



**Introduction:**

What you believe will determine the way you live your life. Together we will explore the meaning, relevance, and credibility of the Christian faith by unpacking 12 key truths that define the core of Christian belief.

During the course of our training together we will be asking and answering four questions with each of the twelve truths explored. Those questions will include...

- What do we believe?
- Why do we believe it?
- Why does it matter if we believe it?
- How can we live it out?

As you can see, this is designed to be so much more than just another study. This is meant to be spiritual exercise. In other words, you are going to have to do something with this in order for it to be meaningful.

The four questions above create the framework for our time together each time we gather. For example, the first truth we will explore is that God exists. We will answer what we believe in regards to God's existence, why we believe He exists, why it matters if we believe He exists, and how we can visibly live out our belief that He exists.

Here's how all that plays out in regards to our spiritual growth through this study together...

1. **What Do We Believe?** – Here is where we will simply bring clarity to *what* we believe by exploring the key truth and some subpoints surrounding it. We must first be crystal clear in regards to *what* we believe before we can do anything else.
2. **Why Do We Believe It?** – This is what we would call apologetics. That comes from the Greek word *apologia* and means “to make a case” or “to make a defense”. This is where we provide evidence for *why* we believe what we believe.
3. **Why Does It Matter If We Believe It?** – It is in this portion of our time together that we will ask and answer *why* what we believe makes any difference in how one thinks, speaks, and acts.
4. **How Can We Live It Out?** – We will only get out of this study what we put into it. The 12 essential truths we will be studying are just that, ESSENTIAL, so let's put as much effort into living out these essential truths as we do in studying them. Of course, that assumes that you are going to truly study them and then apply them to your daily life.

Along the lines of studying and applying God's Word, and these essential truths, which come from God's Word, please read the following passage...

**James 1:22-25**

What is James saying to his hearers here?

Let's now take a look at what this whole thing will look like with a simple introduction study to the twelve truths we will be covering in the weeks to come...

## THE UNSHAKABLE TRUTH: INTRO.

### What Do We Believe?

Before digging into the 12 essential truths let's first deal with some of the foundational principles of this study. Those foundational principles include...

What is a worldview? (pp. 16-17)

What was Jesus's worldview? (pp. 16-17)

Based off what you know from God's Word, what is the reality of our purpose? (p. 18)

Read the introduction to chapter 3 (pp. 37-38). Now answer the following questions...

What is the definition of truth? (Do your best to give a definition, don't worry about being precise right now.)

Truth - \_\_\_\_\_

Given the definition of truth, how is Jesus the ultimate picture of it?

### Why Do We Believe It?

How do you know if something is true? (List several tests you could put something through to discover if it's true.)

### Why Does It Matter If We Believe It?

Why does it matter if someone believes in absolute truth or not? How might that effect the way they live?

### How Can We Live It Out?

This Week...

- Pray for your growth and how you want to see God work in and through you.
- Pray for who you might be sharing the truth of this study with. Both believers that you will disciple and unbelievers you will share the Gospel with.

Before we meet again...

- Read **Genesis 1-2** at least three times this week.
- Read chapters 4-7 of The Unshakable Truth.
- Answer all questions in the study guide for **TRUTH ONE: GOD EXISTS**

# **TRUTH ONE: GOD EXISTS**

## **What Do We Believe?**

To get us thinking about the truths that give us our framework for God's existence read pages 51-53 of The Unshakable Truth again and try to answer the following questions:

1. Why does anything exist at all?
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Why couldn't an impersonal power be responsible for all that exists?

After studying through what we believe about the nature of God on pages 54-56 attempt to state in your own words what each of the following attributes about God mean:

**God is eternal:**

**God is omnipotent:**

**God is omnipresent:**

**God is immutable:**

**God is omniscient:**

**God is personal:**

Based off the attributes just described above, write out in your own words the truth we believe about God (see page 56 for an example)...

### **What We Believe About God**

### **Why Do We Believe It?**

If someone were to ask you why you believe God exists, what would you say?

According to our authors in The Unshakable Truth there are at least four very good and almost irrefutable reasons for believing God exists. Review pages 57-65 and unpack each reason in a way that you could explain it to someone else.

- I. The Cosmological Argument (Pages 57-59)

2. The Teleological Argument (Pages 59-62)

3. The Moral Law Argument (Pages 63-64)

4. A Personal-Experience-With-God Argument (Pages 64-65)

Describe how you would share these truths with someone in a conversation when trying to present a case for your belief in the God of the Bible.

### Why Does It Matter If We Believe It?

Why does it matter whether you believe God exists or not? How does that effect your view of self or your view of others?

How does knowing the relational DNA of God effect your view of who you are and your worth? (see pages 68-73)

### How Can We Live It Out?

This Week...

- Write down the names of at least two people you will pray for this week and share the truth of God's existence with.
  1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
- Finish your time together by glancing over Life's Ultimate Questions Gospel presentation and discuss how and why this would be helpful in sharing the Gospel.

Before we meet again...

- Read **2 Timothy** at least twice.
- Read chapters 8-11 of The Unshakable Truth.
- Answer all questions in the study guide for **TRUTH TWO: GOD'S WORD**.



## **TRUTH TWO: GOD'S WORD**

### **What Do We Believe?**

Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17. What is the Bible and what is its purpose? (see pages 86-88)

Why does it matter if the Bible is reliable or not? (see pages 88-91)

Now write out in your own words in the box below...

### **What We Believe About God's Word**

### **Why Do We Believe It?**

How would you respond to this statement...

*"You can't really trust the Bible it's got a bunch of errors and contradictions"* (see all of chapter 9 and the handout by Pastor Dave). Summarize the info in a way that is understandable and not totally overwhelming.

### **Why Does It Matter If We Believe It?**

What are the two models of truth and how do they affect the way one lives?

*Model #1:*

*Model #2:*

Read the last paragraph on page 108 of The Unshakable Truth. What traps might the enemy be setting for you that God sees and wants to protect you from?

Unpack each of the subheadings under **Living Under the Protection and Provision of God** on pages 109-112.

*Words of Warning:*

*Seeing God's Protection:*

*Seeing God's Provision:*

### **How Can We Live It Out?**

This Week...

- Read **Psalm 119:1-16, 33-34**. Make these words from King David your own personal prayer to the Lord.
- Share with at least one person why you love God's Word and why you trust what it says wholeheartedly.

Before we meet again...

- Read **Genesis 3-4** and **Romans 1-3** at least three times this week.
- Read chapters 12-15 of The Unshakable Truth.
- Answer all questions in the study guide for **TRUTH THREE: ORIGINAL SIN**.

## TRUTH THREE: ORIGINAL SIN

### What Do We Believe?

Mankind was created in the image of the perfect triune God and yet we are selfish and nasty to the core. How did we get there? (Read **Genesis 3:1-13** and **Romans 1:18-32**)

Read pages 126-127 (The Perfect Circle of Relationships). With the description of original creation by God in the Garden of Eden, as perfect as it was, why did Adam and Eve go after something more and sin?

God has blessed us in so many ways in the life that we have here and now. Why do we go after something more and sin?

How would you answer the following question...

*“How did we humans move from intimacy with God in a perfect world to alienation from Him in today’s messed-up world?”* (see pages 127-129)

What did the author mean by his section “When Goodness is No Good” on pages 130-131?

Write out in your own words... (see page 130 for an example)

**What We Believe About Original Sin**

**Why Do We Believe It?**

We are beginning to build our case for why a biblical worldview is the only one that truly makes sense of the world. In backtracking just a little why does God have to exist in order for there to be anything moral (right or wrong)? Or put another way, apart from God is there any such thing as right and wrong?

What evidence is there that right and wrong even exist? (see pages 134-136) How have you seen the evidence of the destruction of sin in everyday life?

### Why Does It Matter If We Believe It?

How does a belief in absolute right or wrong effect the way someone lives? What if someone believes there is no such thing as absolute truth or absolute right or wrong? What would you say to them? (I know, that's a loaded series of questions so take them one at a time ☺)

The authors give us a great process for making “right” or “Jesus honoring” choices in this chapter that will help us shine the light of Jesus in the world which we live in. Unpack each of those, the 4 C’s, below:

1. Consider the Choice (Page 141)
2. Compare the Choice to God (Pages 141-142)
3. Commit to God’s Ways (Pages 142-143)
4. Count On God’s Protection and Provision (Page 143)

### How Can We Live It Out?

This week...

- Commit to memorizing and applying the 4-C process to every area of your life.
- Since this commitment is one that will take fighting against your fleshly desires stop and pray for yourself and each other right now. (Yes, NOW! 😊)

Before we meet again...

- Read **John 1:1-18**, **Colossians 1:15-20**, and **Hebrews 1:1-8** at least three times. Make note of what each of these passages is saying about who Jesus is below (this will be our opening for our next session... see TRUTH FOUR: GOD BECAME HUMAN).
- Read chapters 16-19 of The Unshakable Truth.
- Answer all questions in the study guide for **TRUTH FOUR: GOD BECAME HUMAN**.

## **TRUTH FOUR: GOD BECAME HUMAN**

### **What Do We Believe?**

Your mission, should you accept it, is to unpack and explain what each of the passages below are saying about the person and nature of Jesus...

**John 1:1-18**

**Colossians 1:15-20**

**Hebrews 1:1-8**

Based off the passages above, and your unpacking of them, write in your own words...

### **What We Believe About God Became Human**

Why does it matter if Jesus was God? What if He wasn't and He was just a good teacher, a guru, a prophet, an angel, a lesser god, or martyr who lived a virtuous life?



### **Why Do We Believe It?**

It is one thing to say that we believe that Jesus is God, but is there any evidence for it? If so, like what? (This will take a bit of work, but probe the evidences given on pages 160-169 as well as the handout Pastor Dave gave you and fill up the rest of this page with those evidences, but write it in such a way that you'd be able to share it and explain it to someone else.)

### **Why Does It Matter If We Believe It?**

Why does it matter whether you believe God actually came to earth as a person, as Jesus?

What is wrong with believing Jesus is just a good teacher, a moral man, or even an angel?

**Read Hebrews 2:18; 4:15-16.** What does Scripture tell in regards to the importance of Jesus being God in flesh?

How does acceptance by God without conditions create a secure relationship with Him? (see pages 174-175)

How does acceptance by God that identifies with us create an intimate relationship with Him? (see pages 175-176)

### How Can We Live It Out?

This week...

- Make the time to simply be with someone who does not yet know Jesus and tell them why it is so important for them to know that God came as a person to establish a relationship with them. Describe what this may look like.

Before we meet again...

- Read **Hebrews 10:1-18** and **Romans 4:1-5** at least twice everyday this week. Be ready to explain what those mean in regards to what Jesus did on our behalf.
- Read chapters 20-23 of The Unshakable Truth.
- Answer all questions in the study guide for **TRUTH FIVE: CHRIST'S ATONEMENT FOR SIN**.

## **TRUTH FIVE: CHRIST'S ATONEMENT FOR SIN**

### **What Do We Believe?**

God is perfectly holy and therefore cannot just overlook sin. Knowing this fact, attempt to answer the following questions:

Why did God require an animal sacrifice when people sinned? (Pages 188-189)

Why weren't animal sacrifices good enough to pay for our sins once and for all? (See Hebrews 10:1-14)

How was Jesus's sacrifice better than that of the animal sacrifices made by the priests? (Pages 189-190)

### **What We Believe About Christ's Atonement for Sin**

### **Why Do We Believe It?**

In order for us to be perfectly forgiven by an all holy and perfect God a perfect payment must be made to pay for our sins. Since only God is perfect, God must be the One to pay for our sins. Well, the Bible says Jesus came and paid for our sins through His death on the cross. This means that Jesus must be God in order for His death to pay for all of our sins and make us perfect in the eyes of God. But is there any evidence that Jesus is actually God? The authors of The Unshakable Truth really only give us one. Unpack that one evidence from our book (you don't need to list them all, just explain why they are so staggering in a nutshell) as well as using the handout from Pastor Dave to tell why we believe Jesus was God's perfect sacrifice...

### **Messianic Prophecies Fulfilled In One Person (Pages 194-197):**

While the handout by Pastor Dave on evidence for Jesus being God is extremely looooooong, how does this help solidify your faith in the One we have built our lives around? What evidence(s) do you find most compelling and why?

### Why Does It Matter If We Believe It?

Ephesians 2 says we are “dead in our trespasses and sins.” What does that mean since we are walking, talking, breathing human beings?

Why does the above statement make it so vitally important that Jesus paid for our sins?

Read **Luke 23:32-43**. How are we, and others, like those two criminals? Why was it so important for the criminal that recognized his sin to have Jesus tell him he would be in paradise that day? What implications does that have for us?

Why does it ultimately matter whether you believe Jesus has atoned for (paid for) your sins?

### How Can We Live It Out?

Jesus showed us what real love looks like, it is sacrificial and selfless. In other words, real love gives when it knows it will get nothing in return. Therefore, your mission is...

This week...

- Sacrifice a possession, some time, or both just to show someone that Jesus loves them and so do you.

Before we meet again...

- Read **Romans 4-5** and **Ephesians 2** at least three times this week.
- Read chapters 24-27 of The Unshakable Truth.
- Answer all questions in the study guide for **TRUTH SIX: JUSTIFICATION THROUGH FAITH**.

## **TRUTH SIX: JUSTIFICATION THROUGH FAITH**

### **What Do We Believe?**

Read the introduction to chapter 6 (pages 213-214), **Isaiah 1:18** and **Romans 3:20-26**. After reading that how would you answer the following question...

What makes us right before God?

What is the difference between being saved *for* believing in Jesus and *through* believing in Jesus (see page 214)?

### **What We Believe About Justification Through Faith**



### Why Do We Believe It?

Now read the introduction to chapter 25 (pages 217-218). After reading this, contemplate the following questions...

Why isn't believing itself enough, especially if you are really sincere? What are some things that people believe sincerely that can't save them?

So what evidence is there that your faith in Jesus can save you when the objects of other people's faith cannot?

Name some of the miracles that Jesus performed proving He truly was the God-man who could be the perfect sacrifice for sin that no one else could be. Which of these is most compelling to you?

What evidence do we have that Jesus actually performed any of these miracles? How do we know they weren't just made up like those of some of the Greek mythological figures recorded in ancient history?

### Why Does It Matter If We Believe It?

While it is long, read out loud, the entire semi-fictional story on pages 223-227 of The Unshakable Truth. How does this story give a truthful glimpse into the only hope we have of being justified (made right) before God? Why does it matter if we actually believe this? How will this effect the way we live out our daily lives? (That was a loaded series of questions so take them one bit at a time☺) (See pages 227-228 for a little help)

### How Can We Live It Out?

This week...

- Begin reading through and becoming familiar with Life's Ultimate Questions so that you have a clear pathway for presenting one's desperate need for Jesus to save them from their sins.
- Share with at least one person this week that doesn't know Jesus the truth of the Gospel as presented in Life's Ultimate Questions.

Before we meet again...

- Read **Romans 12:1-2**, **2 Corinthians 5:17-21**, and **Ephesians 4:17-24**.
- Read chapters 28-31 of The Unshakable Truth.
- Answer all questions in the study guide for **TRUTH SEVEN: LIVING THE TRANSFORMED LIFE**.

## **TRUTH SEVEN: LIVING THE TRANSFORMED LIFE**

### **What Do We Believe?**

Just like a caterpillar that goes through an incredible change called metamorphosis, so we go through a radical change the moment we become a follower of Jesus. This radical transformation changes us from self-seeking beings to those that desire to please God and to love and serve Him as well as others.

**Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-21.** Briefly describe how this transformation takes place and what it looks like in the transformed life of a believer (see pages 242-243).

What does living the transformed life say about your relationship with Jesus? What does it tell Him? What does it tell the world?

After reading what Scripture says the transformed life is and thinking through what living this life says to Jesus and the world, try to put into your own words...

### **What We Believe About Living the Transformed Life**

### Why Do We Believe It?

While there are overwhelming and abundant evidences for the existence of God, the Bible being the Word of God, that Jesus is God in flesh, that Jesus alone could pay the penalty for our sin on the cross, and that He rose from the dead, how do we provide evidence that He is the one that transforms lives? The answer isn't going to come from a book or scientific equation, it's going to come from the lives of Jesus's followers.

So now we have to begin to ask another question, "If someone were to simply examine my life for evidence of me being a follower of Jesus, is there enough evidence to render me guilty as charged?"

Be careful here, we can have a tendency to say we should always be doing more, or we should always be doing better, and end up living in guilt. Remember, we don't live a life that reflects, honors, and pleases Jesus **SO** that He will love us (causal), we live a life that reflects, honors, and pleases Jesus **BECAUSE** He loves us (resultant).

Read 246-253 of The Unshakable Truth. Which of those stories impacted you most? Why?

Begin thinking through what the story of your life would sound like if you answered three basic questions...

1. What was I like before I came to know Jesus?
2. How did I come to know and follow Jesus?
3. How has He been changing and growing me since?

### Why Does It Matter If We Believe It?

On page 257 of The Unshakable Truth our authors make the following quote,

*“The process isn’t so much in learning to do all the right things perfectly as it is learning who Christ is and acting according to our new nature.”*

That being the case, what does that tell you about living the transformed life?

How was Lazarus raised to a new life? What did he and those around him do once Jesus called him out of the grave to live his new life?

How does the process for the new life of Lazarus relate to you and your new life in Jesus?

Read through the handout Pastor Dave gave you on freedom from sin and living the transformed life. Now discuss why it’s important to have a process for living a transformed life in Christ as opposed to simply floating along and just hoping it will happen.

### How Can We Live It Out?

This week...

- Begin writing out how you will live out your transformed life in Christ. Begin to jot down things like when, where, and what you will do when it comes to your time in God's Word and in prayer.
- Jot down how you will deal with certain sin issues in your life (taking off the grave clothes that hinder you now that Jesus has called you out of the grave).

Before we meet again...

- Read **1 Corinthians 15** at least three times.
- Read chapters 32-35 of The Unshakable Truth.
- Answer all questions in the study guide for **TRUTH EIGHT: JESUS' BODILY RESURRECTION**

## **TRUTH EIGHT: JESUS'S BODILY RESURRECTION**

### **What Do We Believe?**

To truly be a Christian, a follower of Jesus, you must have certain fundamental beliefs that have changed you at the core of your being. These are what we would call “essentials”, the things that must be believed and embraced if one is to be in heaven with the Lord forever. So, what are those essentials? Let’s look at the big 5 that we believe and briefly discuss why each of these are essential to our salvation:

1. God exists.
2. The Bible is the perfect Word of God that reveals to humanity the nature and character of God.
3. Jesus is God who came to earth as a person and was both fully God and fully human.
4. It is only by God’s grace through Jesus’ death on the cross that our sins can be fully paid for.
5. Jesus rose bodily from the grave overcoming death and guaranteeing our resurrection from the dead.

While each of those are absolutely “essential” to our salvation, we will be focusing on #5 here. Therefore, in your own words state...

### **What We Believe About Jesus’ Bodily Resurrection**

### **Why Do We Believe It?**

It is the overwhelming evidence for the resurrection of Jesus that has led many to place their faith in Him. What a blessing to know that our faith is not “blind” but one that welcomes questions and skepticism and then answers all of them. Let’s look now at some of the actual evidences for the resurrection of Jesus and discuss how that could and should impact how we think as well as live out our daily lives.

What are some of the evidences that our authors give us at the outset for the resurrection of Jesus? (Pages 282-283)

The next thing our authors do is list six different alternative theories developed by skeptics for the empty tomb. Briefly describe what each of those alternative theories are and how each them actually end up providing evidence *for* and not *against* the empty tomb and resurrection of Jesus.

**The Stolen-Body Theory (Pages 284-286):**



**The Swoon Theory (Pages 286-290):**

**The Relocated Body Theory (Page 290):**

**The Hallucination Theory (Pages 291-292):**

**The Spiritual Resurrection Theory (Pages 292-293):**

### **The Mystery-Religion Theory (Pages 294-295):**

Now that we have looked at the alternative theories for the empty tomb and resurrection, and how those actually provide more evidence for Jesus' resurrection than do anything to provide evidence against it, read the section titled **The Reality of the Risen Lord** on pages 295-296. How are the reactions of the disciples to the resurrected Jesus any different from the followers of other faiths? What makes their dying for Jesus any different from someone who died for the message of Mohammed, or Joseph Smith, or some other religious leader?

### Why Does It Matter If We Believe It?

Death is scary because it is an unknown, none of us have experienced it yet. But we know we don't have to fear it because Jesus has overcome it. However, in being a human, when we are honest we are afraid of death. Why? And what is the answer to freedom from the fear of death? Our authors give us answers to both that are worth exploring (list both the reasons we fear death and where our freedom from that fear comes)...

#### 5 Reasons We Fear Death:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Now that you've listed the fears associated with death, read **1 Corinthians 15** before listing the freedom we have from those fears. What hope and security do you find from the Lord here?

## 5 Reasons for Freedom From the Fear of Death:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Although death is scary, God wants us to be filled with joy over what awaits us. So the question is, after we die what does await us? Read **Revelation 21 and 22** and list some of the things that are going to bring believers in Jesus such great joy after our death.

### How Can We Live It Out?

This week...

- Read **Psalm 63:1-8** and turn it into personal prayer to the Lord by reading it as though you are praying it to Him. Do this every morning before you get out of bed and every night before you fall asleep for the next week.

Before we meet again...

- Read **Isaiah 43:10-11**, **Hebrews 1:1-8**, **Titus 2:11-14**, and **Acts 5:3-4** at least three times.
- Read chapters 36-39 of The Unshakable Truth.
- Answer all questions in the study guide for **TRUTH NINE: THE TRINITY**

## **TRUTH NINE: THE TRINITY**

### **What Do We Believe?**

The Trinity, God in three persons, has been difficult to explain and even harder to comprehend. Yet, the Bible teaches clearly that God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. All three are coequal in their nature and character. Meaning each one is eternal, omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, all holy, and host of other characteristics that set God apart from His creation. And yet, He is completely involved in His creation and each of the three interact in personal and loving ways with us.

How does Scripture affirm the reality that God is three in One? (Pages 314-316)

What does the truth of the Trinity teach us about how our relationship to God and to each other is supposed to function? (Pages 316-320) *This is a question you will really have to work through and process, so read the listed pages carefully and pray through this one.*

### **What We Believe About The Trinity**

### Why Do We Believe It?

Due to the fact that we have already focused heavily on the persons of the Father and the Son we will now focus our energies on the person of the Holy Spirit.

What evidences for the reality and power of the Holy Spirit did our authors give here?

(Pages 323-326)

How compelling do you find those evidences?

What would you say to someone who might respond with this, *“Who cares, lots of religions have followers that went out and tried to do mighty things for their leader.”*

What sets the followers of Jesus apart as found in the New Testament from the followers of other religions?





## How Can We Live It Out?

This week...

- Read through the section titled *Have You Made the Wonderful Discovery of the Spirit-Filled Life?* Unpack what it means to be filled with the Holy Spirit and how you can live the abundant life when you are filled with the Holy Spirit.

Before we meet again...

- Read **John 18:33-37** at least three times.
- Read chapters 40-43 of The Unshakable Truth.
- Answer all questions in the study guide for **TRUTH TEN: GOD'S KINGDOM**

## **TRUTH TEN: GOD’S KINGDOM**

### **What Do We Believe?**

Read the introduction to this chapter on pages 349-350. Have you ever felt the way the disciples did, like you have little to no hope and you are wondering when God is going to rescue you? When have you felt that way? How does knowing what you know about Jesus so far bring you hope in your darkest days?

Read through the section titled **Spiritual Kingdoms at War** on pages 351-352. What does this teach you about the world you live in?

Now read the section titled **Differing Worldviews** on pages 352-354. What does it tell you about how to live life in “enemy occupied territory”?

### **What We Believe About God’s Kingdom**

### Why Do We Believe It?

While we may not be listing concrete evidences for the existence of God's Kingdom, we will be exploring actual historical events that show evidence of God's Kingdom and how it has positively influenced the world.

List a few of the positive influences of a biblical worldview and then list which ones you've actually seen played out due to Christians living out their belief in Jesus (you can even jot some down that may not have been listed here on page 356):

Read through the followers of Christ spoken of on pages 357-359. Which of these is most inspiring to you? Why?

### Why Does It Matter If We Believe It?

Our author made this statement on page 362, *"The choices we make, the way we see our lives, and how we respond in every situation are based on a set of assumptions about how life works. And these assumptions define our worldview."*

It is because of the above statement that our worldview actually matters.

So now we need to unpack what a worldview is. We get a definition on page 363, but it may be a bit confusing. So, try to write your own definition below and then unpack the answers to a biblical worldview using the *Life's Ultimate Questions* handout.



### How Can We Live It Out?

This week...

- Read and think through the *Life's Ultimate Questions* handout that Pastor Dave gave you. How do the ways you answer these questions radically effect the way you think, speak, and act?

Before we meet again...

- Read **2 Corinthians 5:16-21** and **1 Peter 2:9-10** at least three times.
- Read chapters 44-47 of The Unshakable Truth.
- Answer all questions in the study guide for **TRUTH ELEVEN: THE CHURCH**



5. *The church is God's pure bride. (Ephesians 5:22-27)*

6. *The church is Christ's agent to fulfill His mission to redeem the lost. (1 Peter 2:9 and 2 Corinthians 5:18-20)*

After reading through and unpacking the 6 images we get of the church from our book and from Scripture, state...

### **What We Believe About The Church**



### Why Do We Believe It?

We moved a few weeks ago into truths about Christianity that aren't as provable in terms of apologetics and science. For example, we can give concrete evidence for the existence of God, the trustworthiness and validity of the Bible, and the deity of Jesus. But how do you "prove" that the church is a real thing or that it makes any real difference in the world. First, we need to define what the church is. Let's do that using the original Greek word used most often for the "church". The Greek word is *ekklesia*. Let's break that word down (it's actually two words smashed into one). Pastor Dave will give you the definition. ☺

*Ek* - \_\_\_\_\_

*Kaleo* - \_\_\_\_\_

Now read the indented quote on pages 384-385 of The Unshakable Truth. That right there is the evidence of God's church alive and active on the planet. After reading that, what are some of the ways you could envision our church here in America becoming a more compelling picture of who Christ is, what He has done, and our sheer excitement over that?

Our authors give us 4 active expressions of the church. In other words, they show us what it should look like to be the hands and feet of Jesus here on earth. Below are listed those 4 active expressions. Read through pages 385-389 and answer in your own words what each of these means. Also jot down what this may look like for us a church.

### The Active Expression of the Church:

**The church embodies what a community of redeemed people looks like.**

**The church is a compassionate and healing presence to those in need.**

**The church is God's reconciling agent and ambassador to spread the Gospel – the kingdom message.**

**The church is an equipping agent to make disciples who make disciples.**

Of the above active expressions of the church, which one are we doing the best at? Which of the four do we have some need for improvement?

### Why Does It Matter If We Believe It?

After reading chapter 46 of The Unshakable Truth answer the following...

Which is more important, meeting one's human needs or spiritual needs? Why did you say that?

How does our answer to the above question effect how we live in regards to our relationships with other people?

Read the section titled *Jesus Answers the Question* again on pages 395-396.

After reading this section, briefly state how Jesus showed us the fine art of meeting one's human and spiritual needs. Do that for each of the Scripture passages listed below:

*Matthew 14:13-21* –

*Mark 9:14-29*

*Luke 5:17-26*

*John 4:1-30*

### How Can We Live It Out?

This week...

- Read chapter 47 of The Unshakable Truth and then pick two of the ten ways listed that you can practically love on people this week. Pick two that are near and dear to you that you will actually put into practice this week. List what those two are as well as how you will specifically live them out.

Before we meet again...

- Read **Revelation 19-22** at least three times.
- Read chapters 48-51 of The Unshakable Truth.
- Answer all questions in the study guide for **TRUTH TWELVE: THE RETURN OF CHRIST**.

## **TRUTH TWELVE: THE RETURN OF CHRIST**

### **What Do We Believe?**

We have covered a lot of ground in the past twelve weeks. We have seen how God created all things and declared them to be good, but shortly after that His very own creation, mankind, ruined it through sin. Now we are at the point in God's Word where we will explore how God is going to restore it once again.

After reading through the section titled *Jesus Will Return to Restore the Earth* (pages 409-410) briefly unpack what the restored earth will be like. Then spend some time just daydreaming a little what that will be like for us and thank God for it.

Now read the section titled *Jesus Will Return to Restore Our Bodies* (page 411) and do the same thing, daydream a little and thank God.

### **What We Believe About The Return of Christ**

### Why Do We Believe It?

How would you respond to this statement, “I don’t believe there’s anything such thing as a soul. After all, numerous surgeons have cut people open to operate and never found a soul there.”

How does the fact that every people group and culture across the globe believes there is some type of life after death give credibility to this fact? (Pages 413-414)

Free will is another indicator that we are so much more than physical entities. How so? What are the consequences to only being creatures of mechanical processes? (Pages 414-415)

How does what Jesus taught us about heaven and what scientists have discovered about unseen energy and matter play together?

### **Why Does It Matter If We Believe It?**

Read chapter 50 slowly, and maybe even read it two or three times. Take time to also read over the numerous Bible passages included and allow that to amaze and excite you when it comes to what heaven is like.

Now simply list some of the things the Lord has taught you in regards to what heaven is going to be like.

### **How Can We Live It Out?**

- Spend time praising God for the eternity you get to spend with Him in heaven forever because of what Jesus did by dying on the cross for your sins and rising again defeating sin and death once and for all.
- Be bold in asking at least one person this week what they think will happen to them after they die.
- Now really get bold and share with them why you know with certainty where you will be going when you die and invite them to trust Jesus for all the same reasons you have.

\* What an awesome way to end our time of exploring these amazing truths, with somebody else coming to know the greatest truth of all, JESUS!