



the discovery

a class to help Christians grow

Neighborhood Church of Chico



the discovery class outline

Neighborhood Church of Chico

WEEK ONE:

The Big Picture

WEEK TWO:

Understanding the New You

WEEK THREE:

Getting to Know God

WEEK FOUR:

Spending Time With God

WEEK FIVE:

Getting the Most out of the Bible

WEEK SIX:

Future Steps to Growth



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1 - the big picture

Neighborhood Church of Chico

Welcome!

- **Name and Title:** Tom Mount, Executive Pastor
- **Contact:** Phone - 343-6006, ext. 2107; email - tommount@ncchico.org
- **Family:** Wife of 26 glorious years, Lynn. Four children - Lauren, 23 years; Joseph, 21; Jesse, 19; Natalie, 13.
- **Background:** Raised in L.A. and San Diego; atheist home; became Christian in college in 1976; moved to Chico in 1985; entered full-time ministry in 1987 at EV Free; was Sr. Pastor at Valley Community for 10 yrs.; got burned-out in 2000 and took 7 month break from ministry; came to Neighborhood Church in 2000.
- **Pursuits:** Friends and family; reading; poetry and literature; nature; travel; motorcycles; wrestling; gardening; watching movies.

Introduction to Class

- Two ground rules:
 1. There is no such thing as a dumb question!
 2. “You get out what you put in”

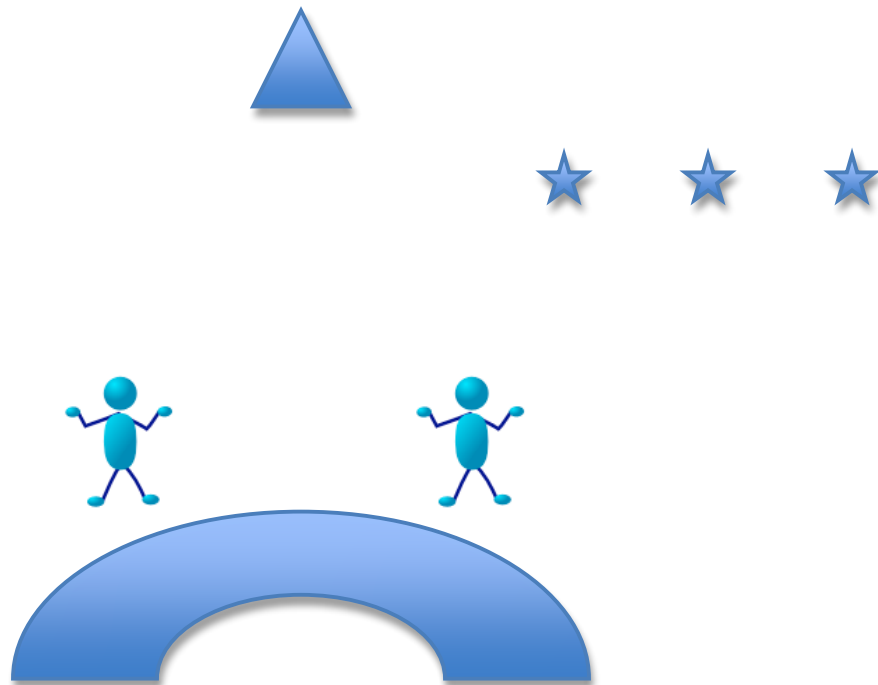
The Big Picture - 5 Things

1. God is a being of unimaginable goodness, beauty and wonder! (Gen 1:1)

- He's a "_____ " - a trinity of loving fellowship
- He's big
- He's good

2. God created the universe to love, enjoy, and display his splendor (Gen 1:1)

- He made _____ things good: not just 'spiritual' things! (Gen 1:4, 31)
- He made angels to be his assistants (Heb 1:14)
- He made humankind in his image (Gen 1:26-28)



3. We screwed things up (Gen 3.1-19)

- The precursor to the screw up - the angelic _____ (Rev 12:7-9)
 - Lucifer (Isa 14:12-15) rebelled with other angels
 - He became Satan (Job 1:6)
 - He tempted our first parents and got them to disobey
- The nature of the screw up (Gen 3:1-6)
 - It was not a mistake or a problem of _____

- It was an act of cosmic rebellion; a conscious, deliberate choice to “call the shots”
- It resulted from giving in to _____ desires
- The effects of the screw up (Gen 3:7-19)
 - It wrecked us
 - It damaged our relationship with _____
 - It spoiled our relationships with others
 - It ruined creation

4. God mounted an all-out rescue mission (Gen 3:21,15)

- His five-fold purpose in undoing the damage
 - 1) To recreate people as new beings (2 Cor 5:17)
 - 2) To _____ people to himself (2 Cor 5:19)
 - 3) To reconcile people to one another (Eph 2:14-16) - create a covenant community
 - 4) To reconcile humanity to creation and reestablish dominion, advance his kingdom and reassert his rule (Mk 1:15)
 - 5) To recreate the physical universe (2 Ptr 3:10)
- His four-part plan
 - 1) Israel
 - 2) Jesus - First Advent
 - 3) Church
 - 4) Jesus - Second Coming



5. God will one day finish the job (Rev 21.1-4)

- Jesus will come again to eradicate evil, judge all people, establish his perfect/eternal kingdom on a _____ earth
- His people will reign with him on the earth (Rev 5:9-10)
- There will be no more pain, suffering and heartache

Implications for Your Life

1. You should feel honored! You have become a key player in the most extraordinary drama imaginable! The God of the universe has lovingly called you to play a vital role on his team which is re-establishing his reign, bringing lasting peace, blessing all nations, reasserting human dignity, and renewing the earth!
2. Be faithful! You will one day have specific responsibilities in the life to come based on how faithfully you have trusted and obeyed God and loved and served others in this life.

Questions and Answers

In Preparation for Next Week

1. Read the reading assignment for week one: Neil Anderson's "See Yourself for who You Really Are."



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2 - understanding the new you

Neighborhood Church of Chico

Key Verse

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”

- 2 Corinthians 5.17

Key Thought

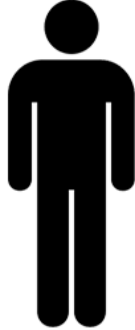
Becoming a Christ follower involves far more than simply accepting certain truths or adopting a new set of behaviors. When a person places his or her faith in Jesus Christ, a profound and permanent change takes place at the core of that person’s being. God comes to live inside of the individual, and his/her very nature is radically changed so that he/she becomes what the Bible refers to as “new creation.”

Humans Were Originally Made Perfect



- Made in God’s “image:” Genesis 1:26-27
- Made a composite unity of material (body) and immaterial (soul/spirit): Genesis 2:7
- Made splendidly integrated:
 - will
 - intellect
 - emotions
 - body
- Made perfect: no blemish, no sin

“Sin” Corrupted God’s Original Design



- Sin’s affects were comprehensive: Genesis 1:26-27
- It “disconnected” us from God: Genesis 2:7
- It began to disintegrate us:
 - will
 - intellect
 - emotions
 - body
- It turned creation on its head

Christ Restores/Perfects God’s Design



- His salvation (*sotzo*) is comprehensive: Luke 19:10
- His sacrifice restores us to God: Hebrews 10:14
- His Spirit indwells us (Titus 3:5-6):
 - will - renews, guides
 - intellect - enlightens, teaches
 - emotions - heals, reorients
 - body - empowers, gifts, heals
 - reintegrates our faculties
- We now have God’s nature! (1 John 3:9)

What is Now True of Every Christ Follower

Each of us who has placed our trust in Jesus Christ is a divine masterpiece (*Ephesians 2.10*), created by God to display his glory! This is our new identity. This does not deny the fact we are still sinners: in fact, Martin Luther described our condition as *simul iustus et peccator* (“at the same time, sinners yet righteous”). But it emphasizes the fact that our most essential identity is based on our new nature: “created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness” (*Ephesians 4:24*). See the “*Who Am I?*” handout for specific truths about our new nature and position in Christ.

Implications for Your Life

1. Right now, God loves and accepts you as his dearly loved child and considers you his heir, friend, and lover. You can rest in the assurance that he loves and accepts you “as is” and you can deal with your doubts by claiming God’s promises found in Scripture. *1 John 5.11-13*.
2. Because your nature has changed, your attitudes and behavior will begin to change to conform to your new (righteous) nature. *1 John 3.7-9*.
3. You will grow in your ability to detect and resist sin. The power of sin in your life has been broken (*Romans 6.5-14*). You will still sin because of the ingrained habits in your life, but as you give yourself more and more to God, you will sin less (*Romans 12.1-2*). When you do sin, quickly agree with God about it, ask for forgiveness, and accept his cleansing (*1 John 1.9*). Then move on: Don’t wallow in guilt and shame!
4. God’s goal for you is that you continue to change until you become like Jesus. *Romans 8.28,29*.
5. Spiritual transformation takes a lifetime and involves a complex process of influences. So relax and enjoy the ride! While in this life, you will always be “in process.” *Philippians 3.12*.

Questions and Answers

In Preparation for Next Week

1. Please read over the “Who Am I?” list once each day for the next week.
2. Read slowly and reflectively the following passages of Scripture, asking what each teaches us about the nature of God. Jot down your observations and come prepared to share them next week!
 - *Psalm 23*
 - *Psalm 90*
 - *Psalm 103*
 - *Psalm 139*
 - *Isaiah 40*
 - *Luke 15*



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3 – getting to know God

Neighborhood Church of Chico

Key Verse

Among the gods there is none like you, O Lord; no deeds can compare with yours. All the nations you have made will come and worship before you, O Lord; they will bring glory to your name. For you are great and do marvelous deeds; you alone are God... great is your love toward me; you have delivered me from the depths of the grave...you, O Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.”

-Psalm 86:8-10, 13, 15

Key Thought

God is a Being of such magnificent beauty, wisdom and grace that He baffles our intellect, captivates our hearts, and inspires fascination, fear, joy, love, and reverential awe! He is the quintessence of all that is pure and wonderful and, as the object of incessant angelic praise, He is the delight of heaven. To know him deeply and love him passionately ought to be our highest priority and the consuming desire of our lives!

Some Common Misconceptions of God

1. The Divine _____

2. The Emotionally-Constipated _____

3. The Obsequious Octogenarian

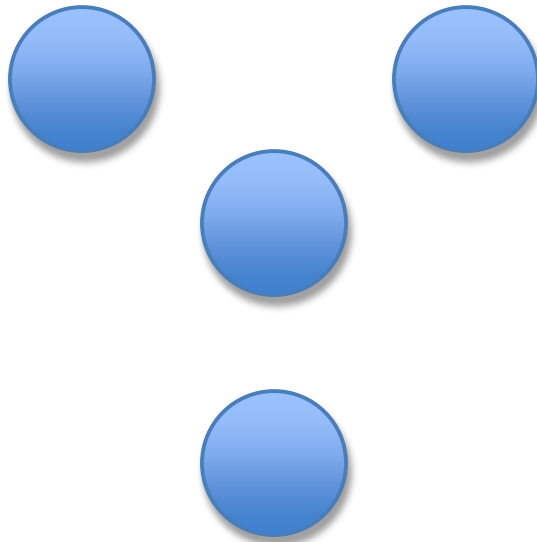
What God is Really Like

“Can you fathom the mysteries of God? Can you probe the limits of the Almighty?”

-Job 11:7

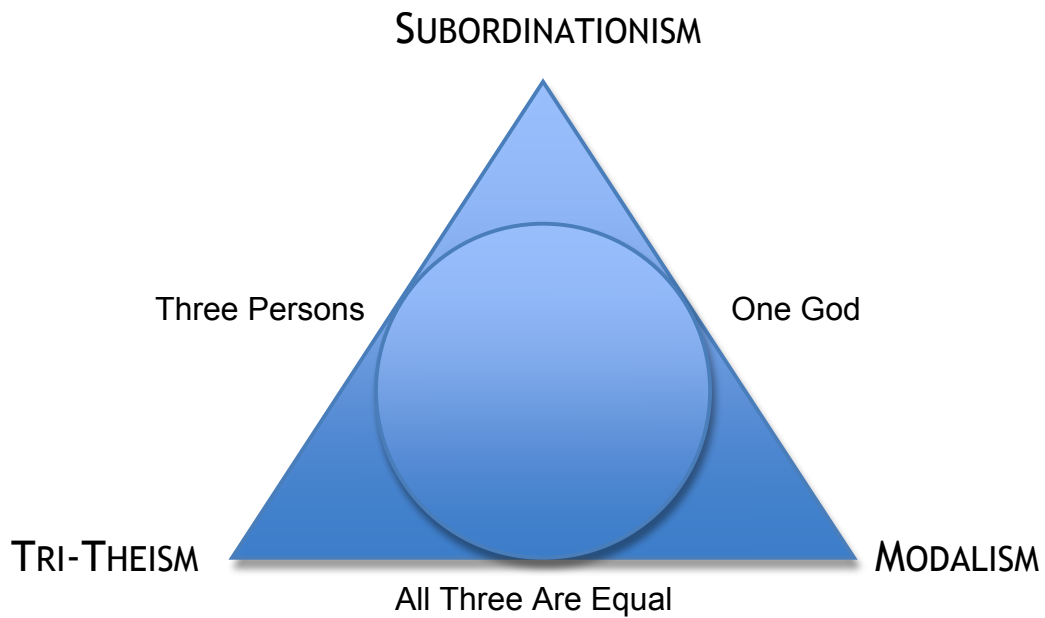
Our Triune God

1. Deuteronomy 6:4: “one” (*echad*) means unity, not necessarily _____
2. Example - Gen 2:24: “one flesh” but two _____
3. Evidence in Scripture: Gen1:26; Matt 28:18-21; 1 Peter 1:1-2



4. Illustration: H₂O at the thermodynamic triple-point

5. Dangers to avoid: tri-theism, subordinationism, modalism



6. Some Implications:

- God is an infinitely variable fellowship of kindred hearts bound by indomitable love, exquisite delight and shared respect. We can grow in our knowledge and enjoyment of each member of the Trinity.
- Made in God's image, we were designed for community; first with God, then with one another. We are saved in community and for community.

Our Infinite God

"He made the earth by his power; he founded the world by his wisdom and stretched out the heavens by his understanding."

- Jeremiah 51:15

1. His Infinite Power

2. His Infinite Wisdom

Our Intimate God

- A mesmerizing snapshot of God's love - Luke 15:11-31

On Your Own...

Check out these portraits of God's love

- Psalm 84.11
- Isaiah 42.3
- Zephaniah 3.17
- Mark 1.40-42
- Hebrews 12.5-6
- Isaiah 40.11
- 1 John 3:1; 4:9-11
- 2 Chronicles 11:1-13
- Psalm 16; 23; 103, 139

Implications for Your Life

1. “God is so vastly wonderful, so utterly and completely delightful, that He can, without anything outside of Himself, meet and overflow the deepest demands of our human nature” (A.W. Tozer). Being a Christ-follower is not about rule-keeping or information-gathering or working for God. It’s all about our relationship with our wonderful Lord, whose love “is better than life.” So keep your eyes fixed on Him!
2. God is worthy of our unqualified trust! Being all-knowing, He knows what’s best for us. Being all-powerful, He can accomplish what’s best for us. Being always-loving, He delights to do what’s best for us. Even when circumstances are hard, we can be certain of His love, concern, and devotion to our best interests.
3. Because God is inherently good and loving, we can be confident of his love at anytime, whether we’re “doing well” spiritually or being total “mess ups.” His love is not contingent on our performance, so we can relax, receive His love, and freely and joyfully love Him in return without fear.

Question and Answer Time

In Preparation for Next Week

1. Spend time this week reflecting on God’s love for you. You might want to use the verses in the “On Your Own” box to get started.
2. As you continue to get to know God, keep a record of what you are learning and experiencing. You may want to purchase a bound journal for this purpose, or you may prefer to keep a loose-leaf notebook or record your thoughts on your computer. Whatever the case, record the insights you glean from Scripture, answers to prayer, victories and defeats, and the various ways God speaks to you and reveals Himself to you.

3. Print and take the Spiritual Pathways Assessment at my staff page at the church website: <http://www.ncchico.org/staff/tommount/index.html>. Bring it with you next week!

For Further Study

- God Amazing Greatness
 - *More Than Meets the Eye* by Richard Swenson
 - *Fearfully and Wonderfully Made* by Paul Brand & Phillip Yancey
- God as Trinity
 - *The Shack* by William Young
 - *Experiencing the Trinity* by Darrell Johnson
- God's Astounding Love
 - *Abba's Child* by Brennan Manning
 - *Life of the Beloved* by Henri Nouwen
 - *The Return of the Prodigal* by Henri Nouwen



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4 - spending time with God

Neighborhood Church of Chico

Key Verse

“Whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord... I want to know Christ.”

- *Philippians 3.7-8a, 10a*

Key Thought

God - for all his infinitude and majesty - is a person with feelings, likes, dislikes, ambitions, and desires, who can be known personally just like any other person. The more we spend time with him, the better we get to know him. By practicing listening to him, we learn to distinguish his voice. By reading and reflecting on the Bible, we learn what is on his mind and heart and become more like him ourselves.

Our Natural Bent: Seven Spiritual Pathways

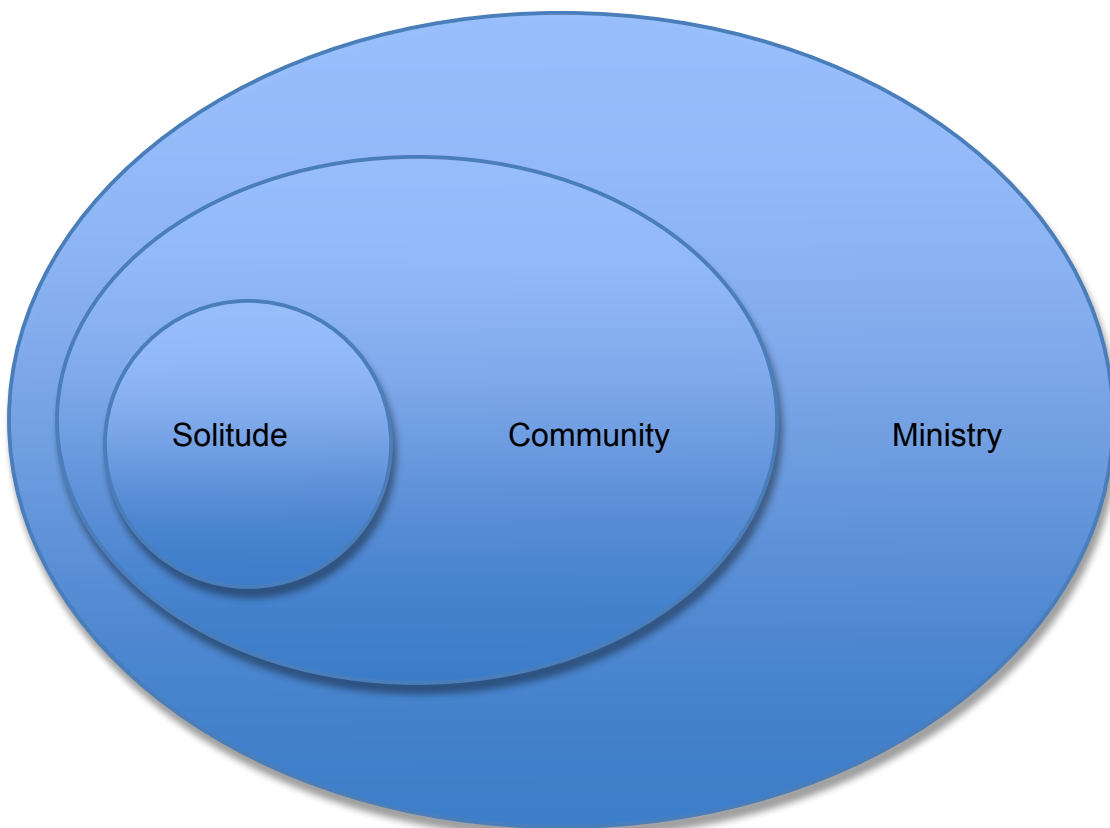
God communicates and communes with us in different ways, but there are some common ways we call spiritual pathways: those ways that we most naturally connect with God, feel His presence, and hear His voice.

1. Relational
2. Intellectual
3. Worship

4. Activist
5. Contemplative
6. Serving
7. Creation

Our Daily Habits of the Heart

In addition to our spiritual pathways, we will want to cultivate a mix of various habits that are time-tested to help us grow closer to God and more like him. *“Discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness, for physical discipline is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise both for the present life and the life to come” (1 Timothy 4.7).* These ‘Habits of the Heart’ naturally divide into three areas, corresponding with three spheres in which the Christian lives.



Habits of Solitude

- Solitude
- Silence
- Daily “quiet time”
- Sacred Reading - Regular Bible reading
- Spiritual Reading - Reading spiritual books
- Scripture meditation
- Scripture memory
- Prayer
- “Jesus” prayer
- Private retreats
- Sign of the cross
- Genuflecting/bowing/prostrating
- Tithing/Generous giving
- Fasting (food/shopping/sports/etc.)
- Simplicity

Habits of Community

- Eucharist/Communion
- Confession to confessor
- Spiritual direction
- Spiritual friend or mentor
- Small group fellowship
- Small group Bible study
- Group retreats
- Public prayer meetings
- Church attendance

Habits of Ministry

- Service with our spiritual gifts (Rom 12:6-8; 1 Cor 12:7-11, 27-28)
- Service to the poor
- Service in areas of injustice
- Slowing
- Sabbath

Time Alone with God

How do you spend time alone with God? There is no one way to do it, just as your time with your friends is infinitely variable. But if you want a place to start, you might try the following five step way.

Needs

A quiet place, unrushed time, a comfortable spot, Bible, notebook or journal, pen or pencil. Earplugs are helpful.

A Possible Format: A-A-R-R-T

1. Attend to your surroundings. Relax. Breathe deep. Observe. Become fully present.
2. Ask the Lord to meet with you. “Lord, thank you that I can be here. I’ve come to meet with you. You tell us in your Word that if we draw near to you, you will draw near to us (James 4:8). And so, I’m here to be with you and hear what you want to say to me. Please direct me now as I read your word” (Psalm 119:18).
3. Read. Read slowly, don’t rush. Reflect on key words. The purpose is not to merely knowledge for the sake of knowledge; it is to learn from God his ways so we can become more like him. (Read Dallas Willard quote here). It’s best to read in sequence from day to day. Read through one of the gospels or other books one section each day.
4. Reflect. Spend time reflecting/meditating on the passage of Scripture you’ve read. Bible meditation is the process of saturating our minds and hearts in God’s word so we can be changed. (In Hebrew, the word meditation refers to a cow chewing on its cud: chewing, chewing, chewing - getting all the nutrients out). Here is an example of emphasizing different words in a verse (Philippians 4:13) to appreciate its many nuances:

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

As you meditate, pray the scriptures back to God: “Lord, thank you that because Christ is in me with all of his creative power, I really can do everything that you call me to do. Please give me strength to do these things that seem overwhelming to me . . . (pray about your specific concerns).”

5. Thank God for your time together. “Thank you for our time Lord. Is there anything else you want to say to me? I’m listening; I’m yours (Listen). Please go with me today. Please help me to . . . (list your meetings, challenges, needs, hopes for the day).

Some other ideas

- Try a place in nature
- Create a “sacred place” that you return to again and again
- Use a CD player and worship CD’s to create a mood
- Read a spiritually challenging book to “prime the pump”
- Write God a poem or song
- If you get sleepy or antsy, walk as you pray
- Try praying using the A.C.T.S. Acrostic:
 - Adoration
 - Confession
 - Thanksgiving
 - Supplication - Requests
- Use the Lord’s prayer as a model for your prayer
- Don’t get stuck in a rut and don’t get rule-bound: you’re developing a relationship, not trying to ‘perform!’
- Don’t freak when your prayers feel dry: God allows dry times to mature us

Exercise: Psalm 1

“Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditate day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers. Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.”

- Psalm 1 (NIV)

Implications for Your Life

1. Think about it! The Creator of the Universe wants to spend time alone with you...YOU! He desires to have regular, interactive, eyeball to eyeball time with you during which the two of you share the secrets of your hearts. We should all feel enormously privileged to enjoy this honor! We should also eagerly anticipate our times with the Lord.
2. You can know the Creator of the Universe more intimately than you know another human being because he is inside you and your spirit is made one with his (*1 Corinthians 6.17*).

Question and Answer Time

In Preparation for Next Week

1. Begin a daily quiet time. Start small: begin with 10-15 minutes and build from there. You might start with *Psalms 119* or *Mark 1*.
2. Try using your spiritual pathway(s) this week. These will strengthen your love for the Lord and help you cherish Him as your supreme treasure.
3. Experiment with the various Habits of the Heart. Some of these will strengthen your faith and character, grow you in your dependence upon God, and help make you more integrated and whole.

For Further Study

- *The Life You Always Wanted*, by John Ortberg
- *The Spirit of the Disciplines*, by Dallas Willard
- *Celebration of Discipline*, by Richard Foster



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5 – getting the most out of the bible

Neighborhood Church of Chico

Key Verse

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path...your statutes are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart. My heart is set on keeping your decrees to the very end.”

-Psalm 119:105,111,112

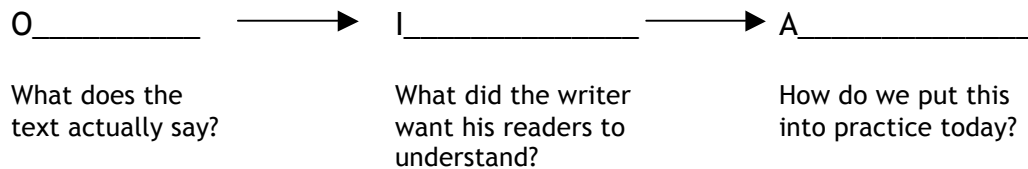
Key Thought

What a privilege to have a book given to us by God full of guidance, comfort, encouragement, and intellectual challenge! The Bible is an extraordinary book and, though big and sometimes confusing, most of it can be understood relatively easily with God’s help, a reverent attitude, and an effective method of study.

Overview of the Bible

- ❑ 66 books (histories, letters, poetry) making up two sections: the Old Testament (39 books written between 1500-400 B.C.) and the New Testament (27 books written between 50-90 A.D.).
- ❑ Around 40 different human authors from every conceivable background (shepherds, merchants, kings, farmers, a doctor).
- ❑ All Scripture was inspired by God (2 Timothy 3.16-17; 2 Peter 1.20-21).

Three Steps To Effective Bible Study



Observation-*What Does the Text Say?*

1. Determine the literary form

- ❑ Narrative - The first 17 books of the Old and first 5 of the New Testaments describe people, teachings, and sequences of events.
- ❑ Discourse - The Old Testament Prophets and New Testament letters seek to persuade people to change their beliefs and behavior.
- ❑ Poetic - Job through Song of Songs present truth in a creative form.
- ❑ Apocalyptic - Daniel and Revelation reveal through visions, symbols and other vivid imagery secrets of God's plans for future events.

2. Determine the means of persuasion

- ❑ Advice - Opinion, knowledge offered
- ❑ Exhortation - Encouragement, personal plea
- ❑ Command - Carries authority; an order
- ❑ Warning - A caution against an attitude or behavior
- ❑ Promise - An assurance given, sometimes on condition
- ❑ Question - An inquiry, often rhetorical

3. Look for clues in the writer's grammar

- ❑ Verb tenses-past, present, future
- ❑ Voice-passive, active
- ❑ Mood-indicative, imperative, subjunctive
- ❑ Connectives-but, or, and, in order, so that, therefore, if...then

4. Use your imagination

- ❑ With narratives-sense what is happening, put yourself there
- ❑ With discourses-reconstruct the situation the writer addresses
- ❑ With poetry-identify with the writers feelings
- ❑ With apocalyptic-visualize the scenes

5. Ask the seven fact-finding questions

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Who? | } | These reveal the <i>setting</i> of the passage |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Where? | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> When? | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> What? | } | These reveal the <i>heart</i> of the passage |
| <input type="checkbox"/> How? | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Why? | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> So? | | This reveals the <i>result</i> or <i>climax</i> |

Exercise: Mark 4.35-41

³⁵ That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." ³⁶ Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. ³⁷ A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. ³⁸ Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" ³⁹ He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. ⁴⁰ He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" ⁴¹ They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

Interpretation-*What Does the Text Mean?*

1. Determine the writer's purpose

- Check the text against the literary context (what goes before and after)
- Check the text against the historical context (use reference material)

2. Understand the figures of speech

Simile	Metonymy	Irony
Metaphor	Synecdoche	Personification
Parable	Hyperbole	Anthropomorphism

3. Follow these guidelines

- ❑ Always interpret literally unless there are reasons to do otherwise
- ❑ Speak where Scripture speaks; be silent where Scripture is silent. Never go beyond what is written. Be careful to delineate Scripture's teaching from your opinion
- ❑ After you've drawn tentative conclusions, check your work against credible references (books and your pastor)

Application-*How Do We Put the Text Into Practice?*

1. Look for points of contact with life today

- ❑ How are we like the people described or addressed?
- ❑ How are their problems like ours?
- ❑ In what ways is God's counsel or action on their behalf relevant to us?
- ❑ What does their encounter with God imply for us in our situation?

2. Ask yourself

- ❑ Is there a lesson to learn?
- ❑ Is there a guideline to follow?
- ❑ Is there a sin to confess?
- ❑ Is there a warning to heed?
- ❑ Is there a promise to claim?
- ❑ What does this text teach us about the unchanging character of God?

Exercise - Psalm 113

¹ Praise the LORD.

Praise, O servants of the LORD,
praise the name of the LORD.

² Let the name of the LORD be praised,
both now and forevermore.

³ From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets,
the name of the LORD is to be praised.

⁴ The LORD is exalted over all the nations,
his glory above the heavens.

⁵ Who is like the LORD our God,
the One who sits enthroned on high,

⁶ who stoops down to look

on the heavens and the earth?

- ⁷ He raises the poor from the dust
and lifts the needy from the ash heap;
⁸ he seats them with princes,
with the princes of their people.
⁹ He settles the barren woman in her home
as a happy mother of children.

Praise the LORD.

Questions & Answers

For Next Week

1. Remember: our next class is in two weeks. We will conclude by considering what future steps you can take to continue to grow in Christ.
2. Next week, we will all be serving together as part of 'Love Chico!' So don't come here, go directly to your project site and have a great time serving the city!



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6 – future steps to spiritual growth

Neighborhood Church of Chico

Key Verse

*“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.”*

- 2 Peter 3:18

Key Thought

The Christian life is all about growth - continuing this transforming journey that commenced with our birth, was radicalized with our rebirth, and will consummate in our glory! We must take the initiative to expose ourselves to those opportunities that will teach us, through experience, more about the Lord and his ways. It will not be done for us. We must seek him with all our heart.

The Target: Our Nine Core Values

A disciple is someone who:

I. Loves God

1. Dwells in Christ
2. Walks in Freedom
3. Gives Generously

II. Loves Others

1. Prioritizes Others
2. Honors Others
3. Stays Reconciled with Others

III. Serves the World

1. Thinks “Kingdom”
2. Ministers Effectively
3. Demonstrates Power

Step #1: Get Baptized in Water

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

-Matthew 28:18-20

- It is an act of obedience to Jesus
- It shows your identification with Christ
- It is a symbol of what God has done in you

Step #2: Follow Our Discipleship “Pathway”

1. The Discovery - 6 week class
2. The Lay of the Land (Intro to Neighborhood Church)- 2 week class
3. Kingdom Living - 4 week
4. Dwelling in Christ - 4-5 week class
5. Freedom in Christ - Weekend seminar
6. Small Group

Step #3: Begin the Habit of Generous Giving

Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

-Proverbs 3:9-10

- It grows us in our trust in God's provision
- It blesses God and meets others needs
- It weans us from our addiction to money and "things"

Step #4: Check Out a Small Group

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love

-Romans 12.10

- It provides us love, support, and practical help when we most need it
- It teaches us how to "do life" lovingly with others
- It feeds and challenges us spiritually

Step #5: Explore Ministry Options Based on Your Gifts

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides

-1 Peter 4:9-11

- It gives us the privilege and thrill of making an eternal difference in the lives of others and the destiny of our planet!
- It teaches us faithfulness and prepares us for service in the life to come

Step #6: Meet with the Lord Alone Daily

Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses. But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.

-Luke 5:15-16

- It increases our intimacy with our wonderful Lord!
- It restores our spiritual and psychological equilibrium
- It enables us to live authentically and powerfully

Questions & Answers