



Series Overview and Guides

2020-2021 ANNUAL THEME | SERIES 6

MAY - JULY

Objective

what we hope to see God accomplish in us through this study

That we are ready, willing, and able to share the wonder of Jesus and His ongoing work building His church.

STATEMENTS OF THE OBJECTIVE

"But even if you should suffer for righteousness, you are blessed. Do not fear them or be intimidated [Isaiah 8], but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, ready at any time to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you. Yet do this with gentleness and reverence, keeping a clear conscience, so that when you are accused, those who disparage your good conduct in Christ will be put to shame."

—1 Peter 3:14-16

"Now we have this treasure in clay jars, so that this extraordinary power may be from God and not from us."

—2 Corinthians 4:7

"The number of Christians in the world today is larger than it has ever been in the history of the world."

—Glenn Stanton
The Myth of the Dying Church



Frisco Bible Church
a redeemed community

Premise

why we are studying this

A gauntlet has been thrown down in the western world. Powerful entities claim that Christianity is bad for humans. Culture, politics, education, and entertainment are routinely hostile toward or even closed to those who follow Jesus. Rather than retreat or attack, Christians must know the wonder of Jesus so well that we make a winsome, reasonable defense for the hope within us.

STATEMENTS OF THE PREMISE

"But I say to you who listen: Love your enemies, do what is good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you."

—Luke 6:27-28

John 15:18-19: "If the world hates you, understand that it hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own. However, because you are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of it, the world hates you." **John 16:33:** "I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. You will have suffering in this world. Be courageous! I have conquered the world." **John 17:14-17:** "[Father] I have given them your word. The world hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I am not praying that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth."

Theme

what the study is about

Apologetic discussions rarely lead a person directly to faith in Jesus, though I have experienced exceptions. Regardless, Christian apologetics serve four important functions. Apologetics:

- can prove to be very important in pre-evangelism, clearing away lies that get in the way of understanding the gospel;
- should strengthen the believer's own grasp of truth and cause him or her to follow Jesus more confidently;
- foster internal humility as Christians understand current and past failings;
- promote external peace through growing love for the lost.

STATEMENTS OF THE THEME

"Therefore, I will again confound these people with wonder after wonder.

The wisdom of their wise will vanish, and the perception of their perceptive will be hidden.

Woe to those who go to great lengths to hide their plans from the LORD. They do their works in the dark, and say, 'Who sees us? Who knows us?'

You have turned things around, as if the potter were the same as the clay.

How can what is made say about its maker, 'He didn't make me?'

How can what is formed say about the one who formed it, 'He doesn't understand what he's doing?'

—Isaiah 29:14-16

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The content of this study guide is based on the sermon and personal study notes of

Dr. M. Wayne Braudrick
Lead Pastor, Frisco Bible Church

and is developed by the Frisco Bible Curriculum Team:

Writers:

Ken Bergstedt, AJ Rinaldi, Randall Satchell, Steve Wilson

Editors:

AJ Rinaldi, Randall Satchell

Layout and Design:

Steve Wilson

SCRIPTURE QUOTATIONS

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are taken from the Christian Standard Bible®, copyright © 2017 by Holman Bible Publishers. Used by permission. Christian Standard Bible® and CSB® are federally registered trademarks of Holman Bible Publishers.

SERMON ACCESS ONLINE



You can watch the related sermons at www.friscobible.com/sermons or by scanning the QR code.

On the **Sermons** page, filter by Series and select **Apology Accepted**.

PERMISSION

You are welcome to copy and distribute this study guide for your personal or group study.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Frisco Bible Church
8000 Sanctuary Drive
Frisco, TX 75033
972.335.8150
contactus@friscobible.com
www.friscobible.com

SERIES 6 | SESSION 1

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2020-2021

WONDER

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 16:18 and other selections

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Many have swallowed one of the most fascinating and frankly nauseating lies of this age – that the Church of Jesus is dying. The truth is exactly opposite. The invisible Church, at least as measured in visible churches, has never in history been so widespread, robust, and numerous. Such should not surprise us since Jesus promised to build His church and said that the gates of Hell cannot conquer it.

OBJECTIVE

We keep on with confidence.

ARE CHURCHES IN DECLINE?

“There is indeed a dramatic decline among some American churches, but this severe decline can be found in a distinct group of churches within theologically liberal mainline Protestantism. On the other hand, theologically conservative denominations...are not in decline but are alive and well.”

—Byron R. Johnson
quoted in *The Myth of the Dying Church*
by Glenn T. Stanton

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we take an active role in the health and growth of our church.

Use the back of this page to write prayer requests.

Session 1: Jesus' Church is Dying

1. Review the Premise and Objective of this study found on page 1 of this guide. Discuss what you have seen of Christian apologetics, both good and not-so-good examples.
2. What evidence have you seen to support the following claims?
 - a. The Christian Church is dying.
 - b. The Christian Church is growing.
3. Read Matthew 16:15-18.
 - a. How do we know that the Church will not die?
 - b. What is the source of the claim that the Church is no longer relevant and will fade into history?
 - c. Which source should we believe?
4. Read Ephesians 4:11-16.
 - a. Why are churches that deny the authority of God's Word in decline?
 - b. How do you contribute to the health and growth of your local church?
5. Read Galatians 5:16-25. How does walking by the Spirit help keep the Church growing?
6. Read John 13:34-35. How does loving one another help keep the Church growing?





Session 2: Christianity Promotes a Hateful God

ANNUAL THEME 2020-2021

WONDER

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 45:21 and other selections

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Many people today scoff at the idea of God's love. The two big arenas of objection are the presence of suffering and the supposed lack of free will unless man is the only measure of morality. Thus, God is either not god, or not good. Humans must fill each role for there to be any order and hope. In response, God speaks Isaiah 45:21, offering Himself not just as the only measure, but also as the only Savior.

OBJECTIVE

We turn to the One who suffers for us.

ARGUMENT AGAINST GOD

"My argument against God was that the universe seems so cruel and unjust. But how did I get this idea of just, unjust? A man does not call a line crooked unless he first has some idea of straight. What was I comparing the universe to when I called it unjust?"

—C.S. Lewis
The Problem of Pain

DEFINE GOOD

"Every atheist can define evil. They can never define good."

—Chaplain Paul Hyder – Lt. Cdr., US Navy

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we tell of God's salvation based on Christ's suffering for us.

1. What is your answer to the question, "Why does God allow evil and suffering to happen in our world?" What Scripture helps form your thoughts on this topic?
2. Scripture is clear that Jesus, who was fully man and fully God, suffered in two ways.
 - a. Read Luke 22:42. What does the cup which Jesus dreaded represent?
 - b. Review the story of the death of Lazarus in John 11. What does the statement in verse 35 tell us about Jesus? Why did He weep?
3. What two visible things are humans most prone to worship when they reject God?
4. Read Isaiah 45:20-24 together.
 - a. What four facts does God assert about Himself in verse 21?
 - b. If someone wants to be saved, to whom must they turn? What are the other options?
 - c. What is foretold in verses 23-24?
 - d. What do these verses tell us about God?
5. How can we encourage people who are experiencing difficult times?



SERIES 6 | SESSION 3

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2020-2021

WONDER

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Corinthians 6:12-13 and other selections

KEY IDEAS

THEME

This is a particularly odd myth that seems no more reasonable for how loudly certain voices shout it. Modern culture promotes the idea that biblical Christianity is afraid of any human manifestation. Instead, the love of Christ calls us all to something higher than our desire.

OBJECTIVE

That we do not fear.

CRIME VS. SIN

"Crime assumes there is a human victim to be offended. Sin assumes that there is a God who would be offended.

Of course, humanistic and post-modern thought lends itself toward 'crime' since there is a basic belief that there is no personal God. Of course, Christianity and other authentic religions (especially monotheistic ones) look at morality in terms of 'sin'."

—Chris Legg

"Engaging with Homosexual 'Clobber' Passages, Part 1" - chrismlegg.com

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we graciously and lovingly share Biblical truths with others.

Use the back of this page to write prayer requests.

Session 3: Christianity is Phobic

1. Why does the culture accuse Christians of hateful speech when we speak biblical truth about sin?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-14.
 - a. What sexual sins are acceptable by the world today?
 - b. What has God said in this passage about human sexuality?
 - c. Why do some churches compromise their stand on these matters?
 - d. What is the choice presented in verse 13?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 6:15-20.
 - a. Why should Christians not engage in sexual immorality?
 - b. What is Paul's final argument in verses 19-20?
 - c. What are some ways to remember this exhortation as you wrestle with your sin nature?
4. Read Jeremiah 10:3-5 and 8.
 - a. What is it called when we recognize any ultimate authority besides Yahweh?
 - b. Compare Isaiah 44:14-20. How is this behavior portrayed?
 - c. What is actually true? Read Jeremiah 10:10-12.
 - d. How are the "my truth" and similar philosophies idolatry?
5. Read Deuteronomy 6:13-15.
 - a. What is the one thing Christians are supposed to fear?
 - b. What are some Old Testament and New Testament events which illustrate these verses?
6. Why does the Bible teach that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom? (Psalm 111:10; Proverbs 9:10)



SERIES 6 | SESSION 4

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2020-2021

WONDER

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 24:1-2 and other selections

KEY IDEAS

THEME

It is commonly accepted that Science is the best friend of atheism, as it debunks the Bible. However, the very existence of what we call “science” is predicated on a Christian worldview. Thus, scientific reason arose only in the Christian west, and most of its greatest architects have been Christian. The discoveries which are assumed to expose Christianity as unreasonable instead, upon examination, expose the impossibility of a materialist view of life.

OBJECTIVE

We embrace and examine God’s silent revelation.

WORLVIEW

“All people have a worldview, a set of presuppositions, through which we filter all other information. Christians believe science is one avenue for the discovery of Truth—with a capital T... A Christian sees nothing incompatible between reason or intelligence and faith in a supernatural God. Those Christians who are scientists do not consider themselves intellectual schizophrenics but rather view themselves as following in the footsteps of the Christian founders of modern science.”

—Paul E. Little
Know Why You Believe

PRAYER

Pray for each other, that we rejoice in the beauty of God’s handiwork.

Session 4: Christianity is Disproved by Science

1. Does, or did, studying science affect your beliefs about God and the Bible? How? or why not?
2. Read Psalm 24:1-2 and 19:1-4.
 - a. List all the things which these verses tell us about God and about the universe.
 - b. Why did the scientific method originate from the Christian worldview?
3. What new claim did Galileo make based on scientific observations?
 - a. Why did the religious leaders of his time object to this claim?
 - b. Why do biblical statements like Psalm 113:3 not contradict Galileo’s claim?
4. What claim do those who espouse eugenics make about human lives?
 - a. What basis do atheists have for placing value on human life?
 - b. What is the biblical basis for the value of each and every person? Review some of the relevant biblical passages together.
5. How does the scientific discovery of the exactness of so many physical variables to sustain life support the reasonableness of a Creator?
 - a. How does the multiverse theory attempt to negate this reasonable conclusion?
 - b. Why is the multiverse theory not scientific?
6. Read and discuss the ways in which Romans 1:18-23 applies to this topic.



SERIES 6 | SESSION 5

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2020-2021

WONDER

SCRIPTURE READING

Philippians 2:5-8

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Just like pagans and Mohammedans, Christians have sometimes promoted slavery. Most heinous, they have used Bible passages out of context to defend human enslavement. But biblical ethics is much deeper and penetrates to each soul, destroying arguments for objectifying humanity and creating, in the words of Rebecca McLaughlin, “a whole new paradigm, within which every Christian is both slave and free.”

OBJECTIVE

We serve as slaves of Christ.

BOND-SERVANT

“Paul described Jesus’ self-emptying as taking the form of a bond-servant. ‘Taking’ (Gr. *labon*) does not imply an exchange but adding something. The Lord did not lay aside the form of God; He did not cease to be God. He added the ‘form’ of man. The same Greek word, *morphe*, occurs in verse 6 where it describes outward appearance that accurately reveals inward nature... The Messianic title ‘Servant of the Lord’ reflects this humility and condescension of our Savior.”

—Thomas L. Constable
Notes on Philippians

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we live as slaves to Christ.

Session 5: Christianity Condones Slavery

1. The Old Testament describe various types of slavery. For example, what was the slavery experience like for the people of Israel in Egypt? Refer to Exodus 1:8-14.
2. How did slavery under the Mosaic Law differ? For example:
 - a. What was the duration of a slave’s service? See Exodus 21:2, 5-6.
 - b. How were Hebrew slaves different from others? See Leviticus 25:39-43.
3. Read Philippians 2:5-8. The Greek word for *servant* in verse 7 is *doulos*, which signifies a slave, servant, or bondservant.
 - a. Why did Jesus willingly take on the form of a servant?
 - b. How did Jesus illustrate that we His followers should willingly serve others? See John 13:12-16.
4. Paul taught that every person is a slave to one of two masters.
 - a. What are the two options? Read and discuss Romans 6:11-22 and Colossians 1:13.
 - b. Discuss the implication of the common phrase in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 and 7:21-23.
5. Read the list of evils in 1 Timothy 1:8-11 which includes *slave traders* (CSB) or *enslavement* (ESV). Discuss how God has used and is using Christians to change the world of modern slavery.
6. Read the following and notice how each apostle describes his relationship to Christ. Is this how you view yourself? If not, why?
 - a. Peter 2 Peter 1:1
 - b. James James 1:1
 - c. John Revelation 1:1
 - d. Jude Jude 1
 - e. Paul Romans 1:1



SERIES 6 | SESSION 6

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2020-2021

WONDER

SCRIPTURE READING

John 4:3-10

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Far from denigrating females, the Bible treats each of the two sexes as fully human. Those who trust Jesus are complete co-heirs with Christ. Scripture also teaches that a very few sex-specific roles are necessary in home and church. The most difficult of these is the command for a husband to completely sacrifice for his wife, yet each role is challenging and fulfilling when empowered by God's Spirit. The challenge is increased by six mistakes specific to our times:

- Ignorance of Jesus' complete acceptance of females.
- Misapprehension of the historical context.
- Confusing biblical roles with cultural ones.
- Misusing scripture to cover abuse.
- Using abuse as an excuse to warp scripture.
- Seeing commitment as a trap.

OBJECTIVE

We enjoy and exercise equality and unity before God.

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that commit ourselves to God and in His power commit appropriately to others.

Use the back of this page to write prayer requests.

Session 6: Christianity Depreciates Women

1. What roles in your home are usually done by the husband, the wife, or the kids? Why?
 - a. Read John 4:3-10. Discuss the ways in which this episode shows Jesus' full acceptance of the Samaritan woman.
 - b. Read 1 Peter 3:7. What is the reason given for husbands to honor their wives?
2. How are women and men equal in the sight of God?
 - a. Read John 4:3-10. Discuss the ways in which this episode shows Jesus' full acceptance of the Samaritan woman.
 - b. Read 1 Peter 3:7. What is the reason given for husbands to honor their wives?
3. What are two of the roles in the church specifically assigned to one or the other gender? See Titus 1:5-6 and 2:3-4.
4. Read Ephesians 5:22-27.
 - a. In a marriage, what are the roles assigned to the man and to the woman?
 - b. Discuss the analogy given for each role.
 - c. Why should the example of bad marriages not be a reason for us to warp or disregard this biblical teaching?
 - d. How is this teaching more significant than the marriage of any particular man and woman? See verses 28-33.
5. What can you do to enjoy and exercise the scriptural ideal of male and female equality and unity before God?

