



**WHITEWATER
CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

Engage

*A curriculum for following Christ at
Whitewater Christian Church*

The Engage curriculum is a cumulative result of God's guidance of Whitewater's leadership over our entire lifespan as a church. It is not a claim that "we've got it right and everybody else has it wrong." It is also not an attempt at creating "group think". In fact, as you will see in the classes, we believe in the ongoing activity of the Holy Spirit in every believer's spiritual formation process. This necessarily means we'll all be learning, growing and changing in a lifelong process of discipleship. This curriculum is simply an attempt to faithfully lead and teach what God has taught us so far. At Whitewater, everyone is encouraged to grow together in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

So, if you are ready, let's ENGAGE!



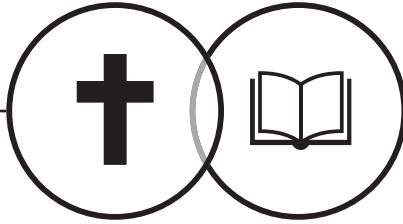
Table of Contents

1. God and the Bible.....	4
a. The Trinity.....	5
b. The Bible as the Word of God	6
2. Mankind	10
a. Creation	11
b. Separation.....	12
c. Reconciliation	15
3. The Church.....	18
a. Life in the Body.....	19
b. Evangelism	21
c. Communion.....	23
d. Baptism.....	25
e. Service.....	27
f. Giving.....	29
4. Your Next Steps	33
a. Action Steps and Resources.....	34



1

GOD AND THE BIBLE



“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

–Genesis 1:1(NET)

The Bible begins by proclaiming God as Creator of all things. At Whitewater, we hold the doctrine of Creation by God as foundational to our faith. At the same time, we recognize there are various understandings of what “God created...” means. There are those among us who believe in a literal interpretation of the Creation account as found in Genesis chapter 1. There are others among us who accept God as Creator but see evolution as an expression of God’s creative power. There are also some among us who have no idea how the world, or mankind, came into being. All are welcome to grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ together at Whitewater.

1a. The Trinity

We believe in one God who reveals Himself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, often referred to as the Trinity or Godhead. If you look up the word “trinity” in the Bible you’re not going to find it. However, when you read through the Bible, literally from Genesis to Revelation, you will see, without exception, that God is a three-personal Being: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The term “trinity” is just a word we use to represent that reality. (i.e. Matthew 3:16-17)

A key aspect of the Trinity is found in the perfectly harmonious relationship between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We recognize Father, Son and Spirit each as parts of the Triune God, existing

in perfect unity. Dr. Elmer Towns characterizes it this way, “The members of the Trinity *are equal in nature, distinct in Person, and subordinate in duties*” (Towns, 2008).

- Father – God the Father is Creator and supreme authority over all things. (Genesis 1:1, Acts 17:24-25)
- Son – Jesus is the one and only son of God, in the flesh. (John 1:14; John 3:16; Matthew 16:16)
- Holy Spirit – The Holy Spirit of God changes our hearts about our sin and empowers us to live as God intended (John 16:7-11; John 14:26).

1b. The Bible as the Word of God

At Whitewater, we hold the Bible to be the inspired Word of God. We receive it as a living and active document where we are invited to encounter and grow closer to God. The 66 books of the Bible were written by more than 40 authors, in different countries and in 3 different languages, over a period of 1600 years. In spite of the different authors, times, places, and languages, it has continuity and unity and relevance for us today, from beginning to end. Together, we search for and seek to live out “*the heart of God within the Word of God*”.

There are many translations of the bible, each seeking to provide a faithful presentation of the truths of God in a language we can understand. The various translations can serve different purposes.

Some are linguistically and academically precise which can be very helpful for study but difficult and awkward to read. Others strive to convey the main thought or idea of a passage but take varying degrees of “poetic license” to do so. These can be somewhat easier to read and comprehend. Many people choose this type for daily bible reading and devotions. You may find you like different translations for different purposes.

Translations generally fit somewhere in the range of these two types:

- 1. Formal Equivalence-** This type seeks to convert the original Hebrew, Greek or Aramaic words into equivalent English words. It is considered by some to be the most accurate type of translation but can be difficult to read and sometimes creates confusion and inaccuracies due to grammar and syntax differences between languages. Some examples of formal equivalence translations are: King James Version; New American Standard Bible; New King James Version; English Standard Version.
- 2. Functional Equivalence-** Sometimes people call this type “thought-for-thought”. Rather than striving for a word-for-word match, this translation allows linguistic variation to express the scriptural idea in the reader’s language. Some examples of functional equivalence translations include: New International Version; New English Translation; New Living Translation; The Living Bible; The Message.

Don’t get lost in the weeds! We invite you to pick whichever translation keeps you reading the Word regularly and growing closer to God. The pastors and elders of Whitewater will be most

happy to help you find a translation that suits you as you get started in this essential facet of your spiritual formation.

Digging Deeper 1a & 1b

1a Featured passages:

- As listed in section 1a above.

Digging deeper:

- <http://www.whitewaterchristian.com/about/> (Scroll down to “What We Believe”)
- <https://bible.org/series/basics-christian-faith> (Lessons 1,2,4,6)*
- “Attributes of God” by Craig R. Johnson

1b Featured passage:

- 2 Timothy 3:16-17
“Every scripture is inspired by God and useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the person dedicated to God may be capable and equipped for every good work.”

Digging deeper:

- 2 Peter 1:16-21; Hebrews 4:12; Psalm 119:105; Proverbs 2:1-6; Deuteronomy 11:18-21
- <http://www.whitewaterchristian.com/about/> (Scroll down to “What We Believe”)

Notes

2

MANKIND



The story of Mankind can only be understood in the context of our relationship to God, our Creator, and so we see ourselves in the light of Him.

2a. Creation

All that God created he called good...except mankind...which he called very good! Mankind is God's pinnacle of Creation. Every human being that has ever lived was created in the image of God. And in creation, he gave us the capacity to communicate directly with him, through prayer. We were created as a reflection of God's glory and for the purpose of relationship with Him. Living in the image of God and relating with him through prayer are the essence of worship. We were literally created to worship God!

Digging Deeper 2a

2a Featured passage:

- Genesis 1:26-31

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, after our likeness, so they may rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move on the earth."²⁷ God created humankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them, male and female he created them.²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply! Fill the earth and subdue it! Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and every creature that moves on the ground."²⁹ Then God said, "I now give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the entire earth and every tree that has fruit with

seed in it. They will be yours for food. ³⁰ *And to all the animals of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to all the creatures that move on the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” It was so.* ³¹ *God saw all that he had made—and it was very good!*

- Implications of the Imago Dei in Genesis 1:26-27
 - Built by love, for love, to love.
 - Relational harmony is God’s will for us: “Equal in nature; distinct in person; subordinate in duties” (Towns, 2008).

Digging deeper:

- Psalm 139; Romans 8:28-30
- Westminster Shorter Catechism Question 1 article

2b. Separation

In the Garden of Eden, everything was perfect. God provided Adam and Eve all they needed and their lives together had a clear purpose, tending to and caring for His beautiful creation. God commanded only one thing they must never do: “you may eat from every tree of the garden but you must never eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for in the day you eat of it you shall surely die.” For a time, they lived a life of joyful harmony with each other and perfect union with God. However, sin entered the garden, in the form of the serpent, and destroyed this perfect union between Man and God. Until this point, Adam and Eve walked with God but now they turned from God and went their own way...in a word, they sinned.

Much of the world defines sin as a behavioral issue, doing wrong or

bad things. And often this is how sin manifests in our lives but this was not the core issue for Adam and Eve and it's not the core for us either. Oswald Chambers defines sin this way: "Sin is a fundamental relationship— it is not wrong *doing*, but wrong *being*— it is deliberate and determined independence from God" (Chambers, 1992). This is what we see in Adam and Eve's decision to disobey God's loving and clear direction. They went against God, pursued their own way. So have we. And just as God said, the consequence of sin is death.

Digging Deeper 2b

2b Featured passage:

- Genesis 3

³ Now the serpent was more shrewd than any of the wild animals that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Is it really true that God said, 'You must not eat from any tree of the orchard'?" ² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit from the trees of the orchard; ³ but concerning the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the orchard God said, 'You must not eat from it, and you must not touch it, or else you will die.'" ⁴ The serpent said to the woman, "Surely you will not die, ⁵ for God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will open and you will be like divine beings who know good and evil."

⁶ When the woman saw that the tree produced fruit that was good for food, was attractive to the eye, and was desirable for making one wise, she took some of its fruit and ate it. She also gave some of it to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them opened, and they knew they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God moving about in the orchard at the breezy time of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the orchard. ⁹ But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ The man replied, "I heard you moving about in the orchard, and I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid." ¹¹ And the Lord God said, "Who told you that you were naked? Did you eat from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" ¹² The man said, "The woman whom you gave me, she gave me some fruit from the tree and I ate it." ¹³ So the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" And the woman replied, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate."

¹⁴ The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all the wild beasts and all the living creatures of the field! On your belly you will crawl and dust you will eat all the days of your life. ¹⁵ And I will put hostility between you and the woman and between your offspring and her offspring; her offspring will attack your head, and you will attack her offspring's heel."

¹⁶ To the woman he said, "I will greatly increase your labor pains; with pain you will give birth to children. You will want to control your husband, but he will dominate you." ¹⁷ But to Adam he said, "Because you obeyed your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat from it,' cursed is the ground thanks to you; in painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. ¹⁸ It will produce thorns and thistles for you, but you will eat the grain of the field. ¹⁹ By the sweat of your brow you will eat food until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you will return." ²⁰ The man named his wife Eve, because she was the mother of all the living. ²¹ The Lord God made garments from skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them. ²² And the Lord God said, "Now that the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil, he must not be allowed to stretch

out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.”²³ So the Lord God expelled him from the orchard in Eden to cultivate the ground from which he had been taken.²⁴ When he drove the man out, he placed on the eastern side of the orchard in Eden angelic sentries who used the flame of a whirling sword to guard the way to the tree of life.

Digging deeper:

- Isaiah 59; Romans 3:23, Romans 6:21-23

2c. Reconciliation

God was not willing that we remain separated from him. His great love, mercy and grace meant that he provided the only way for us to return to the perfect relationship with himself that he created us for in the first place. That way is Jesus Christ. An essential quality of love is that it is voluntary and volitional rather than compelled. And so the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ are God’s offer of and provision for our reconciliation. Romans 10 tells us “...if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes and thus has righteousness and with the mouth one confesses and thus has salvation.”

We believe reconciliation, the forgiveness of sin, is only by grace through the blood of Jesus. In response to God’s calling, the believer acts in faith by repentance, confession, baptism and a transformed life.

Scripture has a beautiful picture of the Body of Christ being comprised of “wild olive shoots, grafted in and participating in the

richness of the olive root". If you have not yet made a confession of sin and profession of faith in Jesus Christ as your Savior and King we invite you to do that now. Would any among you like to pray to be reconciled to God?

Digging Deeper 2c

2c Featured passage:

- Ephesians 2:1-10

And although you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² in which you formerly lived according to this world's present path, according to the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the ruler of the spirit that is now energizing the sons of disobedience, ³ among whom all of us also formerly lived out our lives in the cravings of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath even as the rest...⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of his great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even though we were dead in transgressions, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you are saved!— ⁶ and he raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷ to demonstrate in the coming ages the surpassing wealth of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you are saved through faith, and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God; ⁹ it is not from works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, having been created in Christ Jesus for good works that God prepared beforehand so we may do them.

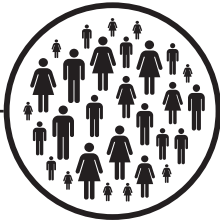
Digging deeper:

- John 3:16-21; Romans 3:24-26; Romans 5:6-11; Romans 11:13-24; Colossians 1:19-22; Hebrews 10:10; John 14:6
- <https://bible.org/series/basics-christian-faith> (Lesson 3,5)*

Notes

3

THE CHURCH



You don't choose your family. They are God's gift to you, as you are to them.

-Desmond Tutu

In a similar way, we believe the people we encounter in the local Body of Christ are intentionally provided to us by God (and us to them) to walk in the footsteps of Christ together. Life in the Body transcends individual preferences. Most people do enjoy the company of some people more than others and that's not necessarily bad or wrong as long as we don't fail to love everyone we meet with the same unconditional love God has for us.

3a. Life in the Body

One of the great misconceptions about Christianity is that “the church” is just a building or maybe an organization. In scripture, ‘ekklesia’ is the term for the New Testament church. It refers to the universal assembly or congregation of “called out” people. The Church, the Body of Christ, is a living thing, an organism, more *who* than *what*. It is the collective of all people, living or dead, who have recognized Jesus Christ as the Son of God and believed in Him for salvation.

There is also a way the church functions as a local organization. Whitewater Christian Church is an elder-led church with pastors and leaders (paid and voluntary) who conduct the ordinary daily life and operations of Whitewater. Our local church is made up both of people who claim Jesus Christ as Savior as well as people who have not yet been reconciled to God by Christ's blood.

God's definition of who we are as the Church also includes his design for *how* we are to be with one another. Any previous distinctions including race, gender, nationality, education and economic status fall away in light of our new, collective first identity as adopted children of the Living God. We are now truly equals, one family with the blood of Jesus Christ flowing through all our veins. As family, we each care for every member's needs, sometimes receiving and other times giving, but always caring and always loving. This is how God calls us to be.

God has eternal purposes for the Church. The ultimate purpose for the Church is to glorify God. In this process, we fulfill all he intends for us. We love God, individually and collectively, through prayer, meditation, scripture study, service, selfless giving, and worship gatherings. We also love each other and the world around us as He loves.

Digging Deeper 3a

3a Featured passage:

- 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

¹² For just as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body—though many—are one body, so too is Christ. ¹³ For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body. Whether Jews or Greeks or slaves or free, we were all made to drink of the one Spirit. ¹⁴ For in fact the body is not a single member, but many. ¹⁵ If the foot says, "Since I am not a hand, I am not part of the body," it does not lose its membership in the body because of that. ¹⁶ And if the ear says, "Since I am not an eye, I am not part of the body," it does not lose its membership in the body because of that. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, what part would do the hearing? If the whole were an ear, what part would exercise the

sense of smell? ¹⁸ But as a matter of fact, God has placed each of the members in the body just as he decided. ¹⁹ If they were all the same member, where would the body be? ²⁰ So now there are many members, but one body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, “I do not need you,” nor in turn can the head say to the foot, “I do not need you.” ²² On the contrary, those members that seem to be weaker are essential, ²³ and those members we consider less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our unrepresentable members are clothed with dignity, ²⁴ but our presentable members do not need this. Instead, God has blended together the body, giving greater honor to the lesser member, ²⁵ so that there may be no division in the body, but the members may have mutual concern for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, everyone suffers with it. If a member is honored, all rejoice with it. ²⁷ Now you are Christ’s body, and each of you is a member of it.

Digging deeper:

- Ephesians 1:22-23; Ephesians 2:10; Ephesians 2:11-22; Ephesians 4:1-6; Galatians 3:26-28; Galatians 5:22-25; Galatians 6:1-5; Acts 2:42-47; Philippians 2:1-5, Philippians 2:12-15; Matthew 22:36-40; Matthew 28:19-20
- <https://bible.org/series/basics-christian-faith> (Lesson 7)*

3b. Evangelism

Another key purpose for the Church is evangelism. Evangelism comes from a Greek word meaning “good news”. The good news, also called the “gospel”, is the story of mankind’s reconciliation to God through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Sometimes Christians are uncomfortable with sharing this with others because they don’t feel qualified to tell anyone about

salvation in Jesus Christ. But really, you don't need to be a scholar, theologian or pastor to share your experience with coming to faith in Jesus yourself. That's really what evangelism is...one starving beggar telling another where to find food for life! All God's people are called to participate in the process of pointing other people to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ through sharing the good news and living Christ-centered lives. This is actually the easiest and most natural thing a follower of Jesus can do. If Jesus is real in your life, you tell people and let them see it!

Digging Deeper 3b

3b Featured passage:

- 2 Corinthians 5:14-21

¹⁴ For the love of Christ controls us, since we have concluded this, that Christ died for all; therefore all have died. ¹⁵ And he died for all so that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised. ¹⁶ So then from now on we acknowledge no one from an outward human point of view. Even though we have known Christ from such a human point of view, now we do not know him in that way any longer. ¹⁷ So then, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; what is old has passed away—look, what is new has come! ¹⁸ And all these things are from God who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and who has given us the ministry of reconciliation. ¹⁹ In other words, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting people's trespasses against them, and he has given us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ Therefore we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making His plea through us. We plead with you on Christ's behalf, "Be reconciled to God!" ²¹ God made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we would become the righteousness of God.

Digging deeper:

- Matthew 28:19-20; Ephesians 2:10; 1 Peter 3:15; Mark 16:15; Romans 1:16; Acts 26:16-18

3c. Communion

Communion and baptism are the two ordinances (or rites) of the Church that we observe at Whitewater. The qualities of an ordinance are that they were instituted by Christ, taught by the Apostles and were practiced by the early church. They are symbolic representations of the gospel message that Jesus Christ lived, died, rose from the dead, ascended back to heaven and will return someday. While important, we believe neither of these ordinances are required for salvation.

The practice of celebrating communion came out of the “Last Supper” which Jesus shared with the Apostles on the night he was betrayed. At Whitewater, we celebrate communion each time we gather. You might also hear it called “The Lord’s Supper” or “The Eucharist”. At its core, communion is a sacred act of fellowship and union between people with a common faith in Jesus Christ. That is why you sometimes hear that communion is for those who believe in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord of their lives. It certainly is that! However, at Whitewater we also recognize and encourage another sort of fellowship that we enjoy within the communion celebration, which is “koinonia” or the fellowship of the local Church. (The scriptural foundation for this is in Acts 2:42-47). We do not place any limitation on who can participate in communion beyond the scriptural admonition (1 Corinthians 11:27-32) that *all* who participate do so with a heart toward others that is aligned with God’s own heart.

Digging Deeper 3c

3c Featured passage:

- 1 Corinthians 11:17-34

¹⁷ Now in giving the following instruction I do not praise you, because you come together not for the better but for the worse. ¹⁸ For in the first place, when you come together as a church I hear there are divisions among you, and in part I believe it. ¹⁹ For there must in fact be divisions among you, so that those of you who are approved may be evident. ²⁰ Now when you come together at the same place, you are not really eating the Lord's Supper. ²¹ For when it is time to eat, everyone proceeds with his own supper. One is hungry and another becomes drunk. ²² Do you not have houses so that you can eat and drink? Or are you trying to show contempt for the church of God by shaming those who have nothing? What should I say to you? Should I praise you? I will not praise you for this!

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night in which he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴ and after he had given thanks he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵ In the same way, he also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, every time you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶ For every time you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

²⁷ For this reason, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ A person should examine himself first, and in this way let him eat the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹ For the one who eats and drinks without careful regard for the body eats and drinks judgment against himself. ³⁰ That is why many of you are weak and

sick, and quite a few are dead. ³¹ But if we examined ourselves, we would not be judged. ³² But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned with the world. ³³ So then, my brothers and sisters, when you come together to eat, wait for one another. ³⁴ If anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, so that when you assemble it does not lead to judgment. I will give directions about other matters when I come.

We invite you to consider whether you believe Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was crucified, died and rose from death so you could be reconciled to God. This is the most important question you'll ever ask yourself so please take some time to consider it. But know this: you are truly loved and welcome here, no matter how you answer that question today!

Digging deeper:

- Matthew 26:17-30; John 6:33-51; Acts 2:42-47

3d. Baptism

The second ordinance of the Church we observe at Whitewater is baptism. The term baptism comes from the Greek word baptizo, meaning “to immerse”, therefore we practice baptism by immersion in the same manner Christ himself was baptized. There are several functions and purposes for baptism:

1. To proclaim your love and faith in Christ
2. In obedience to Christ's command
3. To identify yourself with Christ's death and resurrection
4. To identify yourself with the local Body of Christ (the local church)

5. As a witness and proclamation to world of your faith in Jesus Christ as your Savior
6. To strengthen your faith and encourage the faith of other believers

You may notice this list does not include salvation. That is because, as we said in the Reconciliation section of Class 2, salvation is “by grace alone, through faith...not by works.” Faith and belief are elements of a considered decision so at Whitewater we do not baptize infants or those who do not yet believe in Christ for salvation. Baptism is something a saved person does to proclaim their salvation in Christ, not something a person does to be saved.

If you have not been baptized as a believer in Jesus Christ this may be your next step!

Digging Deeper 3d

3d Featured passage:

- Romans 6:1-14

What shall we say then? Are we to remain in sin so that grace may increase? ² Absolutely not! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³ Or do you not know that as many as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ Therefore we have been buried with him through baptism into death, in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too may live a new life.

⁵ For if we have become united with him in the likeness of his death, we will certainly also be united in the likeness of his resurrection. ⁶ We know that our old man was crucified with him so that the body of sin would no longer dominate us, so that we

would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷ (For someone who has died has been freed from sin.)

⁸ Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ We know that since Christ has been raised from the dead, he is never going to die again; death no longer has mastery over him.

¹⁰ For the death he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹ So you too consider yourselves dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

¹² Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its desires, ¹³ and do not present your members to sin as instruments to be used for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who are alive from the dead and your members to God as instruments to be used for righteousness. ¹⁴ For sin will have no mastery over you, because you are not under law but under grace.

Digging deeper:

- Matthew 3:13-15; Matthew 28:18-20; Colossians 2:12; Galatians 3:27; Ephesians 4:4-6

3e. Service

God created each one of us with specific gifts, on purpose and for a purpose, but these gifts are not only for ourselves! God takes who He has made us to be and matches it with the needs of others, inside and outside of the church building. We need one another and our unique selves and gifts to impact Laramie and the world. When we are aware of our gifts, interests, abilities, likes, dislikes, etc., and we join together to participate in the work of God, we

are living out His kingdom design. Life in the Body at Whitewater provides many areas for you to serve. We encourage you to listen and respond to the Holy Spirit's leading. But know this, every single person's contribution of service makes an eternal impact for God's Kingdom.

Digging Deeper 3e

3e Featured Passage:

- Romans 12:3-8

"For by the grace given to me I say to every one of you not to think more highly of yourself than you ought to think, but to think with sober discernment, as God has distributed to each of you a measure of faith. For just as in one body we have many members, and not all serve the same function, so we who are many are one body in Christ, and individually we are members who belong to one another. And we have different gifts according to the grace given to us. If the gift is prophecy, that individual must use it in proportion to his faith. If it is service, he must serve; if it is teaching, he must teach; if it is exhortation, he must exhort; if it is contributing, he must do so with sincerity; if it is leadership, he must do so with diligence; if it is showing mercy, he must do so with cheerfulness."

Digging deeper:

- 1 Peter 4:10-11; 1 Corinthians 12:12-26; Ephesians 4:11-16

3f. Giving

Life requires money so it should come as no surprise that churches, just like any other organization, need money to operate. Churches get their operating funds through the biblical principle of giving by the people that make up the church. Did you know scripture has more references to money and possessions than references to heaven and hell combined? Evidently our attitudes about money matter to God. Maybe that is because the love of money has such power to steal our hearts away from God.

At Whitewater we focus on the condition of our hearts toward God especially when it comes to the topic of money. Are we greedy, self-indulgent and miserly with “our” money or do we understand that everything we have, and will ever need, is provided for us by God? Do we realize that God has entrusted all of us with resources, no matter how great or small, not only for our own benefit, but even more so we can participate in bringing the Kingdom of heaven to the world around us?

Digging Deeper 3f

3f Featured passage:

- Matthew 6:19-34

¹⁹ “Do not accumulate for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But accumulate for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. ²² “The eye is the lamp of the body. If then your eye is healthy, your whole body

will be full of light.²³ But if your eye is diseased, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!²⁴ “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

²⁵ “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Isn’t there more to life than food and more to the body than clothing?²⁶ Look at the birds in the sky: They do not sow, or reap, or gather into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren’t you more valuable than they are?²⁷ And which of you by worrying can add even one hour to his life?²⁸ Why do you worry about clothing? Think about how the flowers of the field grow; they do not work or spin.²⁹ Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his glory was clothed like one of these!³⁰ And if this is how God clothes the wild grass, which is here today and tomorrow is tossed into the fire to heat the oven, won’t he clothe you even more, you people of little faith?³¹ So then, don’t worry saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’³² For the unconverted pursue these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.³³ But above all pursue his kingdom and righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.³⁴ So then, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Today has enough trouble of its own.

Digging deeper:

- 1 Timothy 6:10-19; Hebrews 13:5; Mark 12:41-44; James 5:1-5; Proverbs 3:9

Notes

Assignment 3f

Spiritual Gifts Test (<https://spiritualgiftstest.com/>)

4

YOUR NEXT STEPS

?

Hopefully, by now you have a basic understanding of your life in Christ and are equipped and inspired to get underway. Movement, change, growth, progress, maturity and adventure all lie ahead. It's exciting and, at times, can be a bit scary. Fortunately, this is not an independent study project. We do this together.

If you have consciously taken this step of faith here are some of the next steps in your faith journey!

Digging Deeper 4

4 Featured passage:

- John 17:20-23

²⁰ "I am not praying only on their behalf, but also on behalf of those who believe in me through their testimony, ²¹ that they will all be one, just as you, Father, are in me and I am in you. I pray that they will be in us, so that the world will believe that you sent me. ²² The glory you gave to me I have given to them, that they may be one just as we are one— ²³ I in them and you in me—that they may be completely one, so that the world will know that you sent me, and you have loved them just as you have loved me.

Digging deeper:

- Colossians 3:1-17; Ephesians 4:1-16; 2 Peter 3:14-18

Action Steps and Resources

- Begin daily bible reading
- Get baptized
- Life Transformation Groups

- Bible Studies: “Good and Beautiful” series by James Bryan Smith
- Death Wishes: 12 Step discipleship group
- Start giving: on Sunday mornings or online
- Start to serve: contact any Whitewater leader (i.e. pastor, elder, ministry leader)
- Spiritual gifts inventory (free)
- Enneagram (your cost \$10)
- Meyers Briggs Type Indicator

References

*Basics of Christian Faith website:

<https://bible.org/series/basics-christian-faith>

Chambers, O. (1992). *My Utmost for His Highest*. Discovery House.

Towns, E. (2008). *Theology For Today*. Cengage.



WHITEWATER CHRISTIAN CHURCH



TELEPHONE

(307) 745-3800



EMAIL

info@whitewaterchristian.com



ADDRESS

710 E. Garfield St., Suite 119
Laramie, WY 82070



SERVICE TIME

Sundays, 10:30-noon, in the Gryphon
Theater, Laramie Plains Civic Center



WEBSITE

www.whitewaterchristian.com