

HOME WITH GOD

FACILITATOR'S GUIDE: CHAPTERS 1-2

Main Point:

- The doctrine of Union with Christ is what it means to be saved and is language of salvation through all of Scripture.

Memory Verse:

- Ephesians 1:3 Blessed is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavens in Christ.

Goals:

1. Be able to give a simple definition of “union with Christ.”
 - Worley’s definition is on page 8. Alternative definitions might be; Union with Christ means Christ in us and us in Christ. Union with Christ means that what is true of Jesus is true of me by faith in Christ. Union with Christ is what it means to be saved. Union with Christ means being joined to Christ and enjoying all the benefits of salvation.
2. Recognize how the metaphor of “home with God” is present in Scripture from Genesis to Revelation.

Chapter 1 Questions:

1. Before reading this chapter, how would you have answered the question, “What is a Christian?”
2. In your own words, what does “union with Christ” mean, and how is it different from simply “believing in Jesus?”
3. If salvation is being “at home with God,” how does that reshape the way you think about the Christian life right now?
4. Where do you feel most “homeless” spiritually, and how might union with Christ help?

Chapter 2 Questions:

1. How would you answer a child who asked you, “Why did God create the world?”
2. What does the Garden of Eden teach us about what it means to be “home with God”? (p. 23)
3. God created you because of his *delighting love*. What do you think about that? (p. 25)
4. What does the book of Revelation teach us about what it means to be “home with God”? (p. 29)

Homework:

1. Read chapters 3 & 4
2. Reflect on the discussion questions (on the handout)
3. Work on the memory verse

HOME WITH GOD

FACILITATOR'S GUIDE: CHAPTERS 3-4

Main Point:

- In the Old Testament, God addressed the “homeless hearts” of His people by His presence at Mt. Sinai, the tabernacle, and the temple.

Memory Verse:

- 1 Corinthians 15:22 For just as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.

Goals:

1. Clarify and personalize the concept of a “homeless heart.”
2. Understand God’s work to dwell with His people throughout the Old Testament.

Chapter 3 Questions:

1. How have our own experiences with our families and homes shaped the way we view God’s invitation to live at home with Him?
2. What does Worley mean when he says *We are born into this world with “homeless hearts”*? (p. 33)
3. What does it mean to call Adam our “federal head”? (p. 39)
4. How is a sense of “lostness” essential for those who are not yet in Christ? (p. 40)

Chapter 4 Questions:

1. What are two to three things that would immediately change if the presence of God dwelt in your home like it did in the tabernacle?
2. What did Israel learn about dwelling with God at Mount Sinai? (p. 47)
3. In what way was the tabernacle a “mobile Eden”? (p. 49) What does this mean for Christians today?
4. How do the mountain, the tabernacle, and the temple teach us that something better is to come? (p. 56)

Homework:

1. Read chapters 5 & 6
2. Reflect on the discussion questions (on the handout)
3. Work on the memory verse

HOME WITH GOD

FACILITATOR'S GUIDE: CHAPTERS 5-6

Main Point:

- Jesus joins believers to Himself by His salvation work (life, death, resurrection, ascension, and heavenly session), and justifies all those who come to Him by faith.

Memory Verse:

- Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The live I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Goals:

1. Clarify Christ's salvation work through His life, death, resurrection, ascension, and heavenly session.
2. Articulate how Christ's saving work makes a "new me" through His justification of the believer.

Chapter 5 Questions:

1. Christ never suffered a homeless heart, but He walked through a world groaning for redemption. Why is this such great hope for us? (p. 64)
2. How do believers share in Christ's victory over death? (p. 68)
3. What is Christ's "heavenly session" and how does it impact your life today? (p. 73)
4. How would you explain "the way home" to a curious neighbor?

Chapter 6 Questions:

1. How should the doctrine of union with Christ shape the way we encourage and minister to each other?
2. What is the fundamental problem of mankind's natural identity before God (p. 85)? Think about people who disagree with this. What is it they find disagreeable?
3. What does Worley mean by the "three dimensions of faith" (p. 89)?
4. What does it mean to be "justified"? (p. 91) How does our union with Christ relate to our justification?

Homework:

1. Read chapters 7 & 8
2. Reflect on the discussion questions (on the handout)
3. Work on the memory verse

HOME WITH GOD
FACILITATOR'S GUIDE: CHAPTERS 7-8

Main Point:

- Our union with Christ incorporates us into His new family of faith, and empowers us to participate in His mission.

Memory Verse:

- Romans 12:4-5 Now as we have many parts in one body, and all the parts do not have the same function, in the same way we who are many are one body in Christ and individually members of one another.

Goals:

1. Explain the corporate implications of the believer's union with Christ.
2. Help people understand the practical implications of union with Christ in day to day life.

Chapter 7 Questions:

1. Is union with Christ focused exclusively on the individual? How does this doctrine connect believers to one another across differences? (p. 102)
2. What does the story of Philemon and Onesimus teach us about the new family formed by our union with Christ? (p. 109) How can a local church reflect (or fail to reflect) this shared union?
3. How does incorporation into Christ reframe membership, sacraments, and spiritual disciplines?
4. What is one step you can take to deepen your experience of community in the church?

Chapter 8 Questions:

1. How does union with Christ empower obedience rather than just demand it?
2. How does union with Christ relate to spiritual warfare? (p. 127)
3. How does union with Christ relate to the Great Commission? (p. 131)

Homework:

1. Read chapters 9 - Conclusion
2. Reflect on the discussion questions (on the handout)
3. Work on the memory verse

HOME WITH GOD

FACILITATOR'S GUIDE: CHAPTERS 9-CONCLUSION

Main Point:

- Through our union with Christ we abide with Christ in this life until we dwell with Him forever in our eternal life.

Memory Verse:

- John 15:4 Remain in me, and I in you. Just as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself unless it remains on the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me.

Goals:

1. Explore the concept of “communion” with God as the grand adventure of the Christian life.
2. Anchor the believer’s hope in the world to come.

Chapter 9 Questions:

1. Do you ever doubt your salvation? If so, how does the distinction between union with Christ and communion with God help you think through these doubts?
2. How does Worley define “communion with God”? (p. 136)
3. How does a Christian practically abide/remain in Christ (p. 140)? What is one way you can deepen your experience of abiding in Christ?
4. What have you found to be the greatest challenge to your success in abiding with Christ? (p. 143)

Chapter 10 Questions:

1. How can we give others a glimpse of the good that God has for them in Christ?
2. Reflect on this line from page 159, “Don’t miss this: at the fullness of time, all things will be united to Christ. To say it another way: Jesus Christ is the end of the world.”
3. What temporal and eternal rewards belong to believers? (p. 160) What’s the relationship between the believer’s rewards and their union with Christ?
4. Do you long for heaven? Why or why not? If so, what is it you long for most?