

ON

Seeing Jesus Work In All of Your Life

FIRE



STUDENTS BOOK

LOVE GOD LOVE EACH OTHER LOVE THE WORLD

To all the students who delight in Jesus as their
Lord, Savior, and Treasure, and
to those who in the journey of life
have yet to receive Him.

ON FIRE

Seeing Jesus Work In All of Your Life



Dear Student,

You are about to go on a journey. This journey comes with a promise and treasure, but the treasure is to be gained at the end of the journey.

Here is the promise. If you commit to a Small Group for this entire year, and you have an open heart spiritually, and a desire to see God work in your life, and are willing to change, God will change you. God might do something in your life you never expected.

Here is the treasure. If you apply yourself, the treasure to be gained is a deeper, closer, more passionate relationship with God Himself. There is no greater treasure than God! Nothing in this world, not sports, not relationships, not money, not popularity, not anything will give you the joy that is found in God. He is the best of all pleasures.

Your Small Group is a major way that you can experience God and grow closer to Him. Always remember that there are many, many people that desire to grow in Jesus. You are not alone in the journey.

May the LORD bless you with His fire and passion, so that you may become ON FIRE for Him!

JOIN THE JOURNEY!

I, _____ commit to being a faithful member of my Small Group for the purpose of becoming ON FIRE for Jesus!



ON FIRE

Seeing Jesus Work in All of Your Life

Schedule

Session 1	Why Is the Bible True?	Week of Oct. 4
Session 2	Why Is Jesus Good News?	Week of Oct. 18
Session 3	On Fire for Jesus Christ	Week of Nov. 1
Session 4	Sharing Jesus When Jesus Can Be Hard to Share	Week of Nov. 15
Session 5	The Son Makes the Seed Sprout	Week of Nov. 29
Session 6	BFF	Week of Dec. 13
Session 7	Expose Yourself	Week of Jan. 3
Session 8	Refusing To Forgive Will Ignite You in Hell	Week of Jan. 17
Session 9	Authority Is Why You Are Not Dead	Week of Jan. 31
Session 10	Losers Are Apathetic, Winners Love Excellence	Week of Feb. 14
Session 11	A & B Report Card, But A, C & D Life	Week of Feb. 28
Session 12	Why Is Christianity (Jesus) the Best?	Week of Mar. 14
Session 13	Choose Wisdom	Week of Mar. 28
Session 14	In the Beginning: God Created	Week of Apr. 11
Session 15	In the Beginning: We Didn't Come from Apes	Week of Apr. 25
Session 16	You're Like Em, Therefore Don't Be Like Em	Week of May 9



ON FIRE

Seeing Jesus Work in All of Your Life

How to Study God's Word

Studying the Bible is exciting and rewarding. But, just like many other things in your life it is not necessarily easy. Studying can be hard work, but it pays off in big ways. Are you willing to study? Will you commit to studying God's Word so that you will grow in passion and love for Him? Will you be ON FIRE for Him?

There are several questions to answer when studying the Bible:

- What does the author mean?
- Why did God put it in the Bible?
- How does it apply to my life?

Here is one way you can study the Bible. This can help you understand it!

READ: You have to read the Bible to understand it. Take time to read it.

REFLECT: After you read a section of God's Word, think about it. What is the main point? What is God saying? It is beneficial to use a good study Bible to help you reflect. Try reading a good commentary too!

RESPOND: Applying the Bible to your life is the *most* important. Studying the Bible is meant to change the way you live, so you can see it! How is it challenging you? What will you do differently? How will you apply it?

If you have any questions about how to study, ask your Small Group leaders or give me a call.

Jonathan I. Shirk
Director of Student Ministry
jonathanshirk@northparkepc.org



ON FIRE

Seeing Jesus Work in All of Your Life

How do I prepare for each session?

Take about 15 minutes a week to prepare for your next Small Group meeting. Go through each session thoroughly. Write in your books and study your Bible. It will make Small Group more exciting!

JUMP START

This short section is to get you thinking about the topic. This is intended to help you process the information in the lesson and to help you focus on the Bible.

READ

This section is giving you Bible passages to read. Look them up in your Bible and read them. Try taking notes as you read it (i.e. important words, thoughts, questions, etc.)

SUMMARIZE

This section is for you to *think about* what you read and to summarize the Bible passages in your own words. In other words, write what you think the passage is saying and what you think it means for us today...in your own words?

APPLY

This section is for you to take what you've *read* and *summarized* and to apply it to your life. What change is God asking you to make? What is God communicating to you through the Bible? How can you grow closer to God? Etc. Work really hard to see how the Bible applies to your life? **THINK, THINK, THINK.** Then do!

PRAY

This section is for you to write down some of your prayer requests. This will help you remember what to share with your Small Group when you meet. Use what you have learned to identify some prayer requests you have. Then, pray for them yourself!

WHAT QUESTIONS DO YOU HAVE?

This section is for you to write down questions that you have about God and the Bible passages. When studying anything, it is expected that you will have questions. Write them down. When you share your questions with your Small Group you might be surprised to see that other students have the same questions.



ON FIRE

- Seeing Jesus Work in All of Your Life

SESSION 1: Why is the Bible True?

JUMP START Your rich friend tells you that he buried \$100 million in Iraq, very close to the war zone, and if you went there and risked your life, you would be able to keep the money. Would you go? The only other thing you need to know is that your friend is lying. Let's say you know without a doubt that he is lying. Would you go and risk your life? Would you risk dying for something that you knew was a lie? Maybe if you were crazy. Many disciples of Jesus, who were with Jesus, who saw Jesus after he had died and resurrected, gave their lives for Jesus. They were eventually killed for Jesus. If the Bible was not true about Jesus, why would his friends, his followers, give their lives for him if they knew he was lying or if he hadn't raised from the dead at all? They wouldn't have! The Bible is God's Word and it is 100% true. It can be trusted. But why is the Bible true? Why should we believe it as the truth? The Bible is God's message to us. God spoke it. And if God spoke it, it can be trusted.

READ 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21; Galatians 3:1-2; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; Hebrews 1:1-2

SUMMARIZE

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

APPLY

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

PRAY

.....

.....

.....

.....

WHAT QUESTIONS DO YOU HAVE?

.....

.....

.....

.....



ON FIRE

- Seeing Jesus Work in All of Your Life

SESSION 2: Why Is Jesus Good News?

JUMP START In the movie *Band of Brothers*, a British tank was moving through a war torn town through the main street. One of the American soldiers went up to the tank and told them to put a blast into a certain building because there was a German tank on the other side of the building that was hidden. The American soldier knew this because he saw the tank in hiding. Since the British soldiers were given orders not to unnecessarily destroy property, and because the British tank could not see the German tank, the British soldier didn't blast the building. When the British tank rolled forward slowly it soon noticed that there was indeed a German tank hidden behind the building, but it was too late and the British tank was attacked and destroyed. The news that the American soldier shared about the tank was *gospel*. In other words, it was good news. Within the good news was some bad news, or hard truth. There was a German tank hidden. Yet, there was also great news! Blast the building and have the opportunity to destroy the German tank before it destroys you. Jesus is good news because, yes, hell is a reality and exists for those who rebel against God. But Jesus is also good news (gospel) because he saves from hell, and more importantly, he gives you Jesus Christ to treasure and enjoy as your Eternal Joy. That is good news! That is gospel!

READ *Matthew 18-26; Romans 3:20-26; John 3:4-18*

SUMMARIZE

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

APPLY

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

PRAY

.....

.....

.....

.....

WHAT QUESTIONS DO YOU HAVE?

.....

.....

.....

.....



ON FIRE

- Seeing Jesus Work in All of Your Life

SESSION 3: ON FIRE for Jesus Christ

JUMP START Many teenagers believe in God, and even believe in Jesus Christ, but for many of them God is not the engine of the train. He is the caboose at the end of the train: He's not pulling and directing the train of their lives. He's just one extra train car attached! Believing in something is one thing, but being really excited and passionate about something is another thing. I believe in ants. In fact, there are some in my house. I step on them. I drown them. I don't really care about ants much. They certainly are not the most important thing to me. Now my son Jeremiah on the other hand, he is very important to me. I love him. I try not to step on him! I'm passionate about my son because our relationship is important to me. What's the difference between the ant and my son? I value and love my son and delight in him. As for the ant, well, ask him. Being ON FIRE for God is not merely believing in Him, it is following Him with passion, energy, excitement, and joy in a relationship. People can tell if we are bored with something. Are you bored with God, or are you ON FIRE and excited about your relationship with Him? What would God say?

READ **Psalm 42:1-2; Psalm 63; Psalm 139:11; Matthew 6:22-24**

SUMMARIZE

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

APPLY

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

PRAY

.....

.....

.....

.....

WHAT QUESTIONS DO YOU HAVE?

.....

.....

.....

.....



SESSION 4: Sharing Jesus When Jesus Can Be hard to Share

JUMP START I absolutely love maple sugar candy! Have you ever had it? I hope they serve it in heaven. You can get it in a little box that has five pieces. Each piece sits next to the others in a straight line, staring at you saying, You know you want me. And I do. The candy melts in your mouth and has a delicious, sweet taste. Now, I usually get the box with only five pieces, and I want to eat all of them myself. What if my dad asks me for a piece? What should I do? At that moment, sharing would be difficult. I only have five, small pieces of candy, and I want them all. The enjoyment is mine alone! But what if I took great delight in seeing my dad enjoy the candy too? What if I wanted my dad to enjoy the candy with me, and not just to enjoy it myself. What if I had an unlimited supply of maple sugar candy? Is it possible for us to experience God and His joy and salvation from sin and death and be content to enjoy it alone, not caring whether anyone else enjoys God? Is it possible for us to have the attitude, I'm saved. You're not. Hah, hah. People need Jesus! If we know Him, introducing Him to others is sharing a person that will bring joy to many, many people. Our fear, laziness, selfishness, etc. should never get in the way of us sharing the best gift humanity was given: God Himself.

READ Romans 15:16; Mark 8:38; Romans 9:3; Mark 13:9-11; 1 Corinthians 11:21

SUMMARIZE

Handwriting practice lines for summarizing the text.

APPLY

Handwriting practice lines for applying the text.

PRAY

Handwriting practice lines for prayer.

WHAT QUESTIONS DO YOU HAVE?

Handwriting practice lines for questions.



SESSION 5: The Son Makes the Seed Sprout: Growing in Jesus Through Discipline

JUMP START: Gardening is a great hobby for many people. Cate Blanchett gardens (one of the elves from Lord of the Rings). Don Burke, the host of Burke's Backyard, is famous for gardening. For farmers, glorified gardening is their job. Their kids get iPods and can go to college because they grow plants. Some of my cousins are farmers. Anyway, in order for certain plants to grow you need a couple of things: nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium, sunlight, temperature, and water. If you don't have the basics, the plants won't grow. Imagine trying to grow a tomato plant in chocolate pudding or rocks. Not happening. We are like plants in this way. In order to grow spiritually we need some things: spiritual disciplines. The Bible makes it plain that spiritual growth happens through prayer, Bible study, accountability to other Christians, fasting, tithing, etc. These are all disciplines. They are not easy, but you can't grow without them. For you to remain close to God and to grow closer to God you must regularly and passionately apply discipline in your life.

READ: Psalm 1; Psalm 119:16; James 5:16; Luke 22:44-46; Mark 4:8, 14, 20; Joel 2:12-13

SUMMARIZE

Handwriting practice lines for summarizing the text.

APPLY

Handwriting practice lines for applying the text.

PRAY

Handwriting practice lines for prayer.

WHAT QUESTIONS DO YOU HAVE?

Handwriting practice lines for questions.



SESSION 6: BFF: How Your Friendship With Jesus Helps You Be A Great Friend

JUMP START: BFF does not mean Bicycle Film Festival (yes, there is a website). BFF stands for Best Friends Forever. We would like to think that relationships are forever, and some are, but many are not. The third grader on the playground who says with romantic gusto to his girlfriend on the swings, "I will love you forever" somehow seems less than accurate. Movie lines are similar. Remember when the hero of the film says to the beautiful young woman, "I will come back to you, I promise. I will always be here for you. What? How does he know that? He might get killed on the way back to her. I'm just saying. He means well and it sure sounds nice and courageous, but the reality is that people die and people with good intentions fail. Jesus is an eternal friend. Jesus said in Matthew 28:20, "I am with you always. The only way I'm buying Jesus promise is if he is eternal and all-powerful himself. Jesus is God, therefore any promises he makes you as your best friend will indeed come true; if you trust Him. He will always come through because he is God and is sovereign over everything!

READ: Proverbs 22:11 James 2:22-23 James 4:4 John 15:12-17 John 13:34

SUMMARIZE

Lined writing area for summarizing the text.

APPLY

Lined writing area for applying the text.

PRAY

Lined writing area for prayer.

WHAT QUESTIONS DO YOU HAVE?

Lined writing area for questions.



SESSION 7: Expose Yourself: How Confessing Your Sins Can Help You Win the Battle of Sexual Sin

JUMP START Karen and her friends were going white water rafting on the river. Karen was extremely excited to go because she had never been rafting before. Her and her friends launched the raft and drifted down the river. Everything was going really well until their raft collided with a huge rock and Karen went flying out of the raft. She had a problem. Karen couldn't swim. She yelled out to her friends, "I can't swim! Help me!" Susan, a strong swimmer, jumped out of the boat, grabbed Karen, and helped her through the rapids safely to the river shore. By calling out, Karen was able to alert her friends to a personal weakness; she couldn't swim. Sharing that information at the right time may have saved her life. Imagine if Karen had shared this information earlier. Perhaps they all could have avoided this situation all together or Susan could have responded more quickly. The point is, sharing your weaknesses with Christ-like, wise, and caring friends can help you win the battle of sin. By confessing your sin to each other, you will better be able to avoid sin in the future. There is no strength in silence.

READ 1st. Ephesians 6:3-6 Psalm 72:3 Psalm 78:18 James 5:14-16 1st John 1:8-10

SUMMARIZE 1st

Handwriting practice lines for summarizing the text.

APPLY 1st

Handwriting practice lines for applying the text.

PRAY 1st

Handwriting practice lines for prayer.

WHAT QUESTIONS DO YOU HAVE?

Handwriting practice lines for questions.



SESSION 8: Refusing to Forgive Will Land You in Hell

JUMP START Did you know I had to take a written driver's exam to keep my license? I had gotten so many speeding tickets and points that I needed to pass the exam to continue to drive. Let's just say I was motivated to pass! I have changed my driving style since then. It was getting expensive. It was easy for me to get angry when other drivers cut me off or would weave in and out of traffic (still is). What's funny is that I would get so mad at other drivers for being dangerous or for breaking the law, when at the same time I was speeding. I was guilty, yet I was complaining about others being guilty. I think that attitude is in all of us. We are angered at other people's problems when we have big problems of our own to deal with. Is that why we feel like everyone should give us grace when we fail them, because hey, we're only human, but then when they fail us we feel angry toward them and expect them to do penance for the next 12 years to make it right? Shouldn't we as followers of Jesus be the most forgiving, gracious, kind, and patient people on earth because of how much God has forgiven us? We have received forgiveness; let us then always forgive others! Their offense against us pales in comparison to our offense against God! Let's forgive like God!

READ Luke 12:3-4; Colossians 3:12-13; Matthew 6:14-15; Hebrews 10:26-27

SUMMARIZE

Lined writing area for summarizing the text.

APPLY

Lined writing area for applying the text to personal life.

PRAY

Lined writing area for prayer.

WHAT QUESTIONS DO YOU HAVE?

Lined writing area for questions.



SESSION: Authority is Why You Are Not Dead

JUMP START What if your parents had no authority over you? Some of you may have just yelled, "I wish!" There are some days you probably feel like you wish your parents had no authority or influence over you. Instead, you wish you were on your own and able to make all of your own decisions. That is understandable, because you are growing up and becoming a man or woman. But deep down you value and love authority. Imagine if your parents had no authority over you when you were 3 years old. You started to dig under the kitchen sink and you picked up the bottle of oven cleaner and drank it down like it was milk, all while your mother watched and said, "Well, I can't really stop em. Authority saved your life!" Instead, your mom took the bottle of oven cleaner from you, you cried because you didn't understand why your mom would take it from you, and you were saved from the evil bottle of oven cleaner. Sometimes authority doesn't make sense in our lives. Sometimes authority is abused and we are wronged by others in authority. But, overall, authority is a life saver. God has ultimate authority over everything in the universe. He is Creator. He made everything. Submitting to God is our pleasure and delight because we can take orders from the Infinite and Perfect. It is our joy!

READ Philippians 2:9-13; Romans 13; Ephesians 6:1-4; Colossians 3:20-21

SUMMARIZE

Handwriting practice lines for summarizing the text.

APPLY

Handwriting practice lines for applying the text.

PRAY

Handwriting practice lines for prayer.

WHAT QUESTIONS DO YOU HAVE?

Handwriting practice lines for questions.



SESSION 10: Losers Are Apathetic, Winners Love Excellence

JUMP START I don't care. How many times have you said this? I've said it quite a few times! Did you really mean it? There are some things that are not worth caring about, but many times it's easy to say I don't care about things that really do matter. Imagine if Johannes Gutenberg had said, I don't care regarding the printing press. Where would we be without Gutenberg wanting to solve the problem of printing text quickly and in large volumes? Where would basketball be if Michael Jordan, who got cut from the High School basketball team as a sophomore, would have said, I don't care after he got cut? What if he went home, gave up working on basketball excellence, and took up knitting because it was safer (watch out for the needles Mike)? Being excellent in all that we do is important. Apathy is most often not rewarded with success. Hard work and striving toward excellence is the life of the winner. Are you apathetic toward spiritual things? Do you deeply care about how holy or unholy you are? Do you want to be excellent in your relationship with God? The I don't care attitude is for losers. Winners are those that want to improve, get better, and be better. Being like Jesus is excellent. Strive to do everything with excellence like Jesus...for the glory of God.

READ 1 Corinthians 10:31; Colossians 3:23-24; Proverbs 15:4; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

SUMMARIZE

Handwriting practice lines for summarizing the text.

APPLY

Handwriting practice lines for applying the text.

PRAY

Handwriting practice lines for prayer.

WHAT QUESTIONS DO YOU HAVE?

Handwriting practice lines for questions.



SESSION 1: A & B Report Card, But A C & D Life
Conquering the Stress of School

JUMP START One student said about the pressure to be perfect, "You had to be good at everything. It did stress me out a lot and make me feel insecure about myself and why I wasn't good enough. I remember hearing some of my friends say they saw counselors (*Supergirl Epidemic: Teenage girls sinking under pressure to be perfect* by Jackie Burrell). There are many students who do really, really well in school, but their hearts are a wreck. They get the grades, but the pressure and stress is so high that they don't have joy in the journey. Grades are not the most important thing. Hard work and working for God to the best of your ability is the important thing. You are not defined by the grades you receive. You can conquer stress with God's help. My parents taught me something that has helped me conquer stress and failure. They always taught me to do my best, to put forth my best effort, to use the gifts God gave me for excellence, for the glory of God. If I did my best, and failed, at least I did my best. What God is asking you to do is give your best to Him and for Him. If you love God, you are His child. That is your identity, not your grades. If you trust God, and try 100% and still get a B, or C, it's okay because God still loves you and you can take satisfaction in doing your best for God.

READ 1 Peter 5:6-7; Psalm 127:1-2; Matthew 6:26-34; Philippians 4:6; Romans 8:14-17

SUMMARIZE

Handwriting practice lines for summarizing the text.

APPLY

Handwriting practice lines for applying the text.

PRAY

Handwriting practice lines for prayer.

WHAT QUESTIONS DO YOU HAVE?

Handwriting practice lines for questions.



SESSION 12 Why Is Christianity (Jesus) Best?

JUMP START Lee Strobel wrote in The Case for Christ, Student Edition, "If you find yourself wondering whether archaeology can be used to substantiate the claims of just about any religious belief, you're not alone. I had that same suspicion. I wrote to the Smithsonian Institute and asked whether any evidence supported the claims of Mormonism and the Book of Mormon. They told me in unequivocal terms that archaeologists see no direct connection between the archaeology of the New World and the subject matter of the book. As one expert wrote in a book on the topic: No one has uncovered any of the cities mentioned in the Book of Mormon. No one has uncovered any artifacts related to the Book of Mormon. No one has found any inscriptions confirming the Book of Mormon. No one has identified any person, place, nation, or name mentioned in the Book of Mormon. Many cities of the Bible have been proven to exist. Many Biblical artifacts have been uncovered. We have around 24,000 ancient manuscripts confirming the Bible (way more than Josephus, Plato, and Homer...combined). Did you know there are no surviving manuscripts of Shakespeare's 37 plays? People, places, nations, and names have all been confirmed from the Bible. Jesus can even be proven from history. Why is Christianity best? Christianity is the best because Christianity is the truth. Our faith in Jesus is not blind, it is a faith validated by truth, history, archaeology, and even science.

READ Romans 18-25; 1 Corinthians 8:6-11; Timothy 2:5-6; Jude 24-25

SUMMARIZE

Handwriting practice lines for summarizing the text.

APPLY

Handwriting practice lines for applying the text.

PRAY

Handwriting practice lines for prayer.

WHAT QUESTIONS DO YOU HAVE?

Handwriting practice lines for questions.



SESSION 13: Choose Wisdom: Making Decisions That Reveal Your Love For Jesus

JUMP START: When I was in High School I had a pretty good vertical jump. I played basketball and loved to jump and grab the rim. I eventually was able to dunk a basketball on occasion. I could jump. There was a time that I considered running track so I could do the high jump. The problem was, track was during the baseball season. I had been playing baseball since I was probably 6 or 7 and was not ready to give it up. When it came down to it, I chose baseball. Why? I loved the game. I would even say I loved baseball more than I loved the high jump. I made a decision based upon what I loved and what I was successful at. My decision to continue to play baseball revealed my love for the game. Your decisions reveal what you love or at least what you prioritize. If you choose chocolate over vanilla, it means you like it more, or prefer it at that moment. If you choose one college over another it's because you favor one over the other. That is the way our decisions are spiritually. If you miss church for a game, at that point you have prioritized a game above God. If you choose to cheat on an exam, at least at that point you love dishonest gain more than truth and God. If you choose to sin, at least at that point you love yourself more than you love God and doing right. Choosing wisdom is not always the easiest choice, but it is a choice that will reveal what you love. Choosing God's way over your own reveals that you love God most. God will help you realize what wisdom is, and then He will give you the power to choose it! Choose wisdom and it will never let you down. It's a great friend!

READ: Proverbs 21-16; 1 Corinthians 120-31

SUMMARIZE:

Handwriting practice lines for summarizing the text.

APPLY:

Handwriting practice lines for applying the text.

PRAY:

Handwriting practice lines for prayer.

WHAT QUESTIONS DO YOU HAVE?

Handwriting practice lines for questions.



SESSION 14 In the Beginning God Created

JUMP START Have you ever heard of the teleological, cosmological, and ontological arguments for God? Is your head spinning? These are tough words, but hang with me! Teleological is simply this: the world has purpose, therefore there was a Being that gave the world purpose. Cosmological is simply this: the world was caused to exist, and what caused the world to exist is the Uncaused Cause, or God. Ontological is simply this: there is no higher being that can be imagined or conceived higher than God, therefore God exists. So, let's start here: You exist (wow, that's deep). Where did you come from? Your parents. Where did they come from? Their parents. Where did they come from? You get the idea. You can do this the entire way back until you arrive at a cause that has no cause. That is God. He is the starting place! God is eternal, and He has no beginning and no end. He was not created, and wasn't made in a factory in Nepal. The universe was made by God. Using the cosmological argument, God Himself caused the world to exist. In the beginning God created. You have purpose in life because God has given you purpose and meaning. He made you in His image. You are His.

READ Hebrews 12; John 1:3; Isaiah 45:18; Colossians 1:6; Genesis 1-

SUMMARIZE

Handwriting practice lines for summarizing the text.

APPLY

Handwriting practice lines for applying the text.

PRAY

Handwriting practice lines for prayer.

WHAT QUESTIONS DO YOU HAVE?

Handwriting practice lines for questions.



SESSION 15: In the Beginning We Didn't Come From Apes

JUMP START Evolutionary theory. You may have heard of it. Here's one definition of the word theory: a proposed explanation whose status is still conjectural. (Dictionary.com) This means it has not been confirmed as fact. Something that is conjectural is still a guess or an opinion and has not been proven. George Washington was the first President of the United States of America. That is not a theory it is fact. Charles Darwin recognized his view on evolution as a theory. It was not absolutely certain for him. He even saw problems with his own theory. Regarding the end of his book Origin of Species, Charles Darwin wrote, "You will be greatly disappointed (by the forthcoming book); it will be grievously too hypothetical. It will very likely be of no other service than collocating some facts; though I myself think I see my way approximately on the origin of the species. But, alas, how frequent, how almost universal it is in an author to persuade himself of the truth of his own dogmas" (John Lofton's Journal). Though the Bible is not a science textbook, it is God's message. It is absolutely true and is the framework in which science must fit. We did not come from apes because God created us in His image, and God is not an ape. Evolutionary theory and the Bible (truth) do not mix!

READ 1st. Genesis 1:26-28; Genesis 2:7-8 & 18-25; Psalm 139:13-14; 2 Corinthians 4:4

SUMMARIZE 1st.

Lined writing area for summarizing the text.

APPLY 1st.

Lined writing area for applying the text.

PRAY 1st.

Lined writing area for prayer.

WHAT QUESTIONS DO YOU HAVE?

Lined writing area for questions.



SESSION 16: You're Like 'Em, Therefore, Don't Be Like 'Em

JUMP START Is a Christian a better person than a non-Christian? Think about it. Maybe a better question is, How is a follower of Jesus different from a non-follower of Jesus? Christians are just as sinful as non-Christians. Sometimes, when you look at a Christian's life, it appears no different than a moral non-Christian's life. Why is that? True Christians know that they are no better than a non-Christian, but they do recognize they are different. The Christian and non-Christian are both sinful, but the Christian's sin is paid for and forgiven. The Christian and non-Christian both deserve God's judgment, but the Christian is not condemned. The Christian and non-Christian may be moral, but the Christian is moral because of love for God. We as Christians have much in common with non-Christians, and we should never act like we are better than they are. We're not! We all need God's grace. The big and important difference between us is that we trust Jesus Christ for our salvation and joy because we recognize our need for Jesus and submit to Him in love. Non-Christians don't trust in Jesus and don't submit to God's will. That is a huge difference! Christians must: (1) realize we are just like non-Christians and need God's grace just as much; and (2) are called by God to live radically different lives from non-Christians. We are to be like Jesus, not the world.

READ 16. Ecclesiastes 7:20; 1 John 1:8-10; Psalm 4:3; 1 Peter 2:9-12; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

SUMMARY 16

Handwriting practice lines for the summary section.

APPLICATION 16

Handwriting practice lines for the application section.

PRAY 16

Handwriting practice lines for the prayer section.

WHAT QUESTIONS DO YOU HAVE?

Handwriting practice lines for the questions section.



ON FIRE

- Seeing Jesus Work in All of Your Life

SESSION 17: HOPE: Why God's Plan For Your Life Is Best

JUMP START The Titanic sank on April 15, 1912. She was the biggest passenger ship of her time and loaded with luxuries, and the tragedy struck when an iceberg was the end of the Titanic's maiden voyage. 68% of her passengers died that day. Why did people buy a ticket to board the Titanic and depart from Southampton, England? Because they had hope of happiness and enjoyment on the boat. No one knew it was going to go down. If they knew it would sink beforehand, they would not have bought the ticket. They *hoped* in the Titanic. Hope is simply desiring something in the future to work out for the best. We hope in many things and desire for them to work out for our good, but realize that many things hoped for are often not the best. I once hoped that the Tower of Terror at Disneyland would give me joy and excitement, when I quickly realized it gave me a nauseous stomach. One time I hoped that orange juice would quench my thirst, only to find that my sister had mixed OJ concentrate with hydrogen peroxide and poisoned my brother and me! The only thing that is 100% certain is God's plan for you. If you love God, His plan will *always* work out for your best. He promises it! That makes hoping in God your strongest hope. We hope that we will be saved from sin and hell and saved to joy and eternal life. We hope that Jesus is powerful enough to fulfill his promises. We hope that God will come through for us. God is incapable of failing! When He makes a promise, He will carry it out. Love Him my friend, and trust Him. His bulletproof plan is worth hoping in!

READ 1 Corinthians 15:16-20; Psalm 33:8-22; Jeremiah 29:11-14; Romans 8:28-30

SUMMARIZE

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

APPLY

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

PRAY

.....

.....

.....

.....

WHAT QUESTIONS DO YOU HAVE?

.....

.....

.....

Assisting parents in developing students who genuinely
love God, love each other, and love the world.



Supplied by North Park Church Student Ministry
Written by Jonathan L. Shirk

jonathanshirk@northparkepc.org

412.367.5000 x233