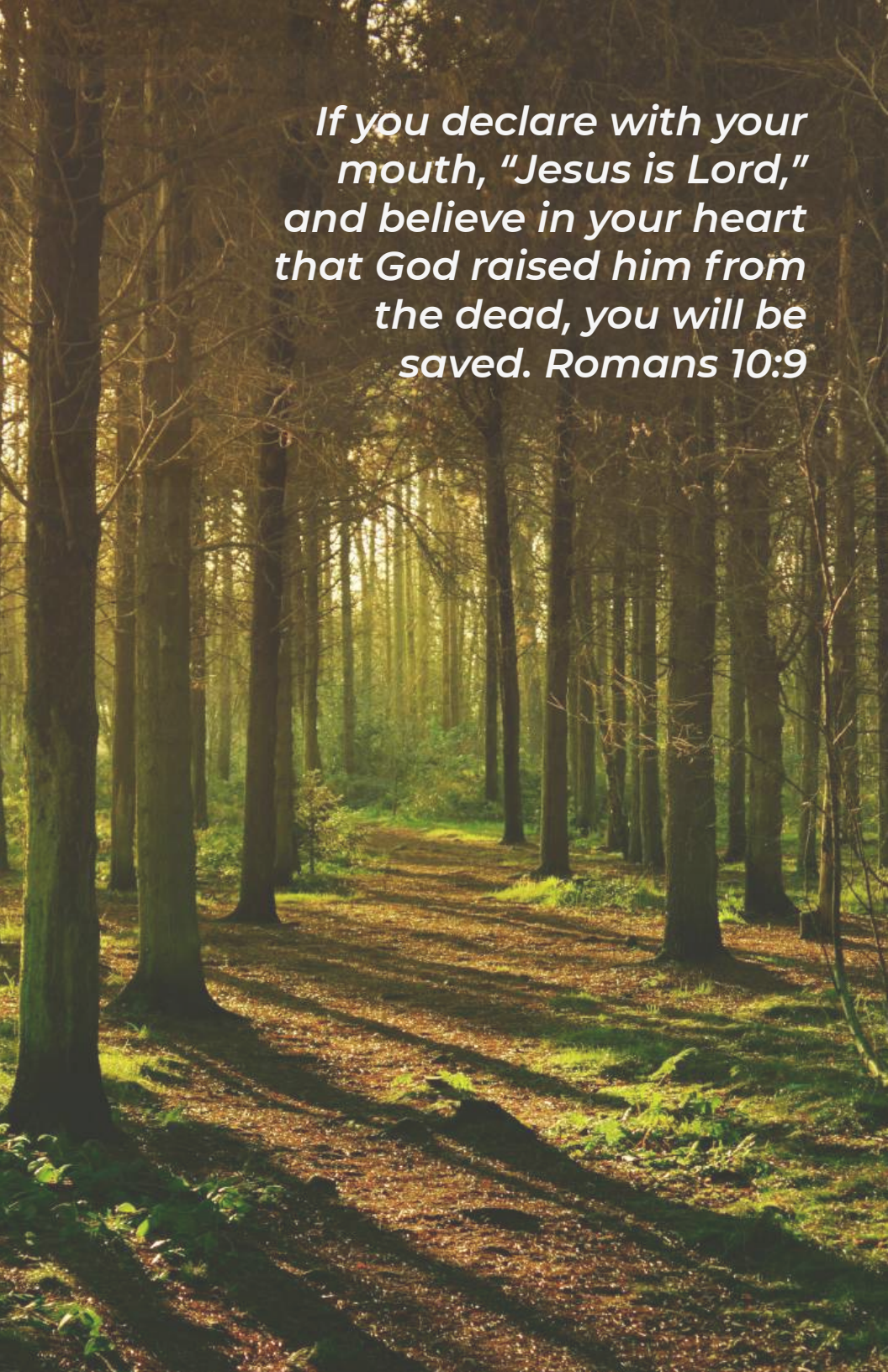
How can the hope that a believer has for heaven, help you walk through difficult situations in this life?

In what ways does a biblical understanding of Heaven and Hell compel you to live, act, and think differently?



NOTES:



A photograph of a forest path. The path is covered in fallen brown leaves and is flanked by tall, slender trees. Sunlight filters through the canopy, creating long shadows and a warm, golden glow. The text is overlaid in the upper right quadrant.

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9

SESSION 4

A CONVERSATION ABOUT
SALVATION

Watch Session 4 Video

Video Notes:



In the past weeks, we've been having conversations about God, humanity, and eternity. We've talked about sin and that the payment for sin is death. But we also know that God did not leave us without hope, He loves us and wants a relationship with us. We do this through salvation. Salvation is a gift from God, received through faith, not by our efforts.

Salvation means being saved from sin and its consequences. It's about being rescued from a life separated from God and being given the gift of eternal life with Him. Our best efforts will never, no matter how noble, be able to bridge the gap between our sinful nature and God's holiness. This is only possible because of Jesus Christ. Jesus died on the cross, taking the payment of all our sins upon Himself. Three days later, He rose again!

Jesus, through His death and resurrection, has paved the way out of the darkness of sin. When we trust in Him and follow His guidance, we move from being lost to being found, from darkness to light, and from death to eternal life.





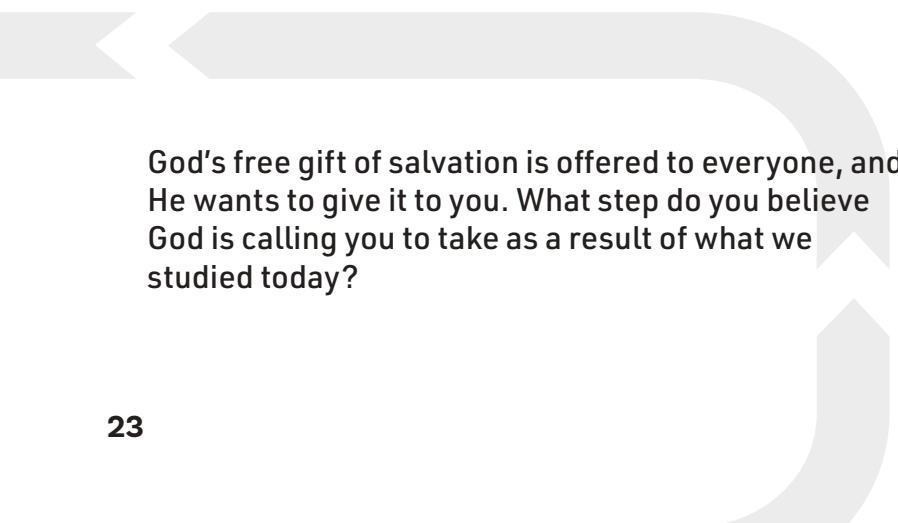
SESSION 4

A CONVERSATION ABOUT
SALVATION

Was what you learned in this session different than what you previously believed or been taught about how to reach God?

Have you even found yourself trying to “work” your way to heaven?

How does it feel to know that Jesus’ death paid for the entirety of your sins (past, present, future)?

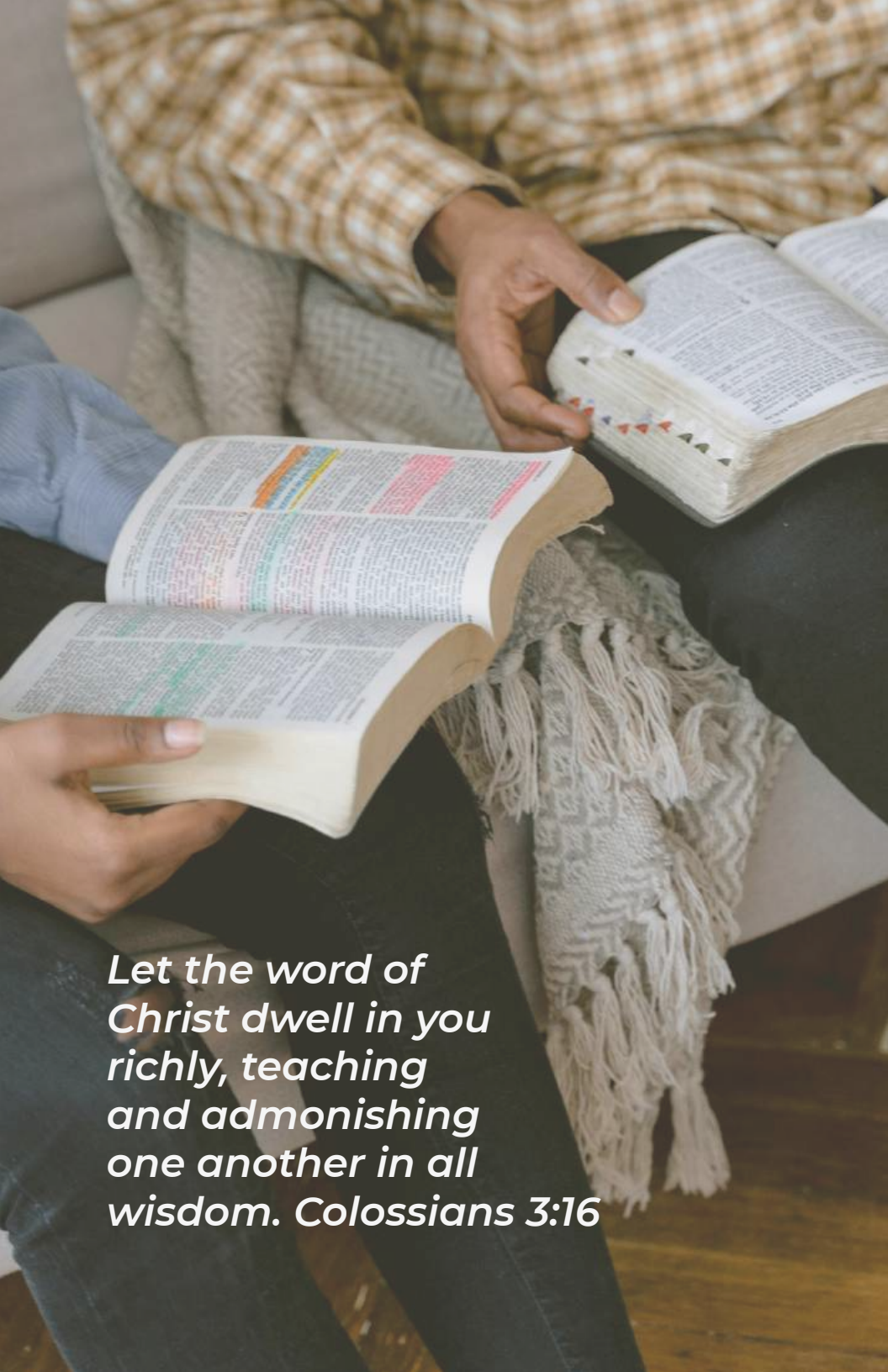


God’s free gift of salvation is offered to everyone, and He wants to give it to you. What step do you believe God is calling you to take as a result of what we studied today?



NOTES:





Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom. Colossians 3:16



SESSION 5

A CONVERSATION ABOUT
THE BIBLE

Watch Session 5 Video

Video Notes:

SESSION 5

A CONVERSATION ABOUT THE BIBLE

The word “Bible” comes from the Latin word “biblica,” which means books or library. The Bible is a collection of 66 books in a variety of genres (history, poetry, prophecy, and even personal letters).

The books of the Bible are organized into two main parts—the Old Testament, which covers human history prior to Jesus’s birth, and the New Testament, which tells the story of Jesus and the early church and looks ahead to eternity.

We talked in the video about the Bible revealing God’s will, God’s wisdom, and God’s ways. The Bible does tell us God’s will for his creation, for humanity, and for eternity. It give us a wealth of wisdom for the complexities of life. The Bible shows us again and again that God doesn’t always do things the ways we might think, but it does show us God’s ways are best!

In total, the entire Bible was written over 1,500 years by almost 40 different authors. And yet, it tells one unified story. The story of God’s plan to rescue people from sin and reunite us to Himself.



What is the Old Testament?

What is the New Testament?

What does the Bible reveal about God?



Where do you think you will start reading the Bible?

What might be a good plan for you to read the Bible regularly?

SESSION 5

A CONVERSATION ABOUT
THE BIBLE

What are some tips for understanding what we are reading in the Bible?

How does the Bible give us timeless wisdom for life?

How might reading the Bible make a difference in your daily life?



NOTES:



*Rejoice always,
pray continually,
give thanks in all
circumstances; for
this is God's will for
you in Christ Jesus.
1 Thessalonians
5:16-18*





SESSION 6

A CONVERSATION ABOUT
PRAYER

Watch Session 6 Video

Video Notes:

SESSION 6

A CONVERSATION ABOUT PRAYER

Prayer is talking with God. It is a two-way conversation. Both talking to God and listening to Him is present in prayer. It can be audible, silent, private, or public. God cares about every detail of your life. You can always talk to God.

Think of your closest relationships. If you never communicated with them, you wouldn't know them very well. The same goes with our relationship with God. We talk to God through prayer, and we primarily listen to God through His Word, the Bible. Jesus taught the disciples how to pray, and He showed us the importance of prayer by taking time Himself to pray.

If we want to grow in our relationship with God, we have to spend time with Him.



What is the main goal of prayer?

Why is prayer a two-way conversation?

In what ways does God speak to us today? Has God spoken to you recently?

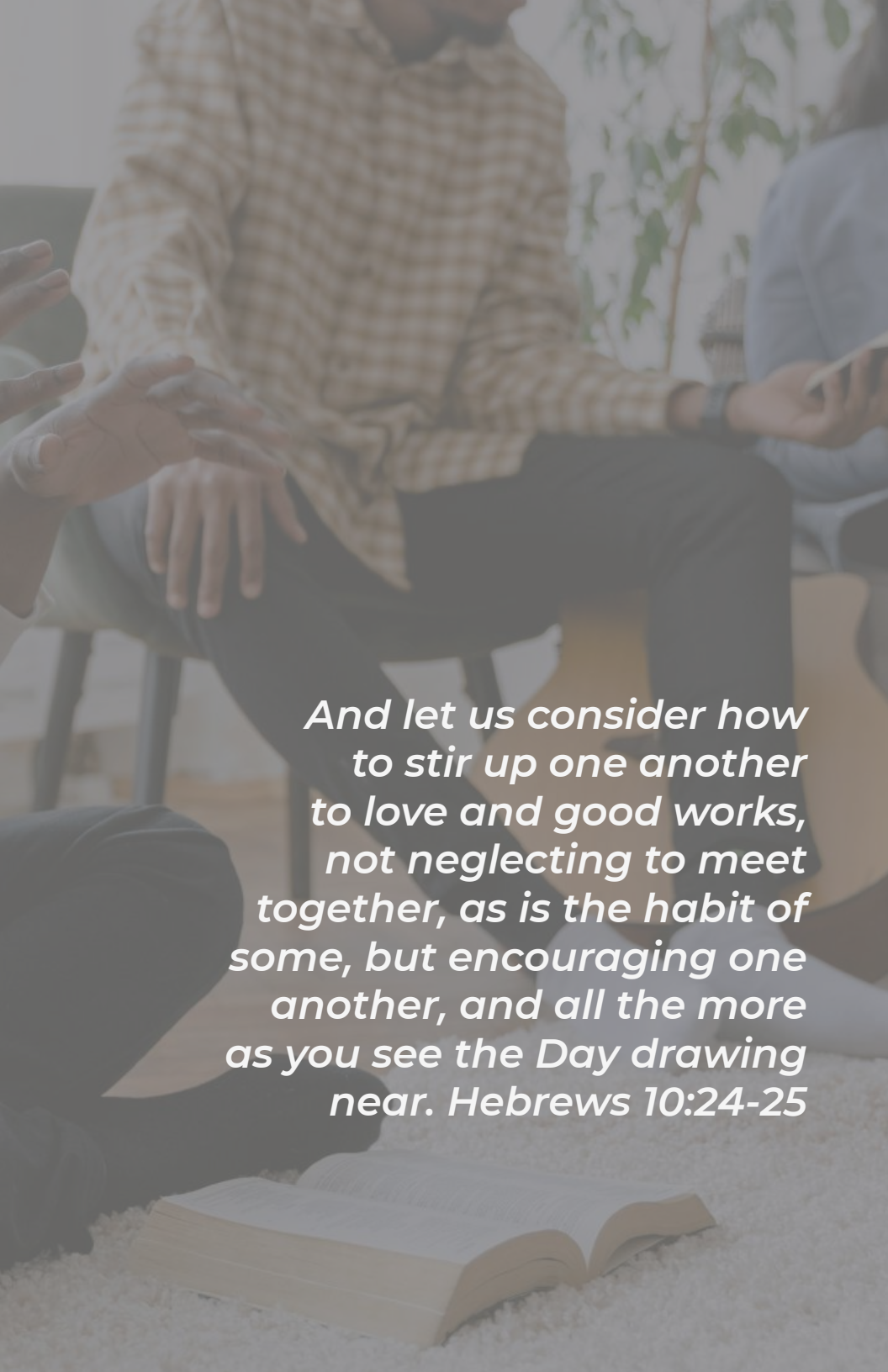
How consistently do you pray?

What are some things that keep us from praying to Him consistently?



NOTES:





And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. Hebrews 10:24-25

SESSION 7

A CONVERSATION ABOUT
COMMUNITY

Watch Session 7 Video

Video Notes:



We need one another! 58 times the Bible says "one another". The Bible tells us to love one another, greet one another, care for one another, encourage one another, bear one another's burdens, strengthen one another, serve one another, forgive one another, pray for one another.

Jesus, God in flesh – had community. He had community with 12 men he called his apostles. He had community with his inner circle of Peter, James, and John. He even had a form of community with the large crowds. If Jesus needed community, then you and I need community! We will never grow in isolation.

We gather together in community in large groups as the Church and in small groups with other people so we can do 3 things:

1. Grow Together
2. Worship Together
3. Encourage One Another





SESSION 7

A CONVERSATION ABOUT
COMMUNITY

What stood out to you most from the video teaching?



Today's video talked about the analogy about the redwood trees. How does the redwood tree analogy relate to the concept of community?

Do you prefer to be by yourself or with a group of people? Why?

How have you experienced community in your life? How did it benefit you?

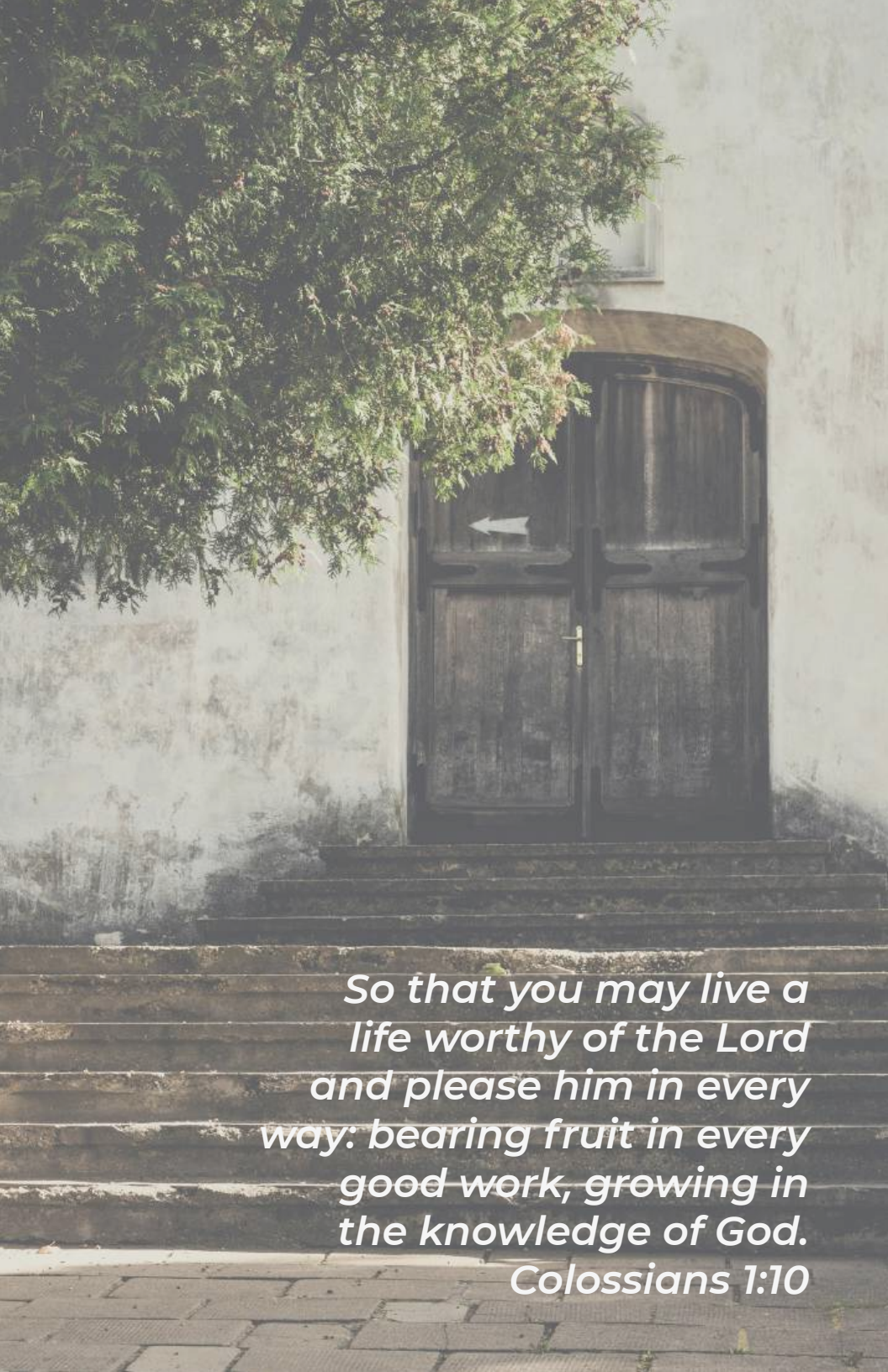
Can you share a specific instance where your community supported you during a challenging time?

Read Acts 2:42-47. What all did this community do and experience together?



NOTES:





*So that you may live a
life worthy of the Lord
and please him in every
way: bearing fruit in every
good work, growing in
the knowledge of God.
Colossians 1:10*

A graphic for Session 8 featuring a dark grey rounded rectangle with a white border. The text 'SESSION 8' is in large white bold letters, 'A CONVERSATION ABOUT' is in smaller white italicized letters, and 'NEXT STEPS' is in large white bold letters. The graphic is surrounded by four thick, curved arrows in orange, blue, and yellow that form a circular path around the text.

SESSION 8

A CONVERSATION ABOUT
NEXT STEPS

Watch Session 8 Video

Video Notes:



Today we've been talking about next steps in our walk with God. Taking the next step mostly means incorporating spiritual disciplines in your life. We should live with Jesus as the center of our home life, work life, play life, community life, and private life. As you consider your next step for spiritual growth, ask yourself the question, "What one thing in my spiritual journey, if it improved, would make the most difference?" Perhaps it is studying the Bible consistently, praying daily, or joining a group.

Some next steps are one-time occasions such as the first time you place your faith in Jesus or baptism. If you have not taken these next steps, that is a great place to start. Having said this, most next steps are habits that enrich our spiritual lives. We call these spiritual disciplines. Examples include Bible study, meditation, prayer, fasting, giving, witnessing, slowing and sabbath, solitude, service, worship, celebration, confession, guidance, and even suffering.

God has given us spiritual disciplines to receive His grace and blessing. It is the inner work of transforming from the inside out as our heart, mind, and soul prioritize loving God above all else.



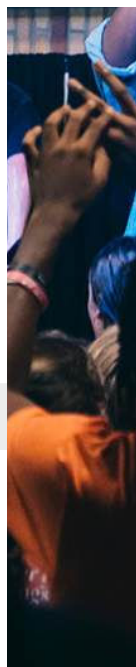
SESSION 8

A CONVERSATION ABOUT
NEXT STEPS

How would you respond to the question, "What one thing in my spiritual journey, if it improved, would make the biggest difference?" How could you start working on this today?

What challenges have you encountered while trying to take the next steps in your spiritual journey? How do you think you could overcome these challenges?

Knowing that the spiritual side of our lives should influence every portion of our lives, how do you or can you set daily intentions on God in all aspects of your life? What practices help or could help you maintain that focus?

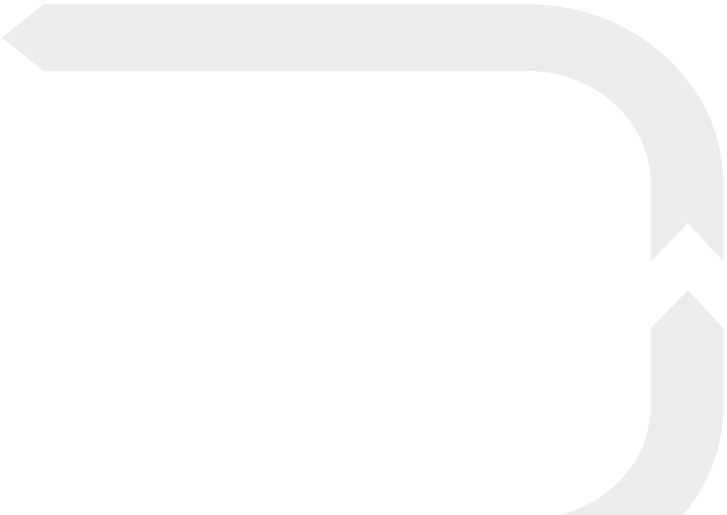


How do you balance loving God and others in your daily life? Can you share an example where the balance was particularly challenging or rewarding?

How do you currently engage God's word? What new methods or practices could you incorporate to deepen your understanding and knowledge?



What is one step that you believe God is calling you to take as a result of what we studied today?



TAKE YOUR NEXT STEP

Thank you for joining us in Let's Get Started! Before we end our time together, we want to help you take your next step in your walk with God. As we talked in today's session, this can look like many different things in your life, but here are a few ways you can get started today:

- **Following Jesus:** If you have never taken the very first step of placing your faith in Jesus, you can do that today!
- **Baptism:** Baptism is a public display of our commitment to follow Jesus Christ. At Liberty, we invite all new believers to be baptized.
- **Life Track:** Learn about our church, its history, and beliefs, meet our staff, and join the Liberty family.
- **Joining a Group:** Our groups meet regularly to study the Bible, encourage and pray for one another, and build lasting relationships.
- **Serving on the Life Team:** Jesus gave His life to serve others, and those who love him do the same! Our Life Team volunteers are the rockstars of Liberty!

Let's Get Started taking your next step. Scan the QR code below.



NOTES:

