

God's Church....



Deo Gloria Community Church
Rockingham

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Week 1 - Deo Gloria



MEMORY VERSE: *Isaiah 60:1-2. "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. 2 See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you."*

Introduction to this weeks' study

The glory of the Lord is His multi-dimensional manifestation of his nature in the form of His presence, through His creation and through a believer. Sometimes God chooses to reveal Himself despite our dealings, but there are times when we need to draw near to Him through obedience. Either way, God longs to reveal Himself unreservedly to each one of us.



Core Truth

As Jesus is in the Father, the Father is in Him and we are invited into this glorious relationship through the Holy Spirit.

DAY 1 - The glory of reciprocal love

PERSONAL STUDY

Read the following Scriptures, observe the circumstances, and apply the truths to your life:



John 17:1

1. To what degree are you able/unable to reciprocate love to God/others?

2. How can you surprise someone with an act of love today?



Prayer

DAY 2 - The glory of completing His assigned work for you

PERSONAL STUDY

*Read the following Scriptures, observe the circumstances,
and apply the truths to your life:*



John 17:4 and Luke 15:11-32

1. Is God a harsh task master? Refer to Luke 15.

2. What do you consider to be the work God has set
aside for you to do today?



Prayer

DAY 3 - The glory of our original identity in God's presence

PERSONAL STUDY

Read the following Scriptures, observe the circumstances, and apply the truths to your life:



John 17:5

1. What circumstances have played a major role in shaping your identity thus far?

2. What factors need to shift so that your true identity in Christ shines forth today?



Prayer

DAY 4 - The glory of the fullness of Christ flowing through me

PERSONAL STUDY

Read the following Scriptures, observe the circumstances, and apply the truths to your life:



John 17:10

1. Do you really believe you have access to ALL God has for you?

2. What gifts does God want to pass through you to someone today?



Prayer

DAY 5 - The glory of unity

PERSONAL STUDY

Read the following Scriptures, observe the circumstances, and apply the truths to your life:



John 17:22-23

1. How do you understand the unity of the Trinity?

2. Are there parts of your life that are not flowing in unity yet? What can you do about it?



Prayer



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION



Prayer



Devotion: (Scan QR code on next page or go to our website at www.deogloriarockingham.com to watch this week's devotion)



Read:

John 17:1–5 Jesus prays to be glorified

John 17:6–19 Jesus prays for His disciples

John 17:20–26 Jesus prays for all believers

The concluding remarks of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane foreshadow God's heart for us. After a full life on earth, Jesus' final prayers were aimed at interceding for the glory of God to manifest in Him. Based on the progression of His prayers it becomes obvious that we are included in the glory of God being manifest on Earth. We are commissioned to be in unity, in God's glory, for eternity.

Discussion questions

There are many ways that God reveals Himself and each one of these can be described as glorious. What is your idea of the Glory of God in the context of John 17?

How does the world bring glory to people? Think of cases where this glorification of people changed because of something that has happened? What happens then? Think of examples, perhaps of famous people.

Read Isaiah 6:1-5. The prophet Isaiah caught a glimpse of Something/Someone heavenly. Do you agree with what the angels were chanting? Why/why not?

Close in prayer



Week 2 - The Word - What is your foundation



MEMORY VERSE: 2 Timothy 3:16-17. *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

Introduction to this weeks' study

Timothy was one of the first believers to come from the second generation of Christians. He did not repent through the preaching of the apostles, but he grew up as a Christian. His mother and his grandmother tutored him.

Paul reminds Timothy to remember what he learned from the Holy Scriptures. The best defence against error is to be familiar with God's Word.



Core Truth

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching.

DAY 1 – A Spirit of Power

PERSONAL STUDY

Read the following Scriptures, observe the circumstances, and apply the truths to your life:



2 Timothy 1:3-8 and 2 Timothy 3:14-15

1. What would Timothy have learned from childhood?

2. In what ways might a timid spirit show itself? How can we demonstrate “power, love, and discipline?”



Prayer

DAY 2 – Be Strong

PERSONAL STUDY

Read the following Scriptures, observe the circumstances, and apply the truths to your life:



2 Timothy 2:1-2 and 2:20-26

1. What are some things which may discourage you from being strong and to stand firm on God's Word?

2. 2 Timothy 2:20-21 refers to a vessel of honour. How can you by studying God's word become an honourable vessel?



Prayer

DAY 3 – Holy Spirit Inspired

PERSONAL STUDY

Read the following Scriptures, observe the circumstances, and apply the truths to your life:



2 Timothy 3:14-16 and 2 Peter 1:20-21

1. What does it mean to you that the whole Scripture is Holy Spirit inspired? Does that include the New Testament?

2. Because all Scripture is inspired by God, ask yourselves what is the Bible here for?



Prayer

DAY 4 – The Purpose of God’s Word

PERSONAL STUDY

Read the following Scriptures, observe the circumstances, and apply the truths to your life:



2 Timothy 3:16-17 and Psalm 19:7-9

1. Imagine you are explaining verses 16 and 17 to an unbeliever, what would you say? What important Biblical doctrines can we get from these verses? What implication do they have for you?

2. What is the purpose of Scripture according to 2 Timothy 3:16-17?



Prayer

DAY 5 – Proclaim the Word

PERSONAL STUDY

Read the following Scriptures, observe the circumstances, and apply the truths to your life:



2 Timothy 4:1-5

1. What reasons does Paul imply in verse 1 as to why we should proclaim the word?

2. In a world where most people preach tolerance, what is the basis for us to reprove or rebuke others? When should you do this? And with what attitude?



Prayer



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION



Prayer



Devotion: (Scan QR code on next page or go to our website at www.deogloriarockingham.com to watch this week's devotion)

Discussion questions

Read 2 Timothy 1:3-5. Who was Timothy?

Read 2 Timothy 3:14-15. How relevant is the Bible to you? Why should you bother to read, let alone study the Bible? It is, after all, a very old book. Discuss.

Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17. Discuss the reasons, why according to Paul, we must read and study the Bible.

How can we apply 2 Timothy 3:16-17?

REFLECTION

When you read and study the Word of God next time, meditate for a moment and consider that the eternal, all-knowing and loving God is speaking to your heart and mind and soul and spirit. Be filled with wonder at such forgiving compassion and grace.

Close in prayer



Week 3 - Doing the Word



MEMORY VERSE: *Deuteronomy 6:4-6. O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. 5 Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 6 These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.*

Introduction to this weeks' study

These verses constitute what is referred to as the “Shema”, forming the most important passage of the Old Testament for the Jews. The word “Shema” means to “hear or listen.” This passage of Scripture is the first that every Jewish child must memorise. It is also used to open every Jewish service and recited twice daily by the Jewish believers.

This shows the importance and value of remembering this Scripture and for us to study and to see how we can apply it to our lives.



Core Truth

God wants an intimate, loving relationship with believers.

DAY 1 - Listen

PERSONAL STUDY

Read the following Scriptures, observe the circumstances, and apply the truths to your life:



Deuteronomy 6:1-5

1. Verse 2 tells us to ‘*fear the Lord*’ and verse 5 tells us to ‘*love the Lord*’. How are both fear and love important motivations for you?

2. What is the difference between “hear” and “listen?” What can you do to “listen” clearly and to do God’s Word?



Prayer

DAY 2 – The Lord is the Only One

PERSONAL STUDY

Read the following Scriptures, observe the circumstances, and apply the truths to your life:



Deuteronomy 6:4

1. In how much of your life does God have first place? What is the centre of your focus, in your "everyday life"? What is the basis on which you decide what you will think, say, and do? Why do you do what you do in life?

2. Read the quote below. *"There's a difference between knowing God and knowing about God. When you truly know God, you have energy to serve Him, boldness to share Him, and contentment in Him."* J.I. Packer. Do you think it is true? Why? Why not. How are you growing in your knowledge of God?



Prayer

DAY 3 – Love the Lord

PERSONAL STUDY

Read the following Scriptures, observe the circumstances, and apply the truths to your life:



Deuteronomy 6:4-5 and Matthew 22:34-40

1. What command does the LORD God give to His children in verse 5?

2. What does it mean to you to love God with all your heart and soul and might? Would you say that you love the Lord with all your heart, soul and strength? Give specific examples of what that means in your life.



Prayer

DAY 4 - A Life of Love

PERSONAL STUDY

Read the following Scriptures, observe the circumstances, and apply the truths to your life:



1 John 4:7-21

1. Since we can't 'see' love, how does this passage help us to see the effects of God's love?

2. Reflect on the quality of your relationship with other people. Do your relationships with other people show the love of God, and your love for God?



Prayer

DAY 5 - The continual Reminder of the Word of God

PERSONAL STUDY

Read the following Scriptures, observe the circumstances, and apply the truths to your life:



Deuteronomy 6:7-9

1. Think about the phrase *“when you sit in your house”* for a moment and consider how it might relate to Bible study in your home. And what does it mean to you, to share the Word, *“when you walk?”*

2. Deuteronomy 6:8 starts with *“tie them as symbols... hands, foreheads, doorframes, gates.”* What can you do to remind you and your family of God’s Word, promises and commandments daily?



Prayer



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION



Prayer



Devotion: (Scan QR code on next page or go to our website at www.deogloriarockingham.com to watch this week's devotion)

Discussion questions

Read Deuteronomy 6:1-3. What are the conditions of blessing that are laid out in these verses? How can we apply this to our life?

Read Deuteronomy 6:4. In how much of your life does God have first place? What is the basis for the things you do in life (the activities you choose to be involved in)?

Read Deuteronomy 6:5. What does it mean to love the Lord your God, with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your strength? How do you do God's Word in practise?

Read Deuteronomy 6:7-9. List the things that Moses told the people to do in verses 7-9 so they would better remember to keep the commandment to love God. What things could you do to better remember to do God's Word?

REFLECTION

As we reflect on God's grace in salvation and promise, we need to remember that God is unique and we have been brought into an intimate relationship with our God. Our only response should be one of devotion with our whole lives.

Close in prayer



Week 4 - The Spirit - He is God



MEMORY VERSE: *John 14:16-19. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be[c] in you. 18 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19 Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.*

Introduction to this weeks' study

2 Corinthians 3:17 says: '*Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom*'. Jesus lived for just over thirty years on Earth, but God has and will be Spirit for all time. We can't understand Him if we merely approach him from our carnal minds. The Holy Spirit was given to lead us and plead for us, yet how much do we know of the Holy Spirit of God?



Core Truth

Get to know the Holy Spirit in a fresh, new way!

DAY 1 - Introduce yourself

PERSONAL STUDY

Read the following Scriptures, observe the circumstances, and apply the truths to your life:



Acts 10:44-45, John 14:16 and Deuteronomy 31:8 8

1. When have you experienced the Holy Spirit introduce Himself to you?

2. How do you recognize the presence of the Holy Spirit? (Matthew 7:20)



Prayer

DAY 2 – Getting to know the truth

PERSONAL STUDY

Read the following Scriptures, observe the circumstances, and apply the truths to your life:



John 14:17

1. Why is the Holy Spirit so fixated on the truth? Is there such a thing as truth?

2. In which areas of your life would you like to operate in more truth?



Prayer

DAY 3 – God has a desire to meet with us today

PERSONAL STUDY

Read the following Scriptures, observe the circumstances, and apply the truths to your life:



John 14:18

1. What does 'orphans' mean in the above context?
How could this apply to us?

2. How can you invite the Holy Spirit to come to you or your family today? What would the Holy Spirit want to say to you or do with you today?



Prayer

DAY 4 - Seeing is believing

PERSONAL STUDY

Read the following Scriptures, observe the circumstances, and apply the truths to your life:



John 14:19

1. If you were a disciple 2000 years ago, what would you desperately want to know about Jesus before his death? Ask the Holy Spirit to help you phrase the question within your heart.

2. In which areas of your life do you need to see God living in? What would He do if He were in charge of the choices you need to make?



Prayer

DAY 5 – He will teach you all things

PERSONAL STUDY

Read the following Scriptures, observe the circumstances, and apply the truths to your life:



John 14:26

1. When the Holy Spirit ‘arrives’, what comes with Him?

2. Where do you need teaching and where do you need reminding today? Ask God to do so.



Prayer



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION



Prayer



Devotion: (Scan QR code on next page or go to our website at www.deogloriarockingham.com to watch this week's devotion)

Discussion questions

Read John 14:15-17. Have you ever been in such a deep crisis that you did not know what to do? How did God help you in this situation and what would you do differently if you had to face a similar problem?

Do you experience the Holy Spirit? If so, how? Has anything changed since the last time you experienced the Holy Spirit?

Read John 14:25-26. How would you describe the Holy Spirit to other people and what would be some

of the core features that you are 100% convinced of through personal experience?

REFLECTION

The Holy Spirit is possibly the most challenging part of the Holy Trinity of God to get to know and develop a relationship with. What we do know is that the Lord IS spirit and those who worship Him must do so in spirit and in truth (John 4:24). Whether we are starting this relationship or whatever our personal understanding of the Holy Spirit is, God desires that we progress in our intimate knowledge of Him. May we explore new facets of God and also strengthen existing understandings of the Holy Spirit as we journey together.

Close in prayer



Week 5 - Walking in the Holy Spirit



MEMORY VERSE: *Romans 8:1-2. Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, 2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you[a] free from the law of sin and death.*

Introduction to this weeks' study

God, in His grace, walks with us on a journey to spiritual maturity. What is spiritual maturity? To some it may be like a Marvel character that you can summon all the power of the universe to dominate over your enemies. To others it may be that you are the purest being in the universe. Romans 8, Galatians 5 and Ephesians 4 give us some pointers but we need to flesh this out as we walk with God and as we live amongst the members of the body of Christ here on earth. Let's grow in stature this week as we look at what the Holy Spirit opened for us so that we can live by the spirit daily.



Core Truth

Grow in stature, and favour before God and man.

DAY 1 - A life governed by peace

PERSONAL STUDY

Read the following Scriptures, observe the circumstances, and apply the truths to your life:



Romans 8:1-8

1. What encouraging laws or truths do you believe God wants to remind you of today?

2. In what areas do you need your mind to be governed by life and peace?



Prayer

DAY 2 – The Holy Spirit is committed to praying for you

PERSONAL STUDY

*Read the following Scriptures, observe the circumstances,
and apply the truths to your life:*



Romans 8:26–28

1. Try to imagine how the Holy Spirit is interceding for your weakness right now. What are the main points being brought up? Try to sense HOW the Holy Spirit is praying for you.

2. What good is God trying to bring about in you at this season of your life?



Prayer

DAY 3 – Find out what you can do to please God

PERSONAL STUDY

Read the following Scriptures, observe the circumstances, and apply the truths to your life:



Galatians 5:13-18

1. Can you recall a time when you were doing things that pleased God (Ephesians 5:10). What did this look like?

2. In what areas do you want freedom from the laws of sin today?



Prayer

DAY 4 - You are not alone in your struggles

PERSONAL STUDY

Read the following Scriptures, observe the circumstances, and apply the truths to your life:



Galatians 5:22-26

1. Opposing sin is likened unto the pain of the crucifixion! What would the Holy Spirit be encouraging you to continue doing in your challenges today?

2. In which areas of your life do you need to not be vain, provoking, or envious of others?



Prayer

DAY 5 - Living as Children of Light

PERSONAL STUDY

Read the following Scriptures, observe the circumstances, and apply the truths to your life:



Ephesians 4:17-20

1. As you read the above verses, in what area did the Holy Spirit want you to be different from the world?

2. Where do you need to soften your heart and become more sensitive to God's dealings in people or your circumstances?



Prayer



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION



Prayer



Devotion: (Scan QR code on next page or go to our website at www.deogloriarockingham.com to watch this week's devotion)

Discussion questions

Read Romans 8:2-3. Are you truly free or is there an area where you need the law of the Spirit to bring more freedom? Can we increase our freedom in Christ?

Read Galatians 5:7 Are you running a good race or is something cutting in front of you? What can be done about that? Is Galatians 5:16 true or not? Why?

Read Ephesians 4:1-6. With so many different denominations, how do you understand these verses?

Read Ephesians 4:25-32. Choose one attribute of the life of a mature Christian from verse 25 to 32 that you would like to grow in during this week. Share this with your group.

REFLECTION

Romans 8 unlocks us from the laws of sin and death and opens the new life of freedom in Christ through the Holy Spirit's work. Galatians 5 sets us at the watershed of life by the spirit versus life in the flesh. And finally, Ephesians 4 provides a detailed manuscript of a how a mature Christian walks daily in the Spirit.

Close in prayer



Week 6 - A Disciple Making Church



MEMORY VERSE: *Colossians 1:28. We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.*

Introduction to this weeks' study

We as a church are dreaming of a congregation and community saturated with mature followers of Christ willing to do whatever it takes to further God's Kingdom. Jesus never anticipated that His church would become a people who simply host church events and hold weekend worship services.

It was Jesus will and commandment that His church is passionate about making the gospel known to the world, allowing those who are in the world to start an eternal relationship with Christ.



Core Truth

The church is supposed to be a magnet for those far from Christ. Go and be disciple-makers.

DAY 1 – Go and make...

PERSONAL STUDY

Read the following Scriptures, observe the circumstances, and apply the truths to your life:



Mathew 28:16-20

1. What does it mean to be a disciple? What is the difference between a disciple and a disciple-maker? Are you a disciple or a disciple-maker?

2. What are Jesus' disciples to teach to new disciples? How are you going to share the Gospel to the people in your influence sphere?



Prayer

DAY 2 – A Christ-Centred Mission

PERSONAL STUDY

Read the following Scriptures, observe the circumstances, and apply the truths to your life:



2 Timothy 2:1-2

1. What does the word “grace” mean to you? Why is it so important to be “strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus?” How can you ensure that you are strong in your relationships with Christ and others?

2. Who has spiritually invested in your life? How have these individuals helped you grow in your faith? How are you investing spiritually into someone else’s life?



Prayer

DAY 3 – Rejoice in suffering

PERSONAL STUDY

Read the following Scriptures, observe the circumstances, and apply the truths to your life:



Colossians 1:24-25

1. What can we learn from Paul's example when we are facing trials, hardships, or suffering of our own?

2. How does suffering show where your hopes and dreams are really based and what do you need to remember when you suffer?



Prayer

DAY 4 – Christ in you

PERSONAL STUDY

Read the following Scriptures, observe the circumstances, and apply the truths to your life:



Colossians 1:26-27

1. What exactly is the ‘*mystery*’ that God has chosen to reveal to the Gentiles (verse 27), and why is it so remarkable for us?

2. What are the privileges of having Christ in you? How does the thought of Jesus Christ dwelling in your heart make you feel?



Prayer

DAY 5 – To present everyone fully matured in Christ

PERSONAL STUDY

Read the following Scriptures, observe the circumstances, and apply the truths to your life:



Colossians 1:28-29

1. Paul's goal is to present all Christians to God as 'fully mature' (verse 28) – describe in your own words what this means. How can we help and support one another to become fully mature in Christ?

2. Are you making disciples? If so, what does that look like? If not, what is stopping you?

Prayer





SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION



Prayer



Devotion: (Scan QR code on next page or go to our website at www.deogloriarockingham.com to watch this week's devotion)

Discussion questions

Read Matthew 28:16-20. What is the essence of this command? What is a disciple? Are you a disciple or a disciple-maker?

Read 2 Timothy 2:1-2. What responsibility do you assume for the spiritual growth of those God has placed in your life?

Read Colossians 1:24-29. What does it mean to be "mature in Christ"? How does one become mature in Christ?

How can you grow in wisdom at sharing the Gospel?
Share practical ideas with the group.

REFLECTION

At the heart of Christianity is God's desire for His people to display his character. They do this through their obedience to his Word. He sent his Son to call people to follow Him. Jesus gave this last command before ascending to heaven: "*go and make disciples.*" His followers (we) should be dedicated to helping others follow Jesus. Disciple-making is deliberately doing spiritual good to someone so that he or she will be more like Christ."

Close in prayer



Week 7 – A Christ Centred Church



MEMORY VERSE: *1 Timothy. 4:8. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.*

Introduction to this weeks' study

Physical fitness is beneficial for our well-being, it keeps the body in shape, our minds sharp focused, and gives us energy. However, in this week's passage Paul explains that spiritual fitness is even more valuable and necessary for the Christian life. We are to be trained in God's truths to live a godly life. We encourage you to consider your spiritual well-being and challenge you to help others in the congregation on their journey.



Core Truth

Spiritual fitness is of critical importance for a Christian, without it we stagnate.

DAY 1 – Be Careful

PERSONAL STUDY

Read the following Scriptures, observe the circumstances, and apply the truths to your life:



1 Timothy 4:1-6 and John 8:44

1. List the important points which Paul instructs Timothy to point out.

2. What false lies still have a hold of you spiritually? Prayerfully ask God for help to overcome them.



Prayer

DAY 2 – Well Nourished

PERSONAL STUDY

Read the following Scriptures, observe the circumstances, and apply the truths to your life:



1 Timothy 4:7-8

1. Why is nourishment an important part of our growth as disciples?

2. In what ways can we regularly nourish ourselves in the faith?



Prayer

DAY 3 - The value of godliness

PERSONAL STUDY

Read the following Scriptures, observe the circumstances, and apply the truths to your life:



1 Timothy 4:9-10

1. What does it mean that a follower of Jesus has godliness, what is the value of godliness?

2. How can we be more spiritually disciplined?



Prayer

DAY 4 – Be the example

PERSONAL STUDY

Read the following Scriptures, observe the circumstances, and apply the truths to your life:



1 Timothy 4:11-12

1. Why is it important in today's society to be an example in faith?

2. List the key areas which Paul teaches in which we should be examples.



Prayer

DAY 5 – Life impacting truths

PERSONAL STUDY

Read the following Scriptures, observe the circumstances, and apply the truths to your life:



1 Timothy 4:15-16

1. Think back over the last few months and identify areas where you have grown spiritually. List areas where you want to grow spiritually.

2. How does God's Word (doctrine) and life interact with one another?



Prayer



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION



Prayer



Devotion: (Scan QR code on next page or go to our website at www.deogloriarockingham.com to watch this week's devotion)

Discussion questions

Read 1 Timothy 4:1-6. Discuss what deceiving spirits are there which influence your community.

Read 1 Timothy 4:7-8, 1 Timothy 6:6 and Psalm 37:3-4. How does contentment help with living a satisfying Godly life?

Read 1 Timothy 4:11-14. Make a list of the ways in which we are to disciple one another and then discuss how may be implemented practically in your family, small group and church.

Discuss strategies how this may be implemented practically in your family, small group and church.

REFLECTION

One of the strong themes of this letter is godliness and godly living. The false teachers in Ephesus tended to be legalistic, focused on observance of an external law. Jesus had a similar conflict with the Pharisees of his time, who sought godliness through legalism. If they kept all the points of the law, they reasoned, they would be truly righteous people. The problem is that they were outwardly righteous, but inwardly corrupt. The theme of this chapter is the same: outward righteousness vs. inner godliness.

Close in prayer



Week 8 – A Christ Centred Community



MEMORY VERSE: *John 17:3. Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.*

Introduction to this weeks' study

Christ is the core of our faith, He is the author and perfecter of our faith. To know God is to have a relationship with Him, to be in close union and partnership with Him, it is so much more than having knowledge of Him. Christ is central in knowing God truly and Christ must be at the centre of our lives.



Core Truth

Christ is everything! Jesus be my centre!

DAY 1 – Christ is everything

PERSONAL STUDY

Read the following Scriptures, observe the circumstances, and apply the truths to your life:



Colossians 1:15-20

1. Write out the meaning of this text in your own words.

2. How does the fact that Jesus is the "image of the invisible God" and "He is before all things" impact your life?



Prayer

DAY 2 – Christ is the Head of the church

PERSONAL STUDY

Read the following Scriptures, observe the circumstances, and apply the truths to your life:



Colossians 1:18-20 and Ephesians 1:22-23

1. What is the importance of Jesus being the head of the church?

2. What impact should this have on our church?



Prayer

DAY 3 – Everything but Christ is a loss

PERSONAL STUDY

Read the following Scriptures, observe the circumstances, and apply the truths to your life:



Philippians 3:7-8

1. List some achievements and things you should consider as a loss.

2. Why is it important to consider all thing a loss besides Christ?



Prayer

DAY 4 – Knowing Christ through faith

PERSONAL STUDY

Read the following Scriptures, observe the circumstances, and apply the truths to your life:



Philippians 3:9-10 and Galatians 2:16

1. What role does faith have in knowing Christ?

2. What difference is there in following the law and being in God's righteousness?



Prayer

DAY 5 – Knowing Christ

PERSONAL STUDY

Read the following Scriptures, observe the circumstances, and apply the truths to your life:



Philippians 3:10-11 and Ephesians 3:14-19

1. What's the difference between a close friend and an acquaintance?

2. List the ways in which Paul wants believers to know Christ?



Prayer



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION



Prayer



Devotion: (Scan QR code on next page or go to our website at www.deogloriarockingham.com to watch this week's devotion)

Discussion questions

Read Colossians 1:18-20. Discuss why it is important that Christ remains the head of the church, what problems arise when He is not?

Read Ephesians 3:14-20. What does Paul's prayer teach us about the importance of knowing Christ, how should this influence our Church's prayer life?

Read Philippians 3:7-9. What should we as Church consider garbage? How will this impact our ministry?

Read Philippians 3:10-11. Why do you think not everyone in the church knows Christ as they should? What practical things besides prayer should we do?

REFLECTION

God wants us to know Him, personally, intimately, deeply through Christ and the Holy Spirit's presence in our lives. Because Christ is at the centre of the gospel, the mediator or "middleman" we receive salvation through Him, therefore He must be at the centre of all we do and speak.

Close in prayer



Week 9 – A disciple Loves



MEMORY VERSE: *Matthew 22:37. Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.*

Introduction to this weeks’ study

How will the world know you are a believer? How will others know that you are truly a disciple? By your love! Love can't be manufactured, and it cannot be faked. If Christ is at the centre of love then love will be flowing from Him to us, and through us.



Core Truth

Love is an action, not something we say, an expression of who we are - God's children!

DAY 1 – A disciple learns

PERSONAL STUDY

Read the following Scriptures, observe the circumstances, and apply the truths to your life:



Matthew 22:34-36

1. Why is it important in knowing what the greatest commandment is?

2. How have you as a disciple, committed to the teachings of Jesus?



Prayer

DAY 2 – A disciple loves God

PERSONAL STUDY

Read the following Scriptures, observe the circumstances, and apply the truths to your life:



Matthew 22:37-38 and 1 Corinthians 16:14

1. List the three key features of the greatest commandment

2. In what ways have you loved God in this past week, in what ways have you not loved God?



Prayer

DAY 3 – A disciple loves people

PERSONAL STUDY

Read the following Scriptures, observe the circumstances, and apply the truths to your life:



Matthew 22:39, Genesis.1:27 and 1 John 4:19-21

1. What makes loving people challenging?

2. Why is it important to God that we love people?



Prayer

DAY 4 – A disciple is motivated by God's love

PERSONAL STUDY

Read the following Scriptures, observe the circumstances, and apply the truths to your life:



1 John 4:11, 19-21 and Ephesians 4:32

1. Why does God's love motivate us to love others?

2. In what ways did you love others this week, in what ways did you not show your love to others?



Prayer

DAY 5 – A disciple is obedient

PERSONAL STUDY

Read the following Scriptures, observe the circumstances, and apply the truths to your life:



John 14:15-31

1. What is evidence of our love for God?

2. What role does the Holy Spirit fulfill in loving others?



Prayer



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION



Prayer



Devotion: (Scan QR code on next page or go to our website at www.deogloriarockingham.com to watch this week's devotion)

Discussion questions

Read Matthew 22:37-40 and Romans 13:8-10. Why is the greatest commandment the most important, what about all the others?

Read 1 John 3:18 and James 1:23-25. Discuss the difference between a feeling of love and love in action.

Read Matthew 5:43-48, What role does prayer fulfill in your love for God and others? Why?

Discuss practical ways in which our love will be evident in the church and how we can practically love the community we live in

REFLECTION

When we begin to consider God's love, then we are overwhelmed with unspeakable joy which is then characterised through a desire to obey God. This commandment is to love God and love others, it is not an option, if you love God then your love for others will grow.

Close in prayer



