



## GROUP GUIDE – MODULE THREE

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### DEVOTIONAL

Read Luke 24:13-49

In this chapter, Luke tells two stories of Jesus appearing to people after He had risen from the dead – one appearance to two people on the road to Emmaus and one appearance to the disciples together in Jerusalem. In both cases, Jesus explained from all of the Scriptures about Himself. Notice that the Scripture Jesus used was the Old Testament, because the New Testament had not yet been written. But for Jesus, even the Old Testament was about Him and He was able to show how it all came together in pointing to Himself and what He had accomplished with His death and resurrection.

Jesus assumed a unity of all the Bible, with Himself as the unifying factor. This gave consistency and meaning to all that the Bible communicates, and it had implications for the continued ministry of Jesus' disciples. As Jesus taught this overarching consistency, the disciples were better able to understand Jesus Himself and grasp their own place in God's plan. An understanding of how it all fit together in Christ made their hearts burn within them.

The material for this module is intended to help us see the overall arrangement and purpose for all of God's revelation, centered in Jesus. And by seeing the big picture of Scripture as a whole, it will aid us to see all of our life as part of God's overarching plan, centered on Jesus. This big-picture thinking will give us a better grasp of the Bible and the various theological topics. It will help us to know Christ better, and it will help us to know ourselves better, and our place in God's world.

Please, then, prayerfully consider how you can better grasp the big-picture scope of all of life, with Jesus at the center. Do you understand how all the Bible fits together? Do you see how it is all about Christ? Do you see how your life is all about Christ? How is your family, your job, your talents, your ministry all centered on Christ? And what difference should it make to have our eyes opened to all of the Scriptures as a whole, centered on Christ?

### INTRODUCTION

In this module, you will learn various ways to help you organize your theological knowledge. This will help you to better understand and remember Biblical truth. It will also help you to see the relationship between the important ideas. In one sense, the material for this module is fairly simple. It is just understanding and remembering a few simple categories and outlines. And if that is all you get out of this module, it will aid your theological understanding. However, there is much more that you should aspire to gain out of this material. Ideally, you will begin to meditate on the connection between all the diverse ways to look at the big-picture organization and understand how all the categories of theological data work together to give us a comprehensive picture of God's greatness and His gracious provision for all of our life and godliness. May the Lord grant that you have many lightbulb moments where your heart burns because you see the significance of a truth in part of your life because you now understand how it fits.

## MODULE THREE OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this module, the student will:

- Articulate an organized framework for theological truth that is faithful to Biblical organization.
- Demonstrate how their personal theology is an outworking of the Gospel of Christ crucified, raised and reigning as Lord.

## MODULE THREE OUTCOMES

### Cognitive Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this module, the student will:

- Conceptualize a basic outline of the Biblical storyline and how it frames theological truth
- Grasp a basic outline of the Gospel and how it frames theological truth
- Describe the common contexts for application of theological truth
- Articulate the traditional categories of Systematic theology and their relevance to the existential issues of Christian life

### Affective Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this module, the student will:

- Place their own personal history and destiny in the context of God's universal history
- Share a commitment to live as one who has been reconciled to God in Christ
- Desire an application of a consistent Christian worldview
- Share a commitment to living under the Lordship of Christ in every area of life

## MODULE THREE CHECKLIST

<b>Devotion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Devotion Reflection & Discussion
<b>Preparation</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Jamieson pp. 13-108 <input type="checkbox"/> Find relevant Bible passages and research Term Project <input type="checkbox"/> Watch the Assigned Video Lectures
<b>Reflection</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Theology Framework Reflection & Discussion
<b>Research &amp; Presentation</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Gospel Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Bible Storyline Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Term Project – Part 3
<b>Review</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Review Slides <input type="checkbox"/> Review Quiz
<b>Application</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Application Reflection & Discussion Questions

## MODULE THREE ACTIVITIES

### ONE: DEVOTIONAL REFLECTION & DISCUSSION

**Instructions:**

The student will read and consider the devotional above. The student will then reflect and write on the following:

- What does the devotional say about the nature of the Bible and God's working in all of history? What difference does this make for our understanding of ourselves and our own place in history?
- What kind of personal growth steps can you take to live all of life from a Christ-centered perspective, and how do you hope this course can help?

The student will be prepared to discuss the devotional with the group and to encourage one another with their findings and insights.

### TWO: VIDEO LECTURES

**Instructions:**

Students will interact with the video lectures on the course website. The student should actively engage with each presentation and not just passively watch. Blank Lecture notes are available on the course website to help the student engage with the Video Lectures.

### THREE: TEXTBOOK READING

**Instructions:**

The student will read and interact with the assigned portions of the course textbook. The readings are listed on the Reading Schedule for module 3, which is posted in a separate document on the course website. Each Reading Schedule has two columns:

- The first column (labeled "Required Reading") lists those portions of the textbooks which are necessary information for this module.
- The second column (labeled "Supplemental Reading") lists those portions of the textbooks which are not absolutely necessary for this module, but which provide very helpful, supplemental information, should the student wish to get more out of this module.

In addition, the reading schedule document contains a study guide for all the required reading sections. The student may use this guide to aid their understanding and retention of the textbook material.

## FOUR: THEOLOGY FRAMEWORK REFLECTION & DISCUSSION

### **Instructions:**

This discussion will help you process the large amount of material from this module. You will interact with the different theological categories and organizing frames in order to solidify your understanding of the content and relationship of these ideas for your own theology. Ideally, you will demonstrate understanding of the separate theological categories and a mental organization of their relationship to the whole. Ideally, you will thoughtfully interact in more depth with at least some aspect of the web of theological relationships.

Choose 2-5 items that most stood out to you from this module's material. For each, reflect and write out a personal response which covers at least the following points:

- Describe the content and meaning of each item.
- Why did this item stand out to you as important for developing your theology?
- In what ways were you informed and/or challenged?
- How will this impact your discipleship and ministry?

The student should feel free to respond in whatever way is most appropriate for how they have been informed/challenged by the course material.

The student will be prepared to discuss their Theology Framework response with the group and to encourage one another with their findings and insights.

## FIVE: BIBLE STORYLINE PRESENTATION

### **Instructions:**

This activity will help you to integrate your theological knowledge from various categories into the larger framework of the Bible's storyline. You will choose two of the theological categories. And for each of the three, you will think through how this truth fits in the overall Bible storyline. See the Bible Storyline Framework document on the course website for review. Ideally, you will understand what part of this category was revealed in each epoch of the Bible's plotline and how the truth of this category was significant for the development of that part of the story.

Choose any 2 theological categories from the following list:

Bibliology, Theology proper, Anthropology, Hamartiology, Christology,  
Pneumatology, Soteriology, Ecclesiology, Eschatology

Using the examples in the "Theological Framework: Themes" video as a guide (though in much more detail than those necessarily brief examples), Develop a presentation that covers the following requirements:

- There will be two sections of your presentation, one for each of your two chosen categories.
- In each section, there should be five subsections, one for each of the epochs of the Bible's storyline.
- In each subsection, describe the significance of the theological category in that epoch. What was revealed in that epoch? What was the major theological issue (within in this category) of that epoch? How was this truth applied in this epoch?
- Attempt to describe any significant trends in the doctrine that corresponds to the changes of epochs.

The student should feel free to present this material in whatever manner is most beneficial to help them understand the particular category of theology and how it fits in the overall revelation of the Scripture (while still communicating clearly and fulfilling the guidelines of this activity).

The Student will be prepared to discuss their Bible Storyline Presentation with the group and to encourage one another with their findings and insights.

## SIX: GOSPEL FRAMEWORK PRESENTATION

### **Instructions:**

This activity will help you to integrate your theological knowledge from various categories into the larger framework of the Christian Gospel. You will choose three of the theological categories. And for each of the three, you will think through how this truth fits in the four pillars of the Gospel. See the Gospel Framework document on the course website for review. Ideally, you will understand what part of this category corresponds to each vital truth of the Gospel and how the truth of this category is significant for the proclamation, reception and application of the Gospel in individual lives, leading to salvation.

Choose any 3 theological categories from the following list:

Bibliology, Theology proper, Anthropology, Hamartiology, Christology,  
Pneumatology, Soteriology, Ecclesiology, Eschatology

Using the examples in the “Theological Framework: Themes” video as a guide (though in much more detail than those necessarily brief examples), Develop a presentation that covers the following requirements:

- There will be three sections of your presentation, one for each of your three chosen categories.
- In each section, there should be four subsections, one for each of the pillars of the Gospel presentation.
- In each subsection, describe the significance of the theological category for that pillar. What does this category contribute to our understanding of this pillar? How does the category help us to understand, proclaim and believe the Gospel of Christ?
- Attempt to describe any significant trends in the doctrine that corresponds to the relationship between the four pillars.

The student should feel free to present this material in whatever manner is most beneficial to help them understand the particular category of theology and how it fits with the Good News of Jesus (while still communicating clearly and fulfilling the guidelines of this activity).

The Student will be prepared to discuss their Gospel Framework Presentation with the group and to encourage one another with their findings and insights.

## SEVEN: TERM PROJECT – PART THREE

### **Instructions:**

This activity will continue the project that will span all five modules of this course. For this module's activity, you will work through those parts of your Personal Theological Method process (which you created in the previous module) which apply to the exegesis of Biblical material. You will follow this process to examine all the Biblical evidence that is relevant to your specific theological question. This activity helps you to learn theology by actually engaging in Scripture investigation to answer your theological question. You will practice the skills you have been learning to find and understand the Biblical data that addresses your chosen question. Ideally, you will conscientiously strive to read the Bible in a responsible manner, faithful to the author's intention and meaning for the original recipients.

Use a concordance, topical Bible, computer resource or theological reference to locate the Scripture passages that most directly address your chosen question.

Create a presentation in a table format to display the relevant Biblical data. This presentation should include the following items:

- The Scripture reference for each passage.
- A summary of what the passage taught to the original readers in their context, demonstrating that you have paid attention to the historical and literary contexts of the passage.
- Note: for this presentation, you should not yet attempt to answer the question or make application to contemporary life. The intention for this activity is solely to faithfully describe what the Bible passages say in their own terms.

The student should feel free to present this material in whatever manner is most beneficial to help them understand and record what each Biblical passage says with respect to their chosen question topic. This organized presentation of the Bible's teaching on this topic will form the basis for the student's work on this topic in future modules.

The Group leader may ask each student to present their findings to the group for discussion and mutual encouragement.

## EIGHT: REVIEW SLIDES

### **Instructions:**

The student should take advantage of the review slides on the course website in order to help commit the course material to memory. The review slides are a summary of the key ideas of each course lecture put into memorable form to aid memorization. The student should not just attempt to memorize the summaries, but also to use the summaries as a framework to understand and learn how the whole of Biblical revelation coheres together.

The group leader may choose to use the review slides as the basis of a group review, possibly including a game/competition format.

## **NINE: REVIEW QUIZ**

### **Instructions:**

The student will complete the review quiz on the course website as a learning and review experience. This will give the student a good assessment of how well they have learned the course material. The quiz will primarily cover material from the Video Lectures, but material from the Textbook Reading may be included.

No notes or study materials should be used while completing the quiz. Because the quiz is randomly generated, it includes different questions each time. Therefore, it may be profitably taken more than once.

## **TEN: APPLICATION REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

### **Instructions:**

The student will thoughtfully consider and write in response to each of the reflection questions listed on the course website. The purpose of this activity is to help the student connect the course material with their own life and ministry. The student should prayerfully think through the difference the course material can make in their personal context.

The student will be prepared to discuss their response to the discussion questions with the group and to encourage one another with their applications and insights. The group may share encouragement and accountability in how to apply these insights.