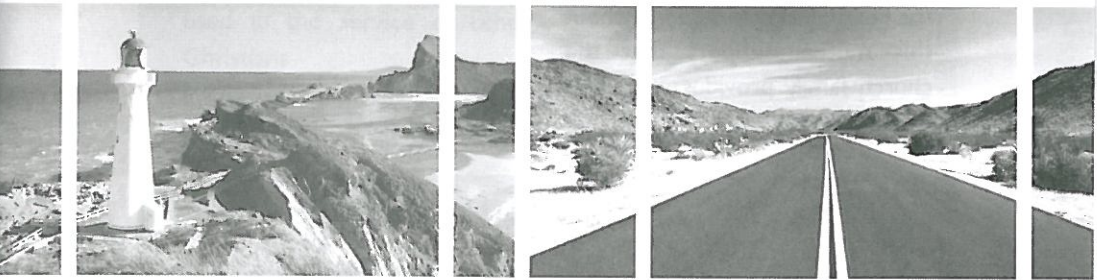


EXPLORING CHRISTIAN LIFE



You'll cover this section on a weekend or day away. It's an opportunity to explore and ask questions about the church, the Holy Spirit, prayer and the Bible. It's also a great opportunity to get to know people in your group a bit better.

EXPLORING CHRISTIAN LIFE

THE CHURCH

TALK OUTLINE

“He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm.” (Proverbs 13:20)

- The Christian life can be very hard, so it is important for Christians to remember that they have been chosen by God (1 Peter 1:1–2) and that they have “a living hope”: the certain hope of heaven (1 Peter 1:3).
- When the Bible talks about “the church,” it is simply referring to all those people who have put their trust in Jesus.
- Peter tells Christians they should “love one another deeply, from the heart” (1 Peter 1:22). Without this mutual support that the church family provides, it will be hard to persevere.
- Christians should build around them a team of wise people who will help them to follow Christ until they reach heaven.

NOTES

GROUP DISCUSSION

- **“He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm” (Proverbs 13:20). Do you think this is true in your own experience?**
- **“...love one another deeply, from the heart” (1 Peter 1:22). Do you think this is realistic?**

EXPLORING CHRISTIAN LIFE

THE HOLY SPIRIT

TALK OUTLINE

“It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counsellor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.” (John 16:7)

- The Holy Spirit (“the Counsellor”) who comes to live in Christians is the Spirit of Christ himself.
- The Holy Spirit’s work has many aspects. For example, he:
 - makes people aware of their sin
 - changes Christians from within by giving them the desire to please God
 - gives each Christian gifts to be used in the service of other Christians
 - brings peace that comes from being in relationship with God

NOTES

GROUP DISCUSSION

- **“I had no inner peace.”** What is it that makes people feel like this?
- **Having explored Jesus’ life, how would you feel about his Spirit coming to live “with you” and “in you” (John 14:17)?**

EXPLORING CHRISTIAN LIFE

PRAYER

TALK OUTLINE

“Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.” (Psalm 62:8)

- Christians pray in order to deepen their relationship with God.
- Jesus teaches his followers to address God as “Our Father.” A Christian’s relationship with God is a privileged, intimate one.
- When Christians pray, they are praying to the “Sovereign Lord” who is in complete control of everything that may happen.

NOTES

GROUP DISCUSSION

- **Do you ever pray?**
- **God is “the Sovereign Lord, who is in complete control of everything that may happen to you.” How might this affect your life?**

EXPLORING CHRISTIAN LIFE

THE BIBLE

TALK OUTLINE

“All Scripture is God-breathed.” (2 Timothy 3:16)

- The Bible contains all kinds of writing – history, poetry, prophecy, songs, biography – but whatever the style, the underlying message is the same: how we can be rescued from our sin.
- Reading the Bible enables Christians to know God.
- The Christian’s “delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night” (Psalm 1:2). The Bible shapes the thinking of Christian people.
- “He is like a tree planted by streams of water” (Psalm 1:3). The Christian is refreshed and replenished by reading the Bible.
- “Mary has chosen what is better” (Luke 10:42). Christians must choose to make time to read God’s word, no matter how busy their lives become.

NOTES

GROUP DISCUSSION

- **“Mary has chosen what is better” (Luke 10:42). What choices do you need to make to hear God’s word?**
- **The person who delights in God’s word is “like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season” (Psalm 1:3). Do you think the Bible could play this role in your life?**