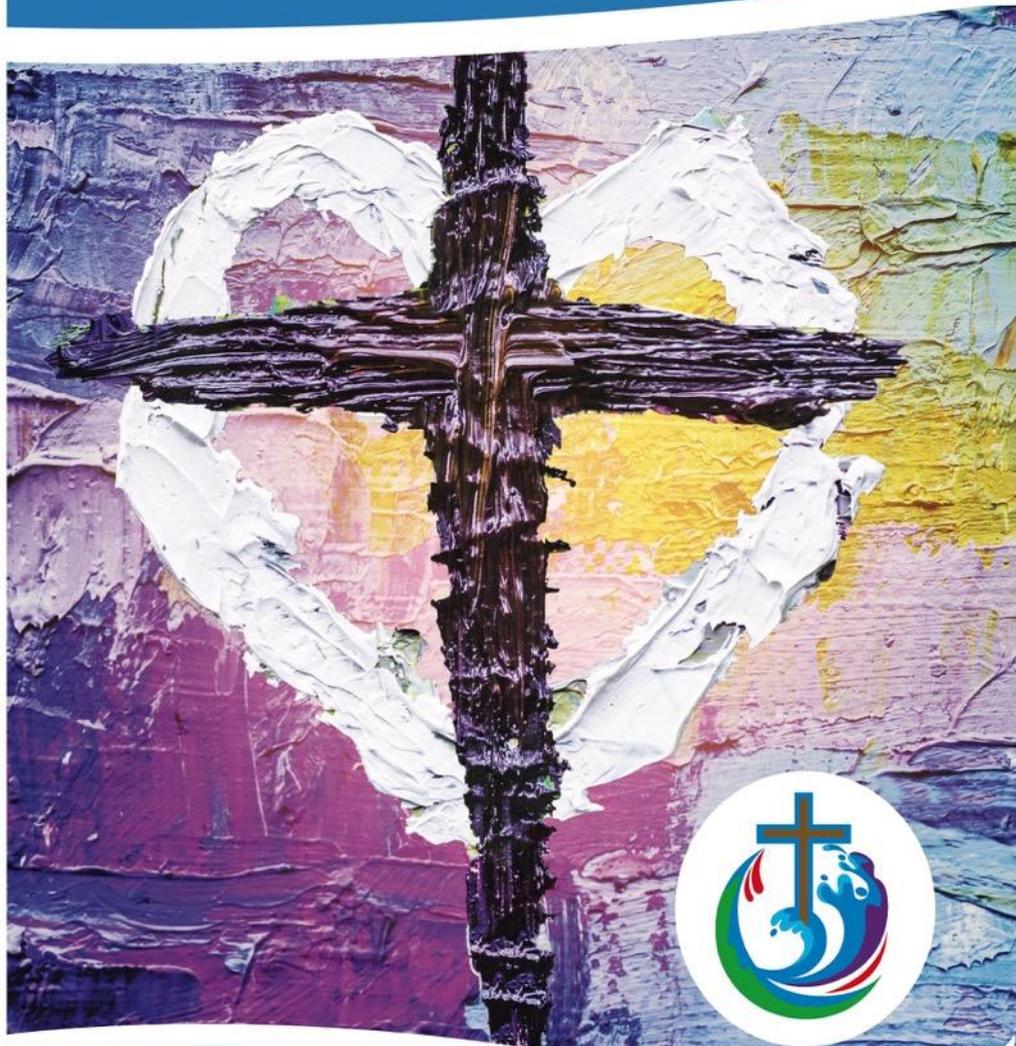


SHOWING GOD



**A HEART FOR GOD
A HEART FOR PEOPLE**



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INTRODUCTION

The most important thing in the life of every believer, is to grow in the knowledge of God. Knowing Him and having a personal relationship with Him is what we were created for. In Jeremiah 24:7 the LORD says: “I will give them a heart to know me, that I am the LORD. They will be my people and I will be their God, for they will return to me with all their heart.”

The knowledge of God involves spiritual wisdom and understanding, and while the knowledge of God is our greatest privilege, it should not stop there. When people truly know God and are growing in a genuine relationship with Him, their lives should reflect more of God.

The greatest effect that you will ever have on others will be through living a godly life. Your walk with God and the way you look to God for guidance and to lead you, will determine your thoughts; will determine your spiritual state and also your spiritual future.

The aim of the series is to help you to understand the character of God and His greatness and power. To help you understand that He cares for you so much that He orchestrated your whole life to give you the best chance

to get to know Him and be in an intimate relationship with Him. You cannot love someone if you do not know him/her. In the same way, you cannot reflect an image of God if you do not have an intimate love relationship with Him. Growing in your knowledge of and relationship with God, will enable you to show God to the world.

Some of God's attributes are His alone, for example: His sovereignty, His omnipresence, His omnipotence and His omniscience. However, God also has attributes that He wants us to reflect through our lives.

In this study, we will have a closer look at those attributes. We trust that this study will help you to understand those attributes and to assist you in reflecting them in your life - for everyone to see and to recognize God through you.

Soli Deo Gloria!
To God alone all the glory!

SHOWING GOD

Week **1**

Transformed into His likeness

Memory verse:

So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.

2 Corinthians 3:18 (NLT)

A HEART FOR GOD
A HEART FOR PEOPLE



Day 1:

Unveiled faces

Begin today's study with prayer.

Read 2 Corinthians 3:7-18 and Exodus 34:28-25

What does the "glory of God" mean to you?

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When God began to give the Law to Israel, He did so, accompanied by an overwhelming display of thunder and lightning, smoke and fire, and the sound of a trumpet on the top of Mt. Sinai. This was to warn the people that He is holy and should not be approached. Moses spent 40 days and nights with God on the mountain. After spending this amount of time with God, Moses came down the mountain and his face was shining with the glory of God. Because everyone was afraid to come near Moses, he wore a veil over his face to hide the radiant glory of God. We don't know how long this lasted, but presumably the glory began to fade when Moses was no longer regularly going into the presence of God.

Read 2 Corinthians 3:3-6 and 9-11

In 2 Corinthians 3, Paul is contrasting the glories of the Old and New Covenants. What do you think is the difference between the “old covenant” and the “new covenant”?

	Old covenant	New covenant
Verse 3		
Verse 6		
Verse 9		
Verses 10-11		

Ministers of the New covenant are unlike Moses. New Covenant ministers proclaim the unfading glory in a bold manner, while Moses wore a veil to shield Israel from a fading glory.

To have an unveiled face is to display the glory/greatness/presence of God boldly, without holding back. There is no veil over our hearts, and therefore none over the eyes. We are like Moses when he stood before the Lord with the veil withdrawn.

End today’s study by returning to the Lord in prayer.



Day 2:

A mirror image

Begin the study by spending time in prayer.

Read 2 Corinthians 3:17-18 and 4:4-6

The most important theme in the Bible is the glory of God. Christian life is all about understanding and experiencing the revelation of the glory of God. That is reflected in the name of our church – Deo Gloria – which means glory to God, which reveals the reason for our existence.

What does it mean to live your life as a mirror image of the glory of God?

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The only way to live your life as a Christian in a troubled world, is to maintain focus on Christ. That is, to understand the fullness of who He is. We, as believers, can see that clearly, unhindered and unobstructed in the mirror which God has given us. That mirror is the Word of God as it reflects the image of Jesus Christ.

The mirrors in ancient times were made of polished metal, and they reflected images with great brilliance and clarity. Christians, by living in the presence of God, reflect the glory of God in a world asking where God is and who God is? We ought to be image-bearers of the Holy God.

Read Hebrews 12:1-3

What does it mean to you personally to have your eyes fixed upon Jesus?

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Christianity is nothing more and nothing less than devotion to Jesus Christ. It is to constantly and intentionally spend time with Jesus in order that the “presence” of Jesus rubs off on me. The world needs to see people who are a mirror image of Christ, not an image of their theology or church background.

We all have full access to God's glory revealed through Jesus. All we need to know about God, about His beauty, His character, His love, His loyalty, His mercy, His grace, His power and His care - all we could ever need - is demonstrated in Christ.

End today’s study by returning to the Lord in prayer.



Day 3:

Metamorphosis

Begin the study by spending time in prayer.

Read 2 Corinthians 3:17-18, Romans 12:1-2 and Ephesians 4:22-24

What does it mean to be transformed?

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People sometimes ask: "How can I change?" Or, "How can **they** change?" The best and most enduring change comes into our lives when we are transformed by time spent with the Lord. People often want to change especially when they feel guilty. And then try to change by using willpower or pressure of some sort. But deep and long-lasting transformation only comes through the Spirit of God when we take time to be in the presence of God.

The word translated here as transform, comes from the Greek word, *metemorphôthè*, and can be translated as "to change the essential form or nature of something." The present tense denotes an ongoing process: We are "constantly being transformed." Transformed into his

likeness is literally "transformed into the same image. (Greeks word – eikon).

Think about an icon on your phone or mobile device. The moment you click on the icon, you can see what is behind it – the full content is opened up and available to be accessed. In the same way, when people or circumstances “click on you” (put pressure on you) they should see the full glory of Christ living in you. To be transformed into his likeness is literally "transformed into the same image." Believers should be carbon copies of Jesus as they reflect God's glory to a dark world.

What do you think is the first thing God wants to transform in your life?

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God will change our lives from the inside out. We were saved to become like Christ. That is part of the purpose of our redemption, to be more and more like Christ. So our goal is to live a Christ-like life. Christ-likeness is to know Christ, to obey Christ, to follow Christ, to love and die for Christ, to imitate Christ.

End today’s study by returning to the Lord in prayer.



Day 4:

From glory to glory!

Begin the study by spending time in prayer.

Read 2 Corinthians 3:18 – 4:6

What does Paul mean by saying that we ought to be transformed “from glory to glory”? What does it mean to you in your daily life?

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With those few words—“from glory to glory”—Paul sums up our entire Christian life, from redemption and sanctification on earth, to our glorious eternal welcome into heaven. It is important that in your life as a Christian there is an increasing understanding of the nature of God because that's how you live your life. You live and you are able to deal with the issues of life by your understanding of God. It is the process of spiritual growth.

The thought conveyed here is that this transfiguring process, which begins with glory, will find its consummation also in glory. It is not a process of passing

from one stage of glory to another (higher) stage. The glory hereafter will be the crown of the glory here.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17

What does it mean to be a new creation?

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As we move from glory to glory, there's something even more important that Christians must understand: it is God's supernatural power that transforms us. He transforms us to become new creations. The old is gone.

This process of being transformed is an ongoing process of glorification, it is a never-ending process.

End today's study by returning to the Lord in prayer.



Day 5:

Transformed by die Spirit

Begin the study by spending time in prayer.

Read Romans 8:1-11 and 2 Corinthians 3:17-18

What are the sinful desires in your life that have to be changed?

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What are the desires of the Spirit?

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There is liberty where the Spirit of the Lord is. When Moses went into God's presence, he had the liberty to take off the veil. The presence of the Lord gave him this liberty. We live in the presence of the Holy Spirit, who is the Lord, because He is given to us under the new covenant. Our desire must be to live free from the desires of this world. Worldly desires (sin) put us in bondage. Being free from sinful desires gives us the liberty to allow the Spirit's presence in our lives. Just as Moses had the liberty to relate to God without the veil in the presence of

the Lord, we have liberty because of the presence of the Holy Spirit.

What role does the Holy Spirit play in your transformation process?

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The Holy Spirit provides the revelation of truth and convicts us of sin. The Holy Spirit transforms, energizes and fills us with Himself, so we can be obedient to God and love Him. The Holy Spirit teaches us the truth and He regenerates and preserves us, by working in our hearts daily.

In the Old Testament the Holy Spirit was with God's people; but now He comes inside our hearts, and there is a fullness and a richness that has not been known before. There is intimacy, strength and power as we become the temple in which He dwells. If we worship money, we become materialistic. If we worship power and prestige, we become cold and hard. If we worship an idol, we become as spiritually dead and lifeless as a stone. On the other hand, if we worship Christ and the veil is off, we will be transformed into His image by the Holy Spirit.

End today's study by returning to the Lord in prayer.



GROUP STUDY:

Prayer

Memory verse:

So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.

2 Corinthians 3:18 (NLT)

Reflection:

Share with the group members how God worked in your life during this week.

Scripture Reading:

2 Corinthians 3:3-18; 2 Corinthians 4:1-6 and Romans 8:1-11

Discussion questions

Discuss what the glory of God means to you.

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In which way can we be transformed into the likeness of Christ?

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What role does the Holy Spirit play in this transformation?

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Do you think the glory of God is visible in the congregation? Why?

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Close in prayer

SHOWING GOD

Week **2**

God is Faithful

Memory verse:

Who is like you, Lord God Almighty? You, Lord, are mighty, and your faithfulness surrounds you.

Psalm 89:8



A HEART FOR GOD
A HEART FOR PEOPLE



Day 1:

Faithfulness

Begin the study by spending time in prayer.

Read Psalm 89:8 and Lamentations 3:22-23

What does the word faithful mean to you?

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Faithfulness is a concept that is very uncommon in our world today. In fact, unfaithfulness is one of the outstanding sins of today - disloyalty and unfaithfulness. There is unfaithfulness all around us in every single sphere. Indeed, if we are honest with ourselves we must say that there are times that we are unfaithful ourselves, in promises that we make, transactions that we undertake, in what we say and more severely and seriously in our relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

Read Lamentations 3:22-23

What does these verses teach us about God's faithfulness?

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Faithfulness is God's attribute of utter dependability, the antithesis of everything fickle and fluctuating.

God's faithfulness means that because He is the truth, everything He says and does is certain. It means He is 100% reliable 100% of the time. He does not fail, forget, falter, change or disappoint. He says what he means and means what he says and therefore does everything he says he will do.

God is always faithful to keep His promises. He is ready and able to deliver all He has promised.

Faithfulness is at the heart of all that God is and does. His truthfulness, holiness, love, righteousness, and other attributes ensure His faithfulness. He is incapable of being anything else.

End today's study by returning to the Lord in prayer.



Day 2:

God is faithful

Begin the study by spending time in prayer.

Read Deuteronomy 7:9; Hebrews 10:23 and 2 Timothy 2:13

What do these verses teach us about the faithfulness of God?

Deuteronomy 7:9	
Hebrews 10:23	
2 Timothy 2:13	

God is faithful in Himself. This attribute is essential to His being; without it He would not be God. Faithfulness is also one of the glorious perfections of His being. It is as if He is clothed in faithfulness.

How does these facts influence your understanding of God?

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Read Psalm 33:4; Psalm 111:7-8 and Acts 13:23

What does these verses teach us about the faithfulness of God?

Psalm 33:4	
Psalm 111:7-8	
Acts 13:23	

God is faithful in His actions, in everything He does. He keeps all His promises. For God to be unfaithful would be to act contrary to His nature, which is impossible.

End today's study by returning to the Lord in prayer.



Day 3:

God's Word is trustworthy

Begin the study by spending time in prayer.

Read 2 Samuel 7:28; Psalm 19:7 and Revelation 21:8

What do these verses teach us about the trustworthiness of God?

2 Samuel 7:28	
Psalm 19:7	
Revelation 21:8	

God is true. His Word of promise is sure. In all His relations with His people, God is faithful. He may be safely relied upon. No one has ever really trusted Him in vain. We find this precious truth expressed almost everywhere in the Scriptures, for His people need to know that faithfulness is an essential part of the divine

character of God. This is the basis of our confidence in Him.

But it is one thing to accept the faithfulness of God as a divine truth, it is quite another to act upon it.

Read Hebrews 10:23

God has given us many great and precious promises, but are we really counting on His fulfillment of them? Are we actually expecting Him to do for us all that He has said? What do you think?

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How have you experienced the fulfilment of the promises of the Lord in your life?

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Because God is faithful, His promises are infallibly reliable.

End today's study by returning to the Lord in prayer.

Day 4:

God is faithful in His relationship with us

Begin the study by spending time in prayer.

God's faithfulness is demonstrated clearly in His relationship with us, His children. Read the following verses and see if you can identify the different ways that God is faithful:

Psalm 36:5	
Psalm 143:1	
1 Corinthians 10:13	
2 Thessalonians 3:3	
1 John 1:9	

God's faithfulness is shown in His love for us. He is faithful in assuring our salvation, forgiving our sins, helping us and protecting us.

How does this knowledge make you feel and think about your relationship with God?

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It is a sobering thought, because His faithfulness is not relying on our love or actions, but is part of who He is.

Think back on a time in your life when you doubted God's faithfulness. Now list how He has proved Himself faithful.

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End today's study by returning to the Lord in prayer.

Day 5:

Faithfulness in the life of the believer

Begin the study by spending time in prayer.

Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-19 and Galatians 5:22-23

William Hendriksen rightly observed that "Divine faithfulness is a wonderful comfort to those who are loyal. It is a very earnest warning for those who might be inclined to become disloyal."

What does the following verses teach us about the way faithfulness should be part of the life of the believer?

1 Corinthians 1:18-19	
Galatians 5:22-23	

In which way does this become visible in your life?

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If you allow God to demonstrate His love, mercy, faithfulness, and righteousness through you, imagine what a difference it will make in your family, church, neighbourhood, and work place. And what if others in your church were also impacted in this way? How would your church change? What effect would this have on your community and the world at large?

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Life is not always fair, but God is always faithful. Faith is holding on to the faithfulness of God, and that is what we should mirror to the world.

End today's study by returning to the Lord in prayer.



GROUP DISCUSSION:

Prayer

Memory Verse:

Who is like you, Lord God Almighty? You, Lord, are mighty, and your faithfulness surrounds you.

Psalm 89:8

Reflection:

Share with the group members how God worked in your life during this week.

Scripture Reading:

Lamentation 3:22-23; 1 Corinthians 1:18-19 and 2 Timothy 2:11-13

Discussion Questions

What do you think of when you hear the word “faithfulness”?

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Read Lamentations 3:22-23.

What does the fact that God is faithful mean to you?

Discuss this in the group.

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Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-19. How should, we as believers, portray the faithfulness of God?

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Read 2 Timothy 2:11-13. What happens if we become unfaithful?

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Close in prayer

SHOWING GOD

Week **3**

God is Spirit

Memory verse:

*God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship
in the Spirit and in truth.*

John 4:24



A HEART FOR GOD
A HEART FOR PEOPLE



Day 1:

God's Spirituality

Begin the study by spending time in prayer.

Read John 4:23-24

What does the word Spirit mean to you?

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God is not a material being. To be a material being is to be a body of some kind. But a body is always limited and subject to change. God is the limitless fullness of being, so God cannot be a body. In fact, God cannot be material at all—at least not as matter is normally understood. God must be immaterial, that is, spiritual. But God is not one Spirit among many – He is Spirit. Because God is spirit, God is invisible. God is not seen, cannot be seen, and will never be seen.

What does the following verses teach us about God?
What proof does it give us that God is Spirit?

John 4:24	
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1 Timothy 1:17	
Colossians 1:15	
John 1:18	

Because God is spirit, people think it is not possible to have a relationship with Him. What does Jeremiah 29:13 teach us about finding God?

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God is a Personal Spirit and makes it possible for us to have a relationship with Him.

End today's study by returning to the Lord in prayer.

Day 2:

God's Spirit at work in the Old Testament

Begin the study by spending time in prayer.

Some Christians seem to think that the Holy Spirit was a stranger to the Old Testament and to the Ancient Israelites. In reality, the first mentioning of the Holy Spirit is found in the second verse of the Bible, Genesis 1:2, where the Spirit is actively involved in the creation of the earth. Shortly thereafter in Genesis 6, the Holy Spirit is said to be involved with men, in striving with them due to their sin. In the closing books of the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit is frequently mentioned. The last clear reference is found in Malachi 2:15.

Read the following verses and describe in what way the work of the Holy Spirit was evident. (Please note this is just an extract of the verses with reference to the Spirit in the Old Testament):

Exodus 35:31	
Nehemia 9:20;30	
Job 33:4	

Psalm 104:30	
Psalm 139:7	
Psalm 143:10	
Isaiah 48:16	

There are many more scripture references to the work of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament.

How does the fact that the Spirit of God was already at work in the Old Testament influence your understanding of God?

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The ongoing work of the Holy Spirit throughout the Old Testament provides us with a great deal of information on the ministry of the Holy Spirit. God is consistent therefore He can be expected not only to remain the same, but to work in similar ways.

End today's study by returning to the Lord in prayer.



Day 3:

God's Spirit at work in the New Testament

Begin the study by spending time in prayer.

God's plan, in the Old Testament as well as the New Testament, has been to empower His people by the Holy Spirit, for His purposes and glory.

What does the following verses teach us about work of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament?

In the life and ministry of Jesus:

Matthew 1:18	
Luke 3:21-22	
Luke 4:1	
Romans 8:11	

In the life and ministry of other people in the New Testament:

Luke 3:13-17	
Luke 1:67	

Luke 2:25-26	
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In the life and ministry of the Church in the New Testament:

Acts 2:1-4	
Acts 3:6-8	
Acts 8:29-31	
1 Corinthians 2:4-5	
1 Corinthians 12:13	

From Jesus' conception and birth right through to His resurrection, the Holy Spirit was with Him and working through Him.

The Spirit is also involved in the works of calling, regeneration, uniting the believer with Christ, indwelling, filling, teaching, guiding, gifting, empowering, and sanctifying the believer. His primary ministry is to mediate the presence of Christ and the knowledge of God to the believer

End today's study by returning to the Lord in prayer.



Day 4:

Be filled with the Spirit

Begin the study by spending time in prayer.

To be filled with the Spirit is not only a once-off happening. By the very nature of the words used, it indicates and requires an on-going, sustained influence of the Spirit in your life.

Read Ephesians 5:18-21

In verse 18 Paul's says we should 'be filled with the Spirit' and in the following verses describes what it will look like. Identify the characteristics of a Spirit-filled life:

Verse 19	
Verse 20	
Verse 21	

What does the following verses teach us about the effect of being continuously filled by the Holy Spirit?

2 Corinthians 3:18	
Galatians 5:16	
Galatians 5:22-23	
Galatians 5:25	

In these verses we read of being transformed by the Spirit, living by the Spirit, being led by the Spirit and keeping in step with the Spirit. We also read of the fruit of the Spirit.

Being filled with the Spirit is an on-going spiritual condition in which the Holy Spirit directs and dominates the Christian's life. This includes the Christian's beliefs, perceptions, attitudes and actions. The Holy Spirit is the active person here. The command is not about what we have to do, but about how we are to respond to the Holy Spirit's teaching and instruction. Our responsibility is to let the Holy Spirit do his transforming work by a believing and obedient response to his teaching and instruction.

End today's study by returning to the Lord in prayer.



Day 5:

Worship through the Spirit

Begin the study by spending time in prayer.

Read John 4:23-24; Matthew 15:8-9; John 17:17 and 1 Corinthians 10:31

John MacArthur once said: “Worship is all that we are, reacting rightly to all that He is”. He continues to explain: “Worship, by the way, is not music. Worship is loving God. Worship is honouring God. Worship is knowing God for who He is, adoring Him, obeying Him, proclaiming Him as a way of life. Music is one way we express that adoration.”

What does the following verses teach us about worship?

John 4:23	
John 4:24	

The worship of God, in Spirit and in truth, can be done only through the One (Jesus) who expresses God’s invisible nature and by virtue of the Holy Spirit who opens to a believer the new realm of the kingdom.

Read Matthew 15:8-9

What does it mean to worship the Father in Spirit?

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Read John 17:17

What does it mean to worship the Father in truth?

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To worship God in "spirit and in truth" certainly means that we worship the great God of our salvation actively and sincerely. Whenever the word "spirit" is used, it indicates the idea of energy and activity!

Read 1 Corinthians 10:31

What does it teach us about worshipping the Father?

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John Piper wrote, "Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church - Worship is. Missions exists because worship doesn't." Our mission is to turn sinners into worshippers.

End today's study by returning to the Lord in prayer.



GROUP DISCUSSION:

Prayer

Memory Verse:

God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.

John 4:24

Reflection:

Share with the group members how God worked in your life during this week.

Scripture Reading:

John 4:23-24; Ephesians 5:18-21; Matthew 15:8-9; John 17:17 and 1 Corinthians 10:31

Discussion Questions

Read John 4:23-24; Matthew 15:8-9 and John 17:17. What does it mean to worship the Father in “spirit and in truth”?

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Read Ephesians 5:18-21. Identify the characteristics of a Spirit-filled life. Are these visible in the life of the church?

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Read 1 Corinthians 10:31. What does true worship look like?

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If worshipping God is the ultimate goal of the church, how do we, as a congregation measure up? Discuss in the group.

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Close in prayer

SHOWING GOD

Week **4**

God is Power

Memory verse:

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Acts 1:8

A HEART FOR GOD
A HEART FOR PEOPLE



Day 1:

The Power of God

Begin the study by spending time in prayer.

Power is defined as:

- 1) the ability to act effectively
- 2) the capacity to direct or influence the behaviour of others or the course of events.

Read Acts 1:8

The word power used here in the original Greek language is “*dunamis*”. It is literally or figuratively a force or miraculous force. Power is the special and distinctive prerogative of God, and God alone. God is God: power belongs to him. This characteristic of God is to be found in each of the three persons of the glorious Trinity.

The Holy Spirit is God, and because the Holy Spirit is God, He is powerful. This is important to understand because we must be careful not to think that the Holy Spirit is just a power.

Read Matthew 3:16

What was the sign given that Jesus Christ is the Son of God?

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The Holy Spirit was given as a sign that Jesus is God's son. We also know that the Son, the Father and the Spirit are one.

Read Luke 1:35

What attribute of God do we see in this verse?

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Read John 16:8-11

How is the power of God, through the work of the Holy Spirit, displayed in this passage?

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End today's study by returning to the Lord in prayer.



Day 2:

God's power through Jesus

Begin the study by spending time in prayer.

During His earthly ministry, Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit displayed God's Power through Jesus.

What does the following verses teach us about the Power of God working through Jesus?

Matthew 12:28	
Luke 4:14-15	
Luke 4:18-19	
Acts 10:38	

During His earthly ministry, Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit, led by the Spirit and empowered by God to perform miracles.

Read Luke 24:49 and Acts 1:8

What did Jesus promise His disciples?

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The Holy Spirit's powerful indwelling is an amazing gift we should never take lightly.

End today's study by returning to the Lord in prayer.

Day 3:

The reason for God's power



Begin the study by spending time in prayer.

When the Holy Spirit descended upon believers at Pentecost, it was not a quiet event, but a powerful one. David Wilkerson, author of *The Cross and the Switchblade* said: "When you strip it of everything else, Pentecost stands for power and life. That's what came into the church when the Holy Spirit came down on the day of Pentecost."

Read Acts 1:8 and Ephesians 1:19-20

What is the primary reason why we receive the power of the Holy Spirit?

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What do you think is the power of God that is in us through the Holy Spirit?

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Read Romans 8:14-17

What makes us so special that God's power is present in our lives?

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What can you change or apply in your life, knowing that you are God's child and He can let His power work through you?

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End today's study by returning to the Lord in prayer.



Day 4:

God's power evident in our lives

Begin the study by spending time in prayer.

The Holy Spirit still works in the world today, accomplishing God's will through believers. His power leads us, convicts us, teaches us, and equips us to do His work and spread the gospel. He also works in unbelievers who are not able to resist His power to bring about God's plans and purposes.

Many Christians believe that we can “lose” the Holy Spirit.

Read Hebrews 13:5(b)

What does this verse teach us about “losing” the Holy Spirit?

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Read Ephesians 4:30 and 1 John 1:9

We have eternal access to the Spirit of God however there are times when the power of God through the Holy Spirit does not work through us.

What might be the reason and how do we rectify this?

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Read Ephesians 4:30-32

What might hinder us from knowing the power of God?

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Read Galatians 5:22-24; 1 John 2:20 and 2 Corinthians 3:18

What are the signs or proof that the power of God is working in and through us?

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End today's study by returning to the Lord in prayer.



Day 5:

Relying on God's power

Begin the study by spending time in prayer.

Read 2 Corinthians 12:9

The church and Christians often rely on their own skills, resources and understanding and many times fail because of this.

Who can we rely on when we are struggling and feeling weak? Why?

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Read Galatians 5:16

How are we able to live free from the power of sin?

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In what areas of your life are you feeling weak?

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How can you rely more on God's power?

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As believers we have access to God's power and our entire lives ought to be connected to His power. Then we humble ourselves and recognise that He is the ultimate power over all and He alone is sufficient. He is able to strengthen us.

In his book, *Desiring God*, Bill Bright gives us five steps to keep in step with the Holy Spirit. The Five Steps are:

- A. Admit (that you can do nothing)
- P. Pray (for God's help for the task at hand)
- T. Trust (a particular promise of God's help)
- A. Act (in that faith), and finally
- T. Thank (God for the help received.)

End today's study by returning to the Lord in prayer.



GROUP DISCUSSION:

Prayer

Memory Verse:

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Acts 1:8

Reflection:

Share with the group members how God worked in your life during this week.

Scripture Reading:

Acts 1:8; Acts 2:1-4; Romans 8:14-17; Ephesians 1:19-20

Discussion Questions

Read Acts 1:8 and Acts 2:1-4. What did Jesus promise His disciples and how did they receive it?

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Read Ephesians 1:19-20. Describe the power we receive through the Holy Spirit? Why?

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Read Romans 8:14-17. What relationship do we have with the Father through the Spirit?

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Do you think the power of God is working in and through us as a Church? How?

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Close in prayer

SHOWING GOD

Week **5**

God is All-wise

Memory verse:

*To the only wise God be glory forever through
Jesus Christ! Amen*

Romans 16:27



A HEART FOR GOD
A HEART FOR PEOPLE



Day 1:

What is wisdom?

Begin the study by spending time in prayer.

All of us have a desire to be wise. We like to understand how things work, to be able to answer questions, to make decisions and to share what we know. We seek and search out wisdom and knowledge of the things of this world.

How would you define wisdom?

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What do the following verses teach us about wisdom?

Jeremiah 10:12	
Jeremiah 51:15	
Colossians 2:3	

One might sum up the meaning of the term “wisdom” with the words, “know how.” Wisdom is based upon

knowledge. Often, in fact, wisdom and knowledge are mentioned together in the Bible. Wisdom cannot exist without a knowledge of all the facts pertinent to any purpose or plan. Wisdom is applied knowledge.

In the book of Proverbs, King Solomon, who was the wisest man on earth, at least until Christ came, has more to say about wisdom than any other book in the Bible.

What does the following verses from Proverbs say about Wisdom?

Proverbs 1:7	
Proverbs 2:6	
Proverbs 9:10-11	

Wisdom begins and ends with the fear of the Lord; a deep, abiding, holy reverence and respect for the Lord and for His Word, the Bible. God knows everything and His wisdom enables Him to know how to apply His knowledge.

End today's study by returning to the Lord in prayer.



Day 2: God is infinitely wise

Begin the study by spending time in prayer.

God is infinitely wise. You can have a lot of knowledge and not have wisdom. There are many brilliant fools, and a lot of less-educated advisors.

But we are talking about God's wisdom, which is vastly superior to human wisdom. The difference is that He always knows the best goal in every situation and He always has total and perfect knowledge of billions and billions of relevant factors in every situation that enables Him to know the best way to achieve the goal.

What does the following verses teach us about the wisdom of God?

Romans 16:27	
Job 36:5	
Psalms 147:5	

Isaiah 55:8-9	
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The Omniscience of God means that He has all the knowledge. The fact that He is an all-wise God, means that He knows how to apply His knowledge.

Read Romans 11:33-36

In this passage we read that the wisdom of God is so deep that His judgments are “unsearchable”. It is so deep that his ways are inscrutable. It is so deep that no one has been, or ever could be, His counsellor. The wisdom of God is so deep and so expansive that he does not and cannot increase in wisdom. To increase in wisdom, something would have to go into God’s mind that has not already come out of God’s mind. But Romans 11:36 emphatically says that this does not happen: “From him and through him and to him are all things.” And if all things are from him, there is no wisdom in the universe that is not already His. Therefore, we conclude: God is infinite in wisdom. His wisdom cannot be increased, not because He has limits, but because every conceivable increase is already His.

End today’s study by returning to the Lord in prayer.

Day 3:

God is the source of wisdom



Begin the study by spending time in prayer.

Read Daniel 2:19-21

What did Daniel realise about the wisdom of God

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Without wisdom, life can be thorny. Our human wisdom can lead us into more trouble, life can seem very unfair.

The question: "Can mankind be given the wisdom of God?" is often asked by believers.

Read Proverbs 2:6

What does this verse teach us about man being given the wisdom of God?

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There are many verses in the Bible revealing that God does indeed gift us with His wisdom. None is perhaps as well known for wisdom as King Solomon.

Read the following verses and explain how each person received the wisdom of God:

Exodus 31:1-5	
Deuteronomy 34:9	
1 Kings 4:29-30	
Ephesians 1:17	
James 1:5	

God is the source of wisdom. Our righteous Saviour, Jesus, bridges the gap between imperfect man and a perfect God with infinite wisdom. Seeking the wisdom of God is the answer to each and every individual problem. If we can turn our heart to Him and allow His Word to guide us, we will live a life totally embraced by God's love and wisdom.

Take time to sit at the Father's feet and ask Him for His wisdom.

End today's study by returning to the Lord in prayer.

Day 4:

God's wisdom revealed in Christ

Begin the study by spending time in prayer.

The depths of God's wisdom, the deepest thoughts of His heart, can be made known only through revelation. While already existing before the beginning of time, these deep things were hidden in God's heart.

God's wisdom does not come as a sudden revelation or impression that comes out of nowhere. You won't find it in newspapers or magazines, unless they accidentally say something that coincides with God's Word. God's wisdom comes directly from God and is revealed in His Word. It especially centres in the knowledge of Christ.

God is infinitely wise in the way He saves sinners—namely, through the incarnation, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, his only Son. God promised to bring salvation and blessing, not only to the Jews but also to the Gentiles. He promised a Messiah who was a man, the seed of Eve and of Abraham and of David, but also One who was the divine Son of God. He foretold of the coming of Christ in which He would be rejected and suffer for the sins of mankind.

Read Ephesians 1: 3-14

How does Paul describe the eternal purpose of God being fulfilled in Christ?

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All of God’s purposes and promises culminate in Christ. God chose the way of salvation through Christ because it was the perfect way to achieve the greatest goal, namely, the humility of man and the glory of God.

Read 1 Corinthians 2:6-16

In what way does the Spirit reveal the wisdom of God to us?

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End today’s study by returning to the Lord in prayer.

Day 5:

Godly wisdom versus earthly wisdom

Begin the study by spending time in prayer.

Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Earthly wisdom appeals to the senses and the emotions. In contrast, the wisdom that is from God reflects Him. The biblical definition of wisdom is the fear of the Lord, as that is where it begins. God is the source. The earthly wisdom is really no wisdom at all.

Read Jeremiah 17:2

Earthly wisdom says: Always follow your heart. What does the godly wisdom of this verse teach us?

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Read John 20:29

Earthly wisdom tells us that seeing is believing. What does godly wisdom teach us about faith in this verse?

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Read Matthew 5:43-47

Earthly wisdom says: Love your family and friends. What does godly wisdom teach us about love in this

verse?

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Read Acts 4:12

Earthly wisdom says: There are many ways to God. What does godly wisdom teach us about the way to God in this verse?

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Read James 3: 13-18

James speaks about the two kinds of wisdom and talks about ways that biblical wisdom manifests itself in virtues that foster peace rather than division. What are the virtues that will foster harmony amongst Christians?

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God desires to give His divine wisdom to His children. All other types of learning are valuable but limited unless built upon the knowledge of the Lord Himself. Therefore, believers must remain diligent and steadfast in seeking God and keeping His wisdom foremost in our minds. God's wisdom gives us focus and direction when we have to choose between what looks good, what feels good, and what is good.

End today's study by returning to the Lord in prayer.



GROUP DISCUSSION:

Prayer

Memory Verse:

To the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen

Romans 16:27

Reflection:

Share with the group members how God worked in your life during this week.

Scripture Reading:

Read Hebrews 11:33-36; James 1:5; 1 Corinthians 2:6-16 and James 3: 13-18

Discussion Questions

Read Hebrews 11:33-36. What is the difference between God's attributes of being all-knowing and being all-wise?

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Read 1 Corinthians 2:6-16. How is the wisdom of God revealed to His children?

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Read James 3:13-18. What is the difference between Godly wisdom and earthly wisdom?

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Read James 1:5. How can we receive God's wisdom?

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Close in prayer

SHOWING GOD

Week **6**

God is compassionate

Memory verse:

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

Colossians 3:12

A HEART FOR GOD
A HEART FOR PEOPLE



Day 1:

The Father of compassion

Begin the study by spending time in prayer.

Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-7 and Exodus 33:19

Compassion is explained in the dictionary as: “A deep awareness of the suffering of another coupled with the wish to relieve it.” Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology translates the Hebrew word as “compassion” and says it also bears a broader meaning such as “to show pity,” “to love,” and “to show mercy.” Other near synonyms for compassion in English are: “to show concern for,” “to be tender-hearted,” and “to act kindly.” The Greek word means: “full of pity, very kind”. The word compassion comes from two Latin words; “com” and “pati.” “Com” means “with” and “pati” means, suffer. It is to suffer with.

How would you describe the God of compassion?

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Compassion is an attribute of God himself. He is full of compassion, and gracious, long-suffering and plenteous in mercy and truth. God is not some distant God out of

touch with his creatures. He feels their pain and is full of mercy towards them.

What kind of compassion and comfort do you experience through your personal daily relationship with God?

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Compassion is action. Compassion moves. It doesn't stand still. It doesn't ignore the problem. And it surely doesn't turn away when someone is in need.

Read Lamentation 3:22-23

What reassurance does these verses give us regarding God's compassion?

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Whether we feel weak or strong, we need God's compassion and mercy every day.

End today's study by returning to the Lord in prayer.



Day 2:

Compassionate Jesus

Begin the study by spending time in prayer.

Read Matthew 9:35-38

What was Jesus' reaction when He saw the crowds?

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How did Jesus describe the people?

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Jesus was moved with compassion over the multitudes. He saw them wondering and weak. He saw the great work that needed to be done. The people were ripe for harvest and many workers were needed to reach them. This is the very heart of God: people.

We too must have this heart of compassion. When you show compassion, you are the answer to someone's prayer.

Jesus is our prime example of compassionate love in action as He reflects the character of "the Father of

compassion." He is, the very essence of compassion and relational care. Christ challenges Christians to forsake their own desires and to act compassionately towards others, particularly those in need or distress. Most significantly, He demonstrated compassion to those his society had condemned - tax collectors, prostitutes and criminals.

Read Matthew 14:13-14

How did Jesus react to the crowd that followed Him?

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Compassion is central to the life and teaching of Jesus. Compassion is one of the core values of Christian life. Jesus, as a person, was filled with compassion and He calls us to show compassion.

How will Jesus' example of compassion help you to become more compassionate?

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End today's study by returning to the Lord in prayer.



Day 3:

Compassionate forgiver of sins

Begin the study by spending time in prayer.

God's forgiveness is something no human could devise but can experience.

Read Nehemiah 9:16-20

How does Nehemiah describe God's reaction to the ongoing sins of the Israelites?

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Despite our sin, God is gracious; despite God's grace, we continue to sin; despite our continuing to sin, God continues to be gracious. The Bible is full of stories of how God was compassionate.

What does the following verses tell us about God's compassion?

Nehemiah 9:20-21	
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2 Kings 20:1-6	
Luke 23:34	

These are only a few examples of how the Lord shows compassion.

Read Hosea 11:8-11

What does Hosea teach about God's compassion?

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God is the Holy God - One who desires to see holiness be resident and active in His people. His compassion overflows with a desire for His people to come to him.

End today's study by returning to the Lord in prayer.

Day 4:

Compassionate to the burdened

Begin the study by spending time in prayer.

Read Matthew 11:28-30 and 2 Corinthians 1:3-6

What do these verses teach you about our compassionate Father?

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It is rare to have a life that is free from all trials and hardships. Even for the carefree person a lingering illness, persistent obstacle or family tragedy can result in a rude awakening to life's burdens. Suffering is an inevitable part of Christian life and an opportunity to learn how God meets our every need. God's compassion is our encouragement in the midst of suffering. You may think that nobody cares about you, but God does care and is full of compassion towards you. Lay your burdens at His feet and know that He is very willing to take them from you so that you will not feel their weight any longer.

God comforts us in any trouble. The trouble may change, but the comfort remains the same. Suffering is a training ground for service to the body of Christ. It equips us so that we can better minister to those who are going

through trials and hardships. In this way we mediate God's encouragement.

Read Psalm 42:1-11

What do you learn from these verses, with regards to putting your hope in God?

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Hope is in God! Wait for God's deliverance! This is a spiritual confidence that God will act and show himself faithful based on past performance. Faith makes it possible to say "Thank You" before one receives the answer. Trust Him to take care of things that are beyond your control. Worrying about it will not help and will only cause you to have tremendous stress. Pray to the compassionate Lord who hears your prayers and will deliver you from your despair.

The troubles that David endured, the troubles that we sometimes face, come with God's knowledge and according to his will, not from his oversight or weakness. The powers of chaos, trouble and evil that threaten our lives, are not beyond God's sovereign control. All must submit to his overarching Lordship.

End today's study by returning to the Lord in prayer.



Day 5:

Being compassionate

Begin the study by spending time in prayer.

Read Luke 10:25-37

How is God's compassion for people evident in your life?

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We serve a God of compassion who gives us an example to follow. When Jesus saw the multitudes, His compassion compelled Him to action: He began to teach them many things, and then fed 5,000 men and their families. Jesus met them where they were and provided what they needed in that moment.

God's compassion is supposed to be tireless. How do we know that kind of compassion when we see it?

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Christ shows us that we are not only to do the things which are our duty to do. We are to go beyond our mere duty. The Good Samaritan is a perfect example. He reacted with compassion toward a mere stranger. He

didn't just help him by the side of the road. He went beyond mere duty. He saw to it that the stranger was fully attended and that he was cared for until he recovered. He even went out of his way to take on himself the obligation of payment for that care.

Just think about this for a while. Think of how you can put the example of the Good Samaritan's behaviour into practice in your life. Think of instances where you can go above and beyond mere duty to show compassion and kindness by having the attitude of a servant in your daily life. Write it down as a reminder to yourself.

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Ask God to give you more compassion so you can be of more service to others.

Compassion is demonstrated by a love that relentlessly compels us to action. Compassion is motivated from deep within and happens when we put ourselves in someone else's place. In that moment we see them as they are, and we ask ourselves, "If I were in that position, what would I want someone else to do for me?"

Read Colossians 3:12-14

With what must we clothe ourselves?

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Paul reminds us that as we exchange the old life for new life in Christ, we are to live in a way that is consistent with that new life. Among other things, he tells us to ‘put on’ hearts filled with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience and love.

How might you share the blessing of this kind of comfort with a friend or relative who is currently suffering? What words of comfort can you bring to others?

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Compassion isn’t static, it’s active; true compassion always inspires action. God pursues us with an everlasting love, that compels Him to action. If our Heavenly Father is a God of compassion, His children should be too!

End today’s study by returning to the Lord in prayer.



GROUP DISCUSSION:

Prayer

Memory Verse:

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

Colossians 3:12

Reflection:

Share with the group members how God worked in your life during this week.

Scripture Reading:

Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-7 and 2 Kings 20:1-6

Discussion Questions

What words/phrases would you use to describe the people, purpose and ministry of your church? Discuss in the group.

People	
Purpose	
Ministry	

Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-7. What does these verses teach us about the God of compassion?

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Think about your church. How do you succeed in showing compassion?

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Read 2 Kings 20:1-6. What does these verses teach us about God's comfort and compassion and our hope?

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Close in prayer

SHOWING GOD

Week **7**

God is good

Memory verse:

The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.



Psalm 145:9

**A HEART FOR GOD
A HEART FOR PEOPLE**



Day 1:

The goodness of God

Begin the study by spending time in prayer.

Read Psalm 100:5 and Psalm 145: 7

How would you describe the goodness of God?

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The goodness of God is the expression of both His love and righteousness to His creatures in general. It is that aspect of God's character that promotes the happiness of His creatures. Goodness includes God's kindness as seen in mercy and grace.

Read Psalm 119:68

This verse is a good definition of the goodness of God. How would you re-write it in your own words?

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The original Saxon meaning of our English word "God" is "*The Good.*" God is not only the greatest of all beings, but

the best. God is not good because it is attractive for Him to be so, nor does He follow after some sort of standard for goodness. God is actually so good that He is the source of goodness; He alone is the rule and measure of what we truly know to be good.

The goodness of God appears to be the sum total of all of God's attributes.

Read Exodus 33:19

Do you agree that the goodness of God may be viewed as one facet of God's glorious nature and character and ALSO the overall summation of His nature and character? Why?

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We cannot separate what is good from God. The Bible makes it very clear that God alone is good.

Read Psalm 16:2 and Matthew 19:17.

These verses confirm why you cannot have goodness without God, just as you cannot have God without goodness.

End today's study by returning to the Lord in prayer.



Day 2:

Good from the beginning

Begin the study by spending time in prayer.

Thomas Manton said: “**He is originally good**, good of Himself, which nothing else is; for all creatures are good only by participation and communication from God. **He is essentially good**; not only good, but goodness itself: the creature’s good is a super-added quality, in God it is His essence. **He is infinitely good**; the creature’s good is but a drop, but in God there is an infinite ocean or gathering together of good. He is eternally and immutably good, for He cannot be less good than He is; as there can be no addition made to Him, so no subtraction from Him.”

The goodness of God is seen from the beginning of the Bible.

Read Genesis 1:4,10,18 and 31

What was God’s reaction to everything that He created?

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God is *summum bonum*, the highest good. Everything that emanates from God—His decrees, His creation, His laws, His providences—cannot be anything but good.

Read Genesis 2:18-25

In these verses we read that God saw that it was “not good” for Adam to be alone; so He created a wife for Him. How is the creation of the woman an act of God’s goodness?

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Read 1 Timothy 4:4

Do you agree with Paul? Why?

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There is such an absolute perfection in God’s nature and being that nothing is wanting or defective in it, and nothing can be added to it to make it better.

End today’s study by returning to the Lord in prayer.

Day 3:

Everything about God is good!



Begin the study by spending time in prayer.

The goodness of God is a character trait which applies to every other attribute. God's wrath is good. God's holiness is good. God's righteousness is good. God is good in His entirety. There is nothing about God that is not good.

Read Psalm 145:8-16 and Psalm 33:5

How does these verses describe the goodness of God?

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The goodness of God is seen in a variety of natural pleasures which He has provided for His creatures.

What does the following verses tell us about God being good to all?

Matthew 5:43-45	
Acts 14:16-17	

God is good to all men in His common grace, showering blessings on the wicked and the righteous alike. But God is particularly good to those who believe in the gospel.

These are only a few examples of how the Lord shows compassion.

Because there is nothing about God that is not good, God gives to His children only that which is good. And He withholds nothing good from us. God is good, and He is at work in our lives for good. Nothing which God creates, nothing which God accomplishes, is not good.

Read Romans 8:28 - Paul takes this truth about God's goodness one step further and acknowledge that God allows nothing to happen to the Christian which is not good.

What reassurance does these verses give us regarding God's goodness?

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To Christians the goodness a God is security. However, true goodness cannot abide evil. God's goodness will manifest itself in a wrathful justice against those who are rebellious and hateful towards God.

End today's study by returning to the Lord in prayer.

Day 4:

God is always good

Begin the study by spending time in prayer.

In the Movie: *God is not Dead*, the pastor and his friend continually reminded each other: God is good all the time - all the time God is good.

It is easy to believe that when things are going well. However, now we have to take it one step further and trust that God gives His children only what is good. God is always good, whether He sends prosperity or pain, health or sickness.

What does the following verses teach us about trials and tribulations that happened to people and who they blamed?

Genesis 50:20	
Psalms 119:67,75	
2 Corinthians 12:7-10	

Knowing God is not the way to the “good life”. Teachers and pastors who tell us God wants only to bless us with healing and prosperity in this life are, in truth, false teachers.

Years ago, professor, Dr. J. Dwight Pentecost, asked his seminary class to pray for his wife. She was going to see the doctor because of some symptoms which might indicate cancer. Later, Dr. Pentecost reported to the class that the tests were negative, and his wife did not have cancer. Everyone was relieved. But Dr. Pentecost was not through with his report. He went on to challenge them concerning their definition of “good.”

Several people had responded something like “God is good!” to the report that his wife did not have cancer. “Yes,” Dr. Pentecost said, “God is good. But, men, I have to say to you that if the doctor’s report had been that my wife did have cancer, God is still good.” He knew what we also must know if we are to think biblically about the goodness of God—God is always good, whether He sends prosperity or pain, health or sickness.

List the trials and tribulations in your life. Talk to God about them and praise Him for being good all the time.

End today’s study by returning to the Lord in prayer.

Day 5:

Goodness in the life of the believer



Begin the study by spending time in prayer.

God is good, and that goodness is seen as He accomplishes His purpose to expand His family. God's purpose is to bring human beings to eternal life in a loving family relationship with Him.

Read Psalm 25:7-11

How can God's goodness be displayed in us?

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To know God is the most important and meaningful relationship you can have. To know His goodness is inspiring, it fills us with hope and it motivates us to live a life filled with meaning, confidence and purpose. He forgives us and instructs us on how to live life according to His will.

Read Ephesians 2:9-10

Why have you been saved?

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Read Galatians 5:22-23

No person can show goodness by their own effort: Goodness is part of the fruit of the Spirit. Is goodness visible in your life?

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In what way?

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Read Galatians 6: 7-10

How can we demonstrate God’s goodness according to these verses?

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When we allow the Spirit to change our lives, we will benefit others. We will reach out beyond our own selfish needs and be self-giving. God’s goodness goes beyond what is legally right, goes the extra mile, and gives what is needed. It gives what will benefit, build up, and bless others. Bearing goodness means God can depend on me to be honest, repent of my sins, and turn away from evil. We need to continually seek to express this goodness in our responses and actions toward others.

End today’s study by returning to the Lord in prayer.



GROUP DISCUSSION:

Prayer

Memory Verse:

The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.

Psalm 145:9

Reflection:

Share with the group members how God worked in your life during this week.

Scripture Reading:

Read Psalm 16:2, Matthew 19:17, Isaiah 61:1, Luke 2:10, Romans 3:21-26 and Titus 3:4-7

Discussion Questions

Read Psalm 16:2 and Matthew 19:17. Discuss the following statement: You cannot have goodness without God, just as you cannot have God without goodness.

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Read Isaiah 61:1 and Luke 2:10. Discuss the following statement: The gospel IS the “good news”.

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Read Romans 3:21-26 and Titus 3:4-7. How did God, in His goodness, make it possible for believers to escape judgement and have their sins forgiven?

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Conclude this study in prayer by reading Psalm 107:8 aloud and allowing each member to praise God for one aspect of His goodness

Close in prayer

SHOWING GOD

Week **8**

God is King

Memory verse:

*...the Lord is the great God,
the great King above all gods.*



Psalm 95:3

A HEART FOR GOD
A HEART FOR PEOPLE



Day 1:

Kingship

Begin the study by spending time in prayer.

People used to a modern democracy, find it difficult to imagine living under a monarchy. When we think of an absolute ruler our minds are filled with words such as *dictator*, *despot*, *tyrant* and *strong man*.

Kingship refers to the concept of a hereditary office in which a single person rules a people and/or a territory with absolute authority. The term “king” is always applied to a male. The term “queen” applies to the king’s wife, or, when there is no king, to a female who takes on the role of king. Kings normally rule until death, at which point the throne passes to a close relative, usually the oldest son.

The office of “king” (monarchy) was very common in the ancient Near East. Normally the territory ruled by a king was centred around a city.

Read Exodus 19:5-6

Israel, however, was under the kingship of God – a Theocracy. Having witnessed God’s care for them, they learned that in obedience to God’s expectations the theocratic kingdom becomes a reality on earth.

Read Genesis 17:6 and Genesis 35:11

Israel's faith includes the confession that God was its ultimate King. What does these verses teach us about the Kingship of Israel?

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Although the rule over Israel was Theocratic (ruled by God) God did not regard human kingship as inherently wrong or contrary to His will for Israel. God chose and anointed earthly kings. He gave them authority and ruled through them.

Read 1 Samuel 8:5-9

Why then was God displeased when the people of Israel demanded a king from Samuel?

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The theocratic leadership was restored under Samuel as the offices of priest, prophet and king were combined under his ministry. When they rejected Samuel and demanded a king, they rejected the authority of God.

Read 1 Samuel 16:13

What was the difference between kingship in Israel and kingship in the neighbouring lands?

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End today's study by returning to the Lord in prayer.



Day 2: Kingdom

Begin the study by spending time in prayer.

Usually we think of “kingdom” as a place. A king cannot rule without a kingdom. God’s Kingdom is a realm, a domain established by God. Reign conveys the fact that God exerts His divine authority over His subjects/kingdom. Realm suggests location, and God’s realm is universal. God’s reign extends over all things. He is universally sovereign over the nations, humankind, the angels, the dominion of darkness and its inhabitants, and even the cosmos, individual believers, and the church.

Read Mark 1:14-15 and Matthew 4:17

Is there a difference between the “kingdom of God” and the “kingdom of heaven”?

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God’s kingdom shares many attributes of human governments, yet it is superior to them in every way. Look at the following examples:

Read Matthew 28:18

What does this verse teach us about the authority (rule) in God's kingdom?

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Read Daniel 2:44

Human kingdoms come and go. What does this verse teach us about the duration of God's kingdom?

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Read Acts 10:34-35

Every king has subjects. What does this verse teach us about the subjects in God's kingdom?

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Read Matthew 22:37-39

The laws (or commandments) of God's Kingdom do more than just prohibit wrong behaviour. What does these laws ask from God's subjects?

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Read Isaiah 48:17-18.

God’s Kingdom sets high standards for its subjects, but it also teaches His people how to meet these standards. What does these verses teach us?

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The Kingdom of God doesn’t enrich its rulers at the expense of its subjects. Instead, it will accomplish God’s will.

Read Matthew 6:10 and Revelation 21:1-4.

What are the promises we find in these verses?

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End today’s study by returning to the Lord in prayer.



Day 3: God is King!

Begin the study by spending time in prayer.

When God revealed himself to the patriarchs it was as God Almighty or God Most High. To Moses it was Yahweh, I AM. But when a nation was brought out of Egypt, God revealed himself as their King.

Read Exodus 15:18 and write the words that Moses sang.

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Many of the Psalms refer to God as King. Read the following verses out loud to get an idea of the Lord's majesty:

Read Psalm 10:16; Psalm 47:2,6-8; Psalm 74:12 and Psalm 98:6

What kind of reaction does these Psalms inspire in you?

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The God of the Bible is King, Emperor, and Lord. What does the following verses teach us about God's reign?

Psalm 99:4	
Isaiah 40:10-11	
1 Timothy 6:15	
1 Timothy 1:17	

In an earthly kingdom a person needs to request an audience to be allowed to speak to the king. Christians only have to pray through Christ as He has already paved the way (Hebrews 10:19-20).

When we pray, we are conversing with the King of the universe. How should that awareness change our prayers?

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Think of an instance that you became intensely aware that you were in the King's presence. How did it affect you?

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End today's study by returning to the Lord in prayer.



Day 4:

Christ is King!

Begin the study by spending time in prayer.

Read John 1:49 and Acts 17:7

Christ is a great, merciful and faithful high priest who intercedes for us; pleading our case before God, but He is also King of Israel.

Read Matthew 27:11 and John 18:33-40

Why were the earthly leaders sceptical about Christ as king?

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God exalted Christ as leader and Saviour. He has made Jesus both Lord of lords and Kings of kings. (Revelation 17:14). This means He has authority over the kings and governing authorities of the world. Christ is thus King of all, also of me.

Read Romans 10:9-10

How does Christ become your Lord (God)?

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Read Revelation 1:6 and Revelation 5:10

What does these verses teach us about the reign of Christ?

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As a son Christ:

obeys the Father, depends on Him, represents Him to mankind and is one with Him. In virtue of this relation, He is the messenger of the kingdom and its principle. At the same time He shares with the Father His authority and Kingship. Each person chooses whether to submit to Jesus or Satan.

As Christians we submit ourselves to Jesus and will reign with Him forever.

Unbelievers submit themselves to Satan and will be punished with him in the lake of fire and brimstone forever; unless they repent.

End today's study by returning to the Lord in prayer.



Day 5:

Let your Kingdom come

Begin the study by spending time in prayer.

Read Matthew 6:9-10

Jesus taught His disciples to pray: “Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven”. What does that mean?

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Read Matthew 6:33

What instructions regarding the Kingdom of God do we receive here?

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God wants us to actively seek His Kingdom. He wants us to talk to Him about why we desperately need His Kingdom to come. He wants us to mention specific troubling situations that we see going on in the world, in our own lives and in the lives of our friends and family.

Read Micah 4:1-5

What does these verses teach us about the Kingdom of God that is to come?

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The world overflows with tragedies. God wants us to spend time reflecting on the pain and sorrow in the world around us. We can then vividly see the need for Him to send Jesus Christ back to earth to set up His government: a kingdom that will yield peace, joy and abundance.

We can imagine how wonderful that world under God's rule will be and commit ourselves now to do God's will (Matthew 6:10). This includes living according to the laws of that Kingdom now and helping proclaim God's message of hope to the world.

End today's study by returning to the Lord in prayer.



GROUP DISCUSSION:

Prayer

Memory Verse:

*... the Lord is the great God,
the great King above all gods.*

Psalm 95:3

Reflection:

Share with the group members how God worked in your life during this week.

Scripture Reading:

Isaiah 6:1-3; Matthew 3:1-3 and Mark 15:25-32

Discussion Questions

Our God is the King of kings and Ruler over all.

Read Isaiah 6:1-3. What does these verses prove about the Kingship of God?

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Read Matthew 3:1-3. The fullest revelation of God's divine rule is in the person of Jesus Christ. How did John the Baptist introduce Him and His Kingdom?

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Read Mark 15:25-32. In what way was the crucifixion of Jesus perceived as the death of a king?

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Read Revelation 11:15-17. Jesus is the King of the world. He is honoured and praised in heaven. Discuss: How does the church respond? And the world?

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Close in prayer



Memory verses

Week 1:

So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.

2 Corinthians 3:18 (NLT)

Week 2:

*Who is like you, Lord God Almighty?
You, Lord, are mighty, and your faithfulness
surrounds you.*

Psalms 89:8

Week 3:

*God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the
Spirit and in truth.*

John 4:24

Week 4:

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on
you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in
all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*

Acts 1:8

Week 5:

*To the only wise God be Glory forever through Jesus
Christ! Amen
Romans 16:27*

Week 6:

*Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly
loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness,
humility, gentleness and patience.
Colossians 3:12*

Week 7:

*The Lord is good to all; He has compassion on all He has
made.
Psalm 145:9*

Week 8:

*... the Lord is the great God,
the great King above all gods.
Psalm 95:3*



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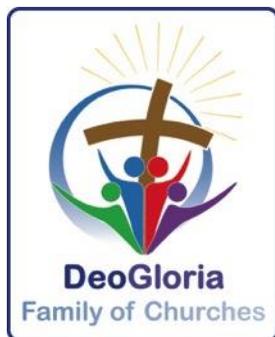
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