

Theology For Dummies – Cheat Sheet!

Myths About Theology

Myth: Theology is for pastors.

Truth: The word “theology” comes from two Greek words *Theos* (God) and *Logos* (Word). Therefore, literally translated, theology is simply a word about God. Whether we are aware of it or not, we all have our own theology. We all have our perception of who God is and how He works in the world. So, it is really not a question of whether or not we study theology, but whether or not our theology accurately reflects who God is.

Myth: Theology is confusing.

Truth: When the subject of your study is an infinite, omniscient, omnipresent, omnipotent, omnibenevolent, eternal, triune, creator-spirit whom no one has ever seen and no one could ever fully comprehend, then it is expected that trying to wrap your mind around such a being might make your head hurt a little bit. However, the wonderful thing about God is that He promises that, “*You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart. I will be found by you.*” (Jeremiah 29:13-14)

Myth: Theology isn’t important in the real world.

Truth: Our understanding of who God is impacts every other area of our life – from how we spend our time, where we invest our money, the way we interact with other people, the way we talk, the way we think, the way we view humanity, our political persuasion, the kind of car we drive, the amount we recycle, and our purpose in life. So, you could say that theology is of paramount importance.

Myth: Theology uses big words that I don’t understand.

Truth: Sometimes theologians do use big words. But, behind those big words are powerful and profound insights into the character of God. So, don’t be discouraged by big words; use the glossary, Google it, find the answer, don’t give up!!

Myth: I don’t need theology – I just need the Bible.

Truth: It has been said, “God spoke and the rest is just commentary.” In other words, when we read the Bible we’re all bringing our own perspective, experiences, and insights – which inform our understanding and interpretation of God’s word. Theology is a tool that helps us examine our lenses and look at the Bible through the lenses of others so that our understanding of the Bible is as accurate as possible.

Theology Training Tools

(Here’s a list of things to help with your theology learning goals)

- ✚ Your Personal Bible ... reading, exploring, mediating on and memorizing God’s Word is a *must* for reaching your theology goals. This tool should show some wear when finished with this study.
- ✚ A Good Study Bible ... sometimes it can be very helpful to have another Bible source nearby with more insights about the Scriptures—this will really be helpful (see www.blueletterbible.org).
- ✚ A Theological Treatise ... there are several good ones to choose from; *Christian Theology* by Alister McGrath, *Systematic Theology* by Wayne Grudem, and/or *Christian Theology* by Millard Erickson. These works systematically cover the major doctrines of the Christian faith.
- ✚ Classical Theological Works ... like *The Cross of Christ* by John Stott and/or *The Pursuit of God* by A.W. Tozer, will give you greater insight into specific areas of theology.
- ✚ Visual Learning Tools ... like the DVD by Rob Bell entitled, *The Gods Aren’t Angry*, will challenge and deepen your understanding of who God really is.

Talking Like a Pro

Glossary of Terms

- ✚ **Adiaphora:** Literally, “matters of indifference.” Beliefs or practices that the sixteenth century Reformers regarded as being tolerable, in that they were neither explicitly rejected nor stipulated by Scripture.
- ✚ **Antinomianism:** The school of thought that denies any continuing role of the Old Testament Law in the Christian life.
- ✚ **Appropriation:** A term relating to the doctrine of the Trinity, which affirms that while all three persons of the Trinity are active in all the outward actions of the Trinity, it is appropriate to think of those actions as being the particular work of one of the persons.
- ✚ **Calvinism:** A theological system and an approach to the Christian life that emphasizes God's sovereignty or control over all things.
- ✚ **Chalcedonian Definition:** The formal declaration at the Council of Chalcedon that Jesus Christ was to be regarded as having two natures, one human and one divine.
- ✚ **Corpus Permixtum:** Theology performed and practiced among friends.
- ✚ **Exegesis:** The science of textual interpretation, usually referring specifically to the Bible.
- ✚ **Hermeneutics:** The principles underlying the interpretation or exegesis of Scripture in relation to its present-day application.
- ✚ **Homoousion:** A Greek term meaning “of the same substance”, which came to be used extensively in the fourth century to designate the mainline Christological belief that Jesus Christ was “of the same substance as God.” The term was directed against the Arian view that Jesus was “of similar substance as God.”
- ✚ **Hypostatic Union:** The doctrine of the union of divine and human natures in Jesus Christ, without confusion of their respective substances.
- ✚ **Kenoticism:** A form of Christology that lays emphasis upon Christ's laying aside of certain divine attributes in the incarnation.
- ✚ **Orthodoxy:** “Right belief”.
- ✚ **Orthopraxy:** “Right action”.
- ✚ **Perichoresis:** A term relating to the doctrine of the Trinity. The basic notion is that all three persons of the Trinity mutually share in the life of the others, so that none is isolated or detached from the action of the others.
- ✚ **Quadrigo:** The Latin term used to refer to the “four-fold” interpretation of Scripture according to its literal, allegorical, moral, and analogical senses.
- ✚ **Reformed:** A term used to refer to a tradition of theology that draws inspiration from the writings of John Calvin.
- ✚ **Synoptic Gospels:** A term used to refer to the first three Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke). The term refers to the way in which the three Gospels can be seen as providing similar summaries of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.
- ✚ **Synoptic Problem:** The scholarly question of how the first three Gospels relate to each other. Perhaps the most common approach to the relation of the three Gospels is the “Two-Source” theory, which claims that Matthew and Luke use Mark as a source, while also drawing on a second source (commonly known as “Q”).
- ✚ **Theodicy:** A term that refers to the theological justification of the goodness of God in the face of the presence of evil in the world.
- ✚ **Vulgate:** The Latin translation of the Bible upon which medieval theology was largely based.
- ✚ **Zwinglianism:** The term is used generally to refer to the thought of Huldrych Zwingli, but is often used to refer specifically to his views on the sacraments.

Contents at a Glance

Introduction		4
Week 1 (May 31 – June 6)	Pro•le•go•me•na (Introduction to Theology)	6
Week 2 (June 7-13)	Bib•li•ol•o•gy (Theology & The Word)	10
Week 3 (June 14-20)	The•ol•o•gy (Doctrine of God – Part 1)	14
Week 4 (June 21-27)	The•ol•o•gy (Doctrine of God – Part 2)	20
Week 5 (June 28-July 4)	Chris•tol•o•gy (Doctrine of Christ)	24
Week 6 (July 5-11)	Pneu•ma•tol•o•gy (Doctrine of the Holy Spirit)	30
Week 7 (July 12-18)	An•thro•pol•o•gy (Doctrine of Humanity)	36
Week 8 (July 19-25)	An•gel•ol•o•gy (Doctrine of Angels)	40
Week 9 (July 26-August 1)	Ha•mar•ti•ol•o•gy (Doctrine of Sin)	44
Week 10 (August 2-8)	So•ter•i•ol•o•gy (Doctrine of Salvation – Part 1)	50
Week 11 (August 9-15)	So•ter•i•ol•o•gy (Doctrine of Salvation – Part 2)	56
Week 12 (August 16-22)	Ec•cle•si•ol•o•gy (Doctrine of the Church)	60
Week 13 (August 23-29)	Es•cha•tol•o•gy (Doctrine of Last Things – Part 1)	64
Week 14 (August 30-September 5)	Es•cha•tol•o•gy (Doctrine of Last Things – Part 2)	70
Conclusion		74
Other Stuff		75

THEOLOGY FOR DUMMIES

Introduction

"You can never build anything larger than the foundation can handle!"

Rick Warren – Senior Pastor, Saddleback Church

The foundation of any building determines both its size and strength, and the same is true for our lives. A life built on a false or faulty foundation will never reach the height that God intended for it to reach. If you skimp on your foundation, you limit your life.

That's why the Woodcrest Church summer preaching series and this devotional guide are so vitally important. **Theology For Dummies** will explore the Biblical basis of a life being spiritually transformed toward full devotion to Jesus Christ. It will help you strengthen your spiritual foundation.

While the study of theology has been around for years – and spoken of often in Christian circles – many Christ-followers feel like novices on the subject and even a little intimidated by it all. If this describes you, or even if you feel as if you have a pretty good handle on Christian doctrine, then this devotional guide is for you.

The life-changing truths presented in the summer sermon series and in this devotional guide are essential for knowing and enjoying God's purposes for your life. While summer is a wonderful time for family vacations and summer camps, we hope this study will benefit and bless you as you seek to build the proper foundation for the kind of life, marriage, family, career and ministry that is personally satisfying and God-honoring.

Why You Need A Theological Foundation

- **First ... it's the source of personal growth and stability.** So many of the problems in our lives are caused by faulty thinking. That's why Jesus said the truth will set us free and why Colossians 2:7 says, "*Plant your roots in Christ and let Him be the foundation of your life*" (CEV).
- **Second ... it's the underpinning of a healthy family.** Proverbs 24:3 says, "*Homes are built on the foundation of wisdom and understanding*" (TEV). In a world that is constantly changing, strong families are built on God's unchanging truth.
- **Third ... it's the starting point of leadership.** You can never lead people farther than you've gone yourself. Proverbs 16:2 says, "*Sound leadership has a moral foundation*" (MESSAGE). Whether in the home, the workplace or the church—godly leaders are needed more than ever for the advancement of God's kingdom purposes.
- **Fourth ... it's the basis for your eternal reward in heaven.** The Apostle Paul said, "*Whatever we build on that foundation will be tested by fire on the day of judgment ... we will be rewarded if our building is left standing*" (1 Corinthians 3:12-14 CEV).
- **Fifth ... God's truth is the only foundation that will last.** The Bible tells us that "*the sound, wholesome teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ ... are the foundation for a Godly life*" (1 Timothy 6:3 NLT) and that "*God's truth stands firm like a foundation stone*" (2 Timothy 2:19 NLT).

How To Use This Guide:

This devotional guide is divided into 14 weeks of study, covering the timeline from May 31 through September 5. Each week's study correlates to the sermon and subject most recently used for Sunday's message at Woodcrest. It is best to study the material immediately following the corresponding sermon.

Each weekly session is divided into **Five Major Sections**. As with any journey that has as its ultimate goal the spiritual growth of the participant, the use of the Bible – God’s Word – is the key catalytic ingredient for transformation. As a result, you will read and explore many Bible passages throughout this devotional guide. Because of the significance of God’s Word (Greek–*Logos*) throughout the study, several of the weekly sections will incorporate the use of the word **Logos** – more on this in a moment!



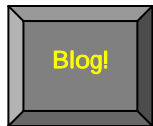
Each week, the first section is entitled, **Life Transformation Goal**. Here you will find a one-or two-sentence description of what you will want to personally accomplish in your study that week. While you may grow in many ways each week, this goal will help you determine if you are on target in building a solid theological foundation. As you begin each week of study, ask God to help you accomplish this goal on your journey of spiritual transformation.

The second section is entitled, **Exatazo Logos** (there’s that *Logos* word we mentioned ... ☺). In this section, you will take a closer look at what the Bible has to say about a particular theological or doctrinal issue. Like the Bereans of the Book of Acts (a group of Christians in the early church who devoted themselves to the study of the Word), you will spend time “*exploring*” (Greek–*Exatazo*) the Scriptures (Acts 17:11). Here you will put to use the most important spiritual tool for personal growth – your Bible! Therefore, don’t cut corners in this aspect of the weekly study. Discipline yourself to read, meditate on and study God’s Word.



The third major section of the guide is called, **Theos Logos** (starting to get our drift here ... ☺). The Greek word *Theos* means God, which implies in this section that we want you to reflect on what God is revealing to you about His Word and Himself. This section will be somewhat like a journal, where you will personally reflect on some key theological concepts. Make sure you don’t hurry through this section – LISTEN to what God is teaching you.

An added bonus of this section is the opportunity to read and respond to what Woodcrest staff are learning in their journey through the guide. You will be directed to a special “blogging” website (<http://woodcrestsummerdevotional.blogspot.com>), where a different ministry staff member will share his or her thoughts each week. After reading the weekly blog, click on “Post A Comment” and share your own thoughts – should be fun and thought-provoking!



The fourth section of the devotional guide is entitled, **Zoe Logos** (ok ... maybe this is getting a little corny, but at least you’ll remember a new word ... ☺). The purpose of this section is to “bring to *life*” (Greek–*Zoe*) what you are learning. In other words, it’s time for action! Here you will find several practical ideas to help cement into your theological foundation the truths you are learning. Some of these action steps may really be a stretch for you, but give them a try, you’ll be glad you did.

The fifth and final section of the guide is called, **A Word for Kids!** (ok ... enough of the Greek stuff). This section is a special feature for families and kids. Parents, don’t think your kids can’t learn about theology. In fact, they may already know more than you imagine. So, use this tool to either teach a new truth or cement a familiar one into the theological foundation of your children. Consider letting the kids give leadership and direction here – you’ll have a blast learning together!



Along with the major sections of the guide, you will also find a smattering of **Dummy Definitions** and thought-provoking **Quotes**. You’ll also want to keep an eye for our **Heresy Patrol**, who will point out some key theological heresies that can be very dangerous to one’s theological foundation. You’ll see a lot of big words along the way, but don’t let them overwhelm you—it’s just another fun way to learn about theology and the God who loves you and wants to radically transform your life.



So ... Here We Go ... Let’s Get Going On Laying A Solid Foundation!

Pro•le•go•me•na

(Introduction to Theology)

Week 1 ... May 31 – June 6

“The most important thing about us is the idea that comes into our head when we think about God.”

- A. W. Tozer



Prolegomena ...

Is the Greek word translated “forwards.” When applied to theology, it refers to the things that need to be said before beginning the study of theology.



Life Transformation Goal:

This week seek to develop an ever-increasing desire to know your infinite God more precisely and intimately!

Exatazo Logos ... Explore The Scriptures!



- ❖ Ludwig Wittgenstein said, “If human words are incapable of describing the distancing aroma of coffee, how can they cope with something as subtle as God?” How would you respond to that question?

- ❖ Here are some important hermeneutical (the study of theory of written texts) principles to keep in mind as you study theology and the Bible:
 - **Analogy ...** compares a quality or characteristic of God to something in the created order to help us more fully understand what God is like. In doing so, theology does not reduce God to the level of the created being; it merely affirms that there is a likeness.
 - Read Matthew 23:27. How does the use of analogy in this verse help us understand God? What are the limitations of using an analogy to describe God?

- **Metaphor ...** is language that directly connects seemingly unrelated subjects. A metaphor cannot be reduced to a definitive statement and carries with it strong emotional overtones.
 - Read John 1:1-5 and Matthew 7:9-11. How does the use of a metaphor in these verses help us understand who God is?

- **Accommodation ...** is the adjustment or adaptation by God to meet the needs of the situation and the human ability to comprehend it. The Church father Origen suggested that “God condescends and comes down to us, accommodating to our weaknesses, like a schoolmaster talking a ‘little language’ or a father caring for his own children and adopting their ways.”
 - Read Isaiah 59:1-2. How does Isaiah use the principle of accommodation in this verse?

❖ How does your world view impact your theology?

❖ Is there a link between our knowledge of God and our love for God? Is there a link between our knowledge of God and our service for God?

❖ Read Matthew 23:23-29. What is the danger in studying theology and accumulating a lot of *knowledge* about God? How can we avoid this pitfall in our study of theology?

“Christian Theology is like a Tuscan landscape, which holds us in awe on account of the breathtaking view, which it offers.”

- Karl Barth



Doctrine ...

An organized summary of what the Bible teaches about the most important issues of life.



Deism ...

Most popular in the early 18th century during the “Age of Reason”, the term “deism” (from the Latin *deus*, “god”) is often used in a general sense to refer to that view of God which maintains God’s creatorship, but denies a continuing involvement with, or special presence within that creation. It is often contrasted with “theism” (from the Greek word *theos* “god”), which allows for a personal God, who continues His divine involvement within the world ... **WARNING!!!**

Theos Logos ... What Is God Saying To you?

- ❖ Having worked through the study questions in the **Exatazo Logos** section, spend some extended time reflecting and writing on one or several of the following questions or statements. Don’t hurry through this important step. Listen to what God is teaching you.
 - When you hear the word “theology”, what are the first thoughts that jump into your head?
 - Have you ever studied theology before? What was that experience like? Did it help you understand God more deeply or did it make God seem distant and unapproachable?
 - How does bad theology impact our relationship with God?
 - What do you hope to get out of this *Theology for Dummies* series? How do you think learning about theology will impact your relationship with God?

Week 1 Blogger

Pete Parker
Executive Pastor

<http://woodcrestsummerdevotional.blogspot.com>

Systematic Theology ...

A discipline of Christian theology that attempts to formulate an orderly, rational, and coherent account of the Christian faith and beliefs.

Zoe Logos ... Bring It To Life!

❖ Here are some practical suggestions for how you might bring to life this week's devotional guide material. Consider acting on some or all of the following ideas:

- List the factors that you can think of that might influence your world view (i.e. gender, education, living in the suburbs of the Twin Cities, vocation, etc.). How will becoming aware of these factors influence your study of theology?

- Go for a walk and spend some time in prayer. Ask God to show you any areas of your theology that are incorrect or insufficient.
- Meditate on Ephesians 3:14-21.
- Memorize Colossians 1:9

A Word For Kids!

Take your child on a walk through the neighborhood or on a drive and end up at a park. As you leave your house, talk about your life with them. Share memories with them about when they were born. Tell them about taking them to school for the very first time.

What do you know about them now that you didn't know or couldn't imagine when they were born?

How has your journey with them as they have grown up been exciting?

What did you find out about them as they changed?

How does spending time with them help you to grow closer and know them better?

When you've arrived at the park, talk about how you got there. How long did it take? Was it worth the walk (or drive) to get to the park?

The faith journey is similar to your walk to the park and down memory lane. It is a journey – not every thing will be known right away. As you grow and spend time with God, you will grow in your understanding of who He is. You will grow closer to Him and know Him more. As you grow, you will change. And at the end of the journey, it will be worth the effort because the reward is Heaven.

Help your child to understand that getting to know God is a journey. They will find out new things about Him and understand Him and what He tells us in the Bible as they spend more time with Him through prayer and Bible study. Encourage your child in their faith. Take the time to stop and share stories of your own faith with them. Use this devotional during the summer months to share with your child the doctrines of their faith through the various activities that are provided.

Enjoy The Journey!

Bib·li·ol·o·gy

(Theology & The Word)

Week 2 ... June 7 - 13

"Bibles that are falling apart usually belong to people who aren't."

- Charles Spurgeon



Bibliology ...

From the Greek word, "biblios" meaning book; the study of the theological doctrine of the Bible.



Life Transformation Goal:

To anticipate in faith the changes that learning theology will make in you as you deepen (or form) your conviction that the Bible, as God's Word, can be trusted more than feelings, values, opinions and culture!



Exatazo Logos ... Explore The Scriptures!

❖ The Bible contains powerful and thought-provoking word pictures. Take some time to look up the following passages and note the word used to describe God's Word. After determining the key word(s), reflect on how the idea (the picture) behind that particular word can help you see the potential for the Bible to impact your life.

- 1 Peter 1:23 ... God's Word is a _____

What does this word teach me about the potential for the Bible to change my life?

- Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12 ... God's Word is a _____

What does this word teach me about the potential for the Bible to change my life?

- Jeremiah 15:16; Matthew 4:4 ... God's Word is _____

What does this word teach me about the potential for the Bible to change my life?

- Jeremiah 23:29 ... God's Word is _____

What do these words teach me about the potential for the Bible to change my life?

- James 1:23-25 ... God's Word is a _____

What does this word teach me about the potential for the Bible to change my life?

❖ When involved in reading and studying the Bible, it is very important to understand God's Word spiritually and not just intellectually. Read the following verses and reflect on the keys to understanding God's Word spiritually.

- 1 Corinthians 2:12-15

- 1 John 2:20-27

"Most people are bothered by those passages of Scripture they do not understand, but the passages that bother me are those I do understand."

- Mark Twain



Revelation (Hebrews 1:1) ...

Means that God has chosen to reveal His nature and His will through the Bible.



Jesus Seminar ...

This group of 74 scholars meets twice a year to determine which sayings of Jesus are really authentic and which are not. They present papers, discuss Biblical texts, and then, in a theatrical way—using colored beads—cast their votes on a particular saying. For over six years, this dangerous and very subjective process determined that Jesus didn't say 82% of what the Bible claims He did ... **WARNING!!!!**

Theos Logos ... What Is God Saying To you?

- ❖ Having worked through the study questions in the **Exatazo Logos** section, spend some extended time reflecting and writing on one or several of the following questions or statements. Don't hurry through this important step. Listen to what God is teaching you about the value of His Word for your life.
 - Do you have a favorite verse or passage in the Bible? What is it and why?
 - Share about a time when the Bible had a true impact on your life.
 - In your reading of the Bible, what evidences have you seen that the Bible is both amazing and unique?
 - Give some examples of the struggle to: trust God's Word above your *feelings*, trust God's Word above the *values* you've grown up with, trust God's Word above your *opinions*, trust God's Word above your *culture*.

Week 2 Blogger

Daria Benjamin
Children's Ministry Director
<http://woodcrestsummerdevotional.blogspot.com>

Inspiration (2 Peter 1:21) ...

The process through which God gave us the Bible—working in the hearts of human writers to inspire them to write down His words.

Zoe Logos ... Bring It To Life

- ❖ Here are some practical suggestions for how you might bring to life this week's devotional guide material. Consider acting on some or all of the following ideas:
 - Commit to a daily Bible reading plan. Visit www.heartlight.org/devotionals/reading_plans to see various free tools for reading through the Bible. Committing just 15 minutes a day to this life-changing discipline will help you read through the entire Bible in one year.
 - Incorporate the discipline of Bible memorization. Use the suggested weekly key verse from the devotional guide or visit www.memoryverses.org for some great ideas for memorizing key verses on certain topics, or how to introduce Bible memorization in your family or small group.
 - Memorize 2 Timothy 3:16.
 - Join a small group or Adult Education class at Woodcrest. The class "Discovering Maturity" will give you in-depth training and tools for getting the most out of the study of your Bible.

A Word For Kids!

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."
(2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Did you hear that? The Bible is God-breathed—they are the very words of God for us! Help your child to understand the importance and relevance of the Scriptures for them today. What was true when it was written is still true for us today. God (and His Word) is unchanging and timeless.

Use this week to dig into the Bible with your kids. Give them a journal or help them make their own. Have them write some of their favorite verses on the first few pages. Write some of yours as well so they see how the Bible has personally touched you. Help them set a goal for reading their Bible. Some possible beginnings are listed below. Then set a time to read with them, as well as for their own personal study on their own. Model time spent in the Word. Use the following format for journal pages:

Scripture Passage: _____

What does this passage mean to me? _____

How I can apply it to my daily life? _____

Questions I have: _____

Read what they are reading and talk with them about what they have read. There is a reason that Jesus said, *"Let the little children come unto me ..."* The purity with which kids approach who Jesus is and the words of God always have a way of bringing out important Biblical principles. Let your child examine God's Word, and you will find that they are not the only ones who will be challenged. Enjoy digging deep and excavating what God has given to you through His Word—together with your child.

Where to start? Use the following Scripture passages as beginning points for Bible study:

1 Corinthians 13

1 Corinthians 9:16-27

Romans 3:21-26

Philippians 2:1-16

Luke 8:1-15

Philippians 3:12-4:9

Theology

(Doctrine of God – Part 1)
Week 3 ... June 14 - 20

“Though our feelings come and go, God’s love for us does not.”

– C. S. Lewis

Immanence ...

God is awesomely near to all of us. He is not beyond the farthest star; He is as near to us as our next heartbeat. He does not just watch us—He’s with us.



Life Transformation Goal:

To explore the truth that God is real, revealed and relational so as to gain a deeper sense of love for Him as a Father.

Exatazo Logos ... Explore The Scriptures!



❖ Read the following passages of Scripture, in which God speaks about His reality. As you read, focus on listening to God. Hear Him speak directly and personally to you. Record what you are hearing.

- Isaiah 43:10

- Deuteronomy 32:39

- Isaiah 44:6-8

❖ There are many misconceptions about the nature and character of God. Explore the following passages to see if you can determine the truth that contradicts the popular idea:

- Psalm 139:7-12; James 4:8

Popular Idea: God is distant.

Truth is: God is _____.

- Matthew 6:25-30; Luke 12:6-7

Popular Idea: God watches our actions from afar.

Truth Is: God is intimately involved in every _____ of our lives.

- John 3:17

Popular Idea: God is anxiously waiting to judge those who do wrong.

Truth Is: God is waiting to _____ all who ask.

- 2 Peter 3:8-9

Popular Idea: God is either powerless against, or doesn't care, about the evil in the world.

Truth Is: God allows an evil world to continue to exist so that more people might be _____.

❖ Psalm 23 is a wonderful passage reminding you of God's sufficiency for your life; your completeness is found only in Him! Read and reflect on this Psalm and make special note of the needs your Great Shepherd wants to meet for you.

"If you can completely understand it, it's not God."

- Augustine



Omnipresence ...

God is everywhere (omni = all + present). His presence fills the universe. He is every place all at once.



Agnosticism ...

A religious orientation of doubt; a denial of ultimate knowledge of the existence of God. Agnosticism holds that you can neither prove nor disprove God's existence ... **WARNING!!!**

Theos Logos ... What Is God Saying To you?

- ❖ Having worked through the study questions in the **Exatazo Logos** section, spend some extended time reflecting and writing on the following idea. Don't hurry through this important step. Listen to what God is teaching you about Himself.
 - Concentrate on God's power and control as you remember some of the significant things He has done in your life—**CONCENTRATE**—now finish the sentence: *“God, I see you as real and relational and in control over my life when I remember ...”*

Week 3 Blogger

Steve Olson
Worship Director

<http://woodcrestsummerdevotional.blogspot.com>

Omniscience ...

God knows everything (omni = all + science = knowing). He knows everything that has happened, is happening and will happen. He knows what I think before I think it.

Omnipotence ..

God is all mighty (omni = all + potent). He has the power to do anything – *anything* – He wants. Immediately!

Zoe Logos ... Bringing It To Life

- ❖ Here are some practical suggestions for how you might bring to life this week's devotional guide material. Consider acting on some or all of the following ideas:
 - Consider God's beauty and creativity as you close your eyes and think about something He has made. Better yet, get out there and see it! Why not take a picture of it with your cell phone and keep it as your backdrop as a constant reminder of God's love for you.
 - Jesus taught us to call God "Abba." The word *Abba* is the intimate name for a father that a child would use—like our English word *Daddy*. In your prayers this week, try addressing God as Abba Father or Dearest Daddy! This may feel a little irreverent—but try it any way—it is a powerful expression of your intimate connection with, and your ultimate dependence on God.
 - Look up a great passage like Isaiah 40:28-31 or one of the Psalms and read God's Word back to Him. He loves to hear it from you. Make the verses *your* prayer!
 - Memorize 1 John 3:1.

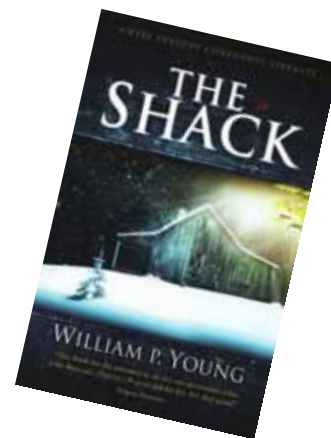
- ❖ As a special **Bring It To Life** option this week, consider this step ...*The Shack*, by William Paul Young, is a fiction book about a man named Mack, who spends a weekend with God in a dilapidated, old hunting shack. Read the following excerpt from the book that recounts the first time Mack meets God face-to-face.

The Shack (pp. 84-85) ... "What should you do when you come to the door of a house, or cabin in this case, where God might be? Should you knock? Presumably God already knew that Mack was there. Maybe he ought to simply walk in and introduce himself, but that seemed equally absurd. And how should he address him? Should he call him "Father," or "Almighty One," or perhaps "Mr. God," and would it be best if he fell down and worshipped? Not that he was really in the mood.

...Mack decided to bang loudly and see what happened, but just as he raised his fist to do so, the door flew open, and he was looking directly into the face of a large, beaming African-American woman.

Instinctively he jumped back, but he was too slow. With speed that belied her size, she crossed the distance between them and engulfed him in her arms, lifting him clear off his feet and spinning him around like a little child. And all the while she was shouting his name—'Mackenzie Allen Phillips'—with the ardor of someone seeing a long-lost and deeply-loved relative. She finally put him back on earth and with her hands on his shoulders, pushed him back as if to get a good look at him.

... 'It is so wonderful to have you here with us. My, my, my how I do love you!' And with that she wrapped herself around him again."



➤ What surprised you about the way that God was portrayed?

➤ Why do you think the author described God as an African American woman?

The Shack Book Club

Works of fiction, like *The Shack*, have the power and ability to help us think about God in ways that we might not otherwise. This summer we will hold discussion groups to chat about *The Shack* on the following dates:

Sunday, July 19 ... discussion of chapters 1-9

Sunday, August 23 ... discussion of chapters 10-18.

Join us each of these days in the Conference Room at 9:15 am (first worship hour) for some thought-provoking discussion. This is a compelling summer read that will challenge you to think more deeply about God and His love for you. Once you start, you won't be able to put it down.

A Word For Kids!

What's in a name? Why did you name your child the name you did? Share with your child what his or her name means and the story behind why you named him/her that. Share what different names mean. You can use a baby name book or look on-line.

Sometimes our name tells us something about who we are. There are many different names used to refer to God in the Bible. These names help us to know more about who He is and what He is like. Look up the following verses with your child to find out about God. These names will help your child to better understand God's character and to give them a more concrete picture of the nature of God.

Hebrew Name:	Scripture:	Meaning:
Elohim	Genesis 1:1	Mighty God with reference to God's faithfulness
Yahweh (YHWH)	Psalms 110:1	Eternal One, Self-existent – Jehovah speaks of God's holiness, justice and hatred of sin
Adonai	Psalms 8:9	Master of all things
El Shaddai	Genesis 17:1-2	El = strength; Shaddai = life-giver, the all-bountiful supplier of all blessings
El Gibbon	Isaiah 9:7-7	God who can do anything
Jehovah Yireh	Genesis 22:7, 8, 14	God who will provide all of your needs
Jehovah Rophe	Exodus 15:22-26	God who restores, strengthens, and heals you
Immanuel	Isaiah 7:14, 8:8-10	God is with us
Jehovah Shalom	Judges 6:24	God who can give you peace
Jehovah Rohi	Psalms 23	God who tenderly cares for, guides, and protects like a shepherd
Jehovah Shammah	Ezekiel 48:35	God who is present at all times

Theology

(Doctrine of God – Part 2)

Week 4 ... June 21 - 27

“What we are is God’s gift to us;
what we become is our gift to God.”

– Eleanor Powell



Trinity ...

The doctrine that God eternally exists as three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; and each of these persons is fully God, and there is one God.



Life Transformation Goal:

To challenge ourselves to think more deeply and accurately about the mystery of the Trinity.



Exatazo Logos ... Explore The Scriptures!

- ❖ God is a person; God is three persons. How do you reconcile these two statements?

- ❖ The Biblical support of Trinitarian theology finds its roots in the Old Testament, where we find three major personifications of God: Wisdom (Proverbs 1:20-23, Job 28, Ecclesiastes 7:24), The Word of God (Psalm 119:89, 147:15-20, Isaiah 55:10-11), and The Spirit of God (Genesis 1:2, Ezekiel 36:26, 37:1-14). Read Genesis 1:26-27. What evidence of Trinitarian theology do you find even in the very first chapter of the Bible?

- ❖ In the New Testament, the doctrine of the Trinity is more fully developed. Read Matthew 3:16-17, 28:19, 2 Corinthians 13:14. How do these verses further develop your understanding of the Trinity?

- ❖ What roles did the members of the Trinity play in the work of creation? Read John 1:3; Colossians 1:16; Genesis 1:1-3 to help you with this question.

- ❖ What roles do the members of the Trinity play in the work of salvation? Read John 3:16; Galatians 4:4; John 6:38; Hebrews 10:5-7; John 14:26; 15:26 to help you with this question.

- ❖ Do you see any similarities in these roles with respect to how the members of the Godhead relate to creation?

Economy of the Trinity ...

The different ways the three persons act as they relate to the world and to each other.

- ❖ Why is the doctrine of the Trinity central to the Christian faith and theology?

- ❖ 1 John 4:16 says, “*God is love.*” Why is it necessary for God to be a Triune God in order for this verse to be true?

“*God is not merely good, but goodness; goodness is not merely divine, but God.*”

- C.S. Lewis



Person ...

From the Greek word *persona*, meaning “mask.” In Greek culture, actors wore masks to allow them to play different characters. Therefore, the term person, in relation to the Godhead, communicates the idea that one God played three distinct, yet related, roles in the drama of salvation history.



Subordinationism ...

A heretical teaching which holds that God the Son and God the Holy Spirit are not merely relationally subordinate to God the Father, but also subordinate in nature and being. This implies a hierarchical view of the Trinity, and the inferiority of the Son and the Spirit in relation to God the Father ... **WARNING!!!**

Theos Logos ... What Is God Saying To You?

- ❖ Having worked through the study questions in the **Exatazo Logos** section, spend some extended time reflecting and writing on the following idea. Don't hurry through this important step. Listen to what God is teaching you about Himself.
 - Does the idea of the Trinity excite you or confuse you? Record your thoughts here.

Week 4 Blogger

Jerry Schommer
Senior Pastor

<http://woodcrestsummerdevotional.blogspot.com>

Immutable ...

God is not capable of or susceptible to change. God is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Zoe Logos ... Bring It To Life

- ❖ Here are some practical suggestions for how you might bring to life this week's devotional guide material. Consider acting on some or all of the following ideas:
 - God is love. That means we can understand the Godhead to be an endless, perfect, cycle of self-giving love. What is even more mind-blowing than that is God has invited us to be a part of this wonderful, perfect relationship. Ask God to show you how you might be able to take your relationship with Him deeper in order that you might more fully experience the endless, matchless, amazing love of God in your life.
 - Read 2 Corinthians 3:3 and ask God what it is that He is "*writing on your heart.*"
 - With a friend or family member, share how each of you sees the Holy Spirit working in each other's lives.
 - Memorize 2 Corinthians 13:14.

A Word For Kids!

The word "Trinity" is never used in the Bible. However, the presence of the Trinity is referenced by God as "three in one" and the use of other terms, such as "us" and "our", when speaking as God. The Trinity is sometimes difficult for children to understand. How can we refer to God in three persons and yet say there is only one God? Use this activity to help even very young children begin to understand the Trinity.

- ❖ Using a hard boiled egg as an example, tell your kids that this egg represents the same relationship that Jesus, God and the Holy Spirit have. We call this relationship the Trinity.

Peel each layer off to show your child that there are three parts to the one egg.

In the same way, there is only one God, but He exists as three separate persons each with a different role. Refer to the egg again.

Jesus = the shell ... He is the way that we are able to come to God.

Holy Spirit = the white ... helps us grow closer to God; guides us as we follow Jesus.

God = the yolk ... the center of creation; made us and desires to have a relationship with us.

Take some time to reflect on these activities with your kids, and see how they are grasping the idea of a triune God—God in three persons!

Chris•tol•o•gy

(Doctrine of Christ)

Week 5 ... June 28 – July 4

Hypostatic Union ...

The doctrine of the union of divine and human natures of Jesus Christ, without confusion of their respective substances.



Life Transformation Goal:

To understand the necessity of the dual nature of Jesus Christ as the foundation of the Christian faith.

“It is by far the most amazing miracle of the entire Bible - far more amazing than the resurrection and more amazing than even the creation of the universe. The fact that the infinite, omnipotent, eternal Son of God could become man and join himself to a human nature forever, so that infinite God became one person with finite man, will remain for eternity the most profound miracle and the most profound mystery in all the universe.”

– Walter Grudem



Exatazo Logos ... Explore The Scriptures!



- ❖ Which of the following statements most accurately represents what the Bible teaches about Jesus?
 - a) Jesus Christ had a human body, but not a human mind or spirit, and the mind and spirit of Christ were from the divine nature.
 - b) Jesus Christ had one nature that is a mixture of the divine and human natures.
 - c) Jesus Christ had two separate persons in him: a divine person and a human person.
 - d) Jesus Christ was one person with two separate natures: one human, one divine.

If you chose “d”, congratulations! Your views were affirmed by the Counsel of Chalcedon (451 AD). Choices “a” (Apollinarianism), “b” (Monophysitism), or “c” (Nestorianism) are heretical views of Jesus.

- ❖ The Bible teaches that Jesus was fully human and fully divine. Circle the verses that indicate Christ’s humanity, and underline the verses that indicate His divinity:

Matthew 1:23

John 1:1

Matthew 4:2

John 4:6

Matthew 16:13-16

John 8:58

Luke 2:7

John 19:28

Luke 2:11

Hebrews 1:10-13

Luke 2:52

Colossians 2:9

Luke 24:39

- ❖ Why was it necessary for Jesus to be fully human? Read Hebrews 2:16-18; Romans 5:18-19; 1 John 2:6; 1 Timothy 2:5 to help with this question.

- ❖ Why was it necessary for Jesus to be fully divine? Read Jonah 2:9; Acts 4:12; Hebrews 4:15; John 14:9; Hebrews 9:9-14; 1 Peter 1:19 to help with this question.

- ❖ Jesus is fully God. An essential characteristic of God is omnipresence. But as a man, Jesus was not omnipresent. How can we reconcile these facts? Read Philippians 2:6-8 to help with this question (also see “Kenoticism” in Talking Like A Pro – Glossary of Terms, p. 2).

- ❖ Since Jesus is fully human, do you think it would be possible for Him to sin? Read James 1:13; Luke 4:2 to help with this question (also see “Hypostatic Union” in Talking Like A Pro – Glossary of Terms, p. 2).

“I would like to ask Him if He was indeed virgin born, because the answer to that question would define history.”

- Larry King





Arianism ...

A major early Christological heresy, which treated Jesus Christ as the supreme of God's creatures and denied His divine status. Arius taught that Jesus was not "of the same substance of God," but that He was only "of a similar substance." This teaching was declared heretical at the first counsel of Nicaea in 325 AD ... **WARNING!!!**

Theos Logos ... What Is God Saying To you?

- ❖ Having worked through the study questions in the **Exatazo Logos** section, spend some extended time reflecting and writing on one or several of the following ideas. Don't hurry through this important step; listen to what God is teaching you about Himself.
 - How does Jesus help you understand God? How would your understanding of God be different if Jesus had not come to earth as a man?
 - What does it mean to you for Christ to be your "mediator"?

Week 5 Blogger

Ben Gores

High School Ministry Director

<http://woodcrestsummerdevotional.blogspot.com>

Incarnation ...

A term used to refer to the assumption of human nature by God, in the person of Jesus Christ.

Zoe Logos ... Bringing It To Life

- ❖ Here are some practical suggestions for how you might bring to life this week's devotional guide material. Consider acting on some or all of the following ideas:
 - Jesus is our great high priest, who has been tempted in every way, yet is without sin. Is there an area of sin in your life that you need to ask Jesus to help you overcome?
 - Jesus gave up so much in order that we might have the opportunity to experience salvation. Write a thank you note to Jesus and tell Him what His sacrifice means to you.
 - Jesus was the perfect example of what it looks like to live in a relationship with God. Ask Jesus to show you an area in your life where your relationship with God could become more like His.
 - Memorize Philippians 2:5-7.

A Word For Kids!

Make a remembrance box out of any container. Cover it with paper and fill it with things that remind your family who Jesus is and what He did for you. Use the following well-known children's song as a starting point for adding items to your box. Sing *Jesus Loves Me* (found below) with your child. This is a really neat song that tells a very important story, if we listen carefully!

*Jesus Loves Me, This I Know
For the Bible Tells Me So
Little Ones to Him Belong
They are Weak, But He is Strong
Yes, Jesus Loves Me!
Yes, Jesus Loves Me!
Yes, Jesus Loves Me!
The Bible Tells Me So*

Now take the time to make your way through each part of the song and use it as a teaching moment with your kids. Read the various passages and take the applications steps together.



"Jesus ..."

Ask your child who Jesus is to them. They might say a little baby who was born in a manger at Christmastime, or someone who helped sick people, or the one who died on the cross for our sins. All of those are right! Jesus IS God in human form. He was born a baby in a manger and did many miracles during His time here on earth. He healed people, turned water into wine, fed thousands from only a small boy's lunch to name a few. He also died on the cross as payment for our sins.

As a family, read the following accounts from Jesus' life. Add the items listed below after you read the accounts. If your child would like to add other items that will help them remember who Jesus is and what He did, add those items as well and talk about how they represent Jesus.

Jesus' Birth – read Luke 2:1-20, Matthew 2:1-12. Add raffi to the remembrance box to represent the straw in the manger. Jesus was born a human baby to a family of humble means. He did not arrive in this world as a king! Jesus' birth as a human helps us know that He understands what we are going through. He Himself was a child. He grew up in the world and knows what we go through.

Jesus is Tempted – read Luke 4:1-13. Jesus was tempted, just as we are. He gives us an example, through His response to Satan, that we can follow when we are tempted. Add a stone to represent the first of the three temptations that Jesus faced. When we are tempted by Satan, we should respond with what the Bible tells us is right! God's Word will help us to know what is right and wrong; and when we follow His Word, we will defeat Satan.

Jesus Calms the Storm – read Mark 4:35-41. Have one family member draw a picture of a storm cloud and rain. Add the picture to the remembrance box to represent the storm that Jesus calmed. Jesus had power over the storm, and He has power over the storms of our lives. Ask your child what kinds of things he/she is worried about or things they have had difficulty with. Remind them that Jesus is bigger than anything they'll encounter—including their fears. Jesus has control over everything, and He will help them when they need it.

Jesus Calls the Disciples - read Luke 5:1-11. Add a piece of netting to the remembrance box to represent Jesus calling us to be fishers of men. Jesus called His disciples from their everyday jobs (fishing) to instead follow Him. He tells them that He will make them "fishers of men". He called them to join Him in sharing the Good News of God. He calls us to do the same. We are to share the Good News with others. How can you share Jesus' gift of eternal life with others?

Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet – read John 13:1-17. Trace around your child's foot. Write on the foot, "serve others with a humble heart." Add the foot to the remembrance box to represent Jesus washing the disciples' feet. Jesus, who was the Son of God, washed the dirty feet of His disciples. This was the job of the servants and yet Jesus carried out this task to teach His disciples that "*whomever desires to become great among you shall be your servant*" (Mark 10:43). Jesus wants us to understand that we should follow His example by serving one another with humble hearts (John 13:15).



"Loves Me ..."

The Bible also says that Jesus loved us so much that He came down from Heaven to earth to live as a poor little boy, grow up and be killed to pay for the things we do wrong. That shows me how much Jesus loves me. No one else ever died for me!

Jesus Died For Our Sins – read John 19:1-24, 28-42. Add a nail to the remembrance box to represent Jesus being nailed to the cross. Take a moment to thank Jesus for what He did for you!

"This I Know - For The Bible Tells Me So ..."

Do you know why you can trust what the Bible says? Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17. Have someone in the family write these verses on a piece of paper and add it to the remembrance box. These verses tell us that what the Bible says is true! All of what is written in them is from God!

"Little Ones To Him Belong ..."

Do you think that's just for children? God calls everyone who trusts in Jesus His children. When you trust in Jesus, you're one of God's children, too. Everyone, young and old, who puts their trust in Jesus are Precious Little Ones who belong to God. Read John 1:12-13. Add a picture, either hand drawn or a photo, of your family to the remembrance box. Anyone who has accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior is called a child of God.

"They Are Weak But He Is Strong ..."

My Bible tells me that after Jesus died He came back to life again. Read John 20:1-18. Add a piece of white cloth to the remembrance box. Jesus was the only man who had the power to come back to life after He died. No one else has ever been able to do that for themselves. He's the only one who can conquer death! Sing "Jesus Loves Me" one more time ...

Jesus Loves Me, This I Know

For the Bible Tells Me So

Little Ones to Him Belong

They are Weak, But He is Strong

Yes, Jesus Loves Me!

Yes, Jesus Loves Me!

Yes, Jesus Loves Me!

The Bible Tells Me So

**Pray a prayer of thanks to Jesus for who He is.
Put the remembrance box in a place where the family will see it.**

Pneu•ma•tol•o•gy

(Doctrine of the Holy Spirit)

Week 6 ... July 5 - 11

“O Holy Spirit, descend plentifully into my heart. Enlighten the dark corners of this neglected dwelling and scatter there Thy cheerful beams.”

– St. Augustine of Hippo



Perichoresis ...

A term relating to the doctrine of the Trinity. The basic notion is that all three persons of the Trinity mutually share in the life of the others, so that none is isolated or detached from the action of the others.



Life Transformation Goal:

To gain a greater appreciation for, and awareness of, the Holy Spirit in our day-to-day lives.



Exatazo Logos ... Explore The Scriptures!

❖ How would you define the Holy Spirit without using church words or any Bible verses?

❖ What is the role of the Holy Spirit in the work of salvation? Read 2 Timothy 1:14, Ephesians 4:30, 1 Corinthians 12:3, Romans 15:16, Titus 3:5 to help answer this question.

❖ What is the role of the Holy Spirit in regards to special revelation? Read 1 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:21, John 16:13 to help answer this question.

❖ What is the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church? Read Philippians 2:1-2, Ephesians 4:3, 1 Corinthians 12 to help answer this question.

❖ Read 2 Corinthians 3:4-11. What is the role of the Holy Spirit in the New Covenant? How does the Holy Spirit empower the New Covenant to do what the Old Covenant could not accomplish?

“The common view is that life itself does not care one way or another, anymore than the ocean cares if we swim in it or drown in it ... But to say that God is Spirit is to say that life does care, that life-giving power that life comes from is not indifferent. It wants us to swim.”

- Friedrich Buechner



Filioque ...

Latin for “and from the Son.” A term referring to a clause inserted into the Nicene Creed to indicate that the Holy Spirit proceeds not from the Father only, but also from the Son. The controversy that arose over this doctrinal position contributed to the split between the Eastern and Western Churches in 1054 A.D.



Modalism ...

A Trinitarian heresy, which treats the three persons of the Trinity as different “modes” of the Godhead. A typical modalist approach is to regard God as active as Father in creation, as Son in redemption, and as Spirit in sanctification ... **WARNING!!!**

Theos Logos ... What Is God Saying To you?

- ❖ Having worked through the study questions in the **Exatazo Logos** section, spend some extended time reflecting and writing on one or several of the following questions or statements. Don't hurry through this important step. Listen to what God is teaching you.
 - Before Jesus redeemed us, the Spirit of God dwelled inside the Holy of Holies in the temple. The high priest was only allowed to enter this room once a year. Those who entered the Holy of Holies in an unworthy manner were struck dead. Now (according to the New Testament) you are the temple of the Holy Spirit. What does that mean to you?
 - Genesis 1:2 describes how the Spirit of God was present in the process of creating everything that exists. On days when everything that could go wrong does go wrong and you wish that you could just go back to bed, how does the life-giving, creative power of God help you keep going?
 - Is it hard for you to think of the Holy Spirit as a person rather than a nebulous force? Do you think that you have a consciousness of relating to the Holy Spirit as a person who is distinct from God the Father and God the Son?

Week 6 Blogger

Joshua Kirsch
Middle School Director
<http://woodcrestsummerdevotional.blogspot.com>

Appropriation ...

A term relating to the doctrine of the Trinity, which affirms that while all three persons of the Trinity are active in all the outward actions of the Trinity, it is appropriate to think of those actions as being the particular work of one of the persons.

A Word For Kids!

The Holy Spirit is a difficult term for children to understand. It is not a tangible or concrete term, and the reference to “*spirit*” has connotations that can even scare children. But, the Holy Spirit is the person of God given to us as a guide and helper when we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

It is through the Holy Spirit that we are able to grow in our knowledge and understanding of God. It is the work of the Holy Spirit that gives us the strength and direction to become more like Jesus in how we live our lives. Use the following activity to help your child understand who the Holy Spirit is and how He is active in his or her life.

*Make dough using the following recipe:

1 cup warm water (the temperature of warmed milk, not scalding)

1 package dry yeast (check the date on the yeast for freshness)

1 teaspoon salt

1 tablespoon sugar

2 ½ - 3 cups flour

Mix water, yeast, salt, and sugar in a bowl until yeast is dissolved. Add flour gradually until dough is stiff. Knead on a floured surface for about 5 minutes. Put into clean, lightly greased bowl.

*Set the dough out on a table in front of your child.

*Read Acts 1:8 ... What does Jesus say will happen when we receive the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is God. When we have God filling us, a power much greater than our own, lives in us. The Holy Spirit’s power helps us serve God and helps us overcome sin.

*Show the family a package of yeast.

It doesn’t look like much, but it is an important ingredient in making bread. Yeast helps the bread dough rise and become full and light.

*Dissolve the yeast in warm water for a minute.

*Have your child mix in 1 tablespoon of sugar.

Watch the mixture until it bubbles. The bubbles show a little of the yeast’s power. Then show the family the bowl of dough you made earlier.

This dough is made with yeast. We are going to watch it over the next hour and see what happens. We can let the bread dough represent the life of a person who has the Holy Spirit living in him or her. When we ask Jesus to be our Savior, the Holy Spirit comes into our lives, even though we don't look any different on the outside.

*Ask ...

What do you think will happen in the dough with the yeast?

How is having the Holy Spirit in our lives like having yeast in dough?

What difference do you think having the Holy Spirit in our lives will make for us?

*Put the dough in a warm place and cover it with plastic wrap.

Just as dough cannot rise and change into something good on its own, we cannot change into a person who obeys God and does good without the presence of the Holy Spirit. If we don't let the Holy Spirit work in our lives, we will not change for the good. But, when we let the Holy Spirit change us, we are able to do things we could never do before. Our attitudes change, our actions change, even our outlook on life changes.

Look at the dough (it should be much larger than before). Explain that, just like the dough that grew because of the presence of the yeast, we, too, grow with the presence of the Holy Spirit, who works in our lives to make us more like Jesus. When the Holy Spirit is working within us, we are changed on the inside, which will change what we do on the outside.

An·thro·pol·o·gy

(Doctrine of Humanity)

Week 7 ... July 12 - 18

"Man—a being in search of meaning."

- Plato



Origin ...

The Biblical picture of man's origin is that an all-wise, all-powerful and good God created the human race to love and serve Him, and to enjoy a relationship with Him.



Life Transformation Goal:

To develop a greater understanding of God's highest creation so as to learn more about the nature of God—when the copy resembles the original, we will understand God more completely.



Exatazo Logos ... Explore The Scriptures!

- ❖ A popular world-view of humanity is that you are simply a machine, a cog in the wheel of history, unnoticed and unimportant. But the Bible teaches just the opposite. Read Psalm 8:4-6; Matthew 10:28-31 and Luke 15:3-7 and reflect on how human beings are regarded by God. What does this imply for your own life?

- ❖ A key expression used in describing the original form of humanity is that God made man in His own image and likeness—distinguishing Him from all other creation. Explore the following passages and determine as much as you can about what the “image of God” in you means.
 - Genesis 1:26-27

 - Genesis 5:1-2

 - Genesis 9:6

 - Ephesians 4:23-24

 - James 3:9

❖ The character and actions of Jesus are the best example to us of what human nature is intended to be. Explore the following passages and note the specific character traits and actions of Jesus that reveal what our own humanity should look like.

- John 17
- Luke 22:42; John 4:34; 5:30
- Matthew 9:36, 10:6; Mark 1:41; Luke 7:13

❖ Part of the study of Christian anthropology is to explore man's makeup. Is he a unitary whole, or is he made up of two or more components (body – soul – spirit)? The most commonly held Christian belief on this subject is called “Dualism” – implying that man is composed of two elements, the body, and an immaterial component, the soul or spirit. Read and reflect on the following verses to help you understand this position.

- 1 Thessalonians 5:23
- Matthew 6:25; 10:28
- Ecclesiastes 12:7
- 1 Corinthians 5:3-5

“Man is the only animal that laughs and weeps; for he is the only animal that is struck with the difference between what things are and what they ought to be.”

- William Hazlitt
The English Comic Writer



Progressive Creationism ...

Sees the creative work of God as a combination of a series of *de novo* (“fresh,” “anew”) creative acts and an immanent or processive operation of God at several points, rather widely separated in time.



Naturalistic Evolution ...

A heretical theory that attempts to account for man, as well as other forms of life, without appealing to a supernatural explanation. There is no involvement of any divine being, either at the beginning of, or during the process. All that is needed for creation is atoms in motion ... **WARNING!!!**

Theos Logos ... What Is God Saying To you?

- ❖ Having worked through the study questions in the **Exatazo Logos** section, spend some extended time reflecting and writing on one or several of the following questions or statements. Don't hurry through this important step. Listen to what God is teaching you.
 - There are many implications to the doctrine of humanity. One that is often overlooked – in an attempt to bring greater glory to God – is to recognize the truth that man is a wonderful creation of God. To be sure, we must put human achievements in their proper context relative to God. But, it is not necessary to protect God against competition from His creature.
 - With this in mind, reflect on what and how the accomplishments and achievements of humanity reflect the greatness of the One who created you.
 - How do you see this truth in your own life (go ahead – you can “boast” about God’s work in your life!).

Week 6 Blogger

Pete Parker
Executive Pastor

<http://woodcrestsummerdevotional.blogspot.com>

Fiat Creationism ...

At the opposite end of the spectrum from naturalistic evolution is the belief that God, by a direct act, brought into being virtually instantaneously everything that is.

Zoe Logos ... Bringing It To Life

- ❖ Here are some practical suggestions for how you might bring to life this week's devotional guide material. Consider acting on some or all of the following ideas:
 - Using the Book of Psalms, spend some time this week praising God as your Creator. Simply read and meditate on these passages and allow yourself to naturally begin to praise God.
 - Psalm 136:7-9, 25
 - Psalm 95:6-7
 - Psalm 118:24
 - Psalm 139:14
 - There is goodness in work. Have you ever thought of that before? The exercise of dominion was part of God's original intention for you – it preceded the fall. Work, then, is not a curse; it is part of God's plan. Spend some time this week changing your opinion of "work" and see if there are some practical steps you could take to help with the transformation. It might seem radical but ...
 - Thank God for your job
 - Tell your employer how much you appreciate having a job
 - Tell a co-worker how much you appreciate their efforts around the workplace
 - Though it can be greatly marred because of sin, the image of God is universal in mankind. That means everyone you meet has dignity. Ask God to help change your view of the people who cross your path everyday. How might you practically apply this?
 - Memorize Acts 17:26-28.

A Word For Kids!

Give your child two blank pieces of paper and a pencil and then go outside. Sit for a few minutes and listen to the sounds of God's creation. Look around at what God made. Have your child draw a picture of a few of the things he or she saw.

*Read Genesis 1:27 and Genesis 2:7.

God created us in His own image. We are the only creation that God used His hands to create. Everything else was spoken into being. God took extra care when He created us. We are His special Creation – unlike anything else and bearing His fingerprints.

*Read Psalm 130:13-16.

God knew us before we were born. He knit us together and knows the days we will have on earth. God created us and knows us personally and intimately. What does God see in us? How did He make us special?

Have your child draw the outline of a person on the second sheet of paper. Write at the bottom of the paper "God made me special." Tell your child to write or draw pictures around the outline of things that show God made them special. Maybe it is a talent He gave them. Maybe it is the freckles on their face or a characteristic like loving, caring, etc. Talk with your child about how you see God through them.

Angelology

(Doctrine of Angels)

Week 8 ... July 19 - 25

"Angels descending, bring from above, echoes of mercy, whispers of love."

- Fanny J. Crosby



Angelophany ...

A term used to describe the visible or otherwise tangible manifestation of angels to human beings.



Life Transformation Goal:

To understand the Biblical role of angels--God's special agents--so that we increase our appreciation of a sovereign God whose creative ability, control of the universe and intervention on our behalf assures His glory and our good.



Exatazo Logos ... Explore The Scriptures!

- ❖ The primary Hebrew term for angel (*malak*) and the corresponding Greek word (*angelos*) both have the basic meaning of messenger. Read the following passages and note the various words/phrases used to describe angels. How might these verses help to develop your Biblical theology of angels?
 - Psalm 89:5-7
 - Luke 2:13
 - Daniel 4:13, 17, 23
 - Colossians 1:16
 - Matthew 24:36
 - Jude 9

❖ Read Hebrews 1:5 – 2:9 and explore the relationship of angels to Jesus. What is the primary purpose of the passage? What is the best interpretation of Hebrews 2:9?

❖ Explore the following passages and note the specific activities of angels:

- Judges 6 – 7
- Job 38:7; Psalm 103:20
- Acts 7:53; Galatians 3:19
- Acts 12:6-11; Psalm 34:7; 91:11
- 2 Kings 19:35; 2 Samuel 24:16
- Matthew 25:31; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

❖ What does 2 Corinthians 11:14 teach us about the subject of angels?

❖ Many of the ideas and pictures of Satan that we grew up with were influenced more by modern literature and the arts than by the Bible. Explore the following passages and see if you can garner the straight story about who Satan is.

- Revelation 12:3-9; 9:11 Satan was an _____ in heaven.
- Isaiah 14:12-15; Revelation 12:7-9 Satan _____ from heaven due to pride.
- Job 1:6-12; 2:1-6; Luke 22:31 Satan has been given limited _____ to influence the earth.
- Revelation 20:7-10 Satan is _____ to eternal destruction.

*"I saw the angel in the marble and carved until I set him free."
- Michelangelo*





Angelic Worship and Possession ...

A theology of sorts and ritual practice whereby angels are worshipped as if gods and are specifically invoked and called down, either to give or receive messages, or to enter into the body of the ritualist ... **WARNING!!!**

Theos Logos ... What Is God Saying To you?

- ❖ Having worked through the study questions in the **Exatazo Logos** section, spend some extended time reflecting and writing on one or several of the following questions or statements. Don't hurry through this important step. Listen to what God is teaching you.
 - How might a deeper understanding of God's special agents shape not only your theology but your approach to life?
 - Share how you might be more comforted and/or encouraged to realize that there are powerful and numerous unseen special agents of God available to help you in your need.

Week 7 Blogger

Joshua Kirsch
Middle School Director
<http://woodcrestsummerdevotional.blogspot.com>

Cherubim and Seraphim ...

Ministering spirits (angels) in God's immediate presence, whose invisible presence they manifest and whose action they symbolize.

Zoe Logos ... Bringing It To Life

- ❖ Here are some practical suggestions for how you might bring to life this week's devotional guide material. Consider acting on some or all of the following ideas:
 - Cultivate a taste for the heavenly – an openness to God's unexpected ways. Pray specifically for "spiritual eyes" that will foster and deepen your understanding of God.
 - Consider reading a good Christian book on the subject of angels: Angels, by Billy Graham (Doubleday); Celebration of Angels, by Timothy Jones (Thomas Nelson).
 - Memorize Colossians 1:15-16.

A Word For Kids!

Have your child draw a picture of what they think an angel looks like. Ask them what they think about angels. Angels are beings created by God who have never sinned. Angels are mentioned 248 times in the Bible. Some questions that kids usually ask about angels are found below; use the Scripture references to see how the Bible answers the questions.

Do angels have wings?

Some angels, when visible, have wings. Read about special angels called cherubim and seraphim in ...

Genesis 3:24

Exodus 25:17-20

Isaiah 6:1-2

Ezekiel 1:5-6

Do angels have bodies?

Angels are spirit beings; we cannot see them. However, God can give them temporary bodies. When He does, they usually look like men. Read about the appearances of angels to people in the Bible in ...

Genesis 18:1-2, 16, 22; 19:1

Hebrews 13:2

Joshua 5:13-15

Judges 13:8-11

2 Kings 6:15-17

How do angels serve God?

Angels are God's messengers. See what messages they brought to God's people in ...

Genesis 22:11-12

Acts 10:3

Judges 13:3

Matthew 1:20

Luke 1:11-13

Genesis 19:1-17, 24:7

Do angels watch over believers?

Many times as God's angels appeared to His people, their first words were "Fear not." God loves us and wants us to trust His care and not be afraid. Angels are a demonstration of God's loving provision for us. Even today they protect and help those who belong to Him. Read about this provision and protection in ...

Hebrews 1:13-14

Psalms 34:7

Psalms 91:11

Hebrews 1:14

God's Word says in Matthew 18:10 that children have angels who stand in the presence of God.

Angels are real, and they play a vital part in God's plan for the world. But, remind your child that angels are never to be our focus; God wants us always to look to Him.

Ha•mar•ti•ol•o•gy

(Doctrine of Sin)

Week 9 ... July 26 – August 1

“Most of us spend the first six days of each week sowing wild oats, then we go to church on Sunday and pray for a crop failure.”

- Fred Allen, U.S. comedian



Total Depravity ...

Means sin controls all the faculties of a sinner to the point he/she is unable to will or do anything to convert himself/herself to Christ or prepare himself/herself for conversion. Only a miracle of God through the Gospel can enable the sinner to choose Christ.



Life Transformation Goal:

To gain a true Biblical understanding of sin that will produce a motivation towards confession and repentance, leading to spiritual transformation.



Exatazo Logos ... Explore The Scriptures!

❖ The Bible uses many terms to denote sin. Some focus on its causes, others on its nature, and still others on its consequences. Look up the following groups of verses and record the various words used to describe sin. In some cases, the common description for sin may need to be discovered by looking at a certain Bible translation.

- Hebrews 9:6-7; 1 Peter 1:14
- 1 Samuel 26:21; Ecclesiastes 10:5
- Numbers 14:21-22; Jeremiah 34:18; Matthew 15:2-3
(see New American Standard or New King James versions)
- Isaiah 1:2; Deuteronomy 31:27
- Deuteronomy 7:25-26; Luke 16:15

- ❖ The key passage for constructing a Biblical view of original sin is Romans 5:12-19. Read this passage and reflect on what you believe it means.

- ❖ The word **confession** comes from the Latin word *confateri* (*com* – together, *fateri* – acknowledge). When you confess your sin to God, you agree that you have violated His standards and have been wrong in doing so. The word **repentance** come from the Greek word *mentanoia* (“a change of mind”) and describes a decision of the will to turn in a different direction. Read 1 John 1:9 (confession) and Matthew 4:17 (repentance) and reflect on the difference between these two practices.



Pantheism ...

Pantheist (pan = all + theos = god) is a term coined in 1705 by John Tolan for someone who believes that everything is God. Under pantheistic theory (pantheism), the totality of reality – you, your computer, your car, everything – is part of God. As a result sin, if it really exists at all, is a lack of personal understanding that you are God ... **WARNING!!!**

Theos Logos ... What Is God Saying To you?

- ❖ Having worked through the study questions in the **Exatazo Logos** section, spend some extended time reflecting and writing on one or several of the following questions or statements. Don't hurry through this important step. Listen to what God is teaching you.
 - As important as the doctrine of sin is, it is not always an easy topic to discuss in our day. One reason for this is that sin, like death, is not a very pleasant or enjoyable subject. We don't like to think of ourselves as bad or evil persons. Another reason is the broad theme in our society that strongly promotes having only a positive mental attitude. It has almost become a new legalism which says, "Thou shalt not speak anything negative." However, the doctrine of sin teaches us that we are sinners, desperately in need of salvation from a holy and righteous God.
 - How does talking about sin and sinfulness help in deepening your understanding of God and yourself? How does having a better understanding of the doctrine of sin promote spiritual growth in your life?
 - Guilt has been described as the "fever of the soul." In theological terms, guilt is my condition after I have violated God's ways—I have sinned and am therefore guilty! In a person whose conscience still has sensitivity to God (and that includes most people), the condition of being guilty produces *feelings of guilt*. Why has God made us this way and what is the purpose of guilt?

Week 9 Blogger

Ben Gores

High School Director

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Abomination ...

The term generally describes an act particularly reprehensible to God (Deuteronomy 7:25-26; Leviticus 18:22; 20:13; Deuteronomy 12:31; Deuteronomy 18:9-12). These practices virtually nauseate God.

Zoe Logos ... Bringing It To Life

- ❖ Here are some practical suggestions for how you might bring to life this week's devotional guide material. Consider acting on some or all of the following ideas.
 - Begin practicing the discipline of confession in the following ways:
 - Immediate Confession: As soon as you recognize you've sinned, confess it! Don't wait for a later time. Stop and say, *"Lord, forgive me. I surrender, right now, this sin and its consequences to your grace and mercy."*
 - End-of-Day Confession: As you prepare for bed, a few moments in prayerful reflection on the day will bring your sins to mind. Confess to the Lord what you have done that day that is unworthy of being a child of His. Then release them with a prayer of thanksgiving for God's infinite mercy.
 - Whole-Life Confession: This type of confession focuses on releasing significant, life-pattern sins. This discipline is best attempted with a spiritual mentor or friend and can be a very liberating experience for your soul (see other suggestions in this section to help with this step).
 - Start making a concerted effort to allow God to spiritually transform you through the powerful process of repentance. Consider taking the steps:
 - Choose to renounce sinful behavior: This can be done with a simple, yet extremely powerful, prayer in which you pray, *"In the name of Jesus Christ, I confess and renounce the sin of _____ . I declare that I no longer desire to participate in this in thought, word or deed. I rely upon the grace and indwelling of the Holy Spirit to set me free and conform me to the image of Jesus Christ."*
 - Choose a new behavior that honors God, others and yourself: It isn't enough to part with sin; we must embrace God and God-honoring new habits to be safe. What could you begin doing to honor God?
 - Make yourself accountable: For breaking the toughest sin patterns in your life, you need to rely on other people for support and accountability. It may be one person or a group. But it's very important to realize you cannot go it alone.
 - Based on Hebrews 10:24 (*"... consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds ..."*), find someone with whom you can begin a "spurring friendship". Start asking each other questions like: *"Is there anything you have done today that has dishonored Christ? Is there anything that God has called you to do that you have refused to do? And finally, "Have you lied to me?"*
 - Memorize Psalm 51:16-17.

A Word For Kids!

Even a small sin is still sin. Help your child understand that whether they tell a lie, push their brother down, disobey their mom, or take an extra cookie, it is as much of a sin as murdering someone. Sin is sin. Use this activity to help your child understand the sin in their lives and to be assured that their sin is forgiven through Jesus:

Gather together a glass jar, water, dark food coloring, an eyedropper and bleach.

As a family, talk about what sin is. Sin is anything we think, say, or do that does not please God. Talk about what some of their sins are.

Then, have each person add a drop of food coloring into the water as they state a sin. Watch as every part of the water is colored by the one drop.

Explain that just like each drop of food coloring colored all of the water, each sin we commit contaminates our whole life and can affect every aspect and area of our life.

Talk about how the sins they mentioned affect all parts of their lives.

When everyone has added at least two drops, talk about how it would be impossible to separate the colors from the water.

That is how it is with our sin. We cannot undo our sin. There is only one thing that can get rid of our sin, and that is JESUS! Get out the bleach. Using an eyedropper, add one drop of bleach to the water. Watch the color disappear! Just like the color disappeared, our sins are forgotten—as far as the east is from the west! Nothing else can wash away our sin—only Jesus! Jesus is the only One who can forgive our sins and make us clean again.

So•ter•i•ol•o•gy

(Doctrine of Salvation – Part 1)

Week 10 ... August 2 - 8

“The salvation of a single soul is more important than the production or preservation of all the epics and tragedies in the world.”

– C. S. Lewis



Atonement ...

An English term originally coined by William Tyndale to translate the Latin term *reconiliatio*, which has since come to have the developed meaning of “the work of Christ” or “the benefits of Christ gained for believers by His death and resurrection.”



Life Transformation Goal:

To be reminded that we have been given the greatest, awe-inspiring, generous gift in the whole world that we did not deserve, nor could we ever afford.

Exatazo Logos ... Explore The Scriptures!

- ❖ Read Philippians 2:12. If we receive salvation through faith in Christ, how is it that we are supposed to “continue to work out our salvation”?

- ❖ In what ways is salvation a past, present, and future event? Read 1 Corinthians 1:18; 6:11; 15:2; Romans 5:9-10; 8:30-34; Galatians 5:4-5; 1 Thessalonians 5:23 to help with this question.

- ❖ How do the following verses describe the work of the cross:
 - Mark 10:45

 - Romans 3:24-25 (KJV)

 - 1 John 4:10 (KJV)

- ❖ John Stott writes, “In the Old Testament property, animals, persons, and the nation were all redeemed by the payment of a price ... In all these cases of redemption, there was a decisive and costly intervention. Somebody paid the price necessary to free property from mortgage, animals from slaughter, and persons from slavery or death.” How do these images of redemption inform your perception of what it means that you were redeemed?

- ❖ According to Romans 5:11 and 5:18, what did the cross accomplish?

- ❖ How do the metaphors of propitiation, redemption, justification, and reconciliation help you understand what it means that Christ died for you?

Propitiation ...

A sacrifice that bears God’s wrath to the end and, in so doing, changes God’s wrath towards us into favor.



Gnosticism ...

A heresy that differentiates the evil god of this world (who is identified with the god of the Old Testament) from a higher, more abstract God revealed by Jesus Christ. Gnostics regard this world as the creation of a series of evil powers that wish to keep the human soul trapped in an evil physical body, and they preach a hidden wisdom or knowledge only to a select group as necessary for salvation or escape from this world ... **WARNING!!!**

Theos Logos ... What Is God Saying To you?

- ❖ Having worked through the study questions in the **Exatazo Logos** section, spend some extended time reflecting and writing on one or several of the following questions or statements. Don't hurry through this important step. Listen to what God is teaching you.
 - What does it mean to you to work out your salvation as Paul exhorts us to do in Philippians 2? What does that look like in your daily life?
 - In Ephesians 6, Paul talks about the helmet of salvation. In what practical ways does your salvation act as a helmet in your spiritual battle?

Week 10 Blogger

Daria Benjamin

Children's Ministry Director

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Redemption ...

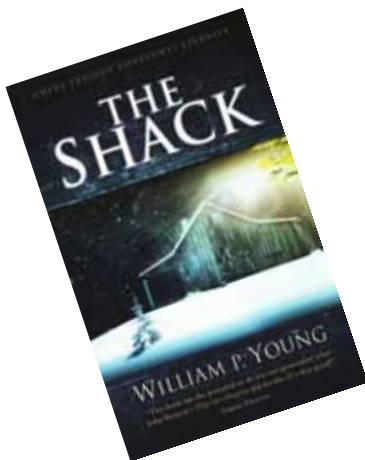
Christ's saving work viewed as an act of "buying back" sinners out of their bondage to sin and to Satan through the payment of a ransom.

Zoe Logos ... Bringing It To Life

- ❖ Here are some practical suggestions for how you might bring to life this week's devotional guide material. Consider acting on some or all of the following ideas:
 - The sacrificial death of Jesus on the cross is the single greatest gift that we could ever receive. There is no way we could ever repay God for his generous act of mercy. What is one thing you could do for God today in order to show Him your appreciation and gratitude?

 - Listen to the song *Amazing Grace*. Now listen to it again, and again. Write down one word or phrase from the song and put them in a place where you will see them frequently today (car dashboard, computer screen, refrigerator).

- ❖ In week three of the devotional guide, you were encouraged to read and reflect on a section from the best-selling book by William Paul Young called, *The Shack*. This thought-provoking work of fiction is about a man name Mack, who spends a weekend with God in a dilapidated, old hunting shack. You were asked to read the following excerpt from the book that recounts the first time Mack meets God face-to-face. If you weren't able to do this in week 3, try it now. If you completed this exercise earlier try it again – see how your view of God is growing.



The Shack (pp. 84-85)... “What should you do when you come to the door of a house, or cabin in this case, where God might be? Should you knock? Presumably God already knew that Mack was there. Maybe he ought to simply walk in and introduce himself, but that seemed equally absurd. And how should he address him? Should he call him “Father,” or “Almighty One,” or perhaps “Mr. God,” and would it be best if he fell down and worshiped? Not that he was really in the mood.

...Mack decided to bang loudly and see what happened, but just as he raised his fist to do so, the door flew open, and he was looking directly into the face of a large, beaming African-American woman.

Instinctively he jumped back, but he was too slow. With speed that belied her size, she crossed the distance between them and engulfed him in her arms, lifting him clear off his feet and spinning him around like a little child. And all the while she was shouting his name—‘Mackenzie Allen Phillips’—with the ardor of someone seeing a long-lost and deeply loved relative. She finally put him back on Earth and, with her hands on his shoulders, pushed him back as if to get a good look at him.

...‘It is so wonderful to have you here with us. My, my, my how I do love you!’ And with that, she wrapped herself around him again.”

➤ What surprised you about the way God was portrayed?

➤ Why do you think the author described God as an African American woman?

The Shack Book Club

Works of fiction, like *The Shack*, have the power and ability to help us think about God in ways that we might not otherwise. This summer we will hold discussion groups to chat about *The Shack* on the following dates:

Sunday, July 19 ... discussion of chapters 1-9

Sunday, August 23 ... discussion chapters 10-18.

Join us each of these days in the Conference Room at 9:15 am (first worship hour) for some thought-provoking discussion. This is a compelling summer read that will challenge you to think more deeply about God and His love for you. Once you start, you won't be able to put it down.

A Word For Kids!

You do many things for your child. You care for their needs and love them unconditionally. In the capacity that we do that as parents, God does so even more. In fact, He can give your child the most important thing in life - eternal life. Use the following activity to share with your child the most important thing God offers them. **Make a Salvation Book together.**

Staple five pieces of paper together to make a booklet.

Have your child color each sheet of paper the following colors, in order:

1 st page:	Yellow	2 nd page:	Black	3 rd page:	Red
4 th page:	Leave paper white	5 th page:	Green		

With older children, have them do the following:

- 1st page: Color the page yellow; write the word HEAVEN at the bottom of the page.
- 2nd page: Write in black the names of different kinds of sin; write the word SIN in thick black letters at the bottom of the page.
- 3rd page: Draw a cross and color it red; write JESUS DIED at the bottom of the page.
- 4th page: Draw the outline of a person and leave white inside the person; write NEW CREATION at the bottom of the page.
- 5th page: Draw grass in green; write the word GROW at the bottom of the page.

Go through the booklet with your child, using the following for discussion starters:

Yellow Page:

This page represents Heaven. What do you think Heaven will be like? Read Revelation 21:3-4, 18-19, 23-27. But, there is one thing that can never be in Heaven; that is sin (turn the page to the black page).

Black Page:

This page represents the darkness of sin that keeps us from Heaven. Romans 3:23 says, “*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*” Sin is anything that does not please God. What are some things that you do that is sin? But, God has a wonderful plan so you and I do not have to be punished for our sins (turn to the red page).

Red Page:

This page represents the payment for our sins. Jesus died on the cross for our sins. His sacrifice paid the price. Because of what Jesus did for you by dying on the cross, you can have your sins forgiven.

White Page:

This page represents the new life that Jesus gives you. When you tell Jesus that you believe He died on the cross for you, and ask Jesus to forgive your sins and be your Lord and Savior, then you become a part of God’s family and you are given eternal life. When you die, you will go to Heaven to live with God forever (give your child an opportunity to accept Jesus as his/her Lord and Savior) (turn to the green page).

Green Page:

When you become God’s child, He wants you to get to know Him better. This green page reminds us that we are to grow in our faith. What do you think it means to grow in our faith? How can you do that? (Through prayer, reading and obeying the Bible, telling others about Jesus and going to church and Sunday school.)

So•ter•i•ol•o•gy

(Doctrine of Salvation – Part 2)

Week 11 ... August 9 - 15

“There is more grace in God's heart than there is sin in your past.”

– Erwin Lutzer



Sanctification ...

Is the continuous operation of the Holy Spirit, by which the holy disposition imparted in regeneration (salvation) is maintained and strengthened.
Sanctified = “set apart”



Life Transformation Goal:

To decide to trust God's grace rather than law for your growth, God's process rather than your plans for your growth, and God's promises rather than your willpower for your growth.

Exatazo Logos ... Explore The Scriptures!

- ❖ In the Old Testament, it was most often the places and objects of worship that were called “sanctified” (set apart) for God’s honor and use. Read the following verses noting the “things” that were sanctified for God:
 - Exodus 28:41

 - Exodus 29:21

 - Exodus 30:10

 - Leviticus 27:21

- ❖ In the New Testament, it is God’s people who are “set apart” for God’s honor and use. Read 2 Timothy 2:21 and reflect on what it means that you are “sanctified” for God’s use.

- ❖ The term sanctified comes from the same word as saint. In the Bible, all believers are called “saints.” In fact, we’re called “saints” some fifty-six times (Romans 8:27; Ephesians 1:18; 6:18; Rev. 5:8 just to name a few). Read these verses and reflect on them. Why is it difficult to consider yourself a saint?

- ❖ Sanctification is both a finished act and a daily process. It’s a lot like marriage. When you get married, you say “I Do,” and then spend the rest of your life living out those two words. The finished action of the wedding ceremony then has to be played out in the daily process of married life.
 - Read Hebrews 10:10 and 1 Corinthians 1:30 ... and note the verb tense of your sanctification. What is it, and what does this imply to you?

 - Read 1 Peter 2:2; Hebrews 12:14 and 2 Peter 3:18 ... and circle the key action verb in each verse that signifies your sanctification isn’t completed yet. What does this imply about your role in God’s sanctifying process of your life?

 - Read Hebrews 10:14 ... how does this verse summarize both aspects of salvation?

- ❖ Just as we are justified (declared righteous) by faith and grace, we are also sanctified by faith and grace. Just as you cannot earn your salvation, you also cannot earn your sanctification. Read Galatians 3:3 and Colossians 2:6 and express in your own words the meaning of these verses in light of this statement about faith and grace.

- ❖ Based on Romans 8:28-29 and 1 John 3:2 what is the ultimate goal that God is working toward in your life? What developments in your life do you see that indicate God is making progress?



Pelagianism ...

An understanding of how humans are able to merit their salvation, which is diametrically opposed to that of Augustine of Hippo, placing considerable emphasis upon the role of humans and down-playing the role of divine grace. Pelagius taught that humans have the ability to follow God's law and that they have the capability of taking the first step toward salvation ... **WARNING!!!**

Theos Logos ... What Is God Saying To you?

- ❖ Having worked through the study questions in the **Exatazo Logos** section, spend some extended time reflecting and writing on one or several of the following questions or statements. Don't hurry through this important step. Listen to what God is teaching you.
 - What are the inner attitudes that encourage and inspire your growth in Christ? What attitudes put up a barrier to your growth?
 - God allows our choices to be some of the key factors in our own personal growth. One of the most important choices we make is our response to difficulties and trials we face as part of life. Using James 1:2-4 as a template reflect on a time when your life choice and subsequent response to the ensuing difficulty helped you grow.

Week 11 Blogger

Steve Olson
Worship Director

<http://woodcrestsummerdevotional.blogspot.com>

"Sanctification does not mean perfection reached, but the progress of the divine life toward perfection. Sanctification is the Christianizing of the Christian."

-Clarke



Zoe Logos ... Bringing It To Life

- ❖ Here are some practical suggestions for how you might bring to life this week's devotional guide material. Consider acting on some or all of the following ideas:
 - Read Jude 1:24-25 and “personalize” it by using the words “me” and “my.”
 - Explore the various Bible passages, listed below, that describe your new life in Christ. Choose one or two that reveal an important truth for you to learn about yourself. Copy the verse(s) onto a note card and place it somewhere (bathroom mirror, dashboard of your car, refrigerator door, etc.) that will constantly remind you of the new person you are in Christ.
 - John 1:12
 - 2 Corinthians 5:17
 - Ephesians 2:10
 - Memorize Galatians 2:20.

A Word For Kids!

When you become a part of God's family, you are starting a brand new life. You will learn lots of new things and grow to become the person God wants you to be. God wants His children to grow by *learning* His Word and by *doing* His Word.

God's Word says in Psalm 119:103, “*How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!*” God tells us in His Word, the Bible, how to grow as His child. Learning what God's Word says is like eating the best kind of food—it tastes good and it keeps you healthy. Learning takes practice and discipline no matter what you are learning, and that is true of God's Word, too.

Make it a habit to read the Bible together with your child. Keep a journal of what you have read together, and help your child write what they learned from the passage (you can write for younger children). Not only will this help your child get into the habit of reading God's Word, it will provide a tangible record of their journey as they learn what God has to tell them through His Word.

God's Word says in James 1:22, “*Do not merely listen to the word ... Do what it says.*” Doing what God's Word says is like exercise—it makes you strong. When you learn God's Word and when you do what it says, you will grow as God's child.

Find ways to share with your child when you are doing what God's Word says. Point out to them when you make a decision that was based on what God tells us. Let them know what God's Word says and how you made the decision. Help them to think through what God's Word says when they are faced with a decision to be made. Use teachable moments to reinforce the impact of God's Word in your life.

God's Word says in John 15:12, “*My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.*” God wants us to grow in our love for others. He wants those who love Him to love one another, just like Jesus loves each of us. He also wants everyone to hear how they, too, can be a part of His family. One of the best ways to grow in our love for others is to show God's love to those around us. Sometimes it is an act of love or kindness that is the first step for people to know God.

As a family, decide on one way that you can show God's love to others. Plan what you will do for a neighbor, a family member, or an organization that will serve them. Be sure that each member of the family is a part of the planning and has a job to do that will involve them in serving the person or group you have chosen. Be creative as you show God's love to others and grow in your love for Him.

Ec•cle•si•ol•o•gy

(Doctrine of the Church)

Week 12 ... August 16 - 22

"Church isn't where you meet.
Church isn't a building. Church is
what you do. Church is who you are.
Church is the human outworking of
the person of Jesus Christ. Let's not
go to Church, let's be the Church."

– Bridget Willard

Corpus permixtum ...

A term, coined by Augustine that refers to the Church as "a mixed body" of saints and sinners.



Life Transformation Goal:

To understand how the church is uniquely different from every other organization on the planet, and to understand your role in it.

Exatazo Logos ... Explore The Scriptures!



- ❖ What is the purpose of the Church? Read Colossians 3:16; Ephesians 4:12-13; Matthew 28:19 to help with this question.
- ❖ Read Ephesians 3:14, 5:32, Romans 11:17ff, 1 Cor. 3:6-9, 12:12-27, 1 Peter 2:5. List the different metaphors that are used to describe the Church. Which one resonates with you the most? Why?
- ❖ In the early 16th century, Martin Luther, John Calvin, and other Protestant Reformers, who lived in an era of corruption in the Catholic Church, were forced to wrestle with the question: "What marks the true Church?" John Calvin concluded that the true Church was one where "we see the Word of God purely preached and heard, and the sacraments administered according to Christ's instructions." Do you agree with his assessment? Why or why not?

Invisible Church ...

The Church as God sees it.

- ❖ What would be an example of a modern day “church” that does not meet these criteria?

- ❖ “How can anyone speak of one church when there are dozens of Christian denominations?” How would you respond to this comment?

- ❖ “The Church is made up of sinners and hypocrites. How can the Church be called holy?” What would you say in response to this accusation? Read Matthew 13:24-31. Also see “Corpus Permixtum” in Talking Like A Pro – Glossary of Terms, p. 2.

“Wherever Christ is,
there is the catholic
church.”
– St. Ignatius



Sacrament ...
In purely historical terms, a church service, or rite, which was instituted by Jesus Christ Himself. Although Roman Catholic theology and church practice recognize seven such sacraments, Protestant theologians generally argue that there are only two (Baptism and Eucharist).



Donatism ...

A movement, centering upon Roman North Africa in the fourth century, which developed a rigorist view of the church and sacraments and denied the authority of the Catholic Church ... **WARNING!!!**

Theos Logos ... What Is God Saying To you?

- ❖ Having worked through the study questions in the **Exatazo Logos** section, spend some extended time reflecting and writing on one or several of the following questions or statements. Don't hurry through this important step. Listen to what God is teaching you.
 - How have you seen the body of Christ in action to make a difference in our world or make a difference in a person's life?

Week 12 Blogger

Darla Benjamin
Children's Ministry Director
<http://woodcrestsummerdevotional.blogspot.com>

Visible Church ...

The Church as Christians on earth see it. Because only God sees our hearts, the visible church will always include some unbelievers.

Zoe Logos ... Bringing It To Life

- ❖ Here are some practical suggestions for how you might bring to life this week's devotional guide material. Consider acting on some or all of the following ideas:
 - As a local church, Woodcrest is a body. Every piece of that body is vitally important. Without each member of the body performing the role it was designed to do, Woodcrest can never reach its full potential. What part of the body are you? How do you make Woodcrest a stronger body?
 - Life-change happens in community. Life-change happens one life at a time. Life-change happens in small groups. If you are not part of a small group, contact the Woodcrest Church office to learn more about this ministry or how you could find a group.
 - Memorize 1 Corinthians 12:12, 18.

A Word For Kids!

The church is more than just Woodcrest Church in Eagan, Minnesota. It is bigger than the Baptist denomination. The Church is made up of all who receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior! As a part of the Church, we are told in Acts 2:46 and Hebrews 10:25a that we are to become part of a local church body. God wants His believers to gather faithfully to worship and fellowship as a body. The church is also called to send missionaries out and to meet the needs of the people.

Learn about the church:

Use this week as an opportunity to learn about Woodcrest church, its beliefs and values. You can find this information on the website at www.woodcrestchurch.org. Help your children see what the church stands for. Whether you are attending a Baptist church for the first time or have always attended a Baptist church, take the time to look at the doctrinal beliefs of the Baptist General Conference (of which Woodcrest is a part).

Learn about belonging:

We are a part of the body of Christ. God has gifted His people for service—both within and outside the local church walls. Read Romans 12:6-8.

What gifts has God given you to serve His people?

When you belong to the body of Christ, a part of that belonging involves service. How can you as a family serve within the local church? Think of a way you might use your gifts as a family to serve at church.

Maybe you are already serving. Share with your child how you use your gifts at church. Help them to understand that in your service to the church, you are building up the body of Christ.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27. No act of service or gift is better than any other. What are some service opportunities that you see people doing? Where might you use your gifts? Where could your children use their gifts to serve the body?

Es·cha·tol·o·gy

(Doctrine of Last Things – Part 1)

Week 13 ... August 23 - 29

“The second coming of Christ is the medicine our condition especially needs.”

– C. S. Lewis



Eschatology ...

From the Greek word *eskhatos* (“last”) and *logia* (“discourse”); the study of Christian religious beliefs concerning all future and final events.



Life Transformation Goal:

That you will see the Second Coming of Christ not as a source of confusion or fear, but as a source of hope.

Exatazo Logos ... Explore The Scriptures



❖ The subject of eschatology and Biblical prophecy are studied greatly and debated hotly. While the life transformation goal for this week is not to emphasize timelines and dates for the second coming of Jesus, there are many Scriptures that point out truths about the subject. Read the following verses and reflect on what basic truths they are teaching about the signs of the second coming.

- Mark 13:5-8
- Matthew 24:10; 2 Timothy 4:3
- 2 Timothy 3:1-5; Mark 13:12
- 2 Peter 3:3
- Matthew 24:11

Apocalyptic Literature ...

From the Greek word *apocalypse* (“to unveil,” “to reveal”); a type of writing designed to make the truth clear to some, while hiding it from others.

❖ Read the following verses and reflect on the timing of the second coming of Jesus. What would be an overarching principle you could develop from these verses that would reflect how you will reach this week's life transformation goal?

- Revelation 22:7
- Matthew 24:36; Acts 1:6-7
- 1 Thessalonians 5:2; Matthew 24:44

The Antichrist ...

The term "antichrist" (anti = against + Christ) basically means an opposition Christ, a rival Christ. The word is used to describe "false teachers" (1 John 2:18) and is used in prophetic verses to refer to the "man of lawlessness" (2 Thessalonians 2:3), and the "beast" (Revelation 13:1; 17:1-18). In these latter references, the Anti-Christ (notice capital "A") is a specific individual who attempts to set up an earthly kingdom in opposition to the second coming of Christ.

❖ The most important truth about eschatology is that we know who wins—JESUS DOES! Read and reflect on the following verses that describe the second coming of Jesus. What picture are the writers trying to paint? How does this impact your life today?

- 1 Thessalonians 4:16
- Jude 1:14-15
- Revelation 1:7
- Titus 2:13

The False Prophet ...

In order to promote his program more efficiently, the Anti-Christ will have an important lieutenant—the "second beast" or "false prophet" (Revelation 13:11-18). His sole duty is to promote the purpose and expedite the worship of the first beast – the Anti-Christ.



Annihilationism ...

While not heretical, this controversial teaching holds that after death unbelievers suffer the penalty of God's wrath for a time, and then are annihilated, or destroyed, so they no longer exist. Some forms of this teaching hold that annihilation occurs immediately upon death ... **WARNING!!!**

Theos Logos ... What Is God Saying To you?

- ❖ Having worked through the study questions in the **Exatazo Logos** section, spend some extended time reflecting and writing on one or several of the following questions or statements. Don't hurry through this important step. Listen to what God is teaching you.
- One very important warning about the study of eschatology is to not lose your sense of personal responsibility in the midst of historical and theological curiosity. Remember the goal: Personal spiritual transformation so you become more like Jesus. With this in mind, reflect on what God wants you to stay focused on regarding the study of the end times.

Week 13 Blogger

Jerry Schommer

Senior Pastor

<http://woodcrestsummerdevotional.blogspot.com>

The 144,000

A number used to identify the 12,000 sealed saints from each of the 12 tribes of Israel (Revelation 7:4-8). The important thing is the number – 12. The number 12 is important in the Bible as a picture of God's plan. He had 12 tribes in Israel as a witness to the world and Jesus chose 12 apostles to carry His message to the world; 12,000 from each of the 12 tribes represent the overwhelming fulfillment of God's plan.

A Word For Kids!

Have you ever been in a foreign country and not been able to read the signs—unsure of what the menu says or where you might be able to find a restroom. Unfamiliarity can raise anxiety, fear and confusion. So, if unfamiliarity breeds anxiety, fear and confusion, then multiply that by 10 and you will find yourself in company with multitudes of people when they think of the Book of Revelation. Now think how it must look to kids. Winged horses, broken seals, armies, destruction, seven churches? It sounds like the makings of a good suspense fantasy ... but its not!

The prophecy of things to come can seem daunting. Help your child to begin to understand (or at least become familiar with) what is found in Revelation, by using familiar ideas. In other words ... teach like Jesus taught!

Gather your family together and do a little word association. Write the symbols below on separate index cards. Then show them one at a time to your family. Have family members guess what they stand for.

*The Nike Swoosh

*Stop sign

*Macintosh apple

*The Coke symbol

*Railroad crossing sign

*Fish symbol

Symbols are just that ... symbols. They represent something and help us know something about what the symbol represents. When you see the Nike Swoosh, you have a picture of sports, strength and good quality. A stop sign and railroad crossing make you aware of what you need to do, you slow down, watch for trains or stop to keep from getting in an accident. The Macintosh apple represents computers, ease and accessibility. If you see the Coke symbol, you think refreshment and great taste. And the fish symbol was used to identify believers in the time of Jesus.

Go on a “symbol search” in Revelation 21:1-22:6 and see what Heaven will be like. Talk about what John is telling us about Heaven through the words and symbols he uses. After reading about Heaven, have your child draw a picture or make a word picture that will remind them of the place that God has prepared for them for eternity.

Read Revelation 21:4.

What will not be present in Heaven?

How does knowing what Heaven will be like and what will not be in Heaven give you hope?

A great resource for helping kids study the book of Revelation is *Bible Prophecy for Kids* (Revelation 1-7) and *A Sneak Peek into the Future* (Revelation 8-22). Both books are *Discover 4 Yourself Inductive Bible Studies* for kids, by Kay Arthur and Janna Arndt. You could go through it with your child, they could do it on their own (older kids), or you could use it as a resource to help your child understand Revelation better.

Another book that helps kids to understand Heaven is *Someday Heaven* by Larry Libby. This book addresses questions that kids have about Heaven including what it will be like, what happens to our pets, what we will experience in Heaven and more. It speaks in kid terms, but is not childlike in its answers. Scripture is quoted throughout the book from various parts of the Bible. This book is a good resource and will spark discussion.

Before you begin to study Revelation, pray with your child for the Holy Spirit to help reveal what God would have you understand and know through the reading of His Word.

People fear the unknown, the bizarre and the strange. Help your child to not fear Revelation and enjoy looking together at the prophecy of the end times and the reward that heaven offers.

Es·cha·tol·o·gy

(Doctrine of Last Things – Part 2)

Week 14 ... August 30 – September 5

The Rapture ...

The resurrection of the saints and those who are alive when Christ comes for his church are simultaneously taken up and changed to immortality. (1 Corinthians 15:51-52; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).

“Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns.”

– Jesus Christ



Life Transformation Goal:

To decide to begin living your life in anticipation of the second coming of Jesus.

Exatazo Logos ... Explore The Scriptures!



❖ Since the beginning of time, humanity has wondered about heaven. Where is it? What will it be like? Who will be there? While many of our questions about heaven can't be fully understood in this life, the Bible does give us some great insight into these issues. Explore the following passages about heaven and note the various truths and/or images about heaven – see what you can learn about the “where,” “who,” and “what” questions.

- Psalm 123:1
- Revelation 21:3
- Hebrews 11:16
- Hebrews 12:22-23
- Jude 1:24; 1 John 3:2
- 2 Corinthians 5:1-4
- Revelation 21:4; 1 Corinthians 15:53
- Revelation 7:16
- 1 Corinthians 13:12

Millennium ...

Literally a 1,000-year period where Jesus will reign on earth (Revelation 20:1-6). The study of this issue is termed millennialism.

Amillennialism ...

The view that there will be no literal thousand-year bodily reign of Christ on earth prior to the final judgment.

❖ The bible speaks of a time of judgment that all human beings will have to go through. It is referred to in several verses as being a time of “separating” or “sorting” the righteous from the unrighteous. Read the following verses and note the metaphor (comparison) used to describe this judgment. What do these word pictures imply about judgment?

- Matthew 13:47-51

- Matthew 25:31-46

- Matthew 13:24-30

Pre-Millennialism ...

A term that refers to the belief that Christ will return to earth before the millennium.

❖ The Bible teaches that believers will be rewarded based on three specific issues. Read the following passages and see if you can determine these three criteria. What does this imply to you?

- Matthew 16:27

- Jeremiah 17:10

- Matthew 12:36

“The best way to prepare for the coming of Christ is never to forget the presence of Christ.”

- William Barclay



Postmillennialism ...

The view that Christ will return to the earth after the millennium, brought about by the progress of the Gospel and the growth of the Church.



Eschatomania & Eschatophobia ...

The first word describes an unhealthy preoccupation with eschatology – it becomes the only or primary subject of preaching, teaching and/or discussion. This approach can make eschatology the whole of one’s theology. The second word describes an almost opposite approach – a fear or aversion to eschatology, or at least an avoidance of discussing it ... **WARNING!**

Theos Logos ... What Is God Saying To you?

- ❖ Having worked through the study questions in the **Exatazo Logos** section, spend some extended time reflecting and writing on one or several of the following questions or statements. Don’t hurry through this important step. Listen to what God is teaching you.
 - It has been said that you can look so closely at the details of apocalyptic literature that you miss the real masterpiece. How might this idea pertain to the end-time prophecies of the Bible. What is the ultimate masterpiece?
 - Reflect for a few moments about how great heaven will be by completing some or all of the following statements:
 - The greatest thing about heaven is that I won’t have to ...
 - The greatest thing about heaven is that I will be able to ...
 - A picture that helps me to think of the greatness of heaven is ...
 - In heaven there will be an abundant supply of ...
 - In heaven there will be no ...
 - Someone I’m looking forward to meeting in heaven is ...

Week 14 Blogger

Joshua Kirsch

Middle School Director

<http://woodcrestsummerdevotional.blogspot.com>

Dispensationalism ...

A theological system that began in the nineteenth century with the writings of J. N. Darby. Among the general doctrines of this system are the distinction between Israel and the church as two groups in God’s overall plan, the reticulation rapture of the church, and the dividing of Biblical history into seven periods or “dispensations.”

Zoe Logos ... Bringing It To Life

- ❖ Here are some practical suggestions for how you might bring to life this week's devotional guide material. Consider acting on some or all of the following ideas:
 - Read and reflect on Matthew 25:34-40. How might you change your view of the needy in reaching the life transformation goal of living in the anticipation of the return of Jesus? What are some practical steps you could take to reach this goal?

 - For the believer the knowledge of prophecy should draw our hearts out in worship toward God. From the beginning to the end of the Revelation, the Apostle John had a habit of responding to God's prophetic future with an attitude of worship. Read Revelation 1:17 and 22:8-9 and spend some time in worship of the holy, righteous and sovereign God—who WINS in the end!

 - Memorize 1 Peter 1:13.

A Word For Kids!

The Bible talks about a special book in Revelation 20:11-15. It is a book that has great importance in the end times. This book is referred to as the Book of Life. Within its pages, John tells us, are written the names of the believers – those who have accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

It is this book that lists those who will be sentenced to Hell or given access to Heaven. The eternity of our decision to either accept or deny Jesus is evident within four verses—Revelation 20:11-15. Is your name in the Book of Life? Are your children's names listed there?

Use this opportunity to talk with your child this week about the Book of Life. Share your faith story with them. Let them hear how you came to know Jesus as your Lord and Savior and how you can be sure that your name has been written in the Book of Life. Give your child an opportunity to make a decision for Jesus if they have not done so.

As a family, make your own Book of Life and write each person's salvation story in it. Put the book in a prominent place as a reminder of the hope that you have in Jesus and the assurance you have of your names being written in the Book of Life.

Additional Resources:

Get a "picture" of what the end times look like with a visual through the movie, *Left Behind*. Watch the movie together as a family and discuss what you are seeing and how it depicts what they read in the Bible. There is a kids' version of the *Left Behind* book series that older children might enjoy.

Take this opportunity to continue talking with your child about the things to come. Encourage them to ask questions—even though you may not have the answers—and dig into the Bible together to see what answers you can find. Remember that we will not fully know what God has not revealed until we are face to face with Him. Help kids to understand, too, that not everything is knowable until we get to Heaven.

Conclusion

The Apostle Paul prays this prayer for his friends in Ephesus:

"And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God".

(Ephesians 3:17-19)

Our prayer for you at the end of this summer series is much the same. We pray that as you have studied and learned more about God this summer, you have not only grown in knowledge, but that your increased knowledge has led to a greater grasp of the love that God has for you. Out of that love, we pray you would feel emboldened to serve radically, love generously, and live passionately in the name of Jesus Christ. Even though this is the end of our summer study on theology, it is just the beginning of a life-time of learning more and more about this awesome God we serve. Here are a few thoughts to keep in mind as you continue on the journey God has placed you on:

- ❖ If you have invested time in memorizing some or all of the weekly memory verses, don't let these important building blocks slip from your mind. Develop a system to regularly review these verses. It's a great idea to underline these verses in your Bible or place them on note cards where you will have regular access to them.
- ❖ Check out the "Woodcrest Staff 'Must Read List.'" It has a bunch of great tools to inspire you and encourage you in your theological journey.
- ❖ Join the heresy patrol. In Acts 17, the writer, Luke, commends the Bereans because they, "*examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.*" As followers of Christ, we need to continually examine the Bible to make sure that what we believe and what other people tells us lines up with God's word.
- ❖ As you continue to study the Bible and theology on your own, be aware of your lenses. While we cannot ever completely take our lenses off, simply being aware of how our experiences, world view, and education shape our understanding of the Bible makes us much more effective Bible scholars.
- ❖ We are so fortunate to have a World-Class University and Seminary like Bethel right here in our own back yard. Consider auditing or registering for a Bible or Theology class.

If you have learned nothing else from this study, we hope you leave it with a keen awareness of what an awesome God we serve and how great His love is for you. And so, as we wrap up this summer series, we simply ask you to consider how your view and understanding of God has changed over the past 14 weeks, for as A. W. Tozer said ...

"The most important thing about us is the idea that comes into our mind when we think about God."



Woodcrest Staff' "Must Read List"

❖ Books

- *God is Closer Than You Think* (John Ortberg)
- *The Unquenchable Worshipper* (Matt Redman)
- *The Air I Breathe* (Louie Giglio)
- *Crave* (Erwin McManus)
- *The Shack* (William Paul Young)
- *Blue Like Jazz* (Donald Miller)
- *The Pursuit of God* (A. W. Tozer)
- *The Jesus I Never Knew* (Philip Yancy)
- *The Screwtape Letters* (C. S. Lewis)
- *The Problem of Pain* (C. S. Lewis)
- *The Weight of Glory* (C. S. Lewis)
(Come to think of it ... **Any book by C. S. Lewis!**)
- *The Cross of Christ* (John Stott)
- *The Case for Faith* (Lee Strobel)
- *The Case for a Creator* (Lee Strobel)
- *An Introduction to Theology* (Millard Erickson)
- *Christian Theology* (Alister McGrath)
- *Systematic Theology* (Wayne Grudem)
- *Deepening Your Friendship With God* (Ben Patterson)
- *Becoming Friends With God* (Leith Anderson)



❖ Websites

- www.biblegateway.com - search by key word, passage, or topic in 20 different Bible translations.
- www.youversion.com - has many translations of the Bible, plus daily reading plans, mobile access, journaling features, community message boards, and users' commentary.
- www.blueletterbible.org – audio/video commentary, Greek and Hebrew Lexicon, Strong's Concordance, images and maps, daily devotionals.

❖ DVD's

- *The God's Aren't Angry* (Rob Bell)
- *Chazown* (Craig Groeschel)
- *The Case for a Creator* (Lee Strobel)
- *The Truth Project* (coming soon to Woodcrest) (Focus on the Family)

Bibliography

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 - TEV – Today’s English Version
 - MESSAGE
 - NLT – New Living Translation

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