



Thoroughly Equipped

Developing Co-Laborers (DC) 101: The Foundation

DATE	TOPIC	MEMORY VERSE	PROVERBS	NT READING
_____	1. Introduction			
_____	2. The Character Traits of a Disciple of Jesus (pg. 4)	II Peter 3:18	1-4	Ephesians, Titus
_____	3. God the Father (pg. 20)	Ephesians 2:10	8	John 1-9
_____	4. God the Son (pg. 38)	II Corinthians 5:21	9	John 10-21
_____	5. God the Holy Spirit (pg. 56)	Galatians 5:16	10	Matthew 1-10
_____	Retreat: An Intro to Prayer and Spiritual Disciplines (pg. 98)			
_____	6. Intro to Scripture (pg. 78)	II Timothy 3:16-17	11	Matthew 11-18
_____	7. Overview of Scripture (pg. 116)	II Timothy 3:16-17	12	Matthew 19-28
_____	8. Law and History (pg. 134)	II Timothy 2:15	13	Galatians, I Corinthians 1-6
_____	9. Prophets and Poetry (pg. 154)	Jeremiah 29:11	14	I Corinthians 7-16
_____	10. New Testament (pg. 174)	Hebrews 4:12	15	I & II Timothy
_____	11. Celebration!			
_____	12. Discuss Jeremiah (pg. 196)			



God the Father

WEEK 3

MEMORY VERSE
Week 3

*"To be loved by God, not merely pitied, but delighted in as an artist delights in his work or a father in his son—it seems impossible, a weight or burden of glory which our thoughts can hardly sustain. But so it is."
—C.S. Lewis*



Ephesians 2:10

Write out the verse: _____

How does this verse apply to your life and your walk with Christ? _____

Write it backwards: _____

Write every other word: _____

Write it by phrase: _____

Write the first initials of every word: _____

Reviewing previous memory verses:

Write out II Peter 3:18: *But grow...* _____



John 1-9; Proverbs 8

Choose a favorite verse or two from your weekly reading assignment in the New Testament and a favorite verse or two from your Proverbs reading and record below.

DAY 1 Verse and Verse Location: _____

What do you sense God is saying to you? _____

Verse and Verse Location: _____

What do you sense God is saying to you? _____

DAY 2 Verse and Verse Location: _____

What do you sense God is saying to you? _____

Verse and Verse Location: _____

What do you sense God is saying to you? _____

DAY 3 Verse and Verse Location: _____

What do you sense God is saying to you? _____

Verse and Verse Location: _____

What do you sense God is saying to you? _____

READING Week 3

John

Author: _____

Audience: _____

Main Theme(s):



READING
Week 3

DAY 4 Verse and Verse Location: _____

What do you sense God is saying to you? _____

Verse and Verse Location: _____

What do you sense God is saying to you? _____

DAY 5 Verse and Verse Location: _____

What do you sense God is saying to you? _____

Verse and Verse Location: _____

What do you sense God is saying to you? _____

PROV. Verse and Verse Location: _____

What do you sense God is saying to you? _____

Verse and Verse Location: _____

What do you sense God is saying to you? _____



Do You Fear God?

‘The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom’ (Proverbs 9:10)

Don Simpson

Issues: Fearing God is not outdated. It is a healthy, necessary ingredient in our sanctification, and requires us to strip away our self-deception.

What good fortune! Christians have in our heritage the wisest man who ever lived. No one exceeded Solomon in wisdom (1 Kings 4:31), and he possessed not only the wisdom of men but the knowledge of God.

Solomon concluded that if man lives for himself alone his life is meaningless, and twentieth century philosophers have not improved on this conclusion. Only in relation to God does man have a purpose, and that purpose is: “Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man” (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

Now, if Solomon accurately summarized man’s whole duty, are we neglecting any of it? We Christians preach the commandments, but do we fear God? Or did this concept apply only to Old Testament life?

Fear’s place

The word of God stands, and we find that not only is this fear commanded, but the wisest man who ever lived says it is the key to the rest of our understanding of God. It is the beginning of wisdom.

If we would know God, we must learn something of the fear of the Lord. In the Old Testament, fear is what kept the people of Israel faithful to God (when they were faithful): “Oh, that their hearts would be inclined to fear me and keep all my commands always, so that it might go well with them and their children forever!” (Deuteronomy 5:29).

In the New Testament, fear brings the trembling sinner to Christ, for Jesus came to “free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death” (Hebrews 2:15).

We must not overlook the reformers’ joyful rediscovery: The Christian need not fear death again, for we have our salvation secured by faith in Christ. “For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship” (Romans 8:15).

What place, then, has the fear of the Lord in the life of the Christian? Certainly the first Christians didn’t sweep away the idea as neatly as we moderns have. Godly fear seemed to give vigor to the growth of the early church, which “was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord” (Acts 9:31).

Peter instructs Christians to “love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king,” and to “live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear” (1 Peter 2:17, 1 Peter 1:17).

Fear of God in the New Testament is always used in a positive way. It is a good thing to have. But there is another fear that we are not to have: the fear of men. “For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline” (2 Timothy 1:7).





***Do you need more room for your answers?
Use these pages!***

NOTES



STUDY

Week 3

Because children have abounding vitality, because they are fierce in spirit and free, therefore they want things repeated and unchanged. They always say, 'Do it again'; and the grown-up person does it again until he is nearly dead. For grown-up people are not strong enough to exult in monotony. But perhaps God is strong enough to exult in monotony. It is possible that God says every morning, 'Do it again' to the sun; and every evening, 'Do it again' to the moon. It may not be automatic necessity that makes all daisies alike; it may be that God makes every daisy separately, but has never got tired of making them. It may be that He has the eternal appetite of infancy; for we have sinned and grown old, and our Father is younger than we. The repetition in Nature may not be a mere recurrence; it may be a theatrical encore.

—G. K. Chesterton



God, the Father

Primary Objective: To improve our theology—our understanding of God.

1. Warm up:

a.) How do you imagine God? When you think of God, what pictures come to mind?

b.) What things have influenced your understanding of God the Father? In particular, how has your relationship with your father affected your view of God?

c.) Who is more tender and compassionate, God the Father or Jesus? Why?

d.) Identify a characteristic or name of God, beginning with each letter of the alphabet (except X!).

e.) Which of these characteristics/names is your favorite? Why?



NOTES

"God is the eternal, independent, and self-existent Being; the Being whose purposes and actions spring from himself, without foreign motive or influence; he who is absolute in dominion; the most pure, the most simple, the most spiritual of all essences; infinitely perfect; and eternally self-sufficient, needing nothing that he has made; illimitable in his immensity, inconceivable in his essence; known fully by only himself, because an infinite mind can only be fully comprehended by itself. In a word, a Being who, from his infinite wisdom, cannot err or be deceived, and from his infinite goodness, can do nothing but what is eternally just, and right, and kind. "

—Adam Clarke



STUDY
Week 3

I don't know any more about theology than a jackrabbit does about ping pong, but I'm on the way to glory.

—Billy Sunday

Almost every heresy that has afflicted the church through the years has arisen from believing about God things that are not true, or from overemphasizing certain true things so as to obscure other things equally true...A right conception of God is basic not only to systematic theology but to practical Christian living as well... The more perfectly we know God, the more we will feel the desire to translate the new-found knowledge into deeds of mercy toward suffering humanity.

—A. W. Tozer



2. Read the following passages and identify the picture of God given there. What is striking about each of these pictures?

a.) Ephesians 1:5; I John 3:1 (John 1:12; Romans 8:15, Galatians 4:4-5)

b.) Isaiah 33:22

c.) Exodus 34:6-7 (Ezekiel 18:2-4, John 9:3)

d.) II Samuel 22:2-3 (Psalm 27:1, 46:1)

e.) Jeremiah 3:20, II Corinthians 11:2, Revelation 19:7-8 (Exodus 34:14, Jeremiah 2:20-25, Ezekiel 16, Hosea 1-3)



NOTES



STUDY

Week 3

They all say 'the ordinary reader does not want theology'... I have rejected their advice. I do not think the ordinary reader is such a fool. Theology means 'the science of God', and I think any man who wants to think about God at all would like to have the clearest and most accurate ideas about Him which are available... If you do not listen to Theology, that will not mean that you have no ideas about God. It will mean that you have a lot of wrong ones—bad, muddled, out-of-date ideas.

—C.S. Lewis

It is a great and important task to come to terms with what we really think when we think of God... We should, to begin with, think that God leads a very interesting life, and that He is full of joy. Undoubtedly he is the most joyous being in the universe.

—Dallas Willard



3. God reveals Himself through a variety of means (Jeremiah 9:23-24). Read the following passages and describe how God reveals Himself through...

a.) history—Exodus 3:6,14; Deuteronomy 4:7-8

b.) creation/nature—Romans 1:18-20 (Genesis 1:1, Job 12:7-9, Psalm 19:1-4a, Acts 17:24-28)

c.) conscience—Romans 2:14-15 (Ecclesiastes 3:11)

d.) Christ & His Word (more later!)

4. Let's wrestle with some common religious terms.

a.) Define holiness. How does holiness relate to God and us?

b.) Some categories of sin include sins of omission vs. commission, carnal vs. spiritual sins, sins of word, deed, thoughts, motive, strength (Rom 14:23), and timing. List an example of each.



NOTES



STUDY

Week 3

We contribute nothing to our salvation except our sin.

—Martin Luther

In God you come up against something which is in every respect immeasurably superior to yourself. Unless you know God as that—and therefore, know yourself as nothing in comparison—you do not know God at all. As long as you are proud you cannot know God. A proud man is always looking down on things and people: and, of course, as long as you are looking down, you cannot see something that is above you.

—C.S. Lewis

Though our feelings come and go, His love for us does not. It is not wearied by our sins, or our indifference; and therefore, it is quite relentless in its determination that we shall be cured of those sins, at whatever cost to us, at whatever cost to Him.

—C.S. Lewis



c.) Define salvation. In what ways does God save us?

5.) Read the following verses and comment.

a.) On God's offer of salvation—Romans 4:2-5, 5:8; John 1:12-13; Ephesians 2:8-9 (John 3:16, 6:28-29; Romans 3:22-24, 6:23)

b.) On our response to God's offer—Hebrews 11:6, 4:14-16, Ephesians 2:10 (Hebrews 10:19-25)

c.) On God's Old & New Covenants—Hebrews 8:6-13 (Ezekiel 36:26-28)

6. Now, how will having a better understanding of God the Father impact your daily life?
