тне FOUNT CHURCH



Discipleship Guide

Part 1 of 6

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Dear Fount Family,

Your Pastors love you dearly and desire to know that you belong here at the Fount. We believe strongly that we are called to be a family that celebrates the gospel and works to connect people into God's story.

One of the best ways we can do this is by equipping you with the word of God and a deeper understanding of the gospel and sound doctrine. We have provided this resource for use to that end and hope that it will be a helpful guide for your discipleship journey together.

This guide is part of our 3 year discipleship plan. Each volume will cover 6 months and over the next 3 years we will work through the entire bible and discuss some of the most important doctrines. You will notice that our scripture focus will also include the sermon passage for the upcoming Sunday highlighted in yellow:

Mark 1:1-13 Mark 1:14-45 Mark 2:1-12 Mark 2:13-22 Mark 2:23-3:

This is meant to be used in the community and we want to provide regular opportunities for you to discuss the topics with others in the church. But we encourage you to journal through these questions individually, discuss them with your family and friends, discuss them around the dinner table, and press into God's word.

What is in this Guide?

We wanted to provide as many tools in one place to get you started. The guide is separated by month and includes a 4 focus areas:

- 1. Scriptural Focus
- 2. Doctrinal Focus
- 3. Missional Focus
- 4. Discussion Focus

So in this guide you will find:

- Bible reading plan for the month
- A doctrine to focus on and study
- A practical step you can take to become a missionary in your community.
- A series of discussion questions
- Journal pages to write H.E.A.R journals or other things you are learning in the month.

How do I use this guide?

We encourage you to use this guide in your personal devotional times as well as a guide for family worship and discussion. In addition to these precious times we want to encourage the men and women of the church to gather monthly for deeper discussion and prayer over each month's focus.

Don't feel like you have to stop there. We encourage you to seek at 1 or 2 others that you could meet with on a weekly basis to go deeper.

We believe that growing deeper roots in the word of God and doctrine is vital to sustained health as a church. We desire to stand firm in the faith so that we will not be tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes (Eph 4:4).

Church we love you and we are eager to grow together in Christ over the next three years as we connect to God's word.

In Christ,

The Fount Elder Team

January



Doctrinal Focus: The Scriptures

We believe that the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God, and are the only sufficient, certain and authoritative rule of all saving knowledge, faith and obedience. Being wholly and verbally God-given, Scripture is without error or fault in all its teaching, no less in what it states about God's acts in creation, about the events of world history, and about its own literary origins under God, then in its witness to God's saving grace in individual lives.

Recommended Resources:

Free Courses:

- Scan the QR codes to access a free course from author Jared Wilson and see how God's great story makes sense of the most amazing and the most mundane things in our lives.
- Book recommendations:
 - Reading the Bible Supernaturally, John Piper
 - Taking God at His Word, Kevin DeYoung



Scriptural Focus:

WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4	WEEK 5
Genesis 1	Genesis 4	Genesis 7	Genesis 10	Genesis 13
Genesis 2	Genesis 5	Genesis 8	Genesis 11	Genesis 14
Genesis 3	Genesis 6	Genesis 9	Genesis 12	Genesis 15
Matthew 1	Matthew 2	Matthew 3	Matthew 4	Matthew 5
Mark 1:1-13	Mark 1:14-45	Mark 2:1-12	Mark 2:13-22	Mark 2:23-3:6

Missional Focus: Prayer

Write down a list of 2 people in your circle of influence who are lost

<u>1. 2.</u>

Group Discussion Focus:

Directions:

Share:

• (Leaders) Prior to the gathering encourage 3 people to prepare a 5 min talk on (1) Inspiration, (2) Inerrancy, (3) authority. The Elders are here to help prepare or discuss any questions.

READ:

- Read the quote below and discuss briefly any takeaways.
- Read Psalm 19:1-11, 2 Peter 1:19-21, 2 Tim 3:14-17.

DISCUSS:

• Work through the following quotes and discussion questions as a group and discuss further in growth groups, and families.

Quote To Consider:

Jonathan Edwards:

"Some people actually imagine that the revelation in God's Word is not enough to meet our needs. They think that God from time to time carries on an actual conversation with them, chatting with them, satisfying their doubts, testifying to His love for them, promising them support and blessings. As a result, their emotions soar; they are full of bubbling joy that is mixed with self-confidence and a high opinion of themselves. The foundation for these feelings, however, does not lie within the Bible itself, but instead rests on the sudden creations of their imaginations. These people are clearly deluded. God's Word is for all of us and each of us; He does not need to give particular messages to particular people."

Discussion Questions:

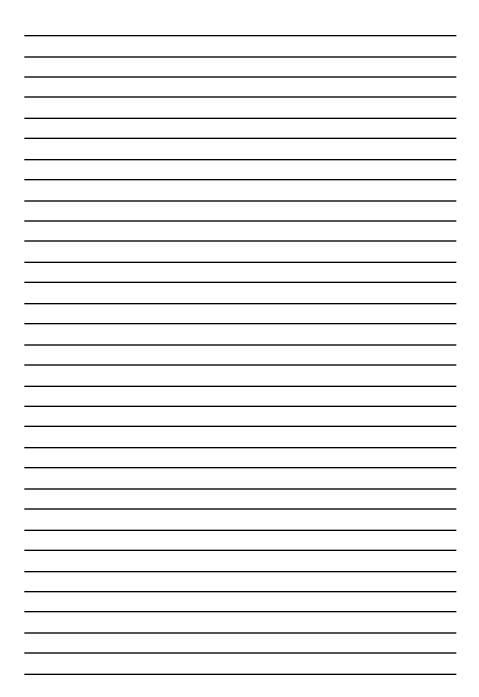
- *What is the apparent difference between Psalm 19:1-6 & 7-11?
- What is nature doing in verses 1-6?
- *While nature is doing something in verses 1-6, it can be said the Bible *is something* in verses 7-11. What is the Bible according to verses 7-11?
- *What does the Bible do according to verses 7-11?
- *When Peter references the prophetic word in 2 Peter 1:19-21 he is referring primarily to the Old Testament Scriptures. Where does he say the Scriptures originated? Where did they not originate?
- What does Paul say in 2 Timothy 3:16 that is similar to 2 Peter 1:19-21?
- Based on these verses, where does the Bible derive its' authority?
- *If we understand the Bible is God's Word and therefore carries his authority what does that mean for our everyday life and practice?

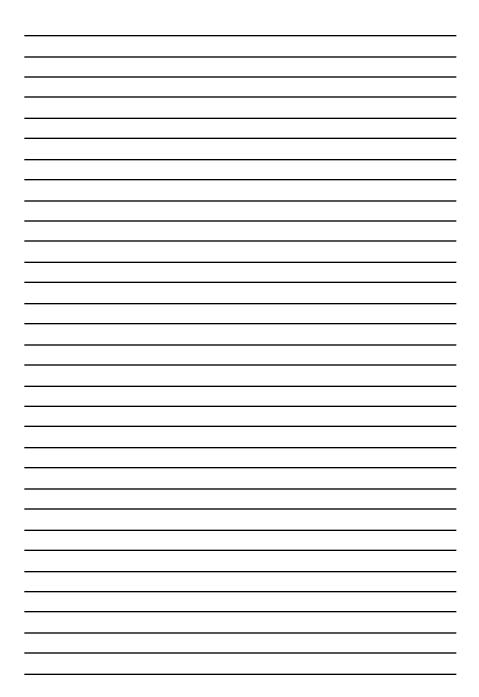
Journal Focus:

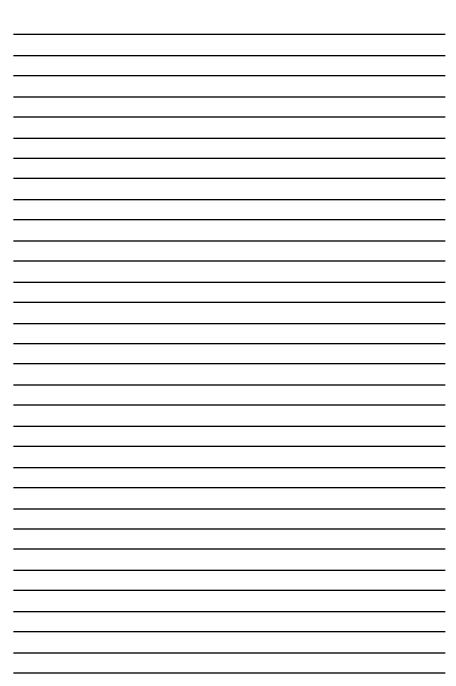
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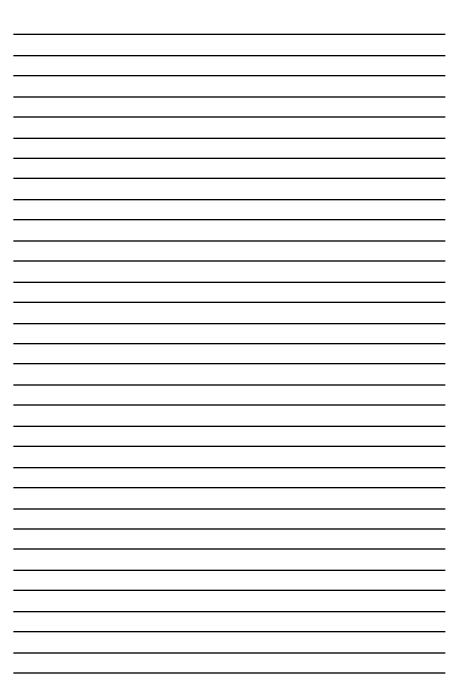
H.E.A.R stands for Highlight, Explain, Apply, and Respond. These four steps contributes to creating an atmosphere to hear God speak. Following the reading plan you will be ready to H.E.A.R. from God. To learn more about journaling, scan the QR code.

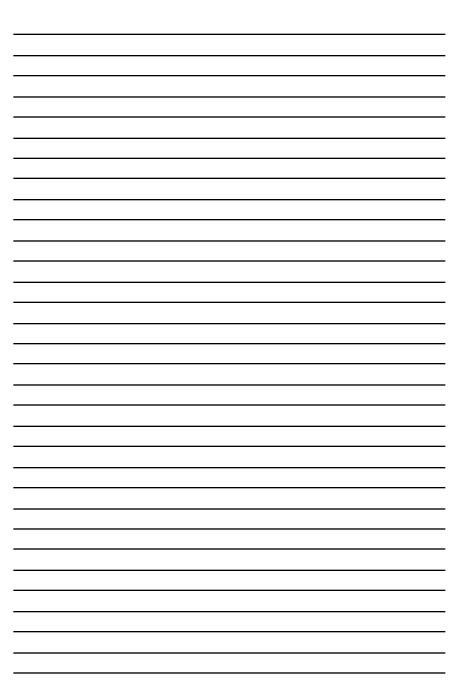


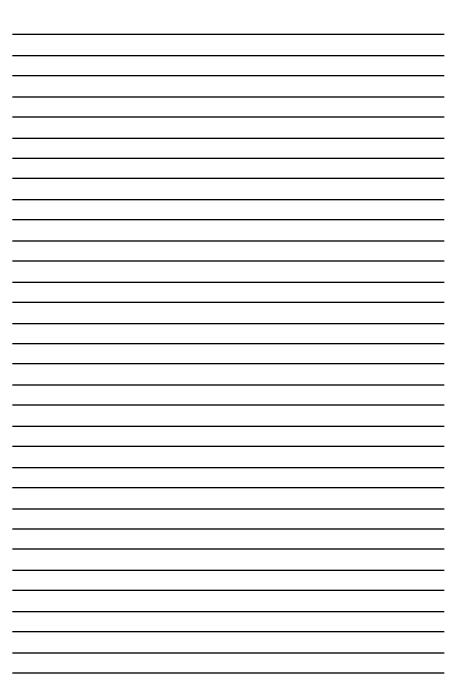


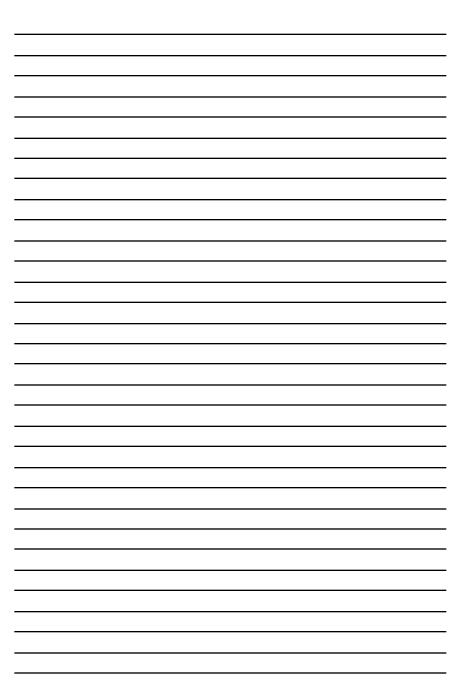












February

Doctrinal Focus: The Trinity



We believe there is but one God, the Maker, Preserver and Ruler of all things, having in and of Himself, all perfections, and being infinite in them all; and to Him all creatures owe the highest love, reverence and obedience.

We believe that God's whole and undivided being belongs equally, eternally, simultaneously, and fully to each of the three distinct persons of the Godhead - the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Recommended Resources:

Free Courses:

- Scan the QR codes to access free course from For The Church Institute (*The Unmanipulated Trinity*)
- Book recommendation: *Simple Trinity* by Matthew Barrett



Scriptural Focus:

WEEK 6	WEEK 7	WEEK 8	WEEK 9
Genesis 16	Genesis 19	Genesis 22	Genesis 25
Genesis 17	Genesis 20	Genesis 23	Genesis 26
Genesis 18	Genesis 21	Genesis 24	Genesis 27
Matthew 6	Matthew 7	Matthew 8	Matthew 9
Mark 3:7-35	Mark 4:1-34	Mark 4:35-5:43	Mark 6:1-30

Missional Focus: Fast

Set aside 1 day each week to fast and pray over the names you are praying for salvation. In addition, begin to pray over those in your neighborhood and purpose to get to know at least 1 of your neighbors.

Discussion Focus:

Directions:

READ:

- Read the quote below and discuss briefly any takeaways.
- Read Psalm 19:1-11, 2 Peter 1:19-21, 2 Tim 3:14-17.

DISCUSS:

• Work through the following quotes and discussion questions as a group and discuss further in growth groups, and families.

Quotes To Consider:

They that deny Christ to be God, must greatly wrest, or else deny the Scripture to be the Word of God ~ Thomas Watson

Discussion Questions:

A tenet of the doctrine of the Trinity is that each person is a participant in every action of the Godhead (this is appropriationism). The classic examples of this are the creation, the baptism of Jesus, and salvation.

• What was your understanding of the Trinity in the environment in which you grew up?

Read Ephesians 3:14-17

• How are each member of the Trinity described in these verses?

Read 2 Corinthians 13:14

• What do these verses say to you about who God is to you?

Read Revelation 22:1-4 and John 7:38-39

- Reflect on the image of God in these verses.
- What do these verses say about God?

Questions to meditate on:

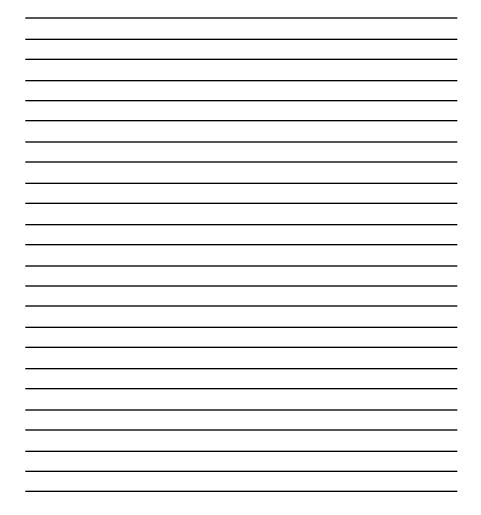
This month we encourage you to take time to ponder these two questions, discuss them with your family, growth group, and we invite you to seek out a pastor as we would love to help you think through these questions.

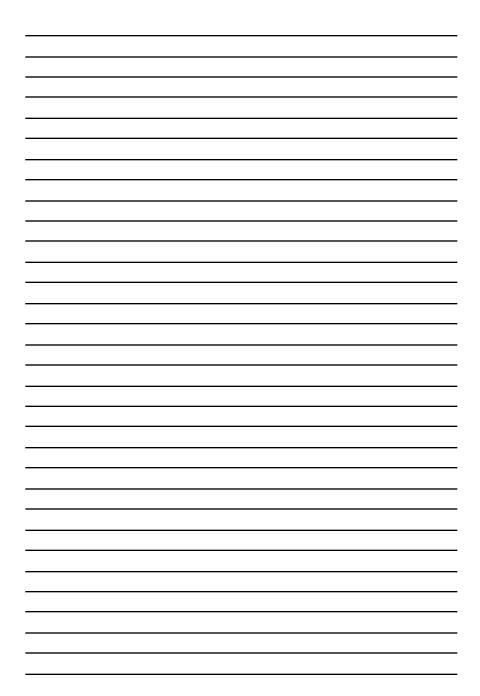
- How does understanding the Trinity affect your relationship with God?
- Why is it important that we know God in all His fullness?
- How does God's revelation about himself help you find your place in his story?

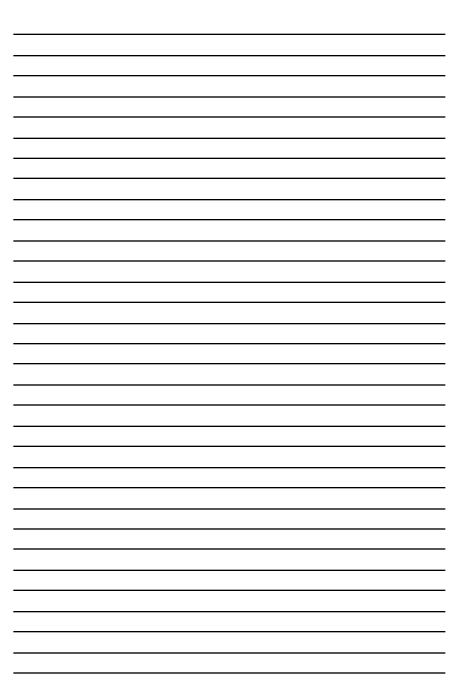
Journal Focus:

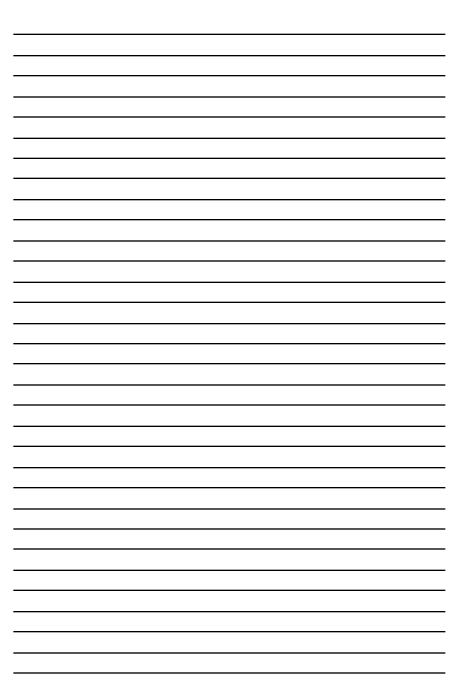
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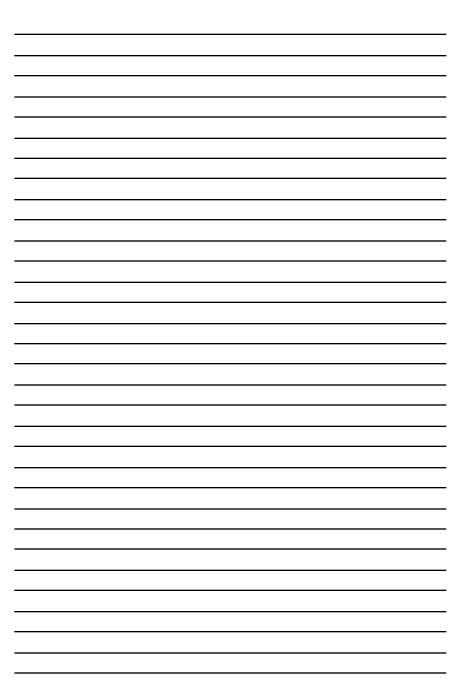


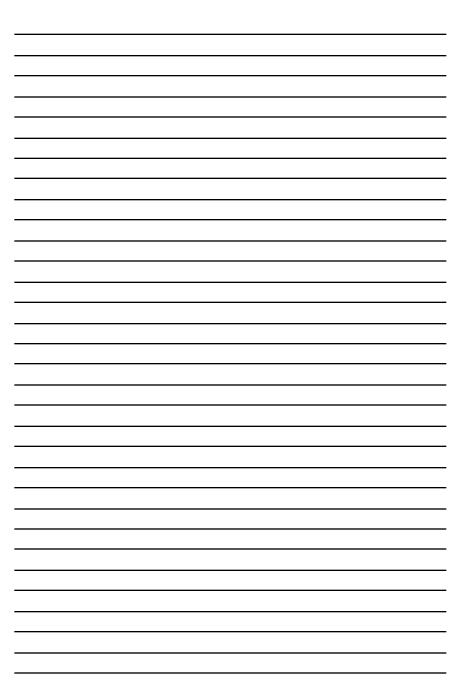


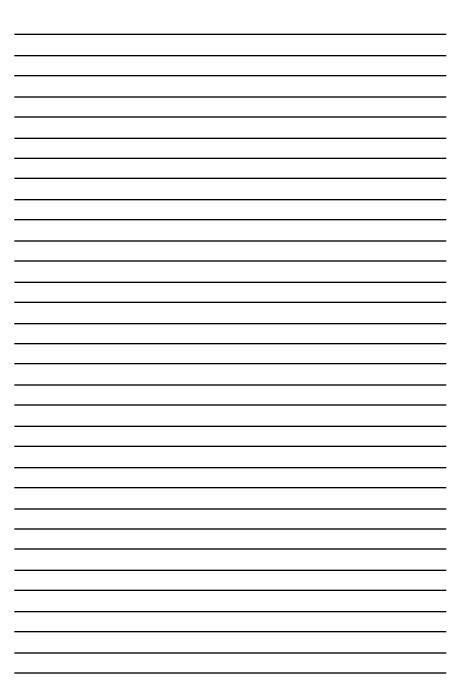






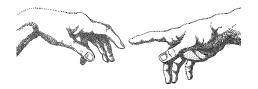






March

Doctrinal Focus: Ex Nihilo and Imago Dei



We believe that God is eternal, with no beginning or end and out of nothing God created everything (Ex Nihilo). He created everything for His glory. Man is the special creation of God, made in His own image (Imago Dei).

He created them male and female as the crowning work of His creation. God created mankind male and female as the crowning work of His creation. The gift of gender is thus part of the goodness of God's creation.

Helpful Definitions:

- 1. Ex Nihilo: "Out of Nothing Something"
- 2. Imago Dei: "Image of God

Missional Focus: Give

Prayerfully consider how you can give above and beyond your normal giving specifically for the work of evangelism.

Scriptural Focus:

WEEK 10	WEEK 11	WEEK 12	WEEK 13
Genesis 28	Genesis 31	Genesis 34	Genesis 37
Genesis 29	Genesis 32	Genesis 35	Genesis 38
Genesis 30	Genesis 33	Genesis 36	Genesis 39
Matthew 10	Matthew 11	Matthew 12	Matthew 13
Mark 6:30-56	Mark 7:1-23	Mark 7:24-37	Mark 8:1-33

Group Discussion Focus:

Directions:

READ:

- Read the quotes below and discuss briefly any takeaways.
- Read Genesis 1, Isaiah 43:6-7, and Romans 1.

DISCUSS:

• Work through the following quotes and discussion questions as a group and discuss further in growth groups, and families.

Quotes To Consider:

Owen Strachan: (RECOMMENDED READING PRIOR TO GATHERING Scan QR Code to read entire article).



Men and women are different. To some readers, this is obvious. To an increasing number of people, however, these are fighting words. The idea that men and women are basically, essentially different is passé. To argue further that these differences carve out different roles for men and women which include the "submission" word—let's just say that won't win you many friends at a dinner party. EXCERPT NASHVILLE STATEMENT ON BIBLICAL SEXUALITY:1

WE AFFIRM that God created Adam and Eve, the first human beings, in his own image, equal before God as persons, and distinct as male and female. WE DENY that the divinely ordained differences between male and female render them unequal in dignity or worth.

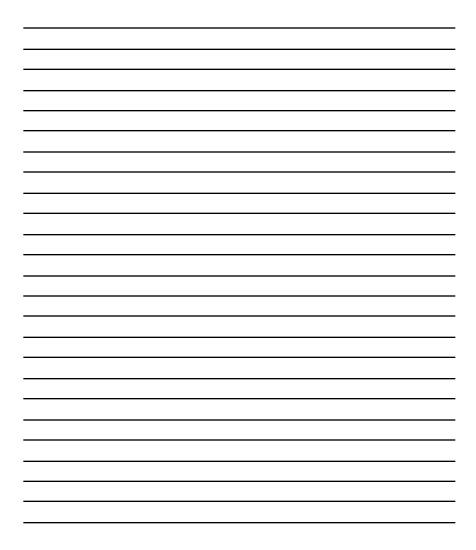
- 1. What does it mean to be created in the image of God?
 - a. List out the attributes of God and discuss which ones are shared with humanity, which ones are not, and why does this matter?
- 2. How would you define "gender"?
- 3. How should we understand gender, marriage, and family?
- 4. According to the Bible, gender is important to God. He created both male and female "in his image" (Genesis 1:27).
- 5. How do the 2 genders reflect the image of God?²

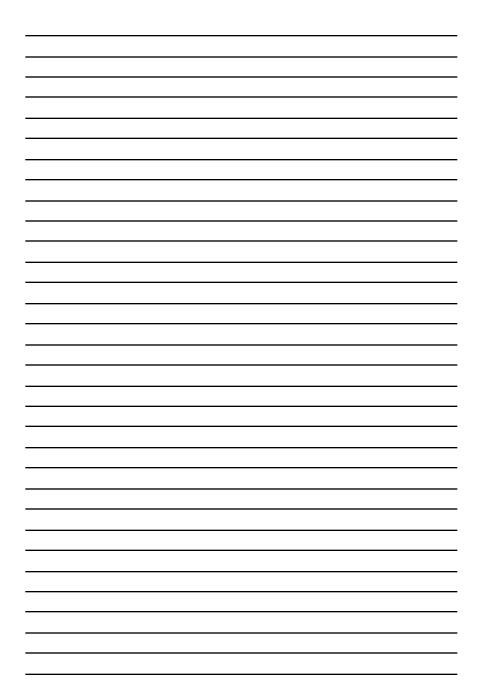
¹ The Elders of the Fount affirm the Nashville Statement on Biblical Sexuality. While affirmation is not required for membership; we encourage you to prayerfully read this statement. If you have questions or concerns we gladly make ourselves available to discuss this important topic further with you.

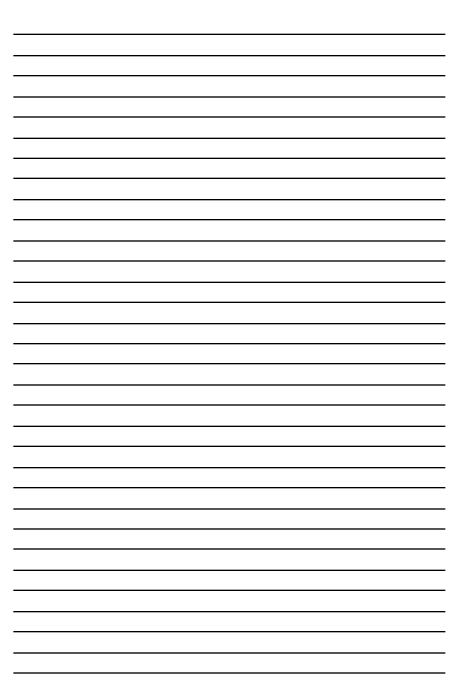
² NOTE: We affirm there are only 2 genders assigned by God prior to conception and that the differences between male and female reproductive structures are integral to God's design for self-conception as male or female (ie gender and sexuality are inescapably linked and are not a social or cultural construct).

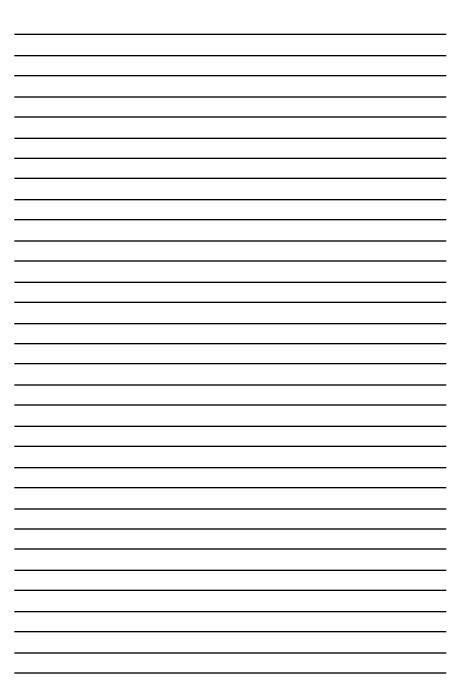
Journal Focus:

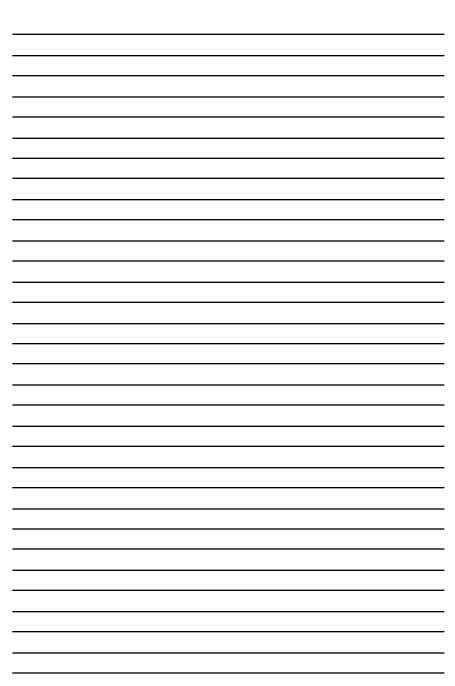
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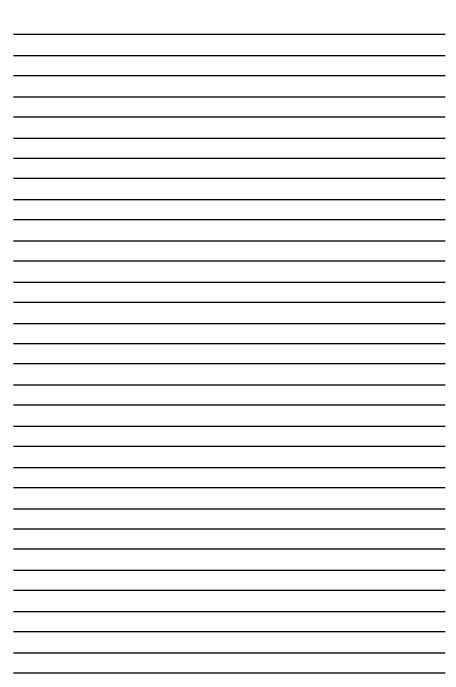


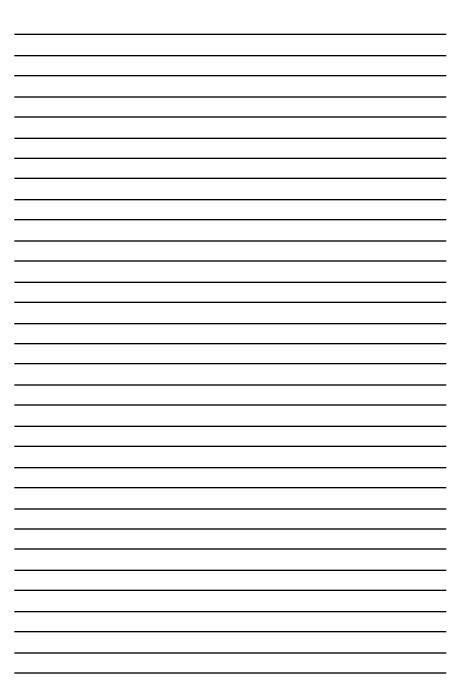






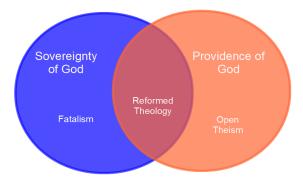






April

Doctrinal Focus: Providence & Sovereignty



We believe that God from eternity, decrees or permits all things that come to pass, and perpetually upholds, directs and governs all creatures and all events; yet so as not in any way to be the author or approver of sin nor to destroy the real moral agency and responsibility of intelligent creatures. God is all-powerful and all-knowing; and His perfect knowledge extends to all things past, present and future, including the future decisions of His creatures.

Missional Focus: Street Evangelism

Prayerfully consider joining a street evangelism. Pastor Jon would be happy to accompany you or to help you find another member to take the gospel to the streets.

Additional Resources:

We recognize this can be a tricky topic but we believe there is so much value in pressing into these truths. Your pastors are always available to discuss and feel free to check out these trusted resources from Desiring God.



(Scan QR code for a interview with John Piper)

Scriptural Focus:

WEEK 14	WEEK 15	WEEK 16	WEEK 17
Genesis 40	Genesis 43	Genesis 46	Genesis 50
Genesis 41	Genesis 44	Genesis 47	Exodus 1
Genesis 42	Genesis 45	Genesis 48	Exodus 2
Matthew 14	Matthew 15	Matthew 16	Matthew 17
Mark 8:31-38	Mark 9:1-13	Mark 9:14-29	Mark 9:30-50

Group Discussion Focus:

Directions:

READ:

- Read the quotes below and discuss briefly any takeaways.
- Read Genesis 1, Isaiah 43:6-7, and Romans 1.

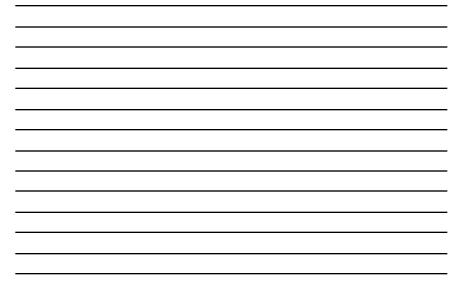
DISCUSS:

- Work through the following quotes and discussion questions as a group and discuss further in growth groups, and families.
- 1. Why might the apostle James consider as arrogant and boastful someone who says, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make profit" (James 4:13ff.)?
- 2. Many people might not consider the fact that God chooses when a person will die as being a reason for celebration. Why do you think it is indeed a source of great joy and comfort?

3. What is Open Theism? What are its main concerns? What is most valuable to God in the Open Theist framework?

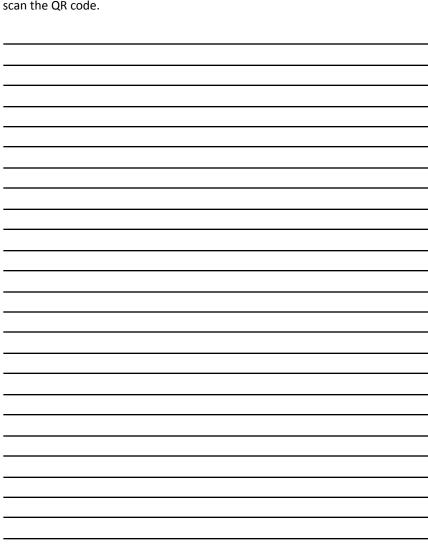
	OPEN THEISM	ORTHODOX POSITION	FATALISM
God's Knowledge	God does not know what we will freely do in the future	God direct human desires to achieve his ultimate purpose	God has determined every aspect and outcome.
Man's Responsibility	Man has absolute autonomy	Human will is in bondage to the strongest desires	Human free-will does not exist; everything is predetermined.

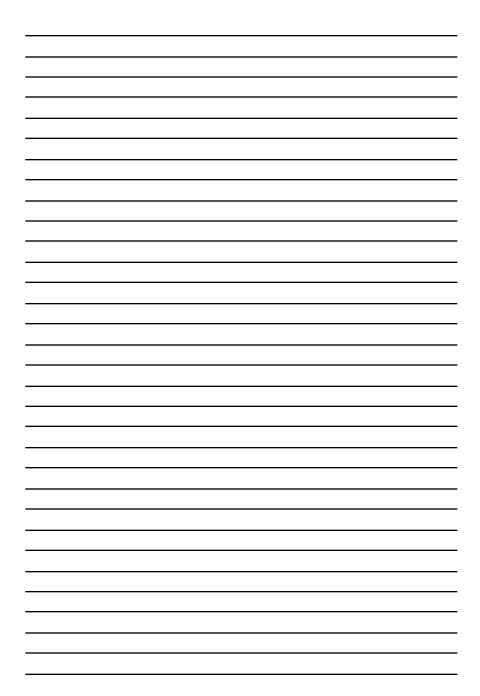
4. Open Theism and Fatalism represent a non-orthodox view of God's sovereignty; How can these views (negatively) impact your view of evangelism, discipleship, the church, and your works? Which of these two extremes are you most prone to believe, why?

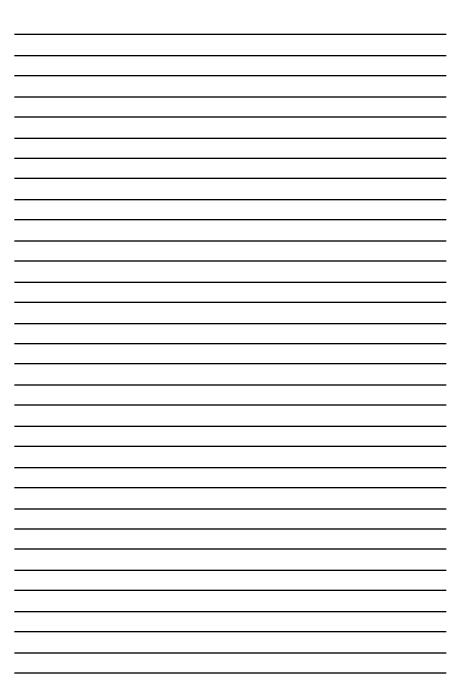


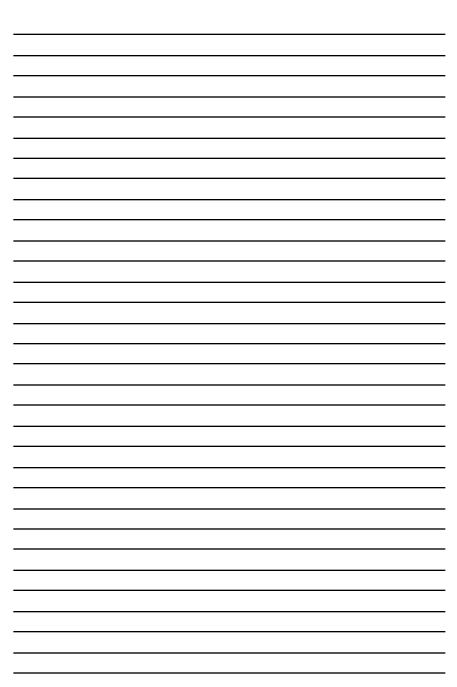
Journal Focus:

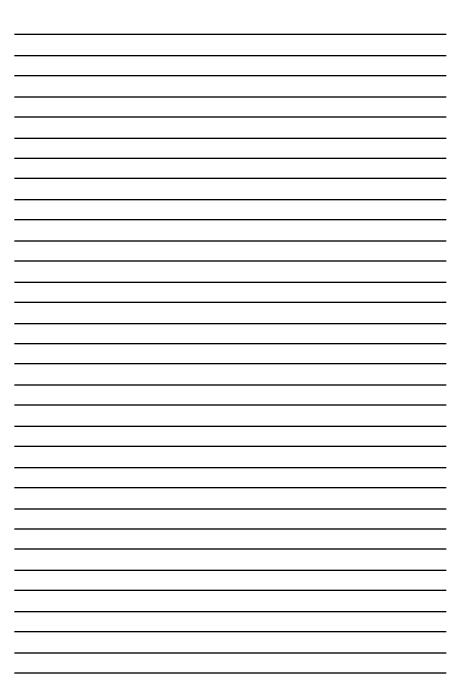
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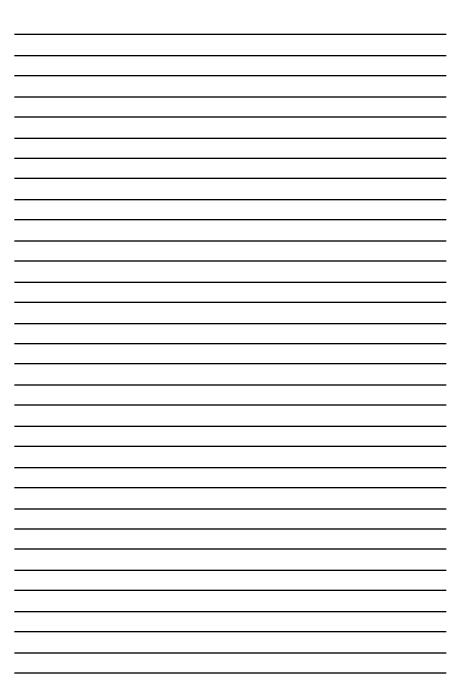


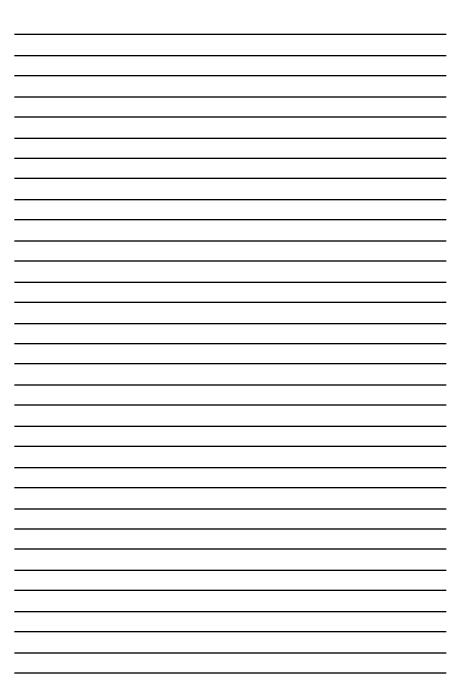














Doctrinal Focus: Election



We believe that election is God's eternal choice of some persons unto everlasting life not because of foreseen merit in them, but of His mere mercy in Christ in consequence of which choice they are called, justified and glorified.

Missional Focus: Prayer Journal & Walk

Devote to memory Acts 18:10, begin to pray over a particular block of the city and ask the Spirit to open the hearts of the lost in that area. Take time this month to walk the block and pray and journal what you observe. Reach out to the Elder team if you have questions about this focus.

Additional Resources:

We recognize this can be a tricky topic but we believe there is so much value in pressing into these truths. Your pastors are always available to discuss and feel free to check out these trusted resources from Ligonier Ministries.



(Scan QR code for an article by Steven Lawson)

Scriptural Focus:

WEEK 18	WEEK 19	WEEK 20	WEEK 21
Exodus 3	Exodus 6	Exodus 9	Exodus 12
Exodus 4	Exodus 7	Exodus 10	Exodus 13
Exodus 5	Exodus 8	Exodus 11	Exodus 14
Matthew 18	Matthew 19	Matthew 20	Matthew 21
Mark 10:1-16	Mark 10:17-31	Mark 10:32-52	Psalm 31

Group Discussion Focus:

Directions:

READ:

- Read the quotes below and discuss briefly any takeaways.
- Read Romans 9:15–16, John 15:16, Ephesians 1:1-16

DISCUSS:

• Work through the following quotes and discussion questions as a group and discuss further in growth groups, and families.

Discussion Questions:

1. Have you ever felt that the world is not right? If so, where do you think this feeling comes from?

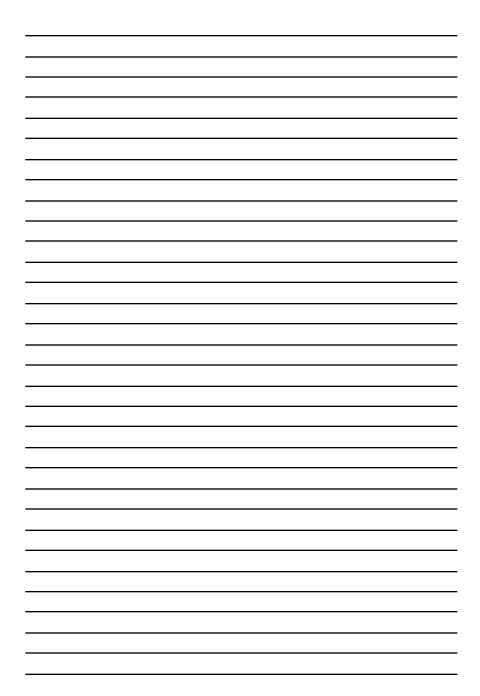
2. Read Ephesians 1:3-14

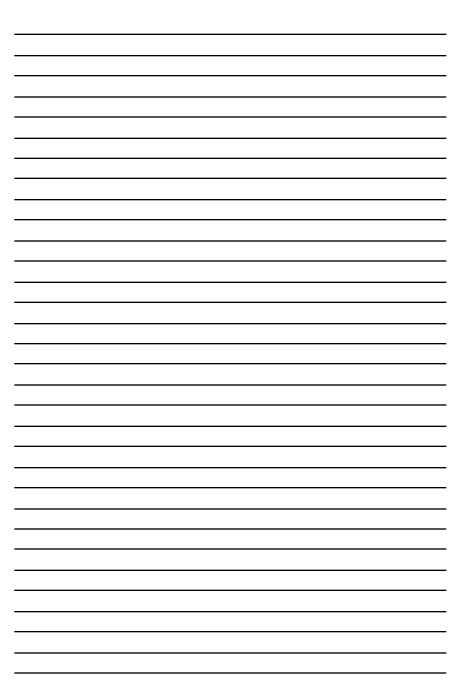
- a. When did God choose his children?
- b. What was the reason God chose us?
- c. What are the results of being chosen?
- d. Does Paul view God's election as a positive or negative thing?
- 3. Re-write Ephesians 1:3-14 into your own prayer to use each day this week, asking God to keep shaping our hearts as we meditate on his word.

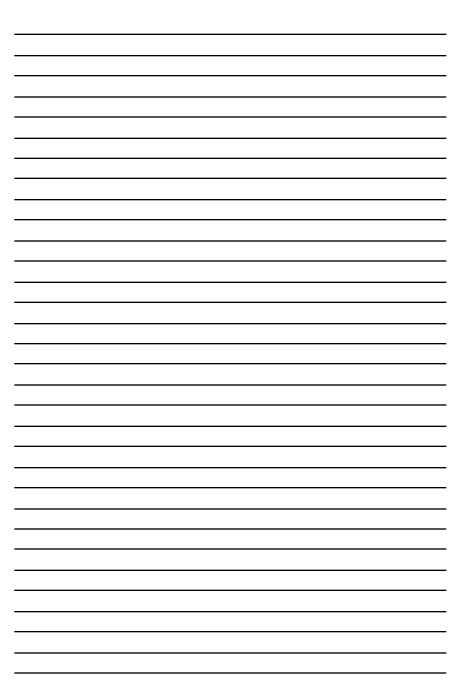
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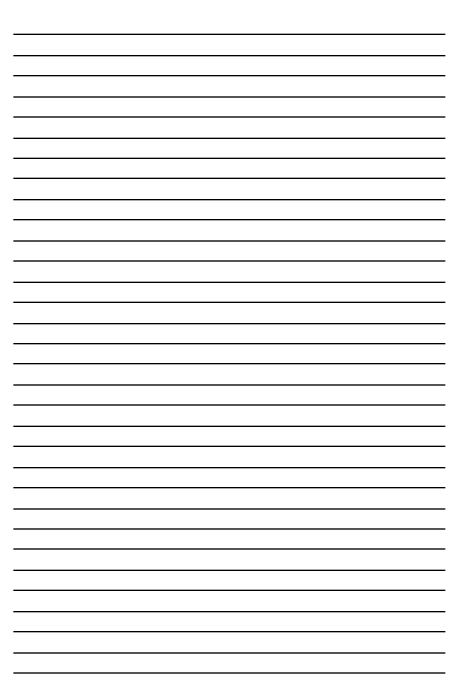
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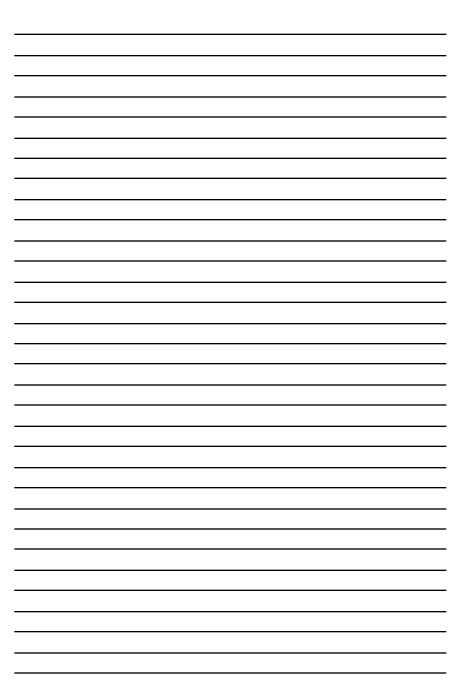


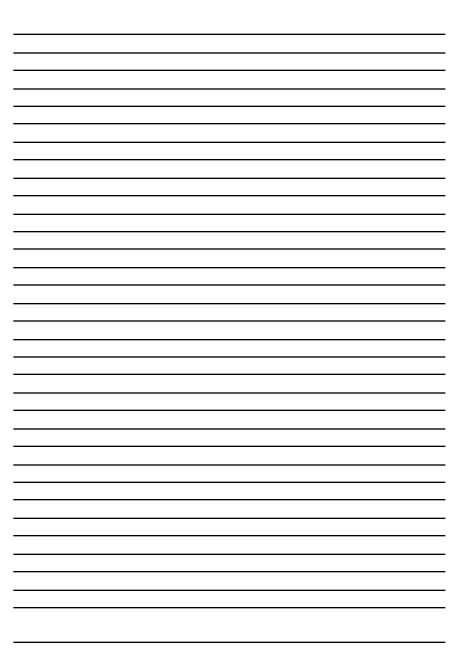












June

Doctrinal Focus: The Fall



We believe that God originally created the first man, Adam, and the first woman, Eve, in His own image, and free from sin.

God created mankind male and female as the crowning work of His creation. The gift of gender is thus part of the goodness of God's creation. But, through the temptation of Satan, Adam transgressed the command of God, and fell from his original holiness and righteousness; whereby his posterity inherit a nature corrupt and wholly opposed to God and His law, are under condemnation, and as soon as they are capable of moral action, become actual transgressors.

Additional Resources:

For more resources on the doctrine of man and the fall, the Fount Elders commend this resource to you from Gospel Coalition contributor Dr. Owen Strachan. This essay examines humanity through a theological survey of God's intentions for the crown of his creation.



Scriptural Focus:

WEEK 23	WEEK 24	WEEK 25	WEEK 26
Exodus 18	Exodus 21	Exodus 24	Exodus 27
Exodus 19	Exodus 22	Exodus 25	Exodus 28
Exodus 20	Exodus 23	Exodus 26	Exodus 29
Matthew 23	Matthew 24	Matthew 25	Matthew 26
Psalm 33	Psalm 34	Psalm 35	Psalm 36

Group Discussion Focus:

Directions:

READ:

- Read the quotes below and discuss briefly any takeaways.
- Read Genesis 3 and Romans 3

DISCUSS:

• Work through the following quotes and discussion questions as a group and discuss further in growth groups, and families.

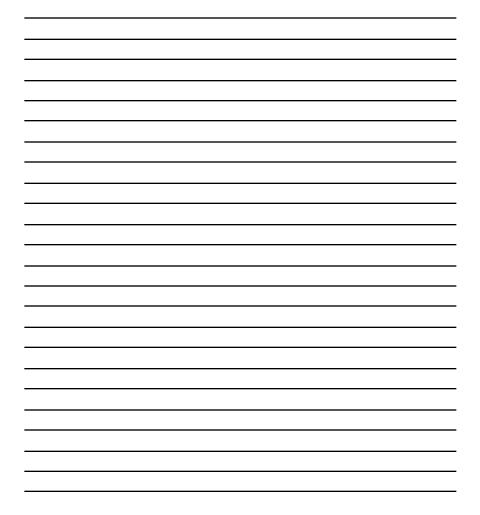
Discussion Questions:

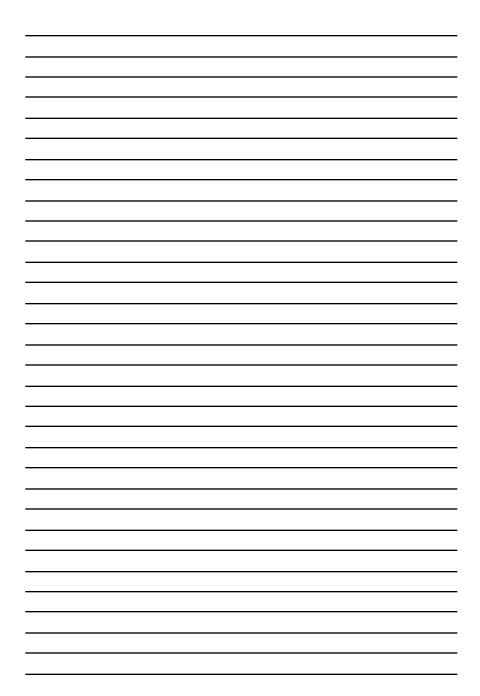
- 1. What role does God play in the problem of sin and evil? With the presence of sin, how does God assure that his will is done?
- 2. What is our response to the problem of sin? How do we attempt to address the brokenness that we see in us and around us?

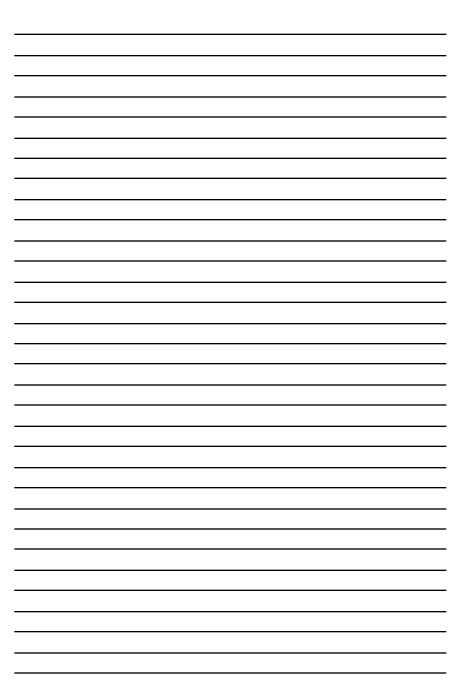
Journal Focus:

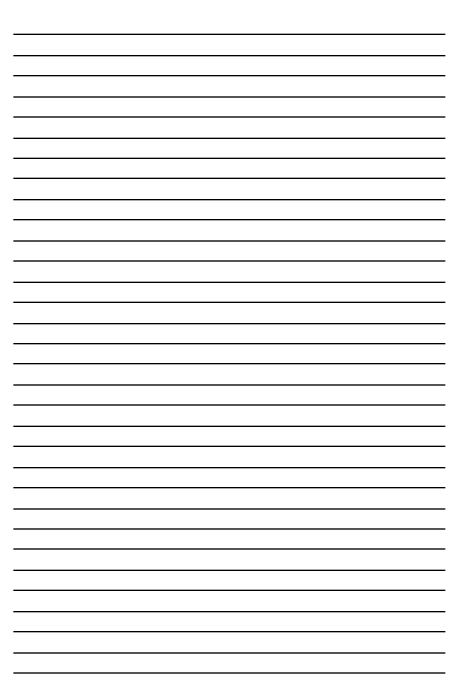
On the following pages you will find space to complete **H.E.A.R** journals. You can also use the following pages to write out answers to the discussion questions in preparation for the monthly Fount men's or Women's gathering. Following the reading plan you will be ready to H.E.A.R. from God. To learn more about journaling, scan the QR code.

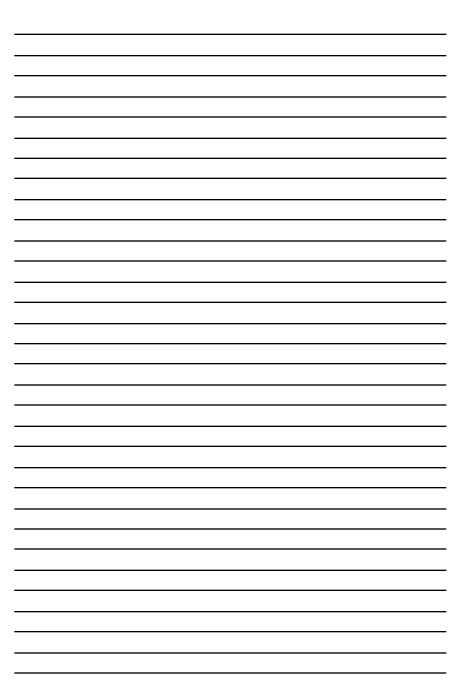


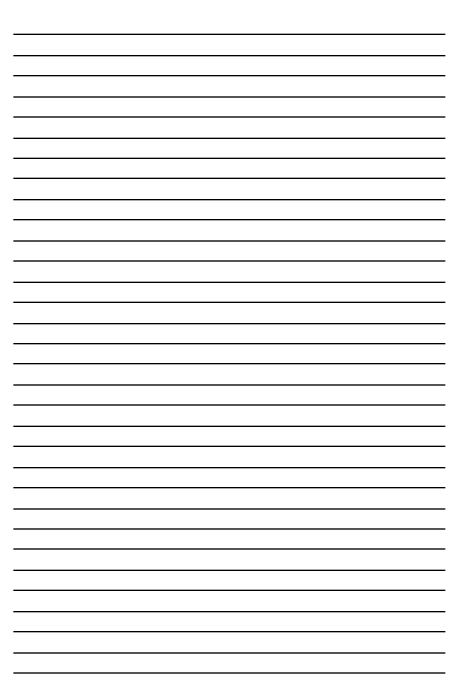


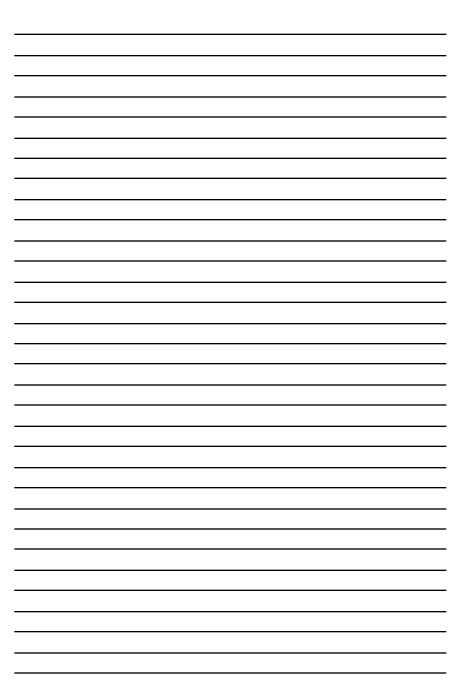












ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

RECOMMENDED PODCASTS:

- The Briefing Al Mohler: Analysis of News and Events from A Biblical perspective
- 5 Minutes in Church History Dr. Stephen Nichols
- Credo Podcast Matthew Barrett
- For the Gospel Podcast Costi Hinn
- **Doctrine and Devotion** Jimmy Fowler and Joe Thorn
- Help Me Teach The Bible Nancy Guthrie

RECOMMENDED WEBSITES:

https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/courses/ Free online learning about theology & life

https://ftcinstitute.com/p/home/

Free and accessible theological training to equip, encourage, and edify the local church and beyond provided 100% online by Midwestern Theological Seminary.

https://www.desiringgod.org/

Desiring God exists to guide you toward everlasting joy in Jesus Christ.

ADDT'L JOURNAL PAGES

