

God's Plan

Session ONE

TEACHING NOTES

God has a plan

...to build His Church (Ephesians 4)

He uses every believer

Evangelism

Discipleship

...to save sinners (Romans 3)

Christ took our punishment (Romans 3:21-22)

The problem (Romans 3:23)

He shows undeserved kindness (Romans 3:24)

KEY VERSE(S)

Ephesians 4
Romans 5:8
2 Timothy 3:16-17

KEY THEME(S)

God communicates
The authority of God's Word

But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. – Romans 5:8

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.
– 2 Timothy 3:16-17

We are free from the penalty for our sins (Romans 3:25-26)

Pardoned (Romans 3:27)

God communicates to us through His Word

God's Word is the absolute authority

God guarded and preserved the Word so we could know Him

Lesson Objective:

We are striving to connect ourselves to God's plan.

PERSONAL STUDY

Why do this?

Each week, we will provide you with a guide for personal study to reinforce what has been taught. In order to grow spiritually, it is important for you to apply God's truth into your life and spend time alone with God.

Our aim is to give you two sessions that will take about 20 minutes each. This can be done in one setting or broken up. We highly encourage you to make room in your weekly schedule for this time with God and His Word.

Study 1

Prepare your heart and mind.

Often we live our lives in a very rushed pace. It is a challenge to slow down and stay focused. Our desire for you is to hit the pause button on life and be fully present with God as you go through this personal study.

Before you start, quiet your heart and mind. Ask God to help you focus on what He wants to communicate to you.

God has a plan

One of the overarching themes in God's Word is that He has a plan and He will bring it to completion in His timing. God is not just trying things, hoping they will work. He is building His church by pursuing and growing those who know Him, and pursuing those who have yet to put their faith and trust in Him.

God has a plan... to build His Church

He wants us to know what He is doing and how we are to join Him. When we study God's Word we discover these things.

Read Ephesians 2:8-9

What is God communicating in these verses?

It's amazing to think about what God has done through His grace and that it's simply by faith that we have a relationship with Him. Take a minute to pray thanking God for His grace and what He's done for you.

Read Ephesians 2:10

Do you realize that part of God's plan involves you playing a role in building His church? Our desire for *Equipping the Church* is to help people know who God is, what He is doing, and be equipped and prepared to join Him in the roles He gives us.

God has a plan... to save sinners

Read Romans 6:23

Isn't it incredible to think about the great love and mercy God has shown us by making a way for us to be made right with Him?!

Our faith in Jesus Christ's death makes us right before a Holy God. God desires that our response of gratefulness will result in living our lives for His purposes, not simply pursuing our own goals and aspirations. Daily, we need to thank God for saving us, asking Him how we can make our lives available for His purposes.

How does it make you feel knowing that God saved you not only from the penalty of sin but also to be a part of His plan to build His church?

Key verse

Learning key verses from God's Word is another way we can grow spiritually. As we learn these truths, God will help recall them when we are faced with believing something that's not true.

Put to memory either Ephesians 2:8-9 or Romans 6:23. Use the scripture cards we've provided to help with this process by putting them where you can see them throughout the day.

Prayer time

Spend some time talking to God. You don't have to use big words or even long sentences. Talk to God the same way you would a trusted friend. Be completely honest, God wants you to be real with Him.

Thank Him for loving you so much that He sacrificed his own son – Jesus.

Ask God to help you live in the security you have because of what He has done for you. Your salvation is not based on trying to be good enough, but by God's grace.

PARENT GUIDE

And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. – Deuteronomy 6:5-9

As parents we are responsible for teaching our children about God. For each session, *Equipping the Church* will provide a guide to help you. This guide will give you ideas on how to share what you are learning about God with your children or grandchildren. Each week we will provide simple ideas that can easily be woven into your family's daily routine. This week's tool is called Table Talk. Table Talk provides a few questions that can help guide a family discussion during a meal or other place.

Table Talk

What do you think it means when God says He wants to build His church? Is He talking about a building? (Help your child understand God's church is a group of His people gathered not a place or building.)

What special book did God give us?

Why do you think God wanted us to have the Bible?