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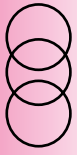
Teaching Guide

Christian Doctrine

Field Guide

A 6-week field guide answering the question: What is the Christian Faith?

Daniel Patterson



WEEK 1



God speaks.

THE DOCTRINES OF GOD, TRINITY, AND REVELATION



*The Triune God uses speech to
reveal Himself, rule the world,
and relate to you.*

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LESSON INTENT

The first week is designed to give people a big vision of God that connects to their everyday lives. Most Christians think of doctrine as something philosophical or intellectual, but it is instead a gift that is designed to be a great comfort to the Christian life. That said, the study of doctrine is only possible because God Himself speaks to us. That's why this is the focus of Week 1. We want to see God for who He is—one who reveals Himself and acts by speaking. That in turn opens up a whole host of other issues—the doctrine of revelation and Scripture (What does God's speech tell us about Him and us?), the doctrine of the Trinity (Who is this God at the core?), the doctrine of God (What is God like?), and the doctrine of providence (How does God relate to the world?). When we see these things together in the context of the story of redemption, we can begin to find ourselves in the story He is writing and find the purpose, freedom, or fullness of life we're looking for.

Teaching Tips

- **Enchant.** This lesson is heavier on concepts and terms. While these things are important to understand God, try to make sure your passion and love for God comes through in teaching. While what is taught in this lesson is vitally important in terms of laying a theological foundation, what is caught from your enthusiasm about the issues is arguably just as important in terms of motivating people to see the truth and beauty of Scripture.

- **Personalize.** In discussion, drive the conversation toward the reality that God Himself has designed the universe so that we are able to enjoy His presence and commune with Him. This helps take things from the abstract to the concrete.

Guidance for Discussion Questions

What are the first or main things that come into your mind when you think about God? Why do you think that is?

For most people, what we think about God will be shaped (often subconsciously) by our parents, authority figures, and (if we grew up in the church) church leaders. Don't be surprised if people's concepts of God have autobiographical connections.

Who do you think of when you read the word "God" in Scripture? If God is Father, Son, and Spirit, should we not think of all three? If so, how would that enrich your reading?

It's fitting, when you see the word "God" in Scripture, to mentally substitute the word "Trinity" there, because God is one and three and always acts as one. That's not to say, of course, that the Bible is wrong to say "God." Instead, we wrongly often mentally substitute "Father" when we see God, when a more biblical reality is to think of the Trinity in its fullness.

What is another example you can think of in the Bible where the Father appoints, the Son accomplishes, and the Spirit applies?

Examples abound. We see this in creation: God speaks, the Son is the Word, the Spirit hovers over the water and is the breath of life. We see this in inspiration: God speaks the Word of the Son breathed out by the Spirit through the words of human authors. There are elements of this also in our salvation, sanctification, and elsewhere also.

“The Bible is just a human book written by human authors.” How could you respond to a statement like that based on what we learned this week?

A Christian should be able to affirm every aspect of that statement except the word “just.” It’s not that, as some people think, that Paul, for example, sat down and took down a dictation from God. He wrote of his own volition, but the Christian faith has always taught that God was behind it all, working to make sure that the words Paul freely wrote were exactly the words God intended.

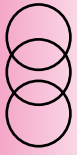
Which of God’s attributes feels the most relatable to you and why? Which feels the hardest for you to accept or understand?

There’s not necessarily a wrong answer here. Some people will resonate more with love and mercy, others with justice or a desire for strength. Try to follow up responses with questions about why, which can lead to more fruitful discussions.

Problems and Common Questions

- **Terminology.** Some people will be confused by the terms (omniscience, omnipotence, omnipresence, inerrancy, inspiration, etc.). Assure them that most of the study won't be dominated by technical terms. And reinforce that the terminology isn't what's important—it's having a biblical vision of who God is at the core.
- **Analogies.** Often people try to “help” by creating analogies for the Trinity. “It's like how water can be ice, liquid, or gas.” As well-intentioned as these are, these should be avoided, because the metaphors break down quickly and get unhelpfully lop-sided, accidentally leading to major theological error. It's better to simply stick with the parameters Scripture gives us.
- **Unsaved Christians.** This chapter taught that those who do not respond in saving faith, in this life, regardless of whether the gospel was ever presented to them, will not inherit the kingdom of God. That has been the teaching of the Christian faith from the start, and yet, most people have given little to no thought to that, meaning it's very common for even longtime Christians to push back on that, feeling like it's unfair. Use this as an opportunity to talk about the pervasiveness of sin, the nature of God not owing us anything, and reinforcing a trust in God to do what is right, while asking us to trust in His Word.





WEEK 2



You matter.

THE DOCTRINES OF HUMANITY AND SIN



*Human beings are made in
the image of God—born with
dignity and reborn with destiny.*

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LESSON INTENT

Week 2 is designed to give people a full-orbed vision for humanity created in the image of God. Most people know they're broken to some extent. Most people of faith know they are sinners. While a biblical doctrine of sin is vital. What's also important is a biblical doctrine of humanity. Specifically, a vision of humanity as God intended them to be and is restoring them to be—as royalty in God's new creation. Armed with a vision of God's design for humanity from the start and at the end will help make sense of the brokenness of sin and death in the middle. That's why the emphasis is on “you matter”—it's designed to show the inherent dignity of all humans because they are made in the image of God, especially those in Christ who are having that image restored day by day until it's made perfect and complete when the kingdom comes in its fullness.

Teaching Tips

- **Defamiliarize.** People have heard that all human beings are made in the image of God, sometimes so often that they may be tempted to check out. Try to emphasize elements of this doctrine that will be unique to them so as to get them to realize they don't know all there is to know about this issue.
- **Joyful.** When we emphasize the nature of sin and even the nature of the image of God, we often default to emphasizing the negative aspects (sin is pervasive, the image is broken), but one of the beauties of this area is that Jesus is reforming us back into the image of God, that we are welcomed as royal sons and daughters, that we have a full and fruitful destiny. Reclaim some of these overlooked emphases in what and how you teach in this area.

Guidance for Discussion Questions

What God thinks about us is the most important thing about us, C. S. Lewis said. In your less healthy moments, what are the things you find yourself fearing God thinks of you?

Many people fear that God is actually not for them (or out to get them), or that it doesn't matter what they do they will never measure up. Often our root issues boil down to fear, security, and ego in some form. Don't be surprised if these are common themes.

What does God actually think of you? Put your fears and insecurities aside for a moment. Based on this week's teaching, what is God's posture toward you?

If you are in Christ, God sees you as a royal son or daughter, happy for you to be in His presence, and eager to share with you the fullness of His riches. If we grasp that, remind ourselves of it regularly and let it sink deep into our bones, it can reshape our entire lives.

All human beings are created in the image of God and have inherent dignity. What are some ways our culture rejects this truth?

It perhaps has never been clearer in cultures with legalized abortion or euthanasia, with demonizing of other people. We're not trying to turn this lesson into cultural commentary, but don't be afraid to use contemporary issues as a window into the importance of this doctrine.

What are the ways that you yourself are most tempted to devalue others? What kinds of things tempt or blind you from seeing the inherent dignity of others?

You can issue a variation on this question by making it not about them as individuals. Sometimes, you can shift the conversation to a slightly different key by asking, “Where do you think people in our part of the world (or people like us) are most tempted to devalue others?” Often people will be more likely to be honest about themselves if they’re doing it through the window of “others.”

How are you actively embracing and pursuing the formation of your soul back into the image of Christ? Have you ever thought of things like prayer and worship as part of that?

Many Christians have heard that ought to have a regular “quiet time” but few have received instruction on it, let alone a full-orbed vision for why we’re to pursue daily personal devotion—to expand our capacity to see and savor Jesus and be made more in his image and thereby experience the truest and fullest degree of human flourishing in this age and the next.

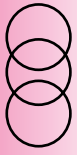
You are royalty. This truth is precious. But what are some ways that we might take this the wrong way or in an unbiblical direction?

We’re not to veer into the excesses of the prosperity gospel, thinking that we’re to have the fullness of our inheritance in Christ in this age. At the same time, we’re not to live with an unbiblical triumphalism, assuming that God’s kingdom has arrived in its fullness now. To that end, we shouldn’t be surprised by the need for weakness, meekness, and even suffering in this life, but enduring those as ones who have been declared royal and will be vindicated and are being prepared for a future far beyond even our wildest dreams.

Problems and Common Questions

- **Familiarity.** Thankfully, the church has rightly emphasized the image of God more in recent years. The danger in that is some people think they already know there is everything there is to know about the issue. You may need to work to arrest and maintain attention.
- **Depravity.** Different strands of Christianity have emphasized the effects of sin to greater degrees than others, especially when it comes to where the Bible places the emphasis in our salvation on God's sovereignty and man's responsibility. Some of that debate could creep in here when seeing terms like depravity. At the same time, while there is disagreement among some on issues of salvation, the extent of sin is what we're focused on most this week, and on that there is a surprising amount of agreement on the issue.





WEEK 3



Jesus is Lord.

THE DOCTRINES OF CHRISTOLOGY AND ATONEMENT ←



*Jesus takes on a human nature
to take away our sin and take us
into His everlasting Kingdom.*

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LESSON INTENT

Week 3 is designed to put the life of Jesus in greater biblical context by focusing on how he relives the entire biblical story and succeeds at every point where the people of God previously failed. Most people (even non-Christians) know the bare facts about Jesus—he is more than just a man, died on the cross, was said to be raised from the dead, and somehow the total tonnage of that work means I can go to heaven when I die. At the same time, most people have no idea how all these things work together: How is it that the things Jesus did in His 33-year life lead to my salvation? Even many seasoned Christians can't give a great answer to that. What we'll do in this week unpack all the basic aspects of the person and work of Christ—but we'll do that with a decided focus on making sense of the story of Jesus within the storyline of Scripture to make it clear how readers and Christians today are to find themselves in that same story.

Teaching Tips

- **Recapitulation.** Ordinarily, light bulbs go off most readily when people see the connections between Jesus and Adam, Noah, Moses, David, and others. There are lots of things you can focus on this week, but often what makes this stick with students is the way this reality draws together the story of Scripture and shows it to be a unified story that makes sense.

- **Resurrection and Ascension.** In our twenty-first century, in the Western context, we pay a lot of attention to the meaning of the cross (rightly so). But occasionally that means Christians suffer from an underdeveloped understanding of the resurrection, ascension, and session of Jesus. By giving particular attention to these areas, you'll be highlighting something that represents an area of growth (and interest!) among those in your group.

Guidance for Discussion Questions

This week started by emphasizing the importance of Jesus as being fully God and fully man. How would you summarize why that is so important?

The main things you want people to take away is that salvation was something that only God could provide (forgiving sins, absorbing wrath, etc.), but was something that, because of God's promises, was something that a man was required to bring. Prior to Jesus, it's unclear how both things could come to be. The Incarnation is the incredible answer to that question.

What are the sins that you struggle with the most? Knowing that Jesus shares His perfect life with us, as you see the way Jesus relived Israel's past and lived a life of sinless perfection, which moments in Jesus' life could fuel you to live more faithfully?

This isn't a right or wrong answer, of course. But sometimes the focus is a bit misplaced. People think the point of the Bible talking about, for example, Jesus' temptations is that he "gets us." And while he was tempted in every way common to man, he wasn't tempted with many of the sinful things we are (Jesus was never tempted to murder someone, for example, which would be sin.) Instead, one of the more profitable things to focus on is the way Jesus

lived perfectly and how, when you're united to Him that same power flows through you and frees you from the temptations and sins you struggle with. It gets you to the same place on a more biblical path.

What about the crucifixion or the atonement do you find the most confusing?

Often people will struggle with why the cross was necessary, how it wasn't cruel of God to punish to Jesus, or what exactly the cross accomplished. As to the first two, often people will (wrongly) think of the cross as something the Father "did" to the Son. But when you understand the cross in light of the Trinity, you realize that Father, Son, and Spirit, together, determined to make redemption and to do so through the cross. Jesus wasn't a hapless victim but a determined victor. That doesn't answer all the questions, but it helps us place the focus in a better spot.

As you think about the different aspects of the resurrection, ascension, and session of Jesus—which was the most life-giving to learn about and why?

Often people think of the resurrection merely as the exclamation point on the events of Calvary. It's so much more than that, though. At the same time, many others have never really thought of the ascension and session at all—both of which have huge theological implications, especially as related to the image of God (a human being is now seated at the right hand of God!), all of which are worthy of discussion.

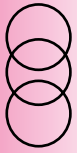
As you think about the way Jesus is the true prophet, priest, and king, which of these is most comforting to you and why?

You'll want to make sure people are understanding the categories right and not attributing things incorrectly, but mostly what this question is designed to do is get people to run the life of Jesus through the prism of these offices in their heads and see what connections they make. This helps to solidify the teaching and show the intricacy of God's plan of redemption in Christ.

Problems and Common Questions

- **Salvation Debates.** There is a centuries-old debate about the relationship between God's sovereignty and man's responsibility (Do we choose God, or does God choose us?). This material has intentionally tried to avoid getting bogged down on that question. If your church takes a convictional stand on this issue, it may be fruitful to elaborate. At the same time, if this is a contested issue in your church, it may be fruitful to show the total tonnage of all the things that most all Christians agree on to help show proportion and priority to the most important.





WEEK 4



The Gospel Is Good News.

THE DOCTRINES OF SALVATION AND THE HOLY SPIRIT



*In Jesus, the power of God's
Kingdom has entered history to
redeem sinners and renew creation.*

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LESSON INTENT

Week 4 is designed to give a full-orbed vision of the gospel itself. Far too often, people think of the gospel merely as the message to which one gives assent to become a Christian. But the gospel is the good news that is designed to fuel the entire Christian life. The promise of the gospel is that Jesus is releasing us from sin and resurrecting us into a new order—a new order that has already broken into the present age. That release from sin comes from union with Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, which is the key to unlocking the meaning of all the different aspects of salvation we receive in this life and the next. The resurrection into a new order is the hope that fuels the Christian life in the midst of toil, strife, and suffering of this age. When all this is held together, it gives a big and beautiful vision for what life in Christ is designed to be.

Teaching Tips

- **Apprenticeship.** Focus on this. I've found this word is often helpfully clarifying for Christians. Discipleship, for example, is so commonly used that it can lose some sharpness of definition. But most people have a category for being an apprentice that brings concrete details to mind.
- **Personalize.** What we're trying to show here is how we act is vitally related to who we are and how we're being formed. This isn't to be subjective, but it is to recognize that we're individual people and complex people. The beauty is that God is leveraging all of that and making us into our truest selves—if we will lean into that process. And when we do, it creates a virtuous spiral that makes decisions better and life richer.

Guidance for Discussion Questions

How have you heard the gospel described elsewhere that might lead to misconceptions or fail to paint as full a picture as the Bible would have us do? What gets left out?

Almost universally the answer will be along the lines of people thinking the gospel was only about how one becomes a Christian and failing to see how the gospel is designed to be the reality that fuels and frames our entire Christian life. Others might have only thought of the gospel as something that was meaningful for individuals and never seen how it affects the universe itself.

What about this week's lesson might change the way you talk to non-Christians?

This is mostly an attempt to get people reps in talking about the gospel. Feel free to pose hypothetical conversations or role play with other people just so people get a feel (even if simulated) for sharing their faith and talking about the gospel.

We discussed this week how union with Christ is the channel that connects you to every spiritual blessing that comes from Jesus—what belongs to Him comes to you. As you think about all the different aspects of salvation, were there any you had never considered? If you had to pick one aspect of salvation that moved you the most, which is it?

For many, the idea of union with Christ itself will be something they had never explored in any depth. Many will be familiar with the concepts of justification and sanctification but the idea of adoption (and its status as a son and heir) will be new and a valuable place to explore.

What are some of the biggest misconceptions about the Holy Spirit you've either held or heard? What has this week's lesson helped you see?

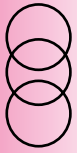
Obviously, there are differences in theological convictions across denominations when it comes to some of the ministry of the Holy Spirit, especially as it relates to spiritual gifts. But at the same time, the Holy Spirit is largely underappreciated and there is much common ground ripe for discussion.

In what ways do you most keenly feel the already-but-not-yet tension in your own life?

For many people, this will be in the area of temptation—feeling the desire to follow Christ warring with the desires of the flesh. Some (especially older Christians) will feel an ache for lost loved ones and a tension between a love for this love and a longing for the next. This isn't a right-or-wrong question per se. Mostly it's just an exercise in getting people to see how this already-but-not-yet tension is part of the fabric of reality in this age.

Problems and Common Questions

- **Glorification.** Occasionally, people will be uncomfortable with this language because it feels irreverent to say we will be “glorified.” This is almost coming from a well-intentioned heart posture. And it's always helpful to remind people that this is language from the Bible (Rom. 8)
- **Salvation Debates.** As with the content from Week 3, there is always the potential for debates about how we're saved. Again, these can be fruitful discussions, but in some contexts that can produce more heat than light. Use your best judgement here, and feel free to steer the discussion back to the “main issues” as needed.



WEEK 5



The Church Is your Home.

THE DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH!!!

*The Church is the family God
has created and a preview of
the future He is bringing.*

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LESSON INTENT

Week 5 is designed to provide a (non-denominational) high view of the importance of the local church. This is partially in response to the all-too-common assumption in modern-day Christianity that private faith is sufficient (“I don’t like organized religion,” and/or “I don’t need the church if I have faith in Jesus”). To this end, this week will keep its focus on two things primarily: First, the work of atonement has not just united us to Christ (vertical reconciliation), but it has united believers together, incorporating them into one body (horizontal reconciliation). There is, therefore, no such thing as “individual” Christianity—we’re called to be in unity and community with one another or else we’re lying with our lives about what God has done. Second, the church is the present location of the kingdom on the Earth in this age. The local church is the place that is ruled by King Jesus, made up of people who joyfully submit to His rule, and the power of His reign is manifest. As a result, we are a preview to the watching world of what the coming kingdom of God will one day look like. As a result, we’re to model a Christian way of life, love, justice, and community, with intact families, and care for one another that is both distinct from the ways of the world and attractive to it. This allows the church to engage in its primary task—bearing witness to the gospel.

Teaching Tips

- **Expand Horizons.** Most people don’t have a great answer to why church is important. One of the real opportunities is in showing God’s design and rationale for the church.

- **Horizontal Unity.** Most Christians are deeply familiar with the vertical reconciliation accomplished at the cross (God and man), but for a number of reasons horizontal reconciliation (us with one another) is often underdeveloped. This can be a deeply fruitful area of discussion, especially as it creates inroads to talk about important cultural engagement issues.

Guidance for Discussion Questions

How would you respond if someone said to you, “I love Jesus, but I don’t like the church?”

Almost every single person in a group of any size will have had an experience like this. In coaching hypothetical answers, be on guard for harshness, but otherwise give people room to workshop ideas and rationales. Mostly, it’s helpful to show the good and design of the local church and how it helps unify the story of Scripture.

What are the biggest challenges you see in others when it comes to prioritizing the local church? What are the biggest challenges for you personally?

Often, these will be the hustle culture championed in this day and age, alongside the demands of family life that people sometimes take on uncritically (I’m not a good parent if I don’t let my son play travel ball, or if I don’t work enough to take these sorts of vacations). What we’re trying to show is that the life of the local church is more important than the American dream.

What examples can you think of in your own life where God used something within the life of the church (whether teachings, people, conversations, anything) to make a significant impact in your life?

This is an entirely personal question. When people do contribute, try to engage with follow-up questions like, “Did you see that affect others too?” or “How else do you think God used that?” to maximize the conversation.

What are some of the most meaningful examples you have seen of the church faithfully modeling the beauty of the life of the coming kingdom?

This will be dependent on what all this church does. Some churches have vibrant ministries caring for widows and orphans, others doing mission work around the world. In a best-case scenario, you have different sorts of answers to that question that model the fullness of the way the church bears witness to the gospel. The only thing you want to try and avoid is an overly narrow takeaway of it only “counts” as ministry if it’s this sort of ministry or that.

If Christians are to bear witness to the gospel in the arena of politics, what should make something rise to the status of being seen as a “Christian issue”? Have you seen any examples of Christian political engagement that have made you uncomfortable—if so, what was it that felt off to you?

These sorts of questions are somewhat context dependent. In other words, if you’re in a deep “red” state, the lived experience of what people in your group observe may be different than if you’re in a dark “blue” state or “purple” state. That said, the most helpful areas to focus on are not about which politicians or parties are most right or wrong, but what issues are nearest the bullseye of Christian concern and why.

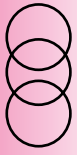
Sometimes, it's easier to create controversy in a church by saying something politically unpopular than to say something theologically untrue. Why do you think some Christians get more enlivened by politics than they do by doctrine?

For many, politics feels more “real” than things related to faith because politics is, by nature, public and visible, and things of faith require faith because they are not immediately and scientifically verifiable. That said, this sort of question can allow us to talk about our motivations, and what all is shaping and forming is in ways we might not recognize.

Problems and Common Questions

- **Ecclesiological Differences.** This chapter didn't elaborate on denominational differences in church government, the meaning and mode of baptism, the proper understanding of the Lord's Supper, along with some other standard issues within the doctrine of ecclesiology. Depending on your church, this may be an area you want to elaborate further.
- **Approaches.** Often, we want a one-size-fits-all solution. Here, when it comes to the different approaches laid out (relevance, countercultural, transformational, two kingdoms), it's not clear that there is one for all times and places (though there certainly can be approaches that fit a particular moment or culture better than others). This can lead to frustration within some who have a more black and white view of the world. With these, it can be helpful to drill down deeper and find points of agreement to stress where possible.





WEEK 6



The Kingdom Is Coming.

THE DOCTRINE OF THE LAST --- THINGS



Jesus will return—to set everything right and to set up a new world.

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LESSON INTENT

Week 6 will work to give a picture of God’s plan for the last things that majors in the most important elements—resurrection, judgment, restoration, and the new creation—without getting bogged down in the details of interpretive approaches to the book of Revelation, the rapture, or the nature and timing of the millennium. What most Christians do is the inverse: major on the minor areas of eschatology that produces more heat than light. And yet, what most Christian needs is a sense of how the story ends—God will make everything whole and beautiful in its time. He will wipe away every tear and take the story of your life and fit it into the incomprehensibly grander and more beautiful story that He is writing. That’s important because knowing with confidence and certainty how the story ends fuels us to live in this age with faithfulness and fruitfulness. In other words, because He lives, I can face tomorrow.

Teaching Tips

- **New Creation.** Perhaps the main area that is especially fruitful to highlight is the reality that God’s design includes a restoration of the universe itself, which was marred by sin. For some, this may be a revolutionary idea (I thought we just spent eternity “in heaven”). Understanding this, though, can unlock and unify the broader story of the Bible like few other areas.
- **Speculation.** Because many of the “last things” haven’t yet happened, this is the area of theology where we ought to be the most humble. Generally, try and resist the urge to speculate on things to which the Bible doesn’t speak or isn’t clear.

Guidance for Discussion Questions

Before studying the doctrine of the last things, how would you have described what Christians look forward to after death? What about this study might have changed what you would now say?

Most Christians will have a heaven-centric view of the age to come. In other words, for many the idea of a new creation will be new information to them. It's not new in the history of Christian theology, but it's been an underdiscussed item in recent decades.

What do you think of when you think of the doctrine of the last things? Is it the things we've discussed in this chapter or one the "hot topics" in eschatology like the tribulation, the antichrist, or the millennial kingdom? If one of the latter, why do you think these areas receive so much attention?

There are some basic historical answers to that question, like popular Christian songs or books that put some of these ideas into the mainstream of Christian discussion, but at the same time, some of these issues "feel" more exciting to Christians, because it makes current events feel more important. We don't want temper anyone's anticipation of Christ's Second Coming, but it can be helpful to keep the focus on the main things the Bible does—i.e., judgment, resurrection, new creation.

What is most comforting to you about the future kingdom, and what is that you wonder about the most still?

This will vary a lot by age and demographic—some focusing more on reuniting with loved ones, others wondering what it will be like in other ways. Allow the conversation to go where it naturally leads.

What examples can you think of in the lives of Job, Joseph, and Jesus, where God used evil to bring about a greater good than what would have otherwise been possible?

Don't feel the need to limit yourself to these examples—these are just some of the more obvious examples in the Bible.

How does the end of the story of Scripture relate to the beginning? What connections have you seen between what God started in Eden and what He will do when Jesus returns?

The main thing we want people to see is how the new creation is the returning of God and man, heaven, and earth, of God's people brought back to God's place to live forever in His presence. And at the same time, it's not just a return to Eden but an improvement over it—from a primitive Garden to a mature and glistening Garden-City. It's the completion of a story that started at the beginning. And it's the story that we're designed to find ourselves in.

Problems and Common Questions

- **Eccentric Figures.** The area of the last things is the area that has the highest number of eccentric figures—i.e., people who those in your group might be put off by. In general, don't be surprised if this comes up, but at the same time don't major on it either. While there are some who have shown themselves to be fraudulent, there are many who are faithful Christians that have views others may disagree with. We don't want to make light of other image-bearers for sport.

- **End Times Debates.** In this area there are lots of debates over the nature of the millennium, the timing of the last things, the signs of the Second Coming, the rapture, and others. As with some of the other areas of theology, use your best judgment. One of the reasons this field guide didn't explore those is out of a conviction that these aren't the matters of first importance when it comes to highlighting the main things about the last things.



