

# Module 1, Week 2

## *Understanding Redemption*

### Monday:

**Core Truth from Sunday:** God Knows everything, God made everything and God never changes.

### **Notes:**

#### Who is God?

- “In all existence, from all eternity, there has been and always will be only one God. God was never created, is completely loving, completely just, completely holy, completely merciful, and that He desires the best for us. God is holy and He can have nothing to do with sin as the Bible says, "His eyes are too pure to look upon evil,"

#### God is Omniscient (Knows Everything)

- The omniscience of God is that attribute by which he knows all things past, present and future. What is hidden from human sight is still known by God. Scripture stresses the wisdom of God in all his actions, and often grounds this in his all-embracing knowledge.
  - **God’s knowledge originates within himself** *Isa 40:13-14 See also Job 21:22; Ro 11:33-34; 1Co 2:16*
  - **God’s knowledge is complete** *Mt 10:30 pp Lk 12:7 See also Ps 147:4; Isa 40:26*
  - **God knows things that are hidden from human understanding** *Dt 29:29 See also Job 37:15-16; Da 2:22; Mt 24:36pp Mk 13:32; Ac 1:7; 2Co 12:2-4*

#### God Made Everything

- God’s power is revealed in the initial creation and the continuing sustenance of the universe. Humanity represents the climax of the Creator’s purposes. God creates all things
  - **He creates the physical world** *Isa 45:18 See also Ge 1:1-25*
  - **He creates the spiritual world** *Ps 148:2-5 See also Ro 8:38-39; Col 1:16*
  - **The human race is the apex of God’s creation** *Ps 8:3-8 See also Ge 1:26-28; Ge 5:1; Ge 9:6; Ps 100:3; Ps 139:13; Isa 42:5; Ac 17:26-28*
  - The Creator’s agents
    - **He creates through Jesus Christ** *1Co 8:6 See also Jn 1:3; Col 1:16; Heb 1:2*
    - **He creates by the Spirit** *Job 33:4 See also Ge 1:2; Ps 104:30*
    - **He creates by his word** *Ps 33:6 See also Job 38:8-11; Ps 33:9*
    - **He creates by wisdom** *Pr 3:19 Wisdom is personified and is active with the Creator. See also Pr 8:30; Jer 10:12-13*
      - “By wisdom the LORD laid the earth’s foundations, by understanding he set the heavens in place;” *Prov. 3:19*

- “But God made the earth by his power; he founded the world by his wisdom and stretched out the heavens by his understanding.” Jer. 10:12

## God Doesn't Change (Immutable):

- God's nature, plans and actions do not change even though he is active and his relationships do not remain static. His moral consistency guarantees his commitment to unchanging principles.
  - God's being is unchangeable
    - Ps 102:27 See also Heb 1:12; Mal 3:6; Heb 13:8; Jas 1:17
  - God's characteristics do not change
  - **God's love is constant** Ps 89:2 See also Ps 136:1-26; 2Ti 2:13
  - God's purposes and plans do not change
    - Heb 6:17 See also Nu 23:19; 1Sa 15:29; Pr 19:21; Jer 44:29; Heb 7:21; Ps 110:4
  - God does not revoke his promises
    - Ps 132:11 See also Ps 145:13; Heb 4:1
  - God's word does not change
    - Isa 40:8 See also Ps 119:89; Mt 5:18; 1Pe 1:23-25
  - God's failure to inflict promised judgment is a sign of his unchanging grace
    - Hos 11:8 See also Ex 32:10-14; Jnh 3:10; Jnh 4:2

**We spend too much time...**

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## Application:

**#1: Until we know what is truly at the center of everything we do, our live will be constantly chaotic. (Read Jeremiah 17:5-8)**

- Who is at the center of your life?
  - \_\_\_\_\_
- What do you need to change to put God at the center of your life?
  - \_\_\_\_\_
- Are there any areas of your life that God is not the center?
  - \_\_\_\_\_

What are you using to try to navigate through this life?

- Is your guidance built around the ever-changing ideas of mankind?
  - \_\_\_\_\_
- Is your guidance built around the unchanging truth of the God who knows everything and made everything?
  - \_\_\_\_\_
- What can you do this week to start living according to God's truth?

## **Prayer Focus:**

- Pray this prayer: "Heavenly Father, help me to apply these truths to my life this week. Help me to not just know this truth, but to apply it to my life so that you may transform me for your Kingdom purposes."

## **Tuesday:**

In the spring of 2014 we were rocked with the news of several landslides. There was the mudslide in Oso, WA that caused the tragic death of 41 one people. There were slides around the Portland Metro area that led to rocks falling onto I-84. There was a mudslide in Los Angeles.

But there was another slide that caught the attention of viewers, me in particular. For some reason I am a sucker for the natural phenomena of this earth that we inhabit. From earthquakes to volcanoes, blizzards to tornados, I find our earth fascinating and marvelous.

This slide caught my attention because it was slow. Typically when we hear about landslides, they occur fast and catch many people by surprise. But this one didn't. This was the slow moving landslide in Jackson, Wyoming. You can watch the news story of it here: (<http://www.today.com/video/today/54994726>)

This slide progressed over a longer time period and might even still be progressing today. You can see in the footage that the speed of the slide doesn't change anything. When the land is moving, whatever is above the land will be destroyed. You can see houses being pulled in two in slow motion. Trees slumping and debris that finally gives way after everything that supported it from below falls away.

That's the amazing thing, the speed of the landslide doesn't matter. Eventually, everything ends up destroyed at the bottom of the hill.

For some of us, it may be more challenging to see that the foundation we have build our lives upon is eroding, but time will tell us all. If we have built our lives on the foundation of God's truth, we will never be in danger of being buried in the rubble at the bottom of the hill. But, if our lives are built on anything else, anything at all besides God, we may find ourselves in need of a bigger rescue than we had anticipated.

Pray these prayers:

- “Heavenly Father, help me to continue to apply the truths I learned last week to my life this week. Help me to not just know this truth, but to apply it to my life so that you may transform me for your Kingdom purposes...”
- “...Through the power of your Spirit, prepare me to be able to apply the truth I am learning this week...”

## Wednesday:

### Memory Verse:

- Matthew 7:24-27  
**24** “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. **25** The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. **26** But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. **27** The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

Read the verse out-loud 5 times.

Go to [www.68church.com](http://www.68church.com) to download wallpaper for your computer or smartphone to help you learn this scripture throughout the week.

## Prayer Focus

- “Heavenly Father, help me to continue to apply the truths I learned last week to my life this week. Help me to not just know this truth, but to apply it to my life so that you may transform me for your Kingdom purposes...”
- Pray through the verse. Simply read the verse with an attitude of worship:
  - **24** “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. **25** The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. **26** But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. **27** The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

## Thursday:

Study the passage in context from Wednesday.

- The Context of this passage actually begins in Matthew 5. This passage is the conclusion of the famous ‘Sermon on the Mount.’ To gain a complete understanding of this passage, read from Matthew 5:1 - 7:27
- Matthew 7:24-27

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*When studying sections of scripture, here are four questions that are helpful to ask:*

What is the context of this passage? (What was going on in the chapter(s) leading up to this passage?)

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What does this passage say?

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What is the timeless truth that is being stated?

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How do I apply this truth to my life?

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## **Prayer focus**

- “Heavenly Father, help me to continue to apply the truths I learned last week to my life this week. Help me to not just know this truth, but to apply it to my life so that you may transform me for your Kingdom purposes...”
- “...as I seek to understand more of your written word, would you open my mind to your truth. Teach me to understand your ways and give me strength to live in them...”

## Friday:

As we go on this journey towards being disciples, we will quickly find that we are extraordinarily dependant on the written word of God. In fact, if we don't deeply internalize the principles we find in this amazing document we call the Bible, we can't really call ourselves disciples.

As we talked about on Tuesday, the amazing and reliable word of God is our foundation for life. All of life. There is no area of our life that the word of God does not cover. There is no separation between our "spiritual lives" and our "real lives." As the saying goes: "You don't have a soul. You are a soul that has a body." The idea that we can live one way when we are being spiritual and another way when we are having fun is false.

Psalm 119:11 speaks to this idea: "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you." As disciples we seek to internalize the word of God. This is why we are striving to memorize portions of scripture throughout this series. We want to have God's word hidden in our hearts.

But, we don't just have God's word in our hearts so we can feel good about ourselves. We have it there so that we learn not to sin against God. We internalize the word to help us live correctly externally. When God's word is internal and changes our external, we receive the eternal.

When we love God so much that we want to know more and more about who He is and how He planned for us to live (internal) we will seek to apply what we have internalized to our lives on the outside (external). As we live our lives this way, in a way that brings glory to God by keeping his commandments.

At the end of Ecclesiastes, we find this passage: (Ecc. 13:13-14)

**13** Now all has been heard;

here is the conclusion of the matter:

Fear God and keep his commandments,

for this is the duty of all mankind.

**14** For God will bring every deed into judgment,

including every hidden thing,

whether it is good or evil.

Fear God (have a reverence for and be in awe of) and keep his commandments. God will judge everything, seen or unseen. We cannot be Jekyll & Hyde Christians. There is no hiding things from God. Our lives must be built on the principle of internalization. Internal - external - eternal.

**Prayer focus:**

- “Heavenly Father, as we continue to think about what we learned last week, help me to not be satisfied with knowing the facts. Give me a deep desire to live out with my actions what I know with my intentions...”
- Ask God to remind you of things He has done in your life this week so that you can share them with some of us on Sunday.
- Pray and expect God to create opportunities for you to invest in your relationship with one of your 8 to 15 and then invite them to church on Sunday.

**Saturday:** Rest