

Lesson 1

God is our reference point:

- God is the creator. He is perfect, unchangeable, infinite, and eternal. He is the source of all wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth. He is the foundation, the light, the one who directs our path for all of life and in all of our relationships. Therefore, in all things, we look to Him as our reference point. If we are not God-oriented, then we will be self-oriented. As we look to our watch to tell us the time, we must look to God for direction with each and every circumstance. “‘For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways.’ declares the Lord. ‘For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.’” Isaiah 55:8-9. “For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be glory forever. Amen.” Romans 11:36. (Genesis 1:1, John 4:24, Job 11:7, Psalm 90:2, James 1:17, Exodus 3:14, Psalm 147:5, Revelation 4:8, Revelation 15:4, Exodus 34:6-7; Isaiah 40:28, Jeremiah 10:6)

His Word is our authority:

- God’s Word is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy Him. It is living and active, sharper than any two edged sword, piercing the soul, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart (Hebrews 4:12). It instructs us what to believe concerning God and what duty God requires of man. In the beginning, God spoke and everything was. We must live our lives by the phrase “thus saith the Lord”. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 says “All scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.” Many people will challenge the authority of scripture in your life, but what is the authority of theirs? Rather than relying on human desires and ever-changing opinions, the Word of God remains constant, unchangeable, and life-changing. (Ephesians 2:20, 1 John 1:3-4, 2 Timothy 1:13, Deuteronomy 32:46)

His glory is our purpose:

- Because God is our reference point, man's chief and highest end is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. As John says, He must increase and I must decrease. 1 Corinthians 10:31 says, “So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” Revelation 4:11 says “Worthy are you our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things and by your will they existed and were created.” (Revelation 5:13; Romans 11:36, Psalm 73:24-28, John 17:21-23; 2 Corinthians 1:20)

His presence is his promise:

- Christianity is unique among all world religions in that it speaks of a god who redeems and dwells with his people. We are not alone in this life. He has given His Word to guide us, His glory as our purpose, and Himself as a reference point and a comfort in all trials. 2 Corinthians 4:6 says “For God who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness’ has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.” He sent His son to die for us and He sent His Spirit to dwell within us, and He will return one day in glory to bring us home. (John 1:14; Matthew 1:23; Acts 1:8)

Transformed rather than conformed

- By thinking biblically and living covenantally, we will be transformed by the word of God and the Holy Spirit rather than being conformed by the world. The world has always demanded that we bend to match its identity. This has looked different over the years and in different cultures, but the message that it sends remains the same. Live for yourself—choose your own identity. The identity we choose will always be selfish, impatient, and evil. We can see this so easily and abundantly in our current gender-confused culture. We will be conformed to the world unless we are transformed by the Word. We must be able to articulate and embody the gospel in transforming ways that minister to the women of our changing culture without compromising biblical truth. How? Martin Luther says that out of sound doctrine flows sound living. We must know the Truth by studying it, surrounding ourselves with other women who study it, sit under the teaching of it, and seek resources that help us apply it to our lives. This can be through Bible studies, simply coming to church on Sunday morning, reading biblical literature, and pursuing godly friendships. In these places and relationships, truth will lovingly and gracefully transform us to be more like Christ. (Romans 11:33-12:2)

Worldview

- A worldview is defined as a way of looking at the world that answers three sets of questions:
 - How did it all begin? Where did we come from?
 - What went wrong? What is the source of evil and suffering?
 - What can be done about it? How can the world be set right again?
- Where are we absorbing answers to these questions from? And what worldview are they pushing? Today, social media loves to answer these questions and sneakily infiltrate our minds with answers that promote self-serving ideologies. Influencers tell us to take care of yourself first, love yourself and set boundaries to take care of you. It never tells us to seek first the kingdom of God. It never tells us to take up our cross. It never tells us to turn the other cheek. Instead, today's worldview embraces individualism and hedonism, where self, emotion, and pleasure rule. Young people say that they embrace pluralism and relativism, where all worldviews are accepted and where all truth is subjective and ever changing without absolutes. However, Christianity is not included in the world's list of what is acceptable. Because Christianity has an absolute reference point and authority, the world despises it. And into this morally bankrupt world, God has commissioned his church to make disciples.

Kingdom of God

- The kingdom of God is where God is King. It is where He rules and reigns. This is, of course, at our church, but it is also encompassed by living our faith out at work and home, with friends, and in our communities. We are citizens of the kingdom of God, which is displayed in all arenas of our lives. This encourages us to be salt and light in all areas of our lives and not simply relegate our faith to the church. We can do this by discipling our children at home or by sharing our faith at the office. Psalm 103:19 says "The Lord has established His throne in the heavens and His kingdom rules over all." (Colossians 1:16-19)

Kingdom Discipleship

- It seeks to intentionally develop the knowledge and behavior of the disciple through one on one or group relationships. It seeks to understand and apply God's word to every aspect of life. Kingdom focus begins with growing in the knowledge of God and godly behavior but goes beyond that to building an entire world and life view that brings our every thought about every area of life captive to christ

Foundational biblical principles:

- Church
- Covenant
- Kingdom Discipleship
- Womanhood
- Womens Ministry