

# Growing Deeper Together

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*Truth for Life*

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Fall 2026



|    | <b>Date</b> | <b>TOPIC</b>                      | <b>TEACHER</b> |
|----|-------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| 1  | 8/30        | What is Theology?                 | Smith          |
| 2  | 9/6         | The Doctrine of Scripture         | DeYoung        |
| 3  | 9/13        | The Doctrine of God               | Smith          |
| 4  | 9/20        | The Doctrine of Man               | Wilson         |
| 5  | 9/27        | The Doctrine of Sin               | VanDixhoorn    |
| 6  | 10/4        | The Doctrine of Jesus Christ      | Smith          |
| 7  | 10/11       | The Doctrine of Salvation         | DeYoung        |
| 8  | 10/18       | The Doctrine of the Church        | VanDixhoorn    |
| 9  | 10/25       | The Doctrine of Heaven and Hell   | Ovey           |
| 10 | 11/1        | The Doctrine of Angels and Demons | Martin         |
| 11 | 11/8        | The Doctrine of Last Things       | Wilson         |
| 12 | 11/15       | The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit   | Smith          |



## Questions for Lesson 1 ~ August 30, 2026<sup>1</sup>

1. Get to know one another at your tables. What was one fun thing you did this summer?
2. When you think of the study of theology what first comes to mind? Do you think of something academic or related to Christian living and discipleship or both?
3. What do you think it means to say “everyone is a theologian”?
4. What are some of your biggest and most confusing theological questions? How have

<sup>1</sup> The questions for each week have either come from me or Jon Nielson's *Knowing God's Truth Workbook: An Introduction to Systematic Theology* published by Crossway in 2024.

they affected your walk with God?

5. How have you grown over the years in your understanding of the relevance of studying theology for the way you think, speak, and live? Why does what you believe and understand about God make a practical difference in your life?
6. What category or topic of theology is of most interest to you? Why?

## Questions for Lesson 2 ~ September 6, 2026

## *The Doctrine of Scripture*

1. If you have friends who are not Christians, how might they view the Bible? What comments have you heard unbelievers make about Scripture – if they talk about it at all?

2. In what ways are you tempted to take for granted that the Creator of the universe has spoken to us through his word?

3. What questions do you have about the Bible—its formation, trustworthiness, or unity?

4. What truths about God (or about human beings) are *not* immediately obvious just by looking at the wonder of creation? Why do we need God's special revelation?
5. Read Isaiah 66:1-2. What are some ways that you can more humbly and diligently study, know, and learn God's word?
6. What are the dangers of doing theology (thinking thoughts about God) in a way that is disconnected from God's word?

**Questions for Lesson 3 ~ September 13, 2026**  
*The Doctrine of God*

1. A. W. Tozer once said, "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us." What is your first thought when you read that quotation?
2. What are areas in your knowledge of God that you want to grow in?
3. Read Revelation 4:8, 11. What do these verses teach you about God's being and what he is like?

4. Read 1 Peter 1:1-2. How does Peter reference the three persons of the Trinity in his greeting? What do we learn about his understanding of God in three persons?
5. Our faith promises knowledge of God but not a knowledge that is exhaustive or complete. Does that comfort you or cause troubling questions?

**Questions for Lesson 4 ~ September 20, 2026**  
*The Doctrine of Man*

1. What are some obvious ways in which human beings are distinct from the rest of the animal kingdom? What deeper mental, emotional, and spiritual capabilities do we possess?
2. What are some of the immediate implications of the fact that we have a Creator? If God made us, what does that mean for our value, our purpose, and our responsibility?
3. Read Psalm 8. What does this psalm reveal about the wonder of God's creation—and particularly his creation of human beings?

4. Read James 3:1-12 (noting v. 9 especially). What does James command about our attitudes and actions toward human beings, all of whom have been created in the image of God?
5. How can understanding God's value and love for physical creation encourage you to care well for your physical body and the physical needs of others?

**Questions for Lesson 5 ~ September 27, 2026**  
*The Doctrine of Sin*

1. How should we define *sin*? How might it relate to God's character?
2. As you look around the world, what effects of sin do you see today? How does sin damage individuals and their relationships with one another?
3. Why do some people in the world today not like to label sin as sin? What are some other ways that people like to talk about sin?

4. Read Genesis 3:1-7. What do you notice about the conversation that led to the first act of disobedience to God's word? How was Eve, and then Adam, tempted toward sin?
5. Read Psalm 51:1-5, noting the way David talks about his sin. How do these verses point to the reality of a sinful nature in every human being?
6. In what ways should a deeper understanding of the doctrine of sin lead us to a greater appreciation of God's grace?

## Questions for Lesson 6 ~ October 4, 2026

### *The Doctrine of Jesus Christ*

1. How do people you know who do not know Jesus personally tend to think about him? Why might they respect him? What aspects of his identity — or which of his claims — might they reject?
2. How might some people try and separate Christian morality or teaching from the person and work of Jesus Christ? Why is that not ultimately possible?
3. What are some ways in which Jesus and his teachings have shaped or affected the culture we live in today?

4. Read John 1:1-18. What do these verses tell us about the role of Jesus in creation? What do they tell us about his eternal existence, as well as his identity as God?
5. If it's true that the wages of sin is "death" (Romans 6:23), why is it so important that Jesus actually, physically died in our place?
6. How do you struggle to connect your "head" and your "heart" in your learning about Jesus Christ? What can make it so hard to do?

## Questions for Lesson 7 ~ October 11, 2026

## *The Doctrine of Salvation*

1. When it comes to thinking about heaven and hell, why do many people today simply assume they're headed for heaven (if they think about it at all)?
2. What questions do you have about God's salvation of sinners? What is confusing to you about the work of Jesus Christ in his death and resurrection?
3. Read Acts 4:12. What very clear point about the exclusivity of Christ do Peter and John make in this verse?

4. Read Ephesians 2:1-10. What does Paul make clear about the spiritual state of Christians *before* God acts to save them? How does Paul remind readers of God's work in their salvation—in spite of their spiritual deadness apart from Christ?
5. What ought to be our response to the God who has acted since before the beginning of time to save us through the work of his Son?

**Questions for Lesson 8 ~ October 18, 2026**  
*The Doctrine of Heaven and Hell*

1. What are some common perceptions of heaven that you've heard from friends or acquaintances in your circle?
2. Why do so many people today object to the idea of a literal, eternal hell?
3. Read Revelation 21:1-8. How might this passage help shape your understanding of both heaven and hell?

4. What does the doctrine of hell teach us about the seriousness of sin against a holy God?

5. What is frightening to you about hell? How have you struggled to accept this doctrine or to understand its reality?

6. What can you do in your life to embrace more of an eternal perspective every day? For the Christian, why is it good to think regularly about the reality of heaven?

## Questions for Lesson 9 ~ October 25, 2026

### *The Doctrine of the Church*

1. How have you seen the local church to be a vital part of your life and growth in Jesus Christ?
2. What frustrations have you had with the local church? What criticisms of the church do you sometimes hear from people around you?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 1:1-3? What do you learn about the church from the way Paul describes the Corinthian believers? How does Paul think about these Christians?

4. Read 1 Timothy 4:11-16. What are some of the activities that should be going on in a healthy, biblically grounded local church, according to these verses?
5. What would you say to a Christian who says, "I love Jesus, but I have no need for the church"?
6. How would you explain the connection between the local church and the universal church? Is everyone who is a part of the local church part of the universal church? Why or why not?

## Questions for Lesson 10 ~ November 1, 2026

### *The Doctrine of Angels and Demons*

1. What might lead some people to be obsessed with the invisible spiritual realm? To what problems could such an obsession lead?
2. Why might some people almost never consider the spiritual realm and the existence of angels, demons, and Satan?
3. Read Genesis 1:1-2 and John 1:1-5. What do these passages tell us about God's role as Creator of all things—seen and unseen?

4. Read Matthew 22:29-33. What does this passage help you understand about angels and their role? How do they function in relationship to God and to human beings?
5. Read 1 Timothy 4:1-3. What do we learn about demons in these verses?
6. Do you find it difficult to believe in angels or demons? Why or why not? How should their existence affect how you view the world and pray?

## Questions for Lesson 11 ~ November 8, 2026

### *The Doctrine of Last Things*

1. When you think about the end of the world, what do you picture? What sources (books, movies, sermons, etc.) have most influenced your view of the end times and the end of the world?
2. Where might some Christians disagree about what exactly the end of the world will be like? What are some big points and truths about which all true Christians should agree?
3. Read Revelation 21:22-27. What is pictured in these verses? What do these verses clearly predict about what will happen at the end of the world?

4. What questions do you bring to the table with regard to the study of last things?
5. Read Revelation 12:1-6. What is unfamiliar and confusing in this passage? How is it clear that this passage is part of a distinct genre of Scripture—unlike Paul’s letters or the Gospels, for example?
6. What is the biggest change in your life at the moment that you should make in light of Jesus’s impending return to earth as Judge, Savior, and King?

## Questions for Lesson 12 ~ November 15, 2026

### *The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit*

1. Why might many Christians think less often about God the Holy Spirit than about God the Father and God the Son? What questions do you think people in your circles have about the Holy Spirit?
2. What points of confusion or questions have you had as you've thought about the Holy Spirit?
3. How have you seen an underemphasis on the Holy Spirit? What might an overemphasis (or misguided emphasis) on the work of the Spirit look like?

4. Read John 3:1-21. What did Jesus imply about what needed to happen in Nicodemus' life and heart? How does he point to the work of the Spirit in causing a person to be "born again"?
5. What are some ways in which it is evident that the Holy Spirit is living and active in your life and heart?