

Foundations: The Christian Life

COURSE OVERVIEW

Objective: To survey foundational doctrinal truths for the Christian life.

By the end of this course, you will have learned about God's plan of salvation for his people, what it means to be "born again" as a new creation in Christ, how to live by the power of God's Spirit, understanding and faithfully engaging in the life of Christ's body, the church, as well as practical tools for studying the Bible and praying.

READING ASSIGNMENTS

Each week, different assignments will be provided to supplement the class lectures. Week 1 and 2 Assignments: 1. Read – *The Story and Message of the Bible*, Stephen Wellum; 2. Read – Genesis 1-3.

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK	SUBJECT
10/17/23	Creation & the Fall
10/24/23	Redemption & New Creation
11/07/23	New Life in Christ
11/14/23	Walking by the Spirit
11/21/23	How to Study the Bible
11/28/23	What is the Church?

HOMEWORK

Please be aware that this is not a small group meeting. In other words, this class is not primarily focused on pursuing fellowship; rather, it is focused on growing in doctrinal knowledge to better know and follow the Lord Jesus Christ. It is our genuine hope and desire that this class provides an opportunity for you to be conformed to the image of Christ by the renewing of your mind. To optimize your discipleship experience, it is fully expected that you participate in table discussion and complete each reading and homework assignment.

THE BIG QUESTIONS

- Origin: Our identity. Who am I? Where do I come from?
- Meaning: Our purpose. Our reason for being. Why am I here? What am I here to do?
- Morality: How can I tell good from evil? What is wrong with the world?
- Destiny: Our outcome. Our destination. What happens when I die? Can the world be made right?

THE STORY & MESSAGE OF THE BIBLE

“From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible’s message is first and foremost about the **triune God**. It’s centered in his name and glory, and how *he* has graciously chosen to share himself with us – although perfectly complete and satisfied in himself – which results to the praise of his glorious grace and our eternal good.”
Stephen Wellum

CREATION – ORIGIN AND MEANING

Genesis 1:1 – In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

- In the beginning...
- God created...
- The heavens and the earth...
- Everything God created was good!
- Men and women are the pinnacle of God’s creation.

THE FALL – WHAT WENT WRONG?

“What went wrong? In Genesis 3, everything changed in God’s good world. Adam, the first man, forever changed the direction of history with his choice to rebel against God. When tempted by the serpent, Adam disobeyed God and plunged all humanity into sin, death, and condemnation. The Fall establishes the terrible problem that the rest of Scripture is written to address.” Stephen Wellum

- The serpent...

- The consequences of sin...
- Death...

THE BIG QUESTIONS - REVISITED

- Who is God?
- Who am I?
 - o The world says...
 - o God says...
- Why am I here?
 - o The world says...
 - o God says...
- What is wrong with the world?
- How can what is wrong with the world be made right?

DISCUSSION

1. What are some things that you have believed about the creation of the universe? How is Genesis 1-2 different?
2. Read Genesis 1:26. What does it mean to be made in the image of God?
 - a. What are the implications for how we handle personal relationships?
3. The creation story teaches us that God is eternal.
 - a. How should that affect your prayer life?
4. The creation story teaches us that God defines truth.
 - a. How does this affect your ideas on man as male and female? See Genesis 1:26-28.
 - b. How does this affect your ideas on marriage? See Genesis 2:24-25.
5. What is special about the garden of Eden?
 - a. Was God justified in kicking Adam and Eve out? Why?